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briefs

Judge has stern words for abuser

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Judge John D. Caudill had harsh words for a sex offender who entered a guilty plea Friday in circuit court, when he noted that the Division of Probation and Parole placed the man in a category for offenders that have a high risk for repeat offenses.

Caudill referenced a report when he said that he would order Christopher Lawson, who pleaded guilty to charges of first-degree sexual abuse and being a persistent felony offender, to do things that he wasn't volunteering to do, like stay away from drugs and alcohol and to not live or visit with children unless he had the express consent of an appointed physician or counselor.

"With your attitude, you're going to be right back here," Caudill said. The judge pulled no punches, promising that if Lawson offended again that, "I'm gonna bust you."

Lawson was quiet during the dressing down and didn't refute the findings of the reports that Caudill referenced.

May Valley abuse settlement cost \$725,000

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The defendants in the May Valley abuse case agreed to pay alleged victims of the suit a lump sum payment of \$725,000.

Floyd County Board of Education attorney Michael Schmitt released the mutual release and settlement agreement in the

case Friday, after The Floyd County Times made an open records request to obtain the document.

The agreement was made earlier this year and was not released to the public because parties agreed to a confidentiality clause.

Schmitt says the settlement agreement was negotiated by the school district's insurance carrier, Zurich Insurance

Company, and that the board of education was not involved in the negotiation.

"The Board of Education was not called on to approve the terms of the settlement and was not directly involved in the negotiation of it," he said.

Attorney Ned Pillersdorf, representing the families of the alleged victims in the case, requested that the individual amounts distributed to minor plaintiffs in the case

remain confidential. That information was redacted from the released copy of the agreement Friday.

The agreement cites the Floyd County Board of Education, former Principal Carole Combs, former instructional aide Marty Mullins, special education teachers Tonya Williams, Mattie Donta, Justin

(See SETTLEMENT, page three)

Guilty plea entered in burglary

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Brian W. Burke, 31, of Prestonsburg, entered a guilty plea Friday to charges that he burglarized the Med Zone Pharmacy last summer.

Burke pleaded guilty to charges of criminal mischief, burglary, theft of a controlled substance and one count of being a persistent felony offender. The charges will net him a seven year sentence for the crime, which took place last July.

Burke was arrested for his part in the Med Zone Pharmacy robbery after an auto accident on U.S. 23 only hours after the robbery. Kentucky State Police Trooper Brian Layne responded to that accident and found an injured Burke in a car alongside over 300 pills stolen from Med Zone. Burke spent five days at Cabell Huntington hospital

(See BURGLARY, page three)



Eric Thomas, assistant director of the East Kentucky Science Center, poses with a Meade ETX telescope which will be raffled off for free when the center celebrates "Astronomy Day" on Saturday, April 16.

Science center to shine spotlight on astronomy

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The East Kentucky Science Center will participate in National Astronomy Day on April 16 with a day of special events that will culminate in awarding a brand new state-of-the-art telescope to one lucky patron.

The telescope, a Meade ETX90, was donated by the Meade Instrument Corporation which is acting as a sponsor for the event alongside "Astronomy Magazine."

The event, which is being observed at 50 science centers across the country, will include a day of special activities which will include hands-on stuff for children as well as guest speakers and demonstrations of equipment like "solar scopes." The day will be capped by placing several telescopes outside for stargazing from 8:30 to 11 p.m.

The planetarium will also be involved with a special tour of the night sky led by center director Ray Shubinski.

(See ASTRONOMY, page three)

Contest planned for abuse month

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office is sponsoring a contest for county fifth- and sixth-graders which is aimed at raising awareness of child abuse and will see every participant receive a prize for their efforts.

The idea gained support quickly among several county agencies,

(See CONTEST, page six)

Bishop gets life in prison

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

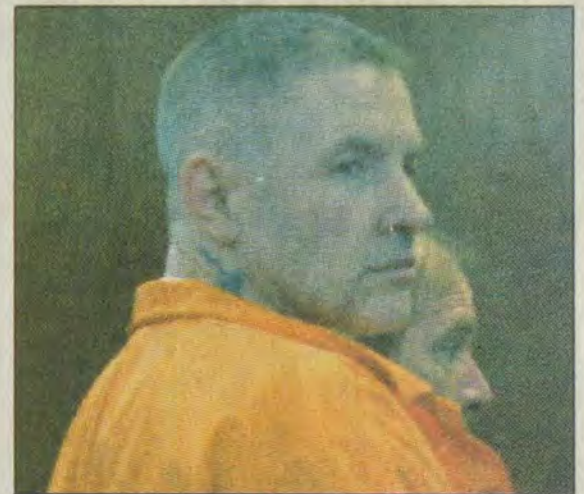
PRESTONSBURG — Convicted killer Dwayne Earl Bishop appeared in circuit court Friday for his formal sentencing, after a Floyd County jury found him guilty in February of killing his wife on August 31, 2000.

Judge John D. Caudill upheld the jury's sentencing recommendation of life imprisonment in the case, which took three-and-a-half weeks to adjudicate and saw all manner of witnesses testify to a history of domestic violence in the marriage.

Bishop had his co-counsel, Bob Ganstein, make several motions before the sentence was imposed. One was to expedite his appeal, mandatory in cases involving a life sentence, and Caudill noted that he would do so if the public advocate failed to since it was their responsibility.

Special prosecutor David Smith, who won the conviction, asked to also put a statement into the record. Responding to Bishop's appeal, he said that should Bishop win an appeal that he would seek the death penalty in the retrial.

(See BISHOP, page three)



Dwayne Earl Bishop glared at Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner as he was formally sentenced to life imprisonment for the 2000 murder of his wife.

Bus drivers step up vigilance, reporting of stop sign runners

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

County school bus drivers are alert, watching and recording the license plate numbers of drivers who disregard bus stop safety regulations.

Floyd County School Transportation Director Karen Johnson instructed all county bus drivers this week to actively pursue reckless drivers who pass school buses while they are loading or unloading students.

"We want to increase aware-

ness, especially since it's springtime now and more cars are on the road," she said. "Drivers should proceed with extra caution around buses because anytime you see a bus, there is the potential that a child will be nearby. Stop when you see a bus stop, it's just that simple."

It is illegal in Kentucky to pass a school bus or a church bus loading and unloading passengers. Johnson and area bus drivers have been in and out of court on numerous occasions

seeking judgments against those who violate bus stop regulations.

Three area residents are currently facing charges in district court.

Larry Bailey, 35, of McDowell, pleaded not guilty to the offense in district court last Friday. He is scheduled to appear on May 23 for a pretrial conference. His district court file was not readily available for inspection.

(See DRIVERS, page three)

2 DAY FORECAST

Today
Sunny
High: 79 • Low: 48

Tomorrow
Partly cloudy
High: 77 • Low: 49

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inside

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Willadean Frasure was ready to give her green thumb a workout after attending the Christian Appalachian Project Elderly Program's first spring celebration last week. See story on page A5.



photo by Carla Davis

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Odds and Ends

■ EAU CLAIRE, Wis. — Handling sled dogs, writing lesson plans on the fly and accessing the Internet from rural Alaska are among the challenges facing the new 2006 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail.

Terrie Hanke, a physical education teacher at Eau Claire North High School, learned last weekend she had been selected for the program. She will be required to follow next year's sled dog race over its course of about 1,000 miles, all the while posting reports and lesson plans on the Web.

Hanke flew to Anchorage in February and spent 10 days with two other finalists in an audition that included making presentations to a conference of teachers and a five-member selection committee.

"It was a task, kind of like you'd see on 'The Apprentice,'" Hanke said, referring to the TV reality show.

Also included was a writing exercise that tested the candidates' powers of observation, deadline writing skills and ability to use computer technology to post lesson plans and pictures on the Internet.

■ NEW ORLEANS — Where there was smoke, there was a 5-foot-long snake. A dead snake, that is.

Workers at the Archdiocese of New Orleans called the Fire Department because they smelled smoke Wednesday afternoon. Firefighters found a smoking transformer and the snake on the ground nearby, burned behind its head, authorities said.

No one knew how the snake got into the Central Business District. Perhaps it climbed the transformer for refuge from the driving rain, one Entergy crew member suggested. Maybe someone released it there, another speculated.

The building was evacuated and power cut so the transformer could be repaired. Some power was restored about 5:30 p.m.

■ LOUISVILLE — The ambassador to the tiny eastern European country of Latvia has been sued for failing to remove her dog from her home. But her attorney says it's all a case of mistaken identity.

Catherine Bailey and her husband, Irv, are accused of violating a settlement in which the couple agreed to remove their pit bull from their home in Louisville.

The lawsuit was filed by Eric J. Haner, a lawyer who argues the dog has been seen on two occasions at the Baileys' home since Jan. 30 — the date Bailey was supposed to get rid of the dog.

Bailey was at the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia, and could not be reached for comment. She was appointed ambassador by President Bush and sworn in Jan. 13.

An attorney for the couple called the lawsuit a "case of mistaken identity." Christina Norris said the dog identified in the suit is actually an English bulldog owned by a housekeeper.

"It is not the dog in question," Norris said.

Haner claims that the pit bull attacked his pug, Bobbie, and mauled another dog on the street. Haner wants Bailey's dog euthanized.

■ ROYAL OAK, Mich. — Wanda and Winky went west.

The Detroit Zoo's aging and arthritic elephants left Tuesday for the Performing Animal Welfare Society sanctuary near Sacramento, Calif. The 2,300-mile trek is taking place in a retrofitted moving van.

"They were a little agitated but not to the degree they could have been," said zoo animal welfare director Scott Carter.

Wanda, 46, and Winky, 51, have been on a new, more aggressive regimen of anti-inflammatory drugs for two weeks. Wanda, whose arthritis is more severe than Winky's, will be able to take weight off her hindquarters by sitting on

custom-made barriers.

The journey to California will take approximately two and a half days.

"Elephants really don't thrive in this kind of environment," zoo director Ron Kagan said. "The sanctuary's physical and social environment is so (much more) superior than what we can provide here."

The elephants' toys, a cache of treats and stash of hay were shipped to the sanctuary earlier, Kagan said.

Upon arriving at the 100-acre Performing Animal Welfare Society grounds, Wanda and Winky will be introduced to the society's three other Asian elephants. It will take days or even weeks of acclimatization before they are released into the herd.

■ SANFORD, Fla. — A

judge in Florida has charges of his own to worry about after he allegedly ordered the arrest of 11 traffic defendants who were mistakenly sent to the wrong courtroom.

The state Judicial Qualifications Commission on Tuesday accused Seminole County Judge John Sloop of being unfit to serve. Possible punishment ranges from a fine to removal from the bench.

The defendants were directed by summons and the court staff to a courtroom next door to Sloop's. When people realized they were in the wrong room, Sloop refused to listen to them or withdraw arrest warrants issued in their absence.

"Not to be mean, but he deserves it," said Irving

Merced, 20, one of the defendants jailed in the Dec. 3 mix-up. "A judge like that shouldn't be allowed in the courtroom."

Another judge ordered their release and the chief circuit judge forced Sloop to give up all of his criminal cases. The arrests were expunged from the defendants' records.

"I made a mistake," Sloop said afterward.

■ CLEVELAND — That was patient confidentiality blowing in the wind.

About 3,000 highly detailed patient hospital statements blew across busy downtown streets and sidewalks Tuesday after a box fell off a delivery truck, the Cleveland Clinic said.

"An investigation is underway to determine how this incident occurred," said Eileen Sheil, a spokeswoman for the

hospital. "We are currently identifying which patient records were impacted and will be contacting those patients directly."

She said the clinic was determined to contact all affected patients on Wednesday. The records were from two members of the Cleveland Clinic Hospital System — Lakewood and Marymount hospitals.

Executives in business suits and uniformed Cleveland Clinic security officers crisscrossed the area, picking up papers as motorists already slowed to a crawl by road construction watched and honked.

The patient statements included patient names, patient numbers, home addresses, insurers and policy numbers, treating physicians, admission and discharge dates and detailed billing information.

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, April 10, the 100th day of 2005. There are 265 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 10, 1912, the RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, on its ill-fated maiden voyage.

On this date:

■ In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was incorporated.

■ In 1925, the novel "The Great Gatsby," by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was first published.

■ In 1932, German president Paul Von Hindenburg was re-elected, with Adolf Hitler coming in second.

■ In 1953, the 3-D horror movie "House of Wax," produced by Warner Bros. and starring Vincent Price, premiered in New York.

■ In 1963, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Thresher failed to surface off Cape Cod, Mass., in a disaster that claimed 129 lives.

■ In 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union joined some 70 nations in signing an agreement banning biological warfare.

■ In 1974, Golda Meir announced her resignation as prime minister of Israel.

■ In 1978, Arkady Shevchenko, a high-ranking Soviet citizen employed by the United Nations, sought political asylum in the United States.

■ In 1981, imprisoned IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands won election to the British Parliament.

■ In 1998, the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators reached a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

Ten years ago: Sen. Bob Dole launched his third bid for the White House in Topeka, Kan.

Five years ago: The

Washington Post won three Pulitzer Prizes, including the public service award for the second year in a row; The Wall Street Journal took two honors, and The Associated Press won for investigative reporting on the killing of civilians by U.S. troops at the start of the Korean War. South Korea and North Korea announced a June date for their first summit since the Korean peninsula was divided in 1945. Actor Larry Linville, one of the stars of the situation comedy "M-A-S-H," died in New York at age 60.

One year ago: The White House declassified and released a document sent to President Bush before the Sept. 11 attacks which cited recent intelligence of a possible al-Qaida plot to strike inside the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Harry Morgan is 90. Actor Max von Sydow is 76. Actress Liz Sheridan is 76. Actor Omar Sharif is 73. Author David Halberstam is 71. Sportscaster John Madden is 69. R&B singer Bobbie Smith (The Spinners) is 69. Sportscaster Don Meredith is 67. Reggae artist Bunny Wailer is 58. Actor Steven Seagal is 54. Folk-pop singer Terre Roche (The Roches) is 52. Actor Peter MacNicol is 51. Rock musician Steven Gustafson (10,000 Maniacs) is 48. Singer-producer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds is 47. Rock singer-musician Brian Setzer is 46. Rapper Afrika Bambaataa is 45. Actor Jeb Adams is 44. Olympic gold medal speedskater Cathy Turner is 43. Rock musician Tim "Herb" Alexander is 40. Actor-comedian Orlando Jones is 37. Singer Kenny Lattimore is 35. Blues singer Shemekia Copeland is 26. Actor Ryan Merriman is 22. Singer Mandy Moore is 21. Actor Haley Joel Osment is 17.

Thought for Today: "Nobody ever died of laughter." — Max Beerbohm, English critic and essayist (1872-1956).

expression

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

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

Tax will fix health, not budget

It's become almost a chain-smoker kind of reflex for revenue-scarce states — Ohio and Kentucky included — to raise cigarette taxes for a quick fix.

Tax opponents, from giant Philip Morris to your local convenience store dealer, warn that tobacco tax increases enlarge an already booming black market that robs states of tax revenue, and deprive legitimate dealers of customers who buy more than just cigarettes.

Cigarette taxes — like gambling taxes — are not a reliable, long-term revenue source to base a state's future on, and may not even deliver all the short-term revenue desperate governors hope for. But a cigarette tax increase can still make good public policy sense. Despite nasty unintended consequences, states can make a good case for raising excise taxes to discourage smoking and spare taxpayers from smoking-related health care costs, which are a big reason states face huge budget deficits in the first place.

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft wants to raise Ohio's cigarette tax by 45 cents, to \$1 per pack. Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher in February persuaded lawmakers to raise their state's 3-cent tax to 30 cents a pack, but they balked at an escalator clause that would have further boosted the tax in later years as nearby states raised theirs. Kentucky may fire up the debate again next year, when offsetting tax cuts kick in and decrease revenue.

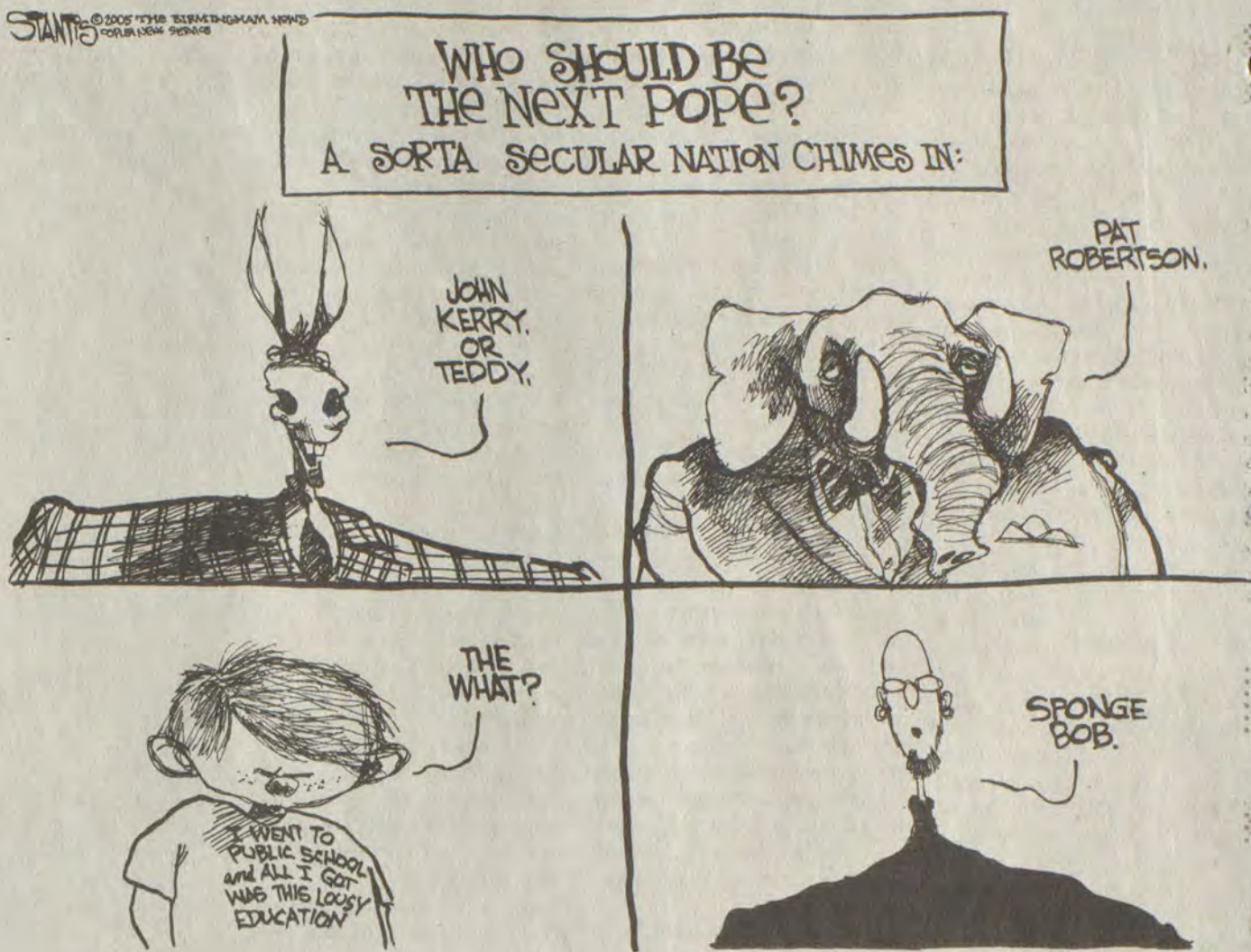
If Ohio enacts a \$1 per pack tax, it could reap \$200 million to \$350 million the first year, and lesser revenue thereafter. Cigarette taxes especially impact dealers in border areas like Cincinnati and Toledo. Cincinnati smokers head to Northern Kentucky for cheaper buys, and Michigan smokers who pay a \$2 tax at home cross into Ohio to buy. Ohio and Indiana both tax now at 55 cents a pack.

The states' gold rush to raise "sin taxes" has spurred a black market in contraband cigarettes and armed robberies. Cigarettes are almost as good as cash outside prisons as they are inside. Several smuggling busts have nailed traffickers who were using their illegal profits to supply foreign terrorists. Philip Morris USA spokeswoman Jamie Drogin says Web sites engaged in illegal online sales have grown in a few years from 100 to 1,500. The cigarettes often are counterfeit, and the penalties laughable. Such crimes should be raised from misdemeanors to felonies.

Total nationwide cigarette use has been declining 1 to 2 percent a year since the early 1980s. Ohio's taxable cigarette sales in recent years also have dipped. The tax is a declining revenue source. Lawmakers should have no illusions that it's a deficit fix. A higher tax probably would not have deterred someone like ABC's Peter Jennings, a former smoker who on Tuesday revealed his lung cancer diagnosis. But health effects should figure in lawmakers' calculations. It's no accident Kentucky leads the nation in smoking rates and lung cancer deaths. Higher taxes can help deter teens. That was part of Fletcher's calculations.

— The Kentucky Enquirer, Fort Mitchell

STATS © 2005 THE BIRMINGHAM HONK FOR A NEW POPE



Rich Lowry Column

Soak the rich

The Social Security debate is headed toward a monumental political irony: It might well be that Republicans offer creative ideas to make the system more "progressive" — i.e., more favorable to people lower down on the income scale — and Democrats resolutely refuse to adopt them. What happened to the Democrats we used to know, who made progressivity the highest test of any public policy and leapt at any opportunity to "soak the rich"?

Of course, this trend is partly the result of political desperation, as the GOP seeks ideas to make reform that includes personal accounts more appealing to Democrats. But that doesn't detract from the merit of the proposals. Some Republicans are now suggesting not just modernizing and putting Social Security on a sounder financial footing, but doing it in ways that are in keeping with that old

Democratic value: fairness.

In the past, Republican Sen. Jim DeMint from South Carolina has offered a proposal that would allow lower-income people to invest a higher proportion of their payroll taxes in personal accounts. His idea would allow lower-income workers to benefit disproportionately from the higher rate of return that personal accounts offer. Also, it would help black Americans especially to develop private assets. What is there for liberals not to love?



Another key part of the Social Security equation is slowing the rate of growth of benefits to ensure the system's solvency. The administration has floated the idea of changing how Social Security benefits are adjusted over time, pegging their indexation to inflation instead of wage growth. This would create substantial savings.

Republican Sen. Robert Bennett from Utah has a proposal to keep the more generous wage indexing for lower-income workers and slowly phase in the stingier inflation indexing for the wealthy (in keeping with this priority, survivor benefits

should be made more generous, and Social Security's disability benefits left untouched). The burden of the savings would therefore fall only on those who can most afford it. What is this if not "shared sacrifice"?

More controversial in GOP circles is Sen. Lindsey Graham's proposal to deal with solvency by raising the cap on payroll taxes from its current \$90,000, thus subjecting more of the income of the wealthy to the tax. This is both a tax increase and one solely on the better-off — in other words, ideal liberal policy.

All these ideas could be part of a reform deal. But Democratic opposition to personal accounts could prevent it, as well as the parties' contrasting theories of the welfare state. GOP proposals on Social Security are drifting in the right direction — toward maintaining the program as social insurance for the poor, offering uplift in the form of personal accounts and squeezing the governmental dependence of the fat and happy.

So, stick it to Ken Lay. Pursue economic justice. Level the playing field. Stiff George W. Bush's rich friends. Apply any demagogic slogan you like. And do it all while making Social Security better and stronger.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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— beyond the beltway

Dumb decision gives firepower to the right wing

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

Last week a Colorado Supreme Court voided the death sentence of a convicted murderer because jurors in the case had consulted a Bible before reaching a verdict.



The judicial system works very hard to emphasize the rarified, solemn and sequestered nature of jury deliberations, the majority opinion stated. Jurors must deliberate in that atmosphere without the aid or distraction of extraneous texts.

The Right Wing Commentariat immediately jumped all over the decision as yet another example of the Liberal Judiciary's hostility toward Christian values. How like them.

In point of fact, the decision is neither liberal nor conservative; it is merely dumb.

Colorado law requires jurors in a capital case to make an individual moral assessment in deciding whether to invoke the death penalty. Given that, it seems entirely natural that jurors faced with a life-and-death deci-

sion refer to their moral compass for guidance, in this case the Bible. I don't see that as coloring outside the lines. That is my liberal view.

The worst thing about the decision is that it gives ammunition to right-wingers at a time when the Christian Taliban is threatening to take over the country.

Here are just a few of the things that have happened recently:

A number of IMAX theaters, mainly in the South, have refused to run science documentaries that adhere to generally accepted scientific views on evolution or to the Big Bang theory of the creation of the universe because they're afraid of offending creationists who prefer to believe in the Biblical myths of creation.

The Los Angeles Times recently discovered a 3-year-old religious rights unit in the Justice Department that investigated a biology professor at Texas Tech because he had refused to write letters of recommendation for students who didn't believe in evolution. (A biology student who doesn't believe in evolution, it seems to me, is like a surgeon who doesn't believe in sharp knives.)

An increasing number of pharmacists are refusing to fill prescriptions for birth control and morning-after pills, saying that doing so would violate their personal moral or religious beliefs. (Now the surgeon is saying he doesn't believe in surgery.)

The government, under the leadership of President Bush, has adopted a head-in-the-sand faith-based approach to science, rather than relying on the consensus of the scientific community in matters such as stem-cell research, global warming and the prevention of AIDS, especially in Third World countries.

The Federal Communications Commission has expanded and toughened its indecency rules and is considering extending those rules to cable television, which has up to now been exempt from them.

Enough, I say. Television is indeed a cesspool but the FCC will not make it better; it will make it worse. Virtually the only TV that doesn't insult the intelligence of the viewer is cable TV, some of it at any rate. If you're looking for compelling drama you pretty much have to watch HBO when shows like "The Sopranos," "The Wire," "Six Feet Under" and, most especially, "Deadwood," flourish.

These are not shows that can withstand the withering scrutiny of an FCC that responds with shock and horror to a flash of the naked breast of a pop diva at a football game. They are, for the most part, violent and profane shows that deal realistically with the situations they portray. Admittedly "Deadwood" is not for the faint of heart. It is violent beyond description and profane to the limits of the English language. I think it's the best show on all of TV.

You don't need the FCC to police TV for you. If you don't like something, don't watch it. Similarly, if you don't believe in evolution, biology might not be the field for you. If you have moral scruples about filling certain prescriptions, try faith healing as a profession.

Christian extremists make up no more than one-fifth of the population and not the smartest fifth at that. It's silly for the rest of us to let them push us around.

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

Faith Extra

Minister's Moment

Is part of your life out of control?

by PASTOR STEVE PESCOSOLIDO
COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Would you like to hear about a practical, Christian way to get help with your life? Many churches have small groups for study and fellowship. Some churches host Alcoholics Anonymous groups and Narcotics Anonymous groups. But I don't know of any church in Floyd County that has a group that bridges the gap between these two kinds of

groups. Is there a Christian group to which you can bring significant life-controlling issues? Most people don't need inpatient treatment, but they do need attention and encouragement in the right way.

The good news is that there are persons preparing right now to be leaders of Christian groups designed to help with life-controlling issues. In February, Teen Challenge of Kentucky leader, Clayton Arp, came to Pikeville and trained almost a hundred people in the Christian-based Living Free

ministry. Some folks present were from Floyd County. There are plans being made through the Floyd County U.N.I.T.E. Coalition to start four groups this May for folks with life controlling issues. These groups will be called Insight groups.

These Insight groups are not going to be led by professional counselors, but by trained facilitators. The source of wisdom and strength will be centered on Bible verses and the Spirit of God. The facilitator will allow the group to

share, help each other, and listen to God's instructions together. This is somewhat of an AA group for sinners. Actually, every person is eligible for a Sinners Anonymous group. These new groups are not condemning, but are designed to be supportive and encouraging.

Sometimes you just need to talk out your life situation with other people in a safe environment. It is helpful when others know how things are going in your life. And it is the most helpful when we turn to God

together for help.

There is help for these things that hold us back from living free. This is one practical ministry being developed to help people who are struggling with addiction, anger, depression, overspending, overworking, overeating, etc.

Floyd County folks will hear more about these Insight groups in the future. Especially at the large Drug-Free Floyd County public march and rally to be held on May 1st. One of the speakers will describe how we can be

involved and organized together for a drug-free Floyd County.

I thought I would plant a seed here in early Spring. Do you or someone you know, young or old, need a place to work on a life-controlling issue? These groups are a Christ-centered opportunity.

For more information about these groups, call me at the church office (886-8087) or write to the Floyd County U.N.I.T.E. Coalition at P.O. Box 473, Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

Ladies Luncheon marks first annual spring celebration for CAP Elderly Program

by CARLA DAVIS

They're as much fun as getting dirty and as new as a springtime bud. I'm speaking, of course, of the newly formed Seed Sowers, a component of the Christian Appalachian Project's Elderly Program.

While distributing garden seed vouchers is nothing new, conducting a flat-out garden party is ... and the employees and the ladies are loving it! But having a garden party is just the beginning and it all started with a few bounced-around ideas from year-long CAP Elderly Program

VolunteerCarolynn Wilenski, who calls New York her home.

"I thought [having a Seed Sowers luncheon for our participants] would be a great opportunity for the ladies to come out, visit with each other and share some gardening tips. I believe, though, that Divine inspiration made it the fabulous day it turned out

being," she said. "Everyone from CAP pitched in — we even had Dorothy, our 86-year-old participant, play guitar and serenade us with mountain hymns!"

On the practical side of things, each lady received a \$15

gift certificate to be redeemed at Mountain Comp. Greenhouse. The certificate is good toward most anything needed to raise a garden.

On the more flowery side of things, well, CAP provided the ladies with a pretty neat little luncheon at the First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Love and his assistant Robin provided the use of the fellowship hall for the event.

In addition, each lady was loaded down with gardening tools, seeds, gallon-size freezer bags full of potting soil and flowers donated by the Mountain Comp. Greenhouse.

Many door prizes were distributed at the event, including a beautiful candy dish donated by Trish McNeil of Family

Treasures Florist.

As an extra special touch, Wilenski teamed up with the Elderly program staff, gathered the ladies' gardening tips, and created a book called Seed Sowers, Gardening Tips from Kentucky's Finest, a collection of home-grown time-tested tips, similar to the What's Cooking in Kentucky compilation of down-home recipes. A copy was given to take home with each one of the ladies as a special gift.

"As a CAP volunteer, it was my hope to plant some seeds that could continue to bloom even after I've completed my year of service," said Wilenski. "I'm sure next year you'll be hearing about the second annual Seed Sowers Luncheon."



Pictured below is Dorothy Bentley sang mountain hymns at the first annual Seed Sowers Luncheon, sponsored by the Christian Appalachian Project Elderly Program.

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

Rosie Bentley, 67, of Wayland, died Monday, April 4, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, April 6, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Tom Ed Blackburn, 67, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, March 31, at the Cabell Huntington Hospital, Huntington, W.Va. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Ann Adams Blackburn. Funeral services were held Sunday, April 3, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Ralph Blankenship, 53, of Teaberry, died Saturday, April 2, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Rosa Akers Blankenship. Funeral services were conducted Monday, April 4, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Mary Daniels, 77, of Lexington, a native of Drift, died Friday, April 1, at North Point Lexington Healthcare. Funeral services were held Sunday, April 3, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Mazie Wanda Hamilton, 42, of Greenup, died Tuesday, April 4, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, April 6, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Aileen Howard, 72, of Garrett, died Tuesday, April 5, at King's Daughters Hospital, in Ashland. She is survived by her husband, Aaron "Bud" Howard. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 8, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Benny Roy Meade, 67, of Betsy Layne, died Sunday, April 3, at Central Baptist Hospital, in Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, April 6, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Melissa Ann Meade, 47, of Harold, died Thursday, March 24, at the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, March 27, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Robert Miller, 67, of Martin, died Wednesday, April 6, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, in Martin. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 9, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Josephine Musick, 73, of Prestonsburg, died Monday, April 4, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, April 7, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Andy Newsome, 76, of Grethel, died Saturday, April 2, at Ridgcrest Manor, Duffield, Virginia. Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 5, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Christopher Neil Newsome, 22, of Melvin, died Tuesday, April 5, in the Hospice Care Center, Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 8, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Meredith Edgar Spurlock, 81, of Prestonsburg, died Monday, April 4, at the Veterans Hospital, Huntington, W.Va. He is survived by his wife, Opal Salisbury Spurlock. Funeral services were held Thursday, April 7, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Everett R. Stumbo, 75, of McDowell, died Friday, April 1, at South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Monday, April 4, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Jimmy (Dickie) Stumbo, 50, of Price, died Wednesday, March 30, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Healthcare emergency room. He is survived by his wife, Glenda Sue Spears Stumbo. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 2, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Ollie Stumbo Tackett, 90, of McDowell, died Wednesday,

April 6, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 9, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Shadrick "Shad" Vickers, 28, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, March 31, at Central Baptist Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Tiffany Meade Vickers. Funeral services were conducted Monday, April 4, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

PIKE COUNTY

Clarence Addington, 58, of Jenkins, died Thursday, March 31, at the Jenkins Community Hospital. Funeral service were held Saturday, April 2, under the direction of the Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Jo Ann Adkins, 42, of Daniels Creek, died Saturday, April 2, at her home. She is survived by her husband, Johnny Dean Adkins. Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 5, under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

Franklin D. Bevins, 70, of Upper Pompey, Raccoon, died Saturday, April 2, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Drema Bevins. Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 5, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Augustine Cantrell, 67, of Lookout, died Thursday, March 24, at her home. Funeral services were held Sunday, March 27, under direction of Bailey Funeral Home of Elkhorn City.

Freeda Carol Sturgell Coleman, 67, of Mouthcard, died Tuesday, April 5, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday, April 8, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Danville Coleman, 65, a Pike County native, died Sunday, April 3. He is survived by his wife, Karen Walters Coleman. Funeral services were held Thursday, April 7, under the direction of Schoedinger Funeral Home.

Emma Jean Darby, 78, of Turkey Creek, died Saturday, April 2, at Appalachian Regional Hospital, South Williamson. Funeral services were held Monday, April 4, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

Willie "Buddy" Elswick, 78, of Lizzie Fork of Caney Highway, died Saturday, April 2, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Tennessee Elswick. Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 5, under the direction of Justice Funeral Home.

Opal Hall, 82, of Williamson, West Virginia, a Coleman native, died Sunday, April 3, at the Good Shepherd Nursing Facility, Phelps. Funeral arrangements, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home of Belfry.

Richard Hughes Jr., 49, of Belo, West Virginia, formerly of Turkey Creek, died Thursday, March 31, at Coal River Energy in Lincoln County, W.V. Funeral services were held Monday, April 4, the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

Madgie Johnson, 75, of Sugar Camp, died Monday, April 4, at her home. Funeral services were held Thursday, April 7, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Freddie Kiser, 49, of Lookout, died Wednesday, April 6, at his home. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 9, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Maurice Benjamin Lucas, 88, of Sidney, died Saturday, April 2, at Pikeville Healthcare Center. He is survived by his wife, Elsie Decker Lucas. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Chapel.

David McCoy, 47, of Raccoon, died Wednesday, April 6, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Denita Hamilton McCoy. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 9, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Jimmy Neal McCoy, 42, of Turkey Creek, died Monday, April 4, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Jerusha Rene Reed McCoy. Funeral services were held Thursday, April 7, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Chapel.

Conley Mullins, 74, of Long Fork, died Saturday, March 26, at the Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. He is survived by his wife, Dacie Mullins. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 29, under the direction of Hall and Jones Funeral Home.

James David "Rat" Smith, 54, of Sidney, died Sunday, April 3, at his home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 6, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Richard Allen Smith, 35, of Shelbiana, died Wednesday, April 6, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Tracie Smith. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 9, under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home.

Rford Thacker, 65, of Red Creek, died Tuesday, April 5. He is survived by his wife, Jean Thacker. Funeral services were held Friday, April 8, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Kitty Tomlinson, 85, a Pikeville native, died Sunday, April 3. A memorial service was held Friday, April 8. Arrangements, under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home-West.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Georgia Casey Turner, 75, of Louisa, died Monday, April 4, at the J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center, Louisa. Funeral services were held Thursday, April 7, under the direction of Herald & Stewart Home For Funerals Inc., of Mt. Sterling.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Branham, 82, of Boons Camp, died Wednesday, April 6, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 9, under the direction of the Preston Funeral Home.

Neva Imogene "Granny" Caudill, 81, of Paintsville, died Saturday, April 2 in Lexington. Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 5, under the direction of the Preston Funeral Home.

Harold Leslie Davis Sr., 80, a native of Meally, died Tuesday, April 5. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 9, under the direction of the Caniff Funeral Home of Westwood.

William Roger "Bill Dooly" Hensley Jr., 38, of Hager Hill, died Friday, March 25, at his residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 29, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Beulah Lyon McKenzie, 94, of Ashland, a Johnson County native, died Monday, March 28, at the Community Hospice Care Center in Ashland. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 31, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Mary M. Ratliff, 67, of Staffordsville, died Wednesday, March 30, at St. Joseph East Hospital, in Lexington. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 2, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Walter Wathen Sammons, 66, of Van Lear, died Sunday, March 27, at his residence. Funeral services were held Friday, April 1, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Donald Ray Turner, 63, of Hager Hill, died Tuesday, March 29, at St. Joseph East Hospital in Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn 'Suzy' Clay Turner. Arrangements, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Palmer Gene Vance Sr., 73, of Oil Springs, died Wednesday, March 30, at his residence. He is

survived by his wife, Peggy Blanton Vance. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 2, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

Mearlene Borders, 64, of Marion, Ohio, a Magoffin County native, died Saturday, April 2, at Heartland of Marion, Ohio. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, April 5, under the direction of Boyd Funeral Home.

Walter Francis Connelley, 81, a Salyersville native, died Monday, March 28, at the UK Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 1, under the direction of Kerr Brothers Funeral Home.

Shelvia Gene Tackett Crabtree, 44, of Salyersville, died Tuesday, March 29, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, Paintsville. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, March 31, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Will Slone, 79, of Salyersville, died Saturday, April 2, at King's Daughters Medical Center, Ashland. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, April 5, under the direction Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Margie Thompson, 51, of Richmond, Indiana, died Sunday, March 28, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, March 30, under the direction of Salyersville Funeral Home.

Tressie Mae Jackson Watson, 93, of Magoffin County, died Thursday, March 31, at Glendora Health Care Center, Wooster, Ohio. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, April 3, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Warmie Wheeler, 88, of Lucasville, Ohio, formerly of Magoffin County, died Tuesday, March 29, at Southern Ohio Medical Center, Portsmouth, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Faye Eshem Wheeler. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 2, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

MARTIN COUNTY

Opal Louise Browning, 82, of Steptown, West Virginia, died Sunday, April 4, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, April 7, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Kathleen (Porter) Hinkle, 70,

died Monday, March 28. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 30, at the Calf Creek United Baptist Church. Graveside services were conducted at Harrison Township Cemetery, in South Bloomfield, Ohio.

Shirley Jones, 59, of Warfield, died Monday, March 28, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, March 30, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Clark Maynard, 45, of Wittensville, a Martin county native, died Tuesday, March 29, at St. Mary's Hospital, in Huntington, West Virginia. He is

survived by his wife, Judy Lynn Maynard. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 2, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Printice Slone, 51, of Inez, died Friday, April 1, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Monday, April 4, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Willie Sparks, 63, of Inez, died Saturday, April 2, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia Stepp Sparks. Funeral services were conducted Monday, April 4, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Contest

Continued from p1

including the Department of Protection and Permanency, Mountain Comprehensive Care, Kentucky State Police and the Big Sandy Child Advocacy Center.

Organization of the event was handled by the victim's advocate Kathy Lafferty, who said, "It is our hope that the results of this prevention and awareness contest will be educational for the children, teachers and parents and that the results will be far reaching."

The fliers going out to schools spell out the contest's rules and include materials, like statistics, which can be incorporated into one of two categories. Children who participate will be asked to either write an informative essay about child abuse or produce a poster.

Each participant will receive a pass to the East Kentucky Science Center for entering the contest and winners from each grade and category will also receive a free pass to the Kentucky Opry at the Mountain Arts Center this summer as well as a coupon for a free meal at Dairy Queen or Pizza Hut.

Every winner will have their project automatically entered in a countywide contest that will have the winners announced at the Floyd County Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Awards that will be held on April 21 at 6 p.m. on the campus of Big Sandy Community and

Technical College on the walking track gazebo, where Attorney General Greg Stumbo will be the guest speaker. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners for poster and essay contests with winners receiving \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively.

The evening will be capped by a special service honoring victims from the county who have lost their lives.

"We felt that it was the right time to give victims a voice in the community the memory of those victims who have lost their lives in Floyd County," Lafferty said.

Lafferty is sending out statistics about child abuse to family resource centers throughout the county. One sobering fact in the material is that despite the larger size of neighboring Pike County, Floyd still has slightly more instances of reported child abuse. Lafferty pointed out that such statistics don't tell the whole story, since many cases of abuse go unreported.

In a letter going out to prospective donors for the program Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner notes, "We believe that making a difference begins with education." He also invites all who participate in the program to attend the April 21 rally and closes by saying, "Together we can make a difference in the life of a child."



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TIMES Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

HEADED TO THE NEXT LEVEL



photos by Steve LeMaster

Kim Clark made her college choice officially known Friday, signing to play both basketball and softball at nearby Pikeville College. She was joined at the signing by teammates, friends, coaches and family.

TV ratings for Food City 500 highest ever for a BMS event

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Bristol Motor Speedway continues to prove not only to be a fan-favorite track for spectators who visit the half-mile oval, but at home as well as viewers tuned in and turned on in record numbers last weekend.

Long known as one of the toughest tickets to get in all of professional sports, Sunday's running of the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Food City 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway earned a 6.3 final national television rating, the highest-rated broadcast of an event in the history of BMS.

In addition to setting a Bristol Motor Speedway ratings record, the 6.3 rating marked a five-percent increase from the 6.0 the Food City 500 achieved last year. Both events were broadcast on FOX.

The final national rating of this year's Food City 500 also marked a five-percent increase from the 6.0 earned by the Samsung/RadioShack 500 at Texas Motor Speedway, which aired the same weekend last year.

Last weekend's NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race from Bristol Motor Speedway aired directly against sports coverage of the PGA, NBA, Arena Football League, men's tennis, the college basketball slam dunk and three-point championship as well as other motor-sports coverage of the IRL and the Rolex Sports Car Series.

The 6.3 final national rating translates into 6.9-million-plus homes tuned into FOX in addition to the approximately 160,000 fans in attendance to watch action at the "World's Fastest Half Mile." That marked a seven percent increase in households viewing the race. More than 9,750,000 people watched the race on television as Kevin Harvick visited victory lane for the first time in 55 races giving car owner Richard Childress his first win at Bristol since the late Dale Earnhardt won in August of 1999.

Rain shuts out Brandon Kinzer Motorsports

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ALLEN — The rain came and it didn't go away quick enough for the Brandon Kinzer Motorsports race team. Just like the majority of tracks across the eastern half of the United States, Volunteer Speedway, located in Bulls Gap, Tenn., succumbed to rain over the weekend of April 1-2. Scheduled was a \$3,000 to win race on Friday April 1, and a \$10,000 to win show to follow on April 2. Both were washed out.

On Friday night, Volunteer Speedway was able to get in qualifying. Brandon Kinzer posted the 15th-fastest time of the 30 cars. Using Southern Allstars procedure, the top-16 qualifiers locked themselves into the top-16 starting spots of the feature event. The Brandon Kinzer Motorsports race team was ready, but thanks to Mother Nature, had no place to race.

Just before the feature

(See RAIN, page two)

TWO-SPORT STAR Clark signs to play basketball, softball at Pikeville

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — While rare on some levels of collegiate athletics, two-sport athletes are commonplace in NAIA sports. Next year, Pikeville College will add another one to the list.

Kim Clark, a standout basketball and softball player at Betsy Layne High School, has signed a letter of intent to play both sports at Pikeville College. A 5-7 guard, she also excels off the court — she maintains a 3.55 grade point average.

Clark was named 15th Region Player of the Year and led her Lady Cats to the Sweet 16 for the second time in three years this season. She averaged 17.4 points and 5.8 rebounds per game for Cassandra Akers' club, which won the 58th District for the third time in her high school career.

In addition to winning the 15th Region championships in 2003 and 2005, the Lady Bobcats won the All "A" Classic three straight years from 2002-04. Clark finished her career with 1,648 points, 578 rebounds and 392 assists.

She was an all-conference and all-district basketball selection three years. In addition, Clark was the 2004 15th Region Preseason Player of the Year. To go along with her conference and district honors, she was twice named All-State Honorable Mention.

"We think Kim can do a lot of things on the basketball court and will be a tremendous addition to our club," said Bill Watson, coach of the Lady Bears. "We're very pleased to be able to add her to our roster."

In addition, Clark will play softball for the Lady Bears. A standout shortstop, she was credited with a .691 batting average as a junior.

"Kim is a tremendous athlete who can help us in a variety of ways," said Robert Staggs, who is in his third season coaching softball at Pikeville College. "We think she'll feel at home at Pikeville College and be an asset to us as we continue building toward a championship program."

Martin switches gears from basketball to softball

by STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

EASTERN — It didn't take Mark Martin long to switch gears from basketball to softball. Now, many of the same Allen Central High School girls' basketball players are moving off of the court and onto the diamond as softball season comes along with the start of spring.

Last year, Allen Central's softball squad captured a district championship. The Lady Rebels fell to Johnson Central in the opening round of last year's regional tournament. Johnson Central came through with some late runs one year ago, knocking the Lady Rebels out of the post-season.

But there's a buzz about this

year's ACHS softball team.

"I felt as though we were one of the more improved teams in the region," said Martin. "As a result of last season's success, our numbers are up for softball."

Gone from last season's ACHS softball crew are Terri Mullins and Jessica Isaac. Back are seven returning starters.

Senior Becky Thomas, who ended her prep basketball career as one of Eastern Kentucky's top hoops players, returns to pitch and play in the infield. Thomas is expected to get pitching help from junior Alanna Cline, another Lady Rebel basketball player.

"Becky and Alanna pitched a little last season and both should be able to devel-

op into solid pitchers for us as the season goes along," Martin added.

Other starters returning include juniors Tanda Conn (CF) and Samantha Nelson (2B), sophomore Amanda Thacker (LF) and freshman Elizabeth Dingus (C), Sara Johnson (RF).

Last season, Allen Central also made a strong run in the All "A" Classic. It's a new season, and the Lady Rebels will again have the opportunity to chase a regional All "A" title.

Martin feels confident about his team — both offensively and defensively.

"Defensively, early on we have to be solid in the field until our pitching comes

(See SOFTBALL page two)



photo by Steve LeMaster

ALL IN: The Allen Central High School baseball program has a new head coach, Ken Johnson is now at the helm of the Rebel baseball program. Craig Kidd, who coached Allen Central last season, remains on the Rebel baseball staff as an assistant coach. Allen Central is looking to return to the top of the 15th Region. The Rebels took the 15th Region title two seasons ago.

Rain

event, the rains came and forced Brandon Kinzer Motorsports Crew Chief Jimmy Cabral and the rest of the race team to load the No. 18 Kinzer Drilling, Barry Wright Racecars, Ranger Contracting, Eastco Supply, Alert Oil & Gas, Commonwealth Chiropractic, Allstar Performance, Tim Short Automotive, Panther

Motorsports Design Dodge Intrepid SXT into the purple hauler for the weekend. "Well, I think that we would of had a pretty good car for the feature, but the rains came and washed it out," said Kinzer, who was obviously looking forward to racing in another feature race. "We're going back to Volunteer Speedway

(next week) and going to give it another shot."

At press time, the Brandon Kinzer Motorsports race team was back in Bulls Gap, Tenn., back at Volunteer Speedway Saturday, racing in an unsanctioned \$3,000-to-win feature race.

ONLINE: www.brandonkinzer.com

Softball

along," Martin admitted. "This group got some good experience last year and we should be able to hold our own."

"Juniors Tanda Conn and Samantha Nelson return at second and centerfield."

Both Tanda and Samantha had a solid season last year. I think those two can really have a big impact on how well the team performs as well as

Amanda Thacker and Sara Johnson.

"Freshman Elizabeth Dingus returns behind the plate where she gained All-Conference and All-District honors as an eighth-grader. If she continues to work hard in practice she could develop into a good player."

"We were fortunate to play our best ball at the end of the season and hopefully, with the

experience and group that is returning we should be able to hold our own in the area. I'm confident that Becky and Alanna will be good leaders and we're looking forward to the season."

The Lady Rebels that hit the softball field this season will bring with them a lot of experience. Some of that experience is the championship kind, too.

Martin finishes tied for 10th

Eagle golfers rally for third-place finish in the Belmont Invitational

TIMES STAFF REPORT
FRANKLIN, Tenn. - The Morehead State University Eagle golf team rallied from seventh place after two rounds to tie for third in the Belmont Invitational played April 4-5 at the Legends Club. Missouri won the team

championship easily, shooting an amazing 28-under par 824. Tennessee Tech was second at 859. MSU and Southeast Missouri tied for third at 866.

Missouri's Chris Mabry won medalist honors with a 14-under par 199. MSU individuals were Prestonsburg High School graduate Ryan Martin

(tie for 10th) at 215, Matt Gann and Lee Chaney (tie for 15th) at 218, Kyle Litter (tie for 27th) at 219 and Casey Wade (tie for 58th) at 226

At press time, Morehead State was again on the links, playing in the Woodford Invitational in Spartanburg, S.C.

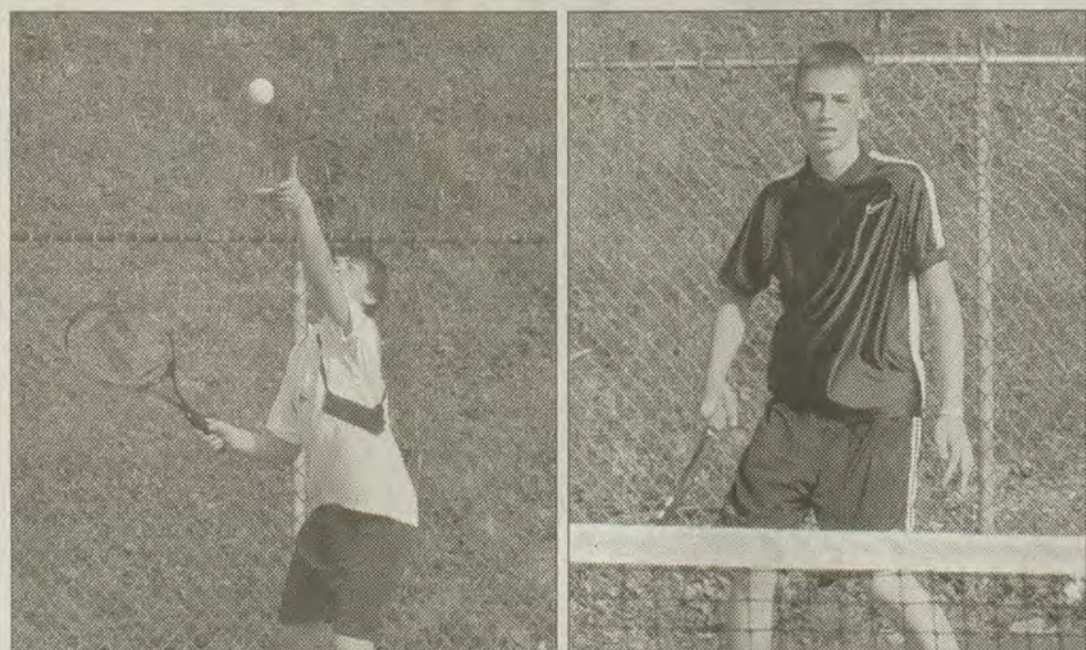
TENNIS:

Louisville edges Ball State

TIMES STAFF REPORT
MUNCIE, Ind. - The No. 27 University of Louisville men's tennis team defeated host Ball State 4-3 Wednesday afternoon at BSU's Cardinal Creek. Ball State started the match by claiming the doubles point as Matt Baccarani and Patrick Thompson, No. 25 in Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings, defeated Louisville's No. 29 team of Jakob Gustafsson and Jeremy Clark 8-5 at the top seed. Matt Laramore and Brad Rhodes edged U of L's Slavko Radman and Johnny Berrido 9-8 at No. 2. Louisville's Damar Johnson and Mark Kennedy teamed to beat Klint Knable and Paul Newman 9-8 at the No. 3 slot.

Clark, a graduate of Prestonsburg High School, continues to enjoy a great run with his doubles partner. In singles action, Johnson, No. 74 in ITA singles rankings, defeated Laramore 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 at No. 2. Gustafsson picked up a 6-4, 6-0 win over Tony Epkey at the No. 3 seed. Clark beat Thompson 6-4, 6-0 at No. 5 and Berrido defeated Knable 4-6, 7-6, 6-2 at the six spot. BSU picked up singles wins at the top seed, where Baccarani beat Radman 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 and at No. 4 where Newman defeated Octavian Nicodim 6-2, 6-2. "Anytime you go on the road to play a top Mid-American Conference program, you know you are in for a battle," said

Louisville head coach Rex Ecarma. "Ball State is a favorite to win their conference tournament and are playing very good tennis right now. I think our team turned in a good effort, especially Damar Johnson, who won in both singles and doubles. Johnny Berrido is starting to return to form and is closing out matches. We need to close out the season on a high note and prepare for the Conference USA championship." U of L (19-8) will close out the regular season against Northern Illinois on April 15 at 1 p.m. at the Bass-Rudd Tennis Center. Louisville will host the 2005 Conference USA Men's Tennis Championship. Call 502/852-5151 for ticket information.



photos by Jamie Howell

The Prestonsburg High School tennis team, coached by Bobby Hamilton, returned to the court this week. Prestonsburg hosted the June Buchanan School Tuesday evening. More on the PHS tennis program will appear in Wednesday's edition.

Trout stockings changed on Martin County reservoir

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES
FRANKFORT - What's the difference between a "lake" and a "reservoir"? In Martin County, it's 1,500 trout. A mistake in the stocking location of 1,500 rainbow trout last Thursday means anglers in Martin County will have even more opportunity to catch fish. An April 7 trout stocking scheduled for the Martin County Reservoir instead went to Martin County Lake. Rather than just tell anglers that only one place would

receive trout, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources decided to treat the inadvertent mistake as a bonus stocking. Martin County Reservoir will still get its trout, but a few days later than originally planned. The reservoir will receive 1,500 rainbow trout on Wednesday. Anglers at both places may keep up to eight trout a day. Anglers must have a trout permit if they want to keep their fish. There is no size limit on

trout at either lake. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) manages, regulates, enforces and promotes responsible use of all fish and wildlife species, their habitats, public wildlife areas and waterways for the benefit of those resources and for public enjoyment. KDFWR, an agency of the Commerce Cabinet, has an economic impact to the state of \$4.8 billion annually. For more information on KDFWR, go online to www.fw.ky.gov.

Kentucky Football Notebook:

Tamme making adjustment to tight end

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

LEXINGTON - One of the encouraging signs of spring practice has been the performance of tight end Jacob Tamme.

Tamme (pronounced the same as "Tammy") came to UK as a wide receiver, redshirted in 2003, and played in every game in the 2004 season. He received a trial at tight end during the season finale at Tennessee, in which he caught four passes for 55 yards and his first two collegiate touchdowns. That performance encouraged the coaching staff to make the move permanent, a change Tamme has welcomed. "I've been excited about it," said Tamme, who will be a sophomore during the 2005 season. "When Coach Phillips (offensive coordinator Joker Phillips) approached me with what I thought about it, I told them that I would play whenever would help the team."

Of course, the most difficult challenge for a wide receiver moving to tight end is the change in blocking assignments.

"I feel like I block OK, but I have a lot of work to do. You

don't have to be a really big guy to be effective, but you have to play with heart. I've put on enough weight to mix it up," said Tamme, who stands 6-foot-5 inches and whose work in the weight room has helped him grow to 237 pounds.

"Jacob has put on about 20 pounds while maintaining, or even increasing, his speed," tight ends coach Steve Ortmyer said. "I'm pleased with how he has approached the change mentally. Each day he's learning more about the blocking aspect of playing tight end. He came in with a good knowledge of the receiving part (of playing the position). As a receiver, he's able to get into routes quickly, cuts quickly, and has an outstanding set of hands."

Tamme has made several catches for big gains during the first week of spring practice, a trend that Phillips believes will continue.

"Jacob is a great route-runner as a tight end," Phillips said. "He brings speed to the position and gives us a lot of flexibility in what we can do offensively. There are a lot of things we can do with him in the game."

Kentucky returns to practice Saturday at 11 a.m., which will include a scrimmage. Practices are held in Commonwealth Stadium or the Nutter Field House and are open to the public and media.

Yeast signs new contract in Canadian Football League: Former Kentucky wide receiver Craig Yeast, who led the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in receiving yards and kick returns last season, has agreed to a two-year contact, the CFL club announced Thursday.

Yeast appeared in all 18 regular-season games last season and caught 59 passes for 1,184 yards and eight touchdowns. He also returned 41 kickoffs for 805 yards, 53 punts for 420 yards, and had eight missed field goal returns for 250 yards and one touchdown. Yeast totaled 2,703 all-purpose yards, ranking second in the CFL.

Yeast played at Kentucky from 1995-98 and became the all-time receiving leader in Southeastern Conference history with 208 catches. A native of Danville, Ky., Yeast played at Harrodsburg High School before coming to UK.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL:

Pikeville sweeps

Union

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BARBOURVILLE - Pikeville College handed host Union College a pair of defeats Thursday. The Lady Bears won 10-2 in one game and 15-0 in another.

Pikeville, coached by Robert Staggs, opened up a 7-0 advantage in the first game before Union posted its first in the third inning. The Lady Bears then added three more runs in the fourth, and Union pushed another run across in the fifth to make the final 10-2.

Jeanie Hamblin pitched Pikeville to the win in the first game. Heather Robbins added a double for the Lady Bears.

Hamblin also helped her cause at the plate for Pikeville, hitting a pair of doubles.

For Union, Monica Valdez went 2-for-3 with a double and two runs scored, while Kaila McSpedon was 2-of-2 with two RBIs and a sac fly.

In the nightcap, it appeared

Union was going to keep things close as it trailed 1-0 after two innings. However, Pikeville exploded for six runs in the third, three in the fourth and five in the fifth en route to the 15-0 blanking.

The Lady Bulldogs managed just one hit in the loss, a single by Rachel Jumbelick (Corbin) in the fifth inning.

Kelley Neace took the pitching duties and recorded the win for Pikeville. Whitney Broyles and Hilary McKenzie each had home runs for the Lady Bears. Melinda Ratliff and Kalaiah added triples while Heather Swiney came through with a double.

Following the second win over Union, Pikeville improved to 18-8 (4-5 in the Mid-South Conference).

Lady Rebs win opener

by **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS EDITOR

EASTERN - The Allen Central High girls' fast-pitch softball team won its season-opener Thursday night. The Lady Rebels, playing at home, beat 14th Region opponent Buchhorn 15-0 in just three innings.

Becky Thomas pitched for Allen Central and recorded the win.

Freshman Elizabeth Dingus knocked in two runs in the first inning and junior Samantha Nelson had a double in the third inning with bases-loaded. Nelson finished with three runs batted in.

Leadoff hitter Tanda Conn, a junior centerfielder, kept the basepaths hot for the Lady Rebels, stealing five bases.

"Becky threw the ball well," said Allen Central Coach Mark Martin. "She has to step up and be one of our leaders. It was a good win for us."

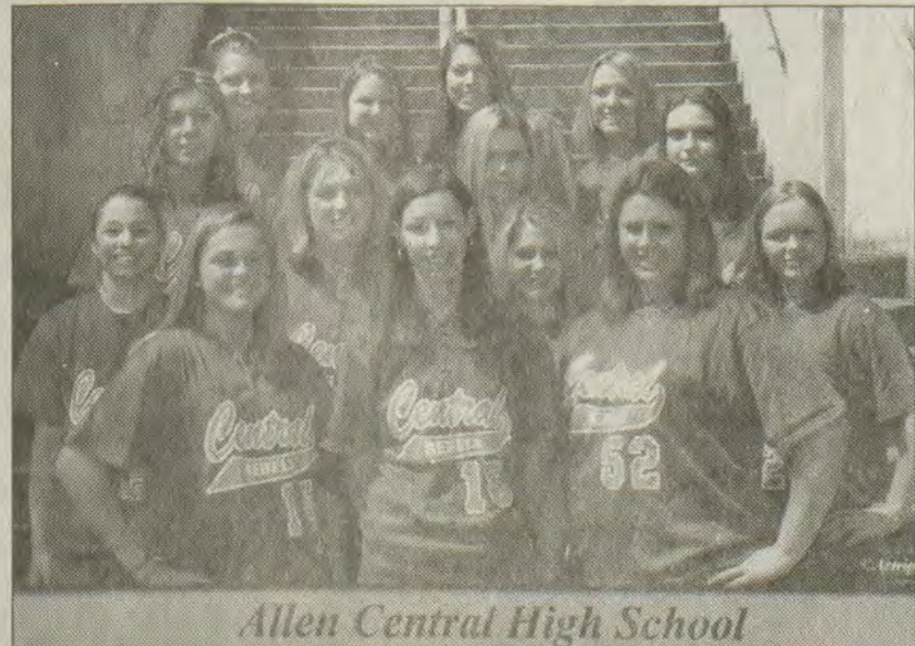
In Floyd County, Allen Central reigns as the defending district champion.

Martin is now in his second season at the top of the ACHS softball program.



photos courtesy of Atrip's

The Allen Central High School baseball and softball teams each made into regional competition last season.



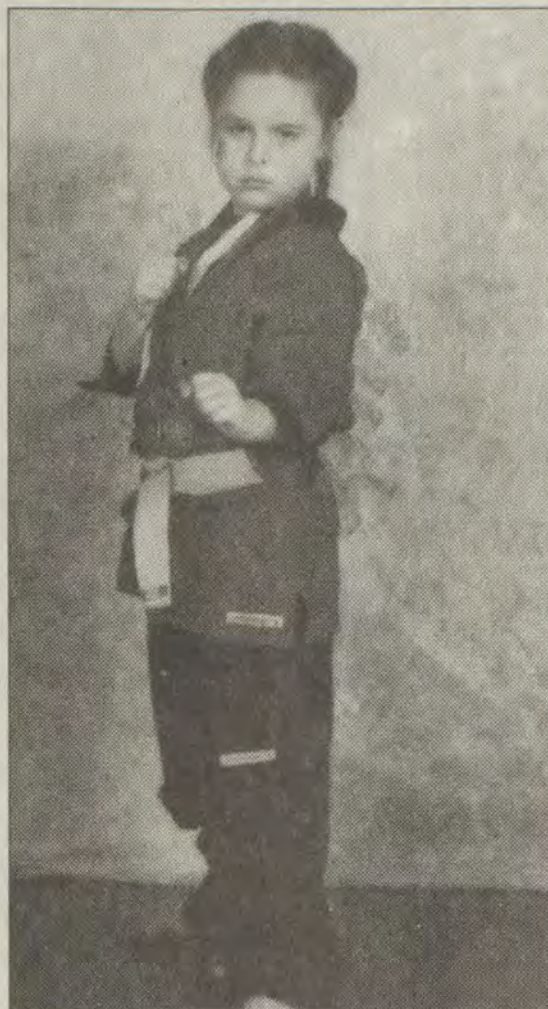
BLUEGRASS WINTER GAMES



Amanda Warrix, Raccoon, Gold



Benny Cantrell, Pikeville, Gold, Gold Gold

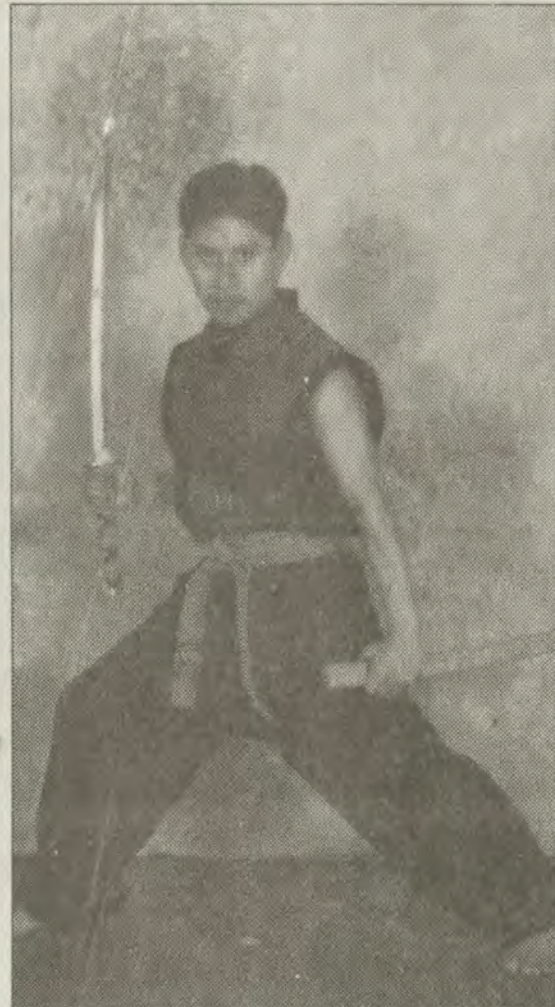


Bethany Smith, Pikeville, Gold, Silver, Bronze



Corey Hamilton, Virgie, Bronze

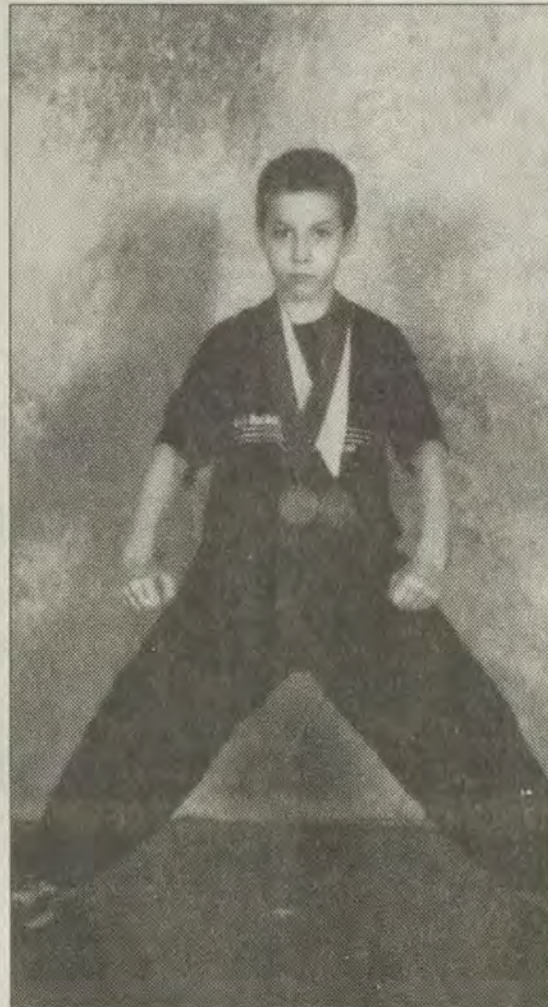
Several area athletes competed in this year's Bluegrass Winter Games. Pike County was represented with a large contingent of martial artists. Young Pike County martial artists and a rundown of the medals they captured appears both above and below.



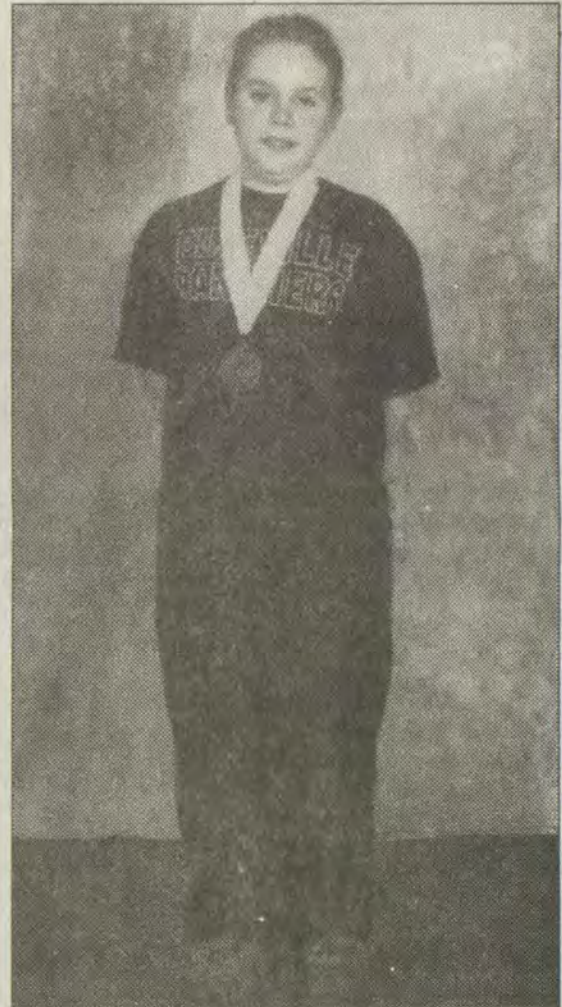
Juan Antonio Cortes, Pikeville, Gold, Gold,



Juanita Salyer, Pikeville, Silver



Shawn Robinson, Shelbiana, Gold, Bronze



Zachary Howell, Pikeville, Bronze

Ballpark brings hopes of economic burst in Charleston

by JOHN RABY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Mary Anne Crickard looks through a second-floor window and over the left-field wall to the lush outfield grass and shiny seats at the new Appalachian Power Park.

Eight years ago, when Contemporary Galleries opened in the city's East End, that same view revealed a few dilapidated houses and asphalt.

"It was an eyesore," said Crickard, the furniture store's manager. "Now we've got a state-of-the-art baseball facility right in front of us. We can't find anything bad to say about it. It's going to be really, really nice."

Nice for baseball fans. And, maybe soon, nice for Charleston's business climate.

With tens of thousands of people expected to attend games at the \$23 million ballpark through the end of summer, city officials are eager at the prospects for economic development while existing merchants hope to detour some fans through their doors.

"I see that whole area coming to life," said City Manager Dave Molgaard, the stadium's project manager.

In a way, Charleston has. With a new ballpark, team name and parent club, residents

are embracing the West Virginia Power, the Class A affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers.

Ticket sales have surpassed all of last year's totals with the former club, the Charleston Alley Cats. Local media have given the Power prominent coverage leading up to Opening Day.

A total of 34 new minor-league ballparks have opened since 2000, including eight this season, said Jim Ferguson, spokesman for St. Petersburg, Fla.-based Minor League Baseball.

In the 16-team South Atlantic League, the Greensboro, N.C., franchise joins the West Virginia Power in debuting ballparks. Three other teams — Eastlake, Ohio; Lexington; and Lakewood, N.J. — built stadiums in the past four years.

Lakewood's \$22 million stadium coincided with the team's debut and has helped the city become a destination point.

"As most studies would suggest, the hometown value is great," said Russell Corby, Lakewood's director of economic development. "In our case, 10 years ago, no one would say they were going to Lakewood for anything. Now, people in the entire region, they say, 'I'm going to Lakewood for the game.'"

But in terms of employment, only 15 to 20 permanent jobs were created by the ballpark,

and job prospects haven't been too rosy, either, in Eastlake.

Eastlake Mayor Ted Andrzejewski said the Cleveland suburb regrets building its \$24 million stadium because "it wasn't funded properly" and contributed to a budget deficit. He said only a few restaurants have opened nearby since its debut.

He warns Charleston not to expect anything major to come rushing to town.

"Here's what it ends up being: 'Boy you have a great facility. This is a real nice place to see a ball game.' But no industry is going to come to your area because of a ballpark," Andrzejewski said. "We haven't had one office building, factory, anybody, come to relocate. But you'll get restaurants."

To appreciate what officials in Charleston, a city of 52,000 residents, are trying to do is to remember what the ballpark's location looked like a few years ago.

"That whole area had been vacant for a significant period of time. I would predict that it would have remained vacant for another five or 10 years and maybe even longer if we had not done this," Molgaard said. "I think people are going to be chomping at the bit to try to develop around that area."

One of the potential catalysts rests in a vacant warehouse

behind the right-field wall. Among the businesses being courted to the building, which formerly housed state offices, are a restaurant, an accounting firm and a retail store that would showcase West Virginia artisans and products, Molgaard said.

The nonprofit Center for Economic Options, which sells the Showcase West Virginia products, also is looking into moving its administrative offices there. Nearby, the city is building a parking lot and trying to bring in a grocery store, while another vacant building also is available for development, he said.

Inside the fences, when the Power plays their home opener before a sold-out crowd Thursday night, baseball will be the main attraction, but not the only one.

The team is following a growing practice of turning the sport into family entertainment. That wasn't possible at its former home, Watt Powell Park.

"Watt Powell was an old stadium that was run down," said Andy Milovich, the Power's general manager. "It wasn't a place you would entertain clients or take your kids if you weren't a baseball fan."

While the 4,500-seat stadium is still being finished, it will eventually feature luxury suites, a multitiered picnic garden, and a play area beyond the center field wall where children can launch

down a giant slide, toss pitches at a dunk tank and maneuver around an obstacle course.

"It's conducive to just going out, having a good time and enjoying somebody's company, whether you're a baseball fan or not," Milovich said. "The venue is first and foremost the most important part of the whole equation."

The ballpark idea was hatched by former Alley Cats owners Tom Dickson and Sherrie Myers, who threatened to move the team unless the city replaced Watt Powell. They sold the club last May to a group of Charleston and Huntington businessmen, two months after ground was broken on the new stadium.

The feel of the area's warehouse district is incorporated into the ballpark's design and gives it a yesteryear feel similar to the Baltimore Orioles' Camden Yards.

To players and coaches, it's another reason to look forward to playing here.

"I can see the excitement in my players already," said West Virginia Power manager Ramon Aviles, who came to Watt Powell as a player and coach for opposing teams. "As a former player, we're going to play in front of a lot of people in a nice facility, so it's going to get you up for the game."

Prestonsburg 10, Jenkins 2

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

JENKINS — Visiting Prestonsburg jumped on Jenkins early Thursday evening and went on to beat the home-standing Cavaliers 10-2. The Blackcats got five of their 10 runs in the game's opening inning. Prestonsburg freshman Josh Rodebaugh and junior Brenton Hamilton each had opening-inning home runs for the Blackcats. The two Blackcat batters connected on back-to-back longballs in the contest's first inning.

Brandon Campbell and Nick McGuire both smacked doubles and scored in the first inning. Bobby Hughes also reached base on a walk and scored for visiting Prestonsburg. Jenkins got one run back in the first inning, but couldn't do any more damage.

In the first inning, Jared Bentley singled and eventually came around to score for Jenkins.

Prestonsburg got three more runs in the second inning and two in the third stanza.

Hughes eventually scored three times for the Blackcats. He had a double in the second inning and a single later in the third. Prestonsburg cleanup hitter Cory Tincher added a double and a triple.

The win was Prestonsburg's fifth straight.

Charlie Ousley took the mound and pitched Prestonsburg to the win.

Azubuike signs with agent; won't return to Kentucky

by MURRAY EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Junior swingman Kelenna Azubuike, Kentucky's leading scorer this season, has signed with an agent and will forego his final season of eligibility.

In a statement released by the university, Azubuike announced his intention to enter the NBA draft and not return for his senior season.

"I know all the implications of signing with an agent," Azubuike said. "I believe I am ready and I am willing to do whatever it takes to get better before the draft. I want to make it clear that this is my decision but my family is solidly behind me."

The 6-foot-5, 220-pound Azubuike averaged 14.7 points per game and was second on the team in rebounding this season at 4.7 per game. Kentucky finished 28-6 and lost to Michigan State in the Austin regional final of the NCAA tournament.

This is not Azubuike's his first flirtation with the NBA.

During his senior season at Victory Christian School in Tulsa, Okla., Azubuike openly spoke about jumping straight from high school into the NBA, but instead chose to sign with Kentucky. He scored 3,530 points during his prep career, second-best in Oklahoma history, and averaged 39.1 points and 13.3 rebounds per game as a senior.

The NBA draft is June 28.

Azubuike averaged 3.7 points per game in 31 games as a freshman reserve before breaking into the starting lineup at the start of his sophomore season. As a sophomore, he averaged 11.1 points and 5.0 rebounds per game and emerged as a defensive stopper for the Wildcats.

Kentucky went 87-15, won two Southeastern Conference titles and twice appeared in a NCAA tournament regional final during Azubuike's career.

"Kelenna has been a model student-athlete and will be

sorely missed," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said in a statement. "He's done everything we've asked him to do since he's been at UK and we'll do everything we can to help him achieve his goals and dreams."

During Smith's eight years as Kentucky's coach, only one other player has forfeited his senior season of eligibility with the Wildcats: Nazr Mohammed in 1998. Mohammed was the final player chosen in the first round of that year's NBA draft.

Another player, Marquis Estill, could've pursued a final season of eligibility, but chose not to do so and entered the NBA draft in 2003. He went undrafted.

In recent years, Kentucky players Tayshaun Prince in 2001 and Keith Bogans in 2002 each declared for the NBA

draft following their junior seasons, only to reconsider and return. Both were drafted following their senior seasons.

Azubuike's situation is complicated by an impending federal prison sentence facing his father, Kenneth Azubuike. In November, a U.S. Bankruptcy court jury found the elder Azubuike guilty of 41 federal counts alleging he had defrauded investors, banks and the court.

The charges alleged that Kenneth Azubuike committed bank fraud and wire fraud, made false statements to banks and engaged in interstate transportation of stolen property.

A federal judge in Oklahoma ordered him to report by April 17 for a four-year prison sentence, to be served at the Federal Medical Center in Lexington.

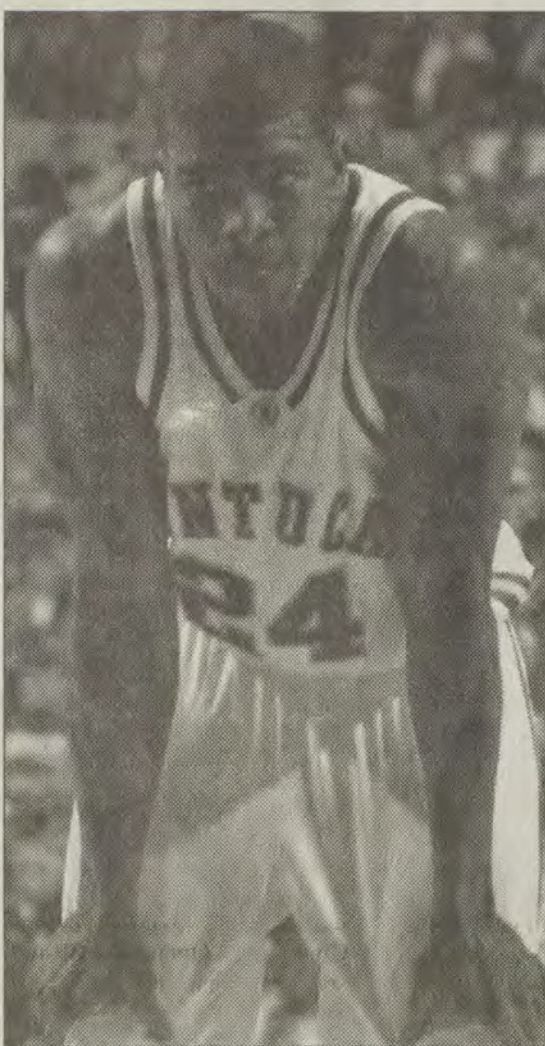


photo by H. Allen Bolling

University of Kentucky junior Kelenna Azubuike has hired an agent as he looks to make it in professional basketball.

BLES PEP RALLY



photos by Steve LeMaster

Betsy Layne Elementary School held a pep rally Friday afternoon. During the pep rally, BLES honored students for both academic and athletic accomplishments. Top: The BLES C-Team finished the 2004-05 season undefeated with a Floyd County C-Team championship. Middle: The BLES 12 and under AAU team competed in the State Tournament at Kentucky Basketball Academy in Lexington, April 1-2. The Bobcats, coached by Harold Tackett, who also guided the BLES C-Team, finished second in the state.



Average salary at record \$2.6 million; Yankees top bottom five teams combined

by RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Baseball's big-money boom pushed the average salary to a record \$2.6 million on opening day, and the New York Yankee payroll of just under \$200 million topped five teams combined.

Following a rare drop from 2003 to 2004, the average climbed 5.9 percent to \$2.63 million, according to a study by The Associated Press.

"That means we're going in the right direction," San Francisco Giants outfielder Marquis Grissom said. "When they go up, it's always good."

Three Yankees were among the top five in salary: Alex Rodriguez, at \$25.7 million, was No. 1 for the fifth straight year, Derek Jeter was fourth at \$19.6 million and Mike Mussina was fifth at \$19 million.

San Francisco's Barry Bonds, who started the season

on the disabled list following knee surgery, was second at \$22 million, followed by Boston's Manny Ramirez at \$19.8 million.

While the players on the Yankees' opening-day roster totaled \$205.9 million, cash received by New York in trades, notably last year's deal to acquire A-Rod from Texas, cut their payroll to \$199.77 million.

"I'm just hoping that they'll let me in a card game or something around here," new Yankees pitcher Jaret Wright, who signed a \$21 million, three-year contract, joked during spring training. "I don't know what the buy-ins might be, but I might have to take out some money out of my house or something."

New York is spending more than the \$187 million total of Tampa Bay (\$29.9 million), Kansas City (\$36.9 million), Pittsburgh (\$38.1 million), Milwaukee (\$40.2 million) and

Cleveland (\$41.8 million).

"That doesn't mean we're going to go out and give up," Kansas City first baseman Mike Sweeney said. "We have talent and heart, and if you play with heart, you can win games."

While the NFL and NBA have salary caps, baseball does not. The current labor contract expires after the 2006 season.

"Sometimes in baseball it's better being the underdog because you can sneak up on somebody," Pittsburgh outfielder Matt Lawton said. "It's been like this the last couple of years, but the deal's up in 2006 and, hopefully, we can get something done (to make it better) — but without a salary cap. Nobody wants that."

The World Series champion Boston Red Sox were second to the Yankees, with their players adding to \$121.3 million. The New York Mets were next at \$104.8 million, followed by Philadelphia (\$95.3 million) and

the Los Angeles Angels (\$95 million).

While the Yankees have had the top payroll each year since 1999, they haven't won the World Series since 2000. Boston was second last year when it won its first World Series title since 1918. The 2003 champion Florida Marlins were 20th and the 2002 champion Angels were 16th.

"At times it can be frustrating. But there's nothing we can do," Tampa Bay outfielder Carl Crawford said. "We've just got to keep focusing on what we can do and go out and play."

Last year, the average salary wound up dropping 2.5 percent, the first decrease since the 1994-95 strike and only the third since record-keeping began in 1967.

Teams then committed \$1.29 billion in major league contracts to 146 players who filed for free agency after the World Series, led by the New York Mets' \$119 million, seven-year deal with

Carlos Beltran. All that spending prompted Pirates owner Kevin McClatchy to say: "I don't know what happened, maybe they drank some funny water, but they all decided they were back on the binge."

McClatchy advocates a salary cap. The current system includes a luxury tax, and three teams paid last year: the Yankees (\$25 million), Red Sox (\$3.2 million) and Angels (\$900,000).

"I think the playing field economically is better," commissioner Bud Selig said. "Certainly we have work to do, but it's better than it was 10 years ago. I look at places like Detroit, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, and there's excitement everywhere."

After dropping for three straight years from 425 to 374, the number of players making \$1 million rebounded to 390. The median salary — the point at which an equal amount of players is above and below — rose to

\$850,000 from \$800,000, still below the 2001 high of \$975,000.

Figures for the study included salaries and prorated shares of signing bonuses and other guaranteed income for the 829 players on official opening day rosters as of last weekend; for some players, parts of salaries deferred without interest were discounted to present-day value.

NBA players averaged \$4.9 million in the 2003-04 season, according to a preliminary estimate by their union, which did not provide a figure for the current season. In the NHL, where a lockout canceled the current season, players averaged \$1.83 million in 2003-04. NFL players averaged \$1.33 million last year, according to their union.

AP Sports Writer Janie McCauley in San Francisco, Alan Robinson in Pittsburgh and Fred Goodall in St. Petersburg contributed to this report

Rockport Harbor back on the track for 1-mile

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — Rockport Harbor jogged a mile at Oaklawn Park on Wednesday, four days after a baseball-sized blood clot was discovered on the right side of his neck.

"Everything went well," trainer John Servis said. "Rocky showed no ill effects of his latest problem. For the first time in days, he seemed like a

happy horse."

Under exercise rider Bobby Velez, Rockport Harbor was back on the track for the first time since last Friday.

Servis, who also trained last year's Kentucky Derby winner Smarty Jones, said Rockport Harbor was doing much better.

"For two or three days, we couldn't get Rocky's head off the webbing," Servis said. "He was not a happy camper."

"His white cell count is

down from 16,000 to 10,000, and his attitude is much better."

Rockport Harbor, the winner of four of five starts, was considered an early favorite for the Kentucky Derby.

Servis said if Rockport Harbor does not suffer any more ailments, he could run in the Arkansas Derby on April 16. If he can't run that race, the plan is to run in the Lexington Stakes on April 23 at Keeneland.

Another white thoroughbred foal born in Fayette County

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — For the second time in less than two months, a white thoroughbred foal has been born in Fayette County.

On Friday, Patchen Beauty, a 10-year-old white mare, gave birth to her third white foal at Patchen Wilkes Farm in eastern Fayette County. The colt, by Pioneering, is a full brother to another white thoroughbred,

The White Fox.

The foal has been named White Prince.

Another white foal — the daughter of a chocolate-colored dam and a brown chestnut sire — was born Feb. 17 on Lost Creek Farm in Lexington. That horse, sired by Trust N Luck and out of the broodmare Deebrand, has been named Caramel.

Of the more than 30,000 thoroughbreds registered each year by The Jockey Club, few

are recognized as white. The organization has given that designation only 30 times since 1896. But from 2001 to 2004, 18 white thoroughbreds were registered by The Jockey Club.

"The color white isn't really as rare as it used to be," said John Cooney, communications supervisor for The Jockey Club. "It used to be you'd see one every five or six years, but now we're seeing several more every year."

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FLOYD COUNTY Lifestyles



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No need to spend a thousand for a copier

see pg. B7

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This Town, That World

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

WEATHER FORECAST: May 27 will be a dark day for some, bright for others.

TAKE IT TO THE SUMMIT!

The Communist party newspaper in Hungary complains that the schools there teach religion, but neglect "atheistic propagan-da." This sheet indignantly reported that religious teaching was carried out "openly, almost brutally, and children never hear words of enlightenment about atheism." It mourned the fact that children "still believe in God and in the life to come."



Norman Allen

Such concern for the dear children is touching, isn't it?

The English language "as she is spoke" is a fascinating thing. There was the Floyd County case where two men were discussing a neighborhood row. One declared his absolute neutrality by saying, "That's one mess I'm not musketatin' around in."

You know, writing a column in Floyd County during an election campaign, at a time when almost the only interest is in politics, gets tougher by the week...I might add that not every sticker on cars, these days, bears the name of a candidate. Saw one the other day, that merely said, "Veterans of Foreign Wars." One fellow wanted to know what they're running for.

AFFECTED HIM SLIGHTLY

What is the toughest critter known to man? some will tell you it's the Arkansas razorback. A native of the Ozark country is credited with this story about one of these varmints:

"One day, a big boar found a case of dynamite, and proceed to eat a dozen or so sticks of it. Then he moseyed on up to our barn and just for pure cussedness bit our best plow mule.

"Well, sir, a mule ain't no animal to take liberties with, and Old Jake just wheeled and kicked that hog square in the stummick. Ordinarily that wouldn't have bothered that hog a bit, but the dynamite went off inside him, the

(See THIS TOWN, page seven)



top left: Floyd County Students shown from left to right: Sheena Boyd and Mindy Tackett.
top right: Martin County students shown from left to right: Sheena Boyd and Danielle Rader.
bottom: Johnson County Students shown from left to right: Lueresia Hall, Sabrina O'Bryan and Amanda Spradlin.
Not pictured are Sarah Wells and John R. LeMaster.

BSCTC Art Gallery displays student work

by **Rachelle Burchett**
PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSISTANT

Prestonsburg - "More or Less" is an art exhibit on display at the Big Sandy

Community and Technical College's Art Gallery located on the Prestonsburg Campus. The exhibit will be available for viewing from April 18 through May 6. A reception with

Professor Tom Whitaker's painting class students will be held in the Gallery on Monday, April 18, 2005 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. All are invited to come and feast with "More or Less."

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'Stanley'

by **TOM DOTY**
STAFF WRITER

The 1970s were rife with nature-runs-amok flicks. Some of the efforts were groaners but every so often you'd get a solid entry like "Willard" (wherein a nerd developed control over a colony of rats and used them to seek revenge on his tormentors).

This film lifts that theme and inserts snakes as the beasts which befriend our socially-challenged hero, Tim is a Seminole indian who has returned to the Florida Everglades after a hitch in Vietnam. Tim is socially awkward and embittered by his experience, which he describes as "killing yellow men for the white man."



Tom Doty
Staff Writer

For a hermit he gets a fair amount of visitors in the opening scenes. First some neighboring Seminoles drop by and invite him to live at their village, which he refuses. Then he is visited by a local businessman named Thomkins. Turns out that Thomkins has been keeping an eye on the fashion scene and wants to invest in a line of snakeskin products. Tim is quick to blow him off since he shares his cabin, and most of his intimate moments, with snakes. Tim is also somewhat peeved that Thomkins had a few of his goons kill Tim's dad, who was hunting on their land.

Tim spends most of his time with his best buddy, Stanley. He also goes out of his way for Stanley's wife Hazel by knitting a bonnet for her. He is awfully excited that Hazel is pregnant and this is all a little weird because Stanley and Hazel are rattlesnakes.

Hazel gives birth to three babies and Tim is so happy that he takes Stanley with him into town so Hazel can get some rest. In these scenes we meet the people who pay Tim to catch snakes. There is the town veterinarian who uses the snake venom to make antitoxins and then there's a middle-aged stripper who uses the snakes as fashion accessories for her bawdy dance routines.

Tim is already one stamp away from going postal when Thomkins' goons decide to pressure him into working for them by squashing a few of his friends. Here Stanley shows his mettle by leading two of the bad guys into quicksand. Tim heads back to his cabin where a third goon is busy hacking up Hazel and her babies. You know this guy's a psycho, too, when you get a load of how he dresses. His hat and leather vest are right out of a "Billy Jack" movie but his clown pants are right out of Bozo the Clown's bottom drawer. The other

(See LAGOON, page seven)

Hard racer, soft heart

by **MONTE DUTTON**

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE NASCAR SOUL"

If the word "firebrand" were used in relation to one NASCAR driver, the image of Tony Stewart would come to mind for many fans. Stewart's glorious achievements on the tracks of the land are equaled only by his struggles to keep his substantial temper in check once the races are over.

There is another side to Tony Stewart, one he is reluctant to put on display. If the truth be known, Stewart is just an old softie. He is as sentimental as a kindly grandfather and as sensitive as a swollen thumb. No one regrets his transgressions more than Stewart, who wakes up the morning after a fiery episode as penitent as a

drunkard feeling the aftereffects of a bender.

It is fairly common knowledge that Stewart donated \$240,000 toward the construction of the Victory Junction Gang Camp, founded by Kyle Petty in memory of his late son, Adam. What is not widely known is the inspiration for that contribution, which came from Stewart's winnings in the 2001 Indianapolis 500 and the corporate largess of his NASCAR Winston Cup sponsor, Home Depot.

Stewart was testing his No. 20 Pontiac at an obscure track in Lakeland, Fla., when he heard a story on the radio about an abandoned dog that had been chained up and left to starve by its owners. A local humane society had found the poor mutt near death and was trying to restore it to health.

Stewart, a dog lover, impetuously dialed the phone number that had been repeated on the broadcast and expressed his desire to pay whatever costs were needed to restore the ailing dog to health. Informed that local citizens had already contributed more than what was needed, Stewart asked how much had been raised and insisted on giving an equal amount for the establishment of a fund to aid other unfortunate canines.

An associate of Stewart mentioned the episode in passing to an official of Home Depot, who, in turn, contacted Stewart to inform him that the company had a fund for charitable

donations and would be glad to assist him in any contributions he found compelling.

That offer got Stewart to thinking, and Petty's Victory Junction Gang was what he came up with.

As with everything else, when Stewart made his donation, he did it on a grand scale. Few others know the story, but Stewart seems somewhat reluctant to talk about it. He did what he did out of personal compassion, not because he wanted to receive credit or have his name in the paper.

Of course, the story got out, but many other touching stories about Stewart have not.



Jim Davidson

The 'affordability' index

Back in the early 1800s there was a famous slogan that went "Go West Young Man, Go West." Many did, seeking their fortune and a better life for themselves and their families. Other than gold and the natural beauty of the state, this may be one of many reasons why California today is our nation's most populous state.



If you are heading to California other than for a vacation or to visit relatives, you had better think twice. Unless you have tons of money, you probably won't be able to afford a house when you get there. What I am going to share with you may make you appreciate where you live, and if you are a homeowner

the fact that you have been able to achieve The American Dream.

I have a friend who lives in Arizona and has a son in California who has really done well financially. His name is Doug Hackney and he lives in Carlsbad, which is located on the coast about halfway between San Diego and Long Beach. In a recent email that Doug sent to his dad, he talked about the challenges in the San Diego area of the affordability of housing. When I read it, he pointed out many things I had never thought about and I suspect this is true for many of you who live in other areas of the country. As I

said, after you read this, you may appreciate even more where you live and what you have.

Doug pointed out that fewer than one in six families could qualify to buy a typical home in this part of California. This is determined by something called "the affordability index," which measures how many people in an area can qualify for a mortgage to buy a home.

To explain, for any given area the affordability index takes the median price for a resale (used) single family home, adds the mortgage costs, taxes and insurance and compares the resulting qualification income requirements to the median household income. In San Diego, the median (meaning half are above and half are below) price for a resale single family home is currently \$449,350.

Including a 20 percent down

payment, with all insurance and taxes added, the household income required to qualify for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage for that home at today's interest rates is \$105,313. Unfortunately for those trying to buy a home, the median county household income is \$55,000. This means that only 16 percent of the people who live in the San Diego area can qualify for a mortgage to buy the median home.

You might ask, "How does that compare with other areas?" In the U.S. as a whole, 57 percent qualify for a home. The only area in California that comes close to that is the high desert, at 58 percent.

In case you are wondering, other areas in California come in at: Sacramento, 38 percent; Riverside/San Bernardino 33 percent; Northern California: 27 percent; Los Angeles: 24 percent; San Francisco Bay Area: 19% and Orange County: 18% and the state as a whole has an affordability index of 25 percent.

Doug goes on to say with

some elaboration that:

No. 1: you can't shop your way out of the problem. A home in Ocean Beach that looks like it was built in the 1950s that has 598 square feet of living space and is a single story bungalow on a 1,751 square foot lot, lists for \$445,000. It will sell, because it's only a few blocks from the ocean.

No. 2: You can't choose your way out of the problem. Because of abusive lawsuits for "construction defects" that cost the industry billions in the 1990s, most builders refuse to build more affordable condominiums that sell for \$200,000 to \$500,000. New homes in this area start at \$600,000.

No. 3: You can't drive your way out of the problem. You have to travel all the way to Riverside County to find new homes in the mid-\$300,000 to \$500,000 ranges and then drive down I-15 to jobs in San Diego. Traffic in this corridor is expected to increase from 95,000 to 230,000 cars a day over the next 25 years.

No. 4: You can't build your

way out of the problem. Because there are a Byzantine maze of environmental laws and permits to build in this area, it takes five years before you can even begin to build a house. Combine this with the fact that new development is opposed by anyone who already owns a home. This also means that teachers, policemen, firemen, etc., are unable to own a home in the communities they serve. Young families cannot buy a home that has a yard for their children.

Doug concludes by saying that none of the politicians, editorialists, government bureaucrats or housing industry leaders have come up with any viable solutions. Now doesn't that make you appreciate what you've got? Viola and I are perfectly content to live here in God's Country.

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

Drug Forum address issues in area



Students and employees at Hazard Community & Technical College worked toward another successful drug forum. Shown from left, are: student Jessica Gibson, Student Support Services' Helen Brunty, student Michael Turner, and Cindy Plummer, Human Services faculty.

More than 150 people participated in the Third Annual Drug Forum held at Hazard Community & Technical College showing their concern and support for battling the drug problem in the area. "We can't just ignore problems and hope they will go away," noted Cindy Plummer, faculty member with Human Services, who helped to organize the event. "We have to meet this devastating situation head on so we can do something about it," Mrs. Plummer said.

Speakers for the event included: Ron Daley, University Center of the Mountains director; David Chaltas, Letcher County Alternative School; Cathy Stout, Treatment and

Education director with UNITE; Michelle Kilgore, social worker with Kentucky River Community Care; Rev. Doug Abner and Rev. Ken Bolin, both of Clay County; Doreen Cornelius, Fifth Congressional District drug court coordinator; Judy Cattoi, Social Worker with Kentucky River Community Care; Dr. Angelia Bryant of Lindsey Wilson College; Teresa Barton, Substance Abuse Task Force with Gov. Ernie Fletcher; Lt. Dwayne Depp with Kentucky State Police; Lt. Darian Williams, Hazard Police Department; and Pat Wooten, Perry County Sheriff.

Joan Enochs, advisor to the Human Services and Social

Work Association, is pleased with the attendance, which was an increase over the previous year. "Participants got a good overview of what is going on in the community. They saw the solutions that are being implemented in the community from various organizations. I think folks left with a sense that they are not alone in their concern," Mrs. Enochs said.

Kentucky State Police Lt. Dwayne Depp, in his keynote address, noted that each person must take responsibility to try to do something about the drug problem and so they should never give up. "If you give up," Depp said, "then a person dies."

Displays were contributed by Perry Distributors, Cabinet for Health and Families, and the Perry County Cooperative Extension Service.

The event was organized by HCTC students in the following organizations: Human Services and Social Association; Phi Theta Kappa; and Student Government Association.

The corporate sponsors were Perry Distributors and American Woodmark. Pepsi also made a donation for the event.

"Every week I had a student in my office saying another friend of theirs died from drugs. I don't see that anymore. We have created the awareness that there is a problem. That is the first step toward a solution," Mrs. Plummer said.

Lagoon

clue to this character's nature is his name — Psycho Simpson. Tim makes short work of the oddly dressed Simpson but his tenuous grip on reality is steadily slipping.

Tim totally loses it when he stops by the night club and sees that his dancer client has added biting the heads off snakes to her repertoire. This betrayal sends Tim on a rampage that only Stanley himself can stop. But is Stanley snake enough to stand up to Tim?

This is a by-the-numbers "wimp gets revenge" flick, but it benefits from good performances and a solid sense of menace. The swamp locations are a plus, as is the performance of Chris Robinson (who would go on to

soap opera fame as a member of "General Hospital"). Robinson appears totally at ease with the snakes and manages to make Tim a sympathetic character who has been deeply wounded by his experiences in Vietnam.

The film also features another sleazy performance by character actor Alex Rocco (who costarred in "The Godfather" a year earlier as Vegas mobster Moe Green). Rocco has scant screen time as Thomkins but he manages to sell the character as an amoral creep with minimal effort.

The director here is William Grefe and this is probably the best film he ever cobbled together. Grefe had tried horror before with a killer jellyfish flick, the abysmal "Sting of Death," but

finally gets it right here. The best bit he stages is when Thomkins leaps off his diving board for a morning dip and realizes, seconds before hitting the water, that his pool water has been drained and replaced with a ton of poisonous snakes.

"Stanley" is available on DVD as part of Rhino Video's "Horrible Horrors Collection, Volume 2" which includes seven other low rent flicks such as "Blood Mania" and "Nightmare in Wax."

Best line: "That swamp booger turned all of our snakes loose."

1972, rated PG.

Contest Alert: This month's trivia contest is up and running. Just go to www.floydcounty-times.com to play.

This Town

corn crib was tore to flinders, winders cracked for two miles around, and pieces of mule landed over an adjoining county. And, believe me, for the next few days we had a mighty sick hog on our hands!"

THE TROUBLE

The man appeared deep in melancholy, but he vowed he wasn't. His brow was furrowed, his eyes heavy-lidded; his head hung low.

No, he wasn't worried about the

election—like everybody else, he was certain he knew its outcome; the family was all well, thank you; bank note renewal time was at least two months distant, and he had scrapped up enough to pay his taxes. He declared he was at peace with the world.

But there was an air about him that hinted of desperation, his friend was convinced. Or could it be sadness, or anger? Perhaps it was fear that enveloped the poor man.

But patiently, time and again, he

assured his solicitous friends. There was nothing, basically wrong.

Then he finally confessed:

"I look this way because I'm trying to figure out what is a "thinking man's filter!"

No need to spend a thousand for a copier

by FELICIA A. RICHMOND

Scanners are a useful piece of equipment for all types of industries as well as for the home user. Scanners are considered a piece of hardware, and it requires software that comes with it to help it communicate with the computer. Scanners are useful for copying documents, photos, images and other items. A scanner works like a copier and is a lot cheaper.

There are different types of scanners, such as flatbed, sheet fed and specialized. A flatbed scanner opens on the top, which exposes a glass area where the item is

scanned. A flatbed scans documents, photos, books and other flat objects such as a leaf or even a piece of material. Flatbed scanners come with attachments that can accommodate photographic slides and photos (internal or external). A sheet fed scanner has a slot through which you feed a photo or a document into the scanner, but you can usually only use photos or documents that are 8 1/2 inches in width. It does not matter how long it is, but the width is limited.

The flatbed is the most popular. To scan an item you must open the scanner lid, place the document or photo on the glass bed, and close the lid. Double-click on the icon on your computer desktop that is associated with the scanner to start the scanning process. If you do not have an icon on the desktop that is okay. Just go to the start button on the task bar, then go to all programs, and find the name of your scanner and scroll down to find software such as a scan wizard program. Double-click it. After you double-click on the scan wizard the scanner will start scanning. This will give you a preview of the image.

When starting a scan of a picture you will need to set the resolution. Resolution is measured in dpi (dots per inch). Be aware: do not set it higher than needed, because the higher the resolution the bigger the file. It will take up a lot of room

on your hard drive, but the photo is more detailed. An example, a photo that is a 3" x 4" and the resolution is 75 dpi will consume about 190 K of memory. Another example would be a resolution set at 200 dpi that consumes close to 1.3MB of memory.

When using a scanner there are different types of artwork, such as black and white, grayscale, line art, color, text capture (OCR) and halftones. OCR takes an original copy and turns it into an ASCII, so that a word processor can read it. Then, you are able to edit and add onto the document without starting from scratch.



This column will be appearing weekly to answer many of your computing questions/problems. Just email or call us and we will publish your questions and our response. We will answer your questions as quickly and precisely as possible. This column will be written by Information Technology program students at Big Sandy Community and Technical College that also belong to the IT club. To send us your questions, please email us or call: Kathryn Miller kmiller0045@stu.kctcs.edu (606)886-3863 Ext. 81259 We look forward to hearing from you! Have a great week!

You can also take an original photo and turn it into a better quality photo. One way is to sharpen it. Sharpening a photo will take out the fuzzy look. When you do that, the contrast between the pixel and the boundaries is increased. Nevertheless, if you have a real fuzzy photo, it will only help a little; if you have any dust or scratches on the photo and you use the sharpening tool it will make them more visible.

If you use the sizing and scaling button, it will allow you to increase and decrease the size in width and height. The contrast button, allows you to increase and decrease the brightness and darkness in the photo. An example would be, if you have a photo that is mainly light, therefore by making it darker it gives the photo a little more detail.

If you want your photo to have special effects, so that you can put it on a web site or to create your own piece of artwork, you need software that allows you to do special effects. The software has different kinds of filters, painting and text tools. These allow you to add text to the image you have scanned. These are a few software programs that allow you to customize you own photos: Adobe Photoshop, Paint Shop Pro, and Photo Impact. There are several image editing software programs out there, so you need to choose the one that will meet all your needs.

Job Fair to be held April 13 on BSCTC-Prestonsburg campus

Big Sandy Administration Community & Building Room J102 & J112 Technical College will host the 1st Annual Job Fair Day on Wednesday, April 13, on the Prestonsburg Campus. Employers will be in attendance from the following counties: Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin and Pike.

Time: 9:00a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Contact: Vera Joiner ext. 67267 or Dean Robinson ext. 82935

Please bring your Resume and dress for success.

Where: Johnson

Spring Poker Run to be held May 7 at BSCTC

The Eastern KY Chapter of the Brothers of the Wheel Motorcycle Club will be conducting a "Spring Poker Run" on May 7, on the Prestonsburg Campus of Big Sandy Community and Technical College. Proceeds will be for a Motorcycle Repair Scholarship for BSCTC students. There will be vendors, prizes, food, music, events and fun. Registration will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with the ride beginning at 1:00 p.m. For more information call 606-789-3431.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Francis Water Company Has Levels of Total Organic Carbon Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results we recently received show that our system exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Total Organic Carbon; however a ratio for Total Organic Carbon is calculated based upon treatment technique. The minimum ratio is 1.0 mg/l. The ratio of Total Organic Carbon is our water system was 0.58 mg/l.

What should I do? You do not need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean? This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, you need to be aware of the possible health effects.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, Total Organic Carbon, provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes, or TRMs, and haloacetic acids, or HAAs. Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

What happened? What is being done?

The source of water for Francis Water Company is a mine. Mine water is usually considered a groundwater source. Our source designation was changed from groundwater to surface water, which has more stringent monitoring requirements. We are trying to have the source re-designated as groundwater, but until this occurs we will continue to monitor for Total Organic Carbon and adjust the treatment process and/or testing procedures to meet the minimum ratio of 1.0 mg/l. In addition, we are upgrading our recordkeeping system to be more proactive in reporting any violations. We anticipate this to be resolved by January 1, 2006.

For more information, contact: Chris Francis
Phone: 606-874-1111
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 38, Garrett, KY 41630

Please share this information with all the other people who

drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by: Francis Water Company Public Water System ID #: 0360152 Date: 3/30/2005

Spanish—Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Notice—Francis Water Co. water is excellent and no changes in water quality has occurred. The violation above was due to not enough samples being taken, this caused our ratio for TOC to be low. More samples will be taken due to our new classification as surface water.

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