

Daniel Boone to get back on the road

by MARK R. CHELLGREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boone Parkway, which winds through the mountains of southeastern Kentucky, was renamed for U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, who has represented the area for more than two decades and, at the time, had managed to earmark \$13 million in federal funds that allowed tolls to be removed from the state road. Rogers, who was not consulted about the name change in 2003, has stayed out of the fray for the most part. The gesture, though, did not sit well with Boone descendants and others who bemoaned the sacrifice of history for a few federal dollars. "You may as well melt down the Liberty Bell," Cochran, who claims to be a long-removed niece of the explorer, said at the time. Since then, several attempts have been made to restore Boone's name to the road, or find an alternative. At one point, the late Gov. Louie Nunn offered to have his name taken off a different toll road so

Rogers could get the honor. A proposal in the 2004 General Assembly to have Boone's name replaced failed. Fletcher's office confirmed the change would take place on Tuesday but provided no other details. In an e-mail to The Associated Press, Cochran said she planned to attend the signing in Fletcher's office along with at least two other Boone descendants. Boone is the stuff of history and lore in Kentucky, credited with opening the west to exploration by crossing the Cumberland Gap and opening the Wilderness Road. Boone, who lived from 1734 to 1820, has his name on towns, festivals, businesses and even a national forest. U.S. 25E goes from Interstate 75 to the Cumberland Gap tunnel into Tennessee virtually at the point where the two states intersect with Virginia. Coincidentally, the burial

place of Daniel and Rebecca Boone at the Frankfort cemetery is on a bluff overlooking the Kentucky Capitol, where the signing ceremony will take place.

Fletcher. have pleaded not guilty. The charges allege the officials routinely plotted to circumvent the law that requires personnel decisions be made on the merits of the candidate in favor of their political influence and support for Fletcher. The special grand jury has previously summoned virtually all of Fletcher's top staff. Many of them have made only brief appearances in the grand jury room and have taken the Fifth.

Stumbo investigating doctor. The alleged crimes go back to 1999 and, in Stumbo's words, "cost the state more than \$200,000." Stumbo went on to note that stealing from Medicaid is serious business and has an impact on everyone in the state, saying, "Every dollar stolen is a dollar that cannot aid an ill child or a senior citizen." Stumbo's office is also soliciting the public to help in the investigation. Anyone with information on Carter is asked to call the Attorney General's Office at (502) 696-5405. Stumbo also announced this week that his office has drafted legislation that will protect consumers against crimes involving identity theft. The legislation, set to go before the General

Fletcher

But the subpoena to Fletcher is unusual in one regard because most of them have been served the weekend before an appearance has been demanded. The nearly two-week lead time is unprecedented in the investigation and could give Fletcher time to try to quash the subpoena. There have been discussions among administration lawyers whether a governor can be subpoenaed.

Fletcher, a Republican, has been sharply critical of the special grand jury investigation being operated by the office of Democratic Attorney General Greg Stumbo. Fletcher and others in the GOP have accused Stumbo of trying to further his own political ambitions, though Stumbo has recently denied an interest in challenging Fletcher in the 2007 election. Criticism has also been lev-

eled by Fletcher and his allies at the grand jury for acting as a stooge for the prosecution; the Merit System personnel law for being vague and unmanageable; and even the Transportation Cabinet employee who first delivered the documents alleging political manipulation of the hiring system to prosecutors. Lt. Gov. Steve Pence, a former federal prosecutor who has been especially vocal in his criticism of the conduct of the investigation, has not been subpoenaed, Glass said. Among those indicted thus far are Dick Murgatroyd,

Fletcher's deputy chief of staff and the former deputy secretary of the Transportation Cabinet; acting Transportation Secretary Bill Nighbert; Deputy Personnel Secretary Bob Wilson and Deputy Transportation Secretary Jim Adams. Kentucky Republican Party Chairman Darrell Brock, who formerly served as Fletcher's liaison to local government, is also under indictment. Fletcher has said he reserves the right to consider granting pardons to those who have been charged, though he has refused to answer any more questions about the topic.

Assembly in January, is based on existing laws already enforced in Texas, North Carolina, California and Louisiana. The legislation will address issues such as training law enforcement to investigate identity theft, requiring businesses to take precautions with sensitive information like Social Security numbers and will prohibit credit reporting agencies from providing information about customers to businesses except as permitted under the Fair Credit Act. "We need strong laws to allow consumers to protect themselves and we need businesses to act responsibly with consumers' information," Stumbo said.

Saffari

about Hassan," said Phi Theta Kappa President Miranda Click, who opened the service. Dr. Rahim Karimpour, Saffari's former advisor, said he left Iran after the revolution in 1984 and that Saffari greeted him and his son at the airport when he returned to the U.S. He described Saffari as a good, caring friend and teacher. BSCTC instructor David Proffitt addressed the family. "We wanted you to know, above all things, we wanted the family to know that we love you and our hearts are broken with yours," he said. "You had a good husband, a good brother, a good relative and a good friend. He was a good man ... The strength of his goodness will go on. The strength of his faith will walk beside you and the message of his love will forever make it real in this world."

Plants read a poem he wrote about Saffari's friendship. He said Saffari gave him hope and taught him to do "all [he] could to improve the world." "Look at your life and think of the time it might end," he read. "See how it'd seem so final if you had not shared it with a friend." BCTCS student Frances Branham said Saffari was the only instructor who encouraged her to believe that she could excel in math. "He always told me I was thinking too much," she said. "We'd be taking a test and he'd walk by and whisper, 'Are you all right?' I've honestly never had encouragement in math until I had him." Former student Stacy Scudder, who worked closely

with Saffari in the math lab and with Phi Theta Kappa, says she "owes everything" to Saffari. "I owe him so much," she said. "He's the one who told me I could do it. He's the one that made me believe in myself." Saffari immigrated from Sabzevar, Iran, in 1970 to the University of Oregon, where he completed his master's degree. He worked at Slippery Rock University before being recruited as a math instructor at the Prestonsburg college, where he taught for almost 20 years. As customary in his religious tradition, Saffari's body was ritually washed and wrapped in linen before burial at the Islamic Center. He is survived by his wife, Victa, and his children, Sara, 5, and Ali, 3.

Concert

Deskins said the \$29 million facility, which has been under construction for two years, will bring all types of entertainment to Eastern Kentucky. "We'll have everything from

rock-and-roll to country to gospel," she said. "And we won't be limited to just music. We can do monster truck shows, rodeo shows, ice shows, the Ice Capades. We even have a bas-

Court

for service, rendering bills to customers on a monthly basis and providing monthly reports to the county. The court also voted to announce a pre-bid conference on Thursday, August 18. At the conference, companies will enter sealed bids for a PRIDE-sponsored project to clean two illegal dump sites in the county,

which include the Town Branch dump, in Prestonsburg, and the John Kidd dump, in Harold. The meeting, which is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., will be followed by a mandatory visit to the two sites in question, which have generated complaints from local residents and neighbors of the two sites.

Bond

Morris also noted that she put off filing a complaint against Newsome for several months but that she made the decision to see the county attorney after Newsome failed to begin paying her back after he allegedly said he would do so at a rate of \$200 per paycheck until the debt was

cleared. During Morris' testimony, Newsome's attorney, Steve Owens, produced an e-mail facsimile that Morris had allegedly sent Newsome which he used to imply that they had a relationship.

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expression

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

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

Let allegations be heard by jury

Attorney General Greg Stumbo said he does not know if Gov. Ernie Fletcher is considering issuing blanket pardons to those indicted in connection with the current investigation of alleged violations of the state Merit System Law, but if the governor is considering such a move, the attorney general wants it known that he thinks it would be a terrible move.

We agree. Not only would blanket pardons short circuit the work of the special grand jury convened to hear evidence in the investigation, but mass pardons would deny those accused the chance to defend themselves in court.

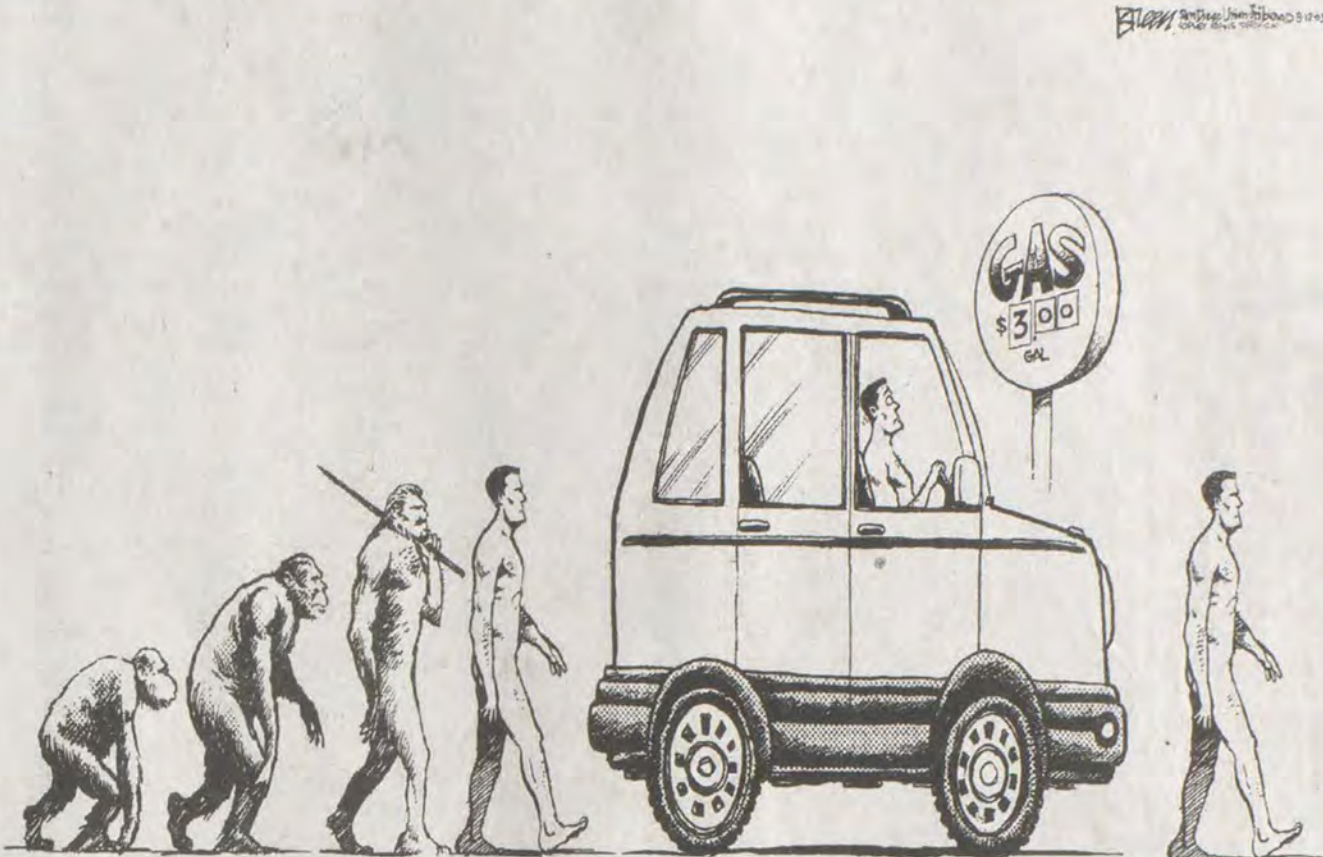
The Republican governor has criticized the investigation by the office of the state's highest ranking Democrat as little more than a politically motivated fishing expedition designed to curry support for Stumbo's 2007 gubernatorial bid. Only by having the evidence heard in open court will the people of Kentucky be able to determine for themselves whether the charges have merit or are little more than a result of partisan politics.

Issuing pardons also would be a disservice to those charged. Whether right or wrong, many people will assume the pardons mean those charged are guilty and would have been convicted if they had gone to trial. That's no way to quell a controversy.

To date, only former GOP gubernatorial candidate Larry Forgy has suggested that Fletcher pardon all indicted members of his administration. But then Forgy tried to have the investigation curtailed by challenging the constitutionality of the state Merit Law. That suit was thrown out of court.

If — as the governor contends — the charges against administration officials are without merit, then the best way to prove it is by gaining acquittals in court. That not only would vindicate the governor and his administration but also would seriously hamper the political ambitions of Stumbo. After all, two political careers are riding on the results of this investigation.

— *The Daily Independent, Ashland*



— Rich Lowry Column —

Unleash Japan

Pacifism has never been so silly. In an East Asia that features both one of the world's most irrational states and a rising dictatorial power bent on changing the region's strategic balance, a crucial ally of the United States labors under a constitution that could have been written by Quakers.

Of course, it was an American team put together by Douglas MacArthur after World War II that wrote the Japanese Constitution, imposing pacifism as state policy. That was understandable 50 years ago. Now the constraints of the Japanese Constitution — and the Japanese attitudes that have preserved them — are senseless anachronisms.

As part of her recent tour of Asia, Secretary of State Condi Rice visited a Japan that is slowly emerging from its shell. It is one of the diplomatic triumphs of the Bush administration that it has helped accelerate this process. The ideal should be to make Japan as reliable a partner of the U.S. in Asia as Britain is

in Europe.

The alliance is a natural. Japan broadly shares our values. The U.S. is the world's No. 1 economy, and Japan is No. 2, a powerful combination. We want to check China, and Japan feels threatened by China. Japan provides the basing the U.S. needs at a time when we have lost our bases in the Philippines and our relationship with South Korea looks shaky.



It is the rough neighborhood that has helped turn Japan away from its old pieties. North Korea is enough to shake anyone's pacifism,

and the Chinese have stupidly provoked Japan at every turn. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi took office in April 2001 determined to strengthen the U.S. alliance and loosen the more restrictive postwar constraints.

Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution is the main obstacle. The constitution — and the interpretations and policies arising from it — bans a standing army, collective self-defense and arms exports. Japan has a military, but it's called a Self-Defense Force, and it's supposed to

be limited to territorial defense.

For a long time, Japan denied itself refueling capacity for its F-4 fighters, since that was considered too "offensive." The prohibition on collective self-defense means that Japan cannot come to the aid of an ally — i.e., the United States — when attacked.

But the restrictions have been loosening. After 9/11, legislation was passed authorizing the Self-Defense Force to stray beyond East Asia. Koizumi sent ships to the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, where the Japanese supported the coalition efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. And he deployed 600 ground troops to relatively peaceful southern Iraq.

In general, a strong Japan creates a balance of power in East Asia — of the sort that once existed in Europe — that makes any Chinese hegemonic ambitions more difficult to achieve.

Of course, any more assertive moves will revive the boogeyman of Japanese militarism. Other Asian countries have nightmarish memories of the Japanese military.

But it is a new Japanese government, with new norms, in a new time. The traditional restraints on it only serve to hobble what should be one of the world's significant players on the side of decency and civilization. Unleash Japan.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

— beyond the beltway —

Struggling to hide the reasons for war

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

There was a story in "The New York Times" last week that should disabuse you of any illusions you may still have about why we went to war in Iraq. (Hint: it wasn't weapons of mass destruction.)

The "Times" reported that a former CIA officer has filed suit against the agency, saying that prior to the war he gave it information that Iraq had long since abandoned its nuclear weapons program and was selling off hardware.

The agency ignored the intelligence, he said, and when he complained it demoted him, then fired him.

The details of the suit are sketchy, largely because the CIA immediately classified it, along with the officer's name. The "Times" got the information through anonymous sources (thereby risking putting more of its staff in jail).



Why did the CIA ignore the report? Only the terminally naïve can ask that question seriously.

It has become obvious that this administration came into office aching to go to war with Iraq. It kept trying out reasons — Saddam was a threat to the peace of the region, he was pals with bin Laden and complicit in the 9/11 attacks, he was a cruel tyrant to his people — until it hit upon one it could sell: weapons of mass destruction.

That one flew. From then on, neither the CIA nor any other government agency was interested in information that suggested that Saddam didn't have those weapons.

It's not much remembered now but throughout the '90s the consensus in the intelligence community was that Iraq had given up on its nuclear weapons program.

In 2001, however, that assessment changed. Suddenly we had intelligence reports that Iraq was seeking high-strength aluminum tubes from China. Analysts concluded that they were to be used in a new uranium enrichment program that would yield nuclear weapons.

In case you've forgotten, George W. Bush became president in 2001. What a coincidence.

Not. Of course analysts said Saddam was

rebuilding his nuclear program. If they hadn't they'd have been out on their ears like the guy who filed the suit.

How do you know this person who filed the suit is telling the truth? you might ask. A fair question.

Ask yourself this: Would you file a suit against the CIA, a powerful agency known for its vindictiveness, on false grounds? I don't think so. To mess with those boys you have to be monumentally ticked off at a monumental injustice.

The former officer's lawyer told the "Times" that he had asked the court to declassify his client's suit. The CIA responded by classifying his motion seeking declassification.

So the lawyer sent a letter to the director of the FBI requesting an investigation of the matter. The CIA promptly classified the letter.

If you can't put all of that together and come up with the reason we're in this miserable war, you are probably a devotee of the Rush Limbaugh show and what are you doing here anyway?

In any case, never fear, there are signs that the administration is getting ready to pull the plug on the Iraq operation.

The United States has put the arm on Iraqi leaders to stick to their original deadline for writing a constitution for their nation, despite the fact that there is no hope that the delegates can reach agreement on the most contentious issues facing them — the role of Islam.

(See BELTWAY, page eight)

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Opinions expressed in letters and other voices are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper. Send letters to: The Editor, The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 391, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653.

JMU picked to repeat Brown back for sophomore season

TIMES STAFF REPORT

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Defending national champion James Madison is ranked No. 1 in The Sports Network's preseason Division I-AA football poll announced Monday. The preseason poll was released just prior to the JMU

team receiving a visit from U.S. Senator George Allen during its first practice in preparation for the 2005 season. Paintsville High School graduate Ryan Brown is entering his sophomore season with the Dukes. Brown sat out and redshirted last season season after recording 20 total tackles

and one quarterback sack in 2003 as a freshman. He is expected in 2005 to play a large role along JMU's defensive line. The JMU coaching staff includes former Lawrence County High School coach Phil Ratliff. A graduate of Marshall University, Ratliff coaches the JMU fight ends.

The Dukes, who compiled a 13-2 record a year ago while claiming their first NCAA title, received 49 of the 101 first-place votes and 2,333 voting points from The Sports Network's panel of media and sports information directors. Furman, the team JMU beat in the second round of last sea-

son's playoffs, was second in the voting with 21 first-place votes and 2,251 overall points. Also receiving first-place votes were No. 3 Montana (14), No. 4 Eastern Washington (11), No. 5 Southern Illinois (3), No. 9 William & Mary (1), No. 15

(See REPEAT, page two)



For Morehead State coach, 'it's going to be OK' after son's death



by MURRAY EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOREHEAD – Another football season is about to start, and Morehead State coach Matt Ballard is making a point to savor every moment of the experience – if only for the distraction, and the comfort, it might provide. "It's got to help. It's got to," Ballard said, as players trickled into the Eagles' football office, preparing for the start of preseason practice. "It's like a breath of fresh air. Can we do this 24 hours a day? The down time, the quiet time, is kind of tough. It's hard to go to sleep at night." Ballard is entering his 12th season as the head coach at Morehead State, a NCAA Division I-AA member that plays in the non-scholarship Pioneer Football League. From a football perspective, the Eagles have much to celebrate – they've won three straight division titles and their next win will be the 100th of Ballard's coaching career. But as the Eagles prepare for their season opener Sept. 3 at St. Francis (Pa.), Ballard is struggling with another, monumentally more challenging opponent. Grief.

Not just any kind of grief, but the kind known only by a parent who has lost a child. Ballard's only child, 21-year-old Matthew Ballard, died instantly July 12 when his motorcycle and a pickup truck collided just outside the small northeast Kentucky community of Olive Hill. "We're going to miss the daylights out of him," Ballard said. "It hurts like crazy. I can't even explain the hurt and the heartache. But the Good Lord didn't promise us it was going to

(See COACH, page two)

Johnson native Osborne headed into WKU Athletic Hall of Fame

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BOWLING GREEN – Five former Western Kentucky University athletes will be inducted as the 15th class into the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame in ceremonies set for Homecoming Weekend this fall. The 2005 class includes Jeff Cesarone (football), Wayne Chapman (basketball), Johnson County native Charlie Osborne (basketball), Jim Richards (basketball, baseball, golf) and Porter Williams (football). The induction of the 2005 class

(See OSBORNE, page two)

BLUEGRASS GAMES



photos courtesy of Bluegrass State Games

The recently completed Bluegrass Summer Games included athletes from across the state. Below: A HAP (Harold-Allen-Prater) coach instructed a player during a game against the Harlan County Bear Cubs (pictured above). Left: Floyd County track and field athlete Brad Bond captured three medals.



3,621 medals awarded during Bluegrass State Games Bond leads Floyd County with three medals won

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON – The 2005 Bluegrass Summer Games awarded 3,621 medals in the recently completed events. Final results, released Wednesday, show participants from 97 Kentucky counties took home gold, silver and bronze medals. More than 13,000 Kentuckians participated in this year's Games.

Fayette County led the number of medals earned, with its participants having won 716 medals – 279 gold, 254 silver and 183 bronze. Jefferson County placed second with 443 medals; Woodford County placed third with 136; Franklin County came in fourth with 127 and Madison County fifth with 103.

Boone County came in sixth with 98; Scott County placed seventh with 89; Campbell County ranked eighth with 84, followed by Hardin County in ninth-place with 83. Bourbon and Jessamine counties tied for 10th-place with 82 medals each.

Floyd County athletes captured a total of five medals. Tim Branham won a bronze in the racquetball 40-and-over

competition. The Rage softball team, based out of Floyd County, took gold in the Class E tournament. Prestonsburg High School track and field athlete Brad Bond won two bronze medals and one silver. Bond took a silver medal in the men's 300-meter hurdles and bronze in both the long jump and 110-meter hurdle events.

Pike County athletes, collectively, won 13 medals. Johnson County athletes won six medals.

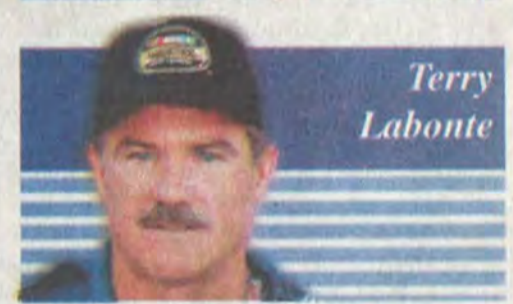
Kellee Smith of Oldham County was the top medal winner with eight in shooting. Six participants tied for second-place with seven medals each. They were Edward Lucey of Jefferson County and Whit Whitaker of Fayette County, both in track and field. Gene Siler of Whitley County and Mary Smoot of Fayette County, both in swimming; Chuck Wright of Jefferson County in shooting, and Kelli Lynch of Fayette County in equestrian.

Final results, along with a photo gallery of the events, are available online at www.bsg.org.

The Bluegrass State Games are designed to give Kentucky's amateur athletes an opportunity to participate in statewide competitions.



Gibbs releases Leffler from No. 11 Cup car driving duties



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. – Joe Gibbs Racing has released driver Jason Leffler from his driving duties with the No. 11 car in the Nextel Cup Series.

Two-time Cup Series champion Terry Labonte will compete in several of the upcoming Cup races in the No. 11, beginning today at Watkins Glen International.

JGR also will turn to its Busch Series drivers – J.J. Yeley and Denny Hamlin – to split driving duties in the No. 11 in the remaining Cup races where Labonte is not scheduled to drive.

"This was a difficult decision," said J.D. Gibbs, president of JGR. "Everyone at Joe Gibbs Racing had high hopes for Jason and the No. 11 team, but our performance wasn't meeting the expectations of all of us set forth at the beginning of the year."

"It hasn't been for lack of effort, as Jason is a talented race car driver who worked

(See GIBBS, page two)

Stewart-led NASCAR trio to race at Eldora

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ROSSBURG, Ohio – Sunday's NASCAR duel at Indianapolis, between victor Tony Stewart and runner-up Kasey Kahne, undoubtedly has increased the drama level for Eldora Speedway's August 17 Old Spice Sprint Sizzler.

The duo, along with Dave Blaney, will be returning to their dirt-track Sprint Car roots to compete in a mid-week (Wednesday) National Racing Alliance (NRA) Sprint Invader program and Kahne has to be anxious.

For Kahne, Stewart and Blaney – the adrenaline flows and the drive for victory is there, regardless of the machine being driven.

Each of them has an extensive, as well as, illustrious Sprint Car background, but Kahne is the most recent graduate from those ranks and is banking on that to bolster his chances towards an Eldora victory – especially after Sunday's bittersweet loss to Stewart on Sunday.

Stewart, who purchased the Eldora speed plant from Earl Baltes late last year, will be making his second driving appearance on the steeply banked one-half mile clay oval this year. In June he participated in the Nextel sponsored Prelude to the Dream, along with several other NASCAR stars, in a charity driven event.

However, the tenacious Stewart outwardly stated "that race was for fun, this one is serious." And it will be serious for Kahne and Blaney, as well.

But there is another factor thrown into the

(See ELDORA, page two)



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Web based file formats are posted for both the vendor list and the Annual Financial Report. If you have difficulty downloading or view-

ing these files, please contact Matt Wireman via phone at 606-886-2354, via e-mail at mwireman@floyd.k12.ky.us or via the US mail, at 106 North Front

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