

Health Extra

State touts improved prescription drug tracking

FRANKFORT — The Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Office of the Inspector General today unveiled its enhanced web-based state-operated database that is used to identify and prevent controlled substance abuse in Kentucky. This makes Kentucky the first state in the nation to provide a self-service web-based system for tracking all schedule II-V prescription drugs.

The Enhanced Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting program, known as eKASPER, is a true technological success story for Kentucky. "eKASPER will allow pharmacists, physicians, law enforcement and other qualified users to get KASPER reports 24 hours a day, 7 days a week within 15 minutes or less of making a request, compared to the cur-

rent fax only request system that can take from 2 hours to 3 weeks to issue a report," says CHFS' Inspector General Robert J. Benvenuti, III. "eKASPER is the most effective and efficient tool ever implemented to combat prescription drug abuse in Kentucky, its benefit will be immediate and powerful and have an incredible positive impact on the citizens of the Commonwealth."

Approximately 1,300 pharmacies across the state — most of them electronically — report all controlled substances they dispense through this system.

During the year 2000, there were 36,174 requests per day for information from KASPER; in 2004 that number jumped to 122,469 requests. Before KASPER, it took drug control investigators an aver-

age of 156 days to complete an investigation of an alleged doctor shopper. Under KASPER, the average time dropped to 16 days. With eKASPER it's expected to drop further, plus provide improved accuracy of data reported.

"We commend the 2003 General Assembly for appropriating \$1.4M and Congressman Hal Rodgers for the \$350,000 grant that allowed us to bring eKASPER to life as a real time data access program. Likewise, we are sincerely grateful to all the individuals who have dedicated their expertise and time in the development and implementation of the eKASPER project," said Dr. James W. Holsinger Jr., secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. "Literally, a physician or pharmacist can review the data base 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and print a report online in just a few minutes while the patient is still waiting for the prescription."

KASPER began operating

in 1999. The system tracks all schedule II-V drugs dispensed by licensed Kentucky pharmacists. It was developed to assist physicians, pharmacists and law enforcement to help fight "doctor shopping" — when patients go from doctor to doctor illegally seeking controlled substances, and the illegal diversion of these substances.

Under the leadership of Dr. Holsinger, the program, administered by the Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch (DEPPB), moved in 2004 from the Department of Public Health to the Office of Inspector General's Division of Fraud, Waste and Abuse/Identification and Prevention. Under KASPER, pharmacists must report all controlled substances within 16 days of the day the drug was given to the patient. The information is kept in a secure database and is confidential, just as other medical records. Although over 20 states presently have similar prescription monitoring pro-

grams, no state provides a self-service, web based system such as the one now available in Kentucky.

Authorized health care providers who suspect abuse formerly requested a patient's controlled substance history through KASPER by faxing or mailing a form to the DEPPB seeking the information, with the turnaround no faster than several hours. Now they can access the information on their computer in about 15 minutes, potentially while patients and customers are present in their offices. KASPER provides the dates, amounts, pharmacy locations and prescribing physicians for any controlled substances given to a patient.

"The eKASPER system is a great crime fighting tool that police officers can use to help curtail the illegal use and

spread of certain prescription drugs in Kentucky," said Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence, Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. "This real time, web-based tool is designed to prevent 'doctor shopping' by drug addicts. Instead of waiting days for a report, officers can have it in a matter of minutes. A quick turnaround time will aid officers in the apprehension of offenders."

State law allows law enforcement agencies to also seek data from KASPER if they are investigating a criminal case.

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Ideas

Continued from p4

2000," Stockton-Early said.

There may, however, be an exception to the overall transparency of this year's pension changes.

A section that starts on page 28 seems to open the door to a new combination of the legislative retirement program and other public employee retirement programs that would apply to the number of years accumulated in the program and possibly even let non-legislative salaries be used to determine the pension levels.

There are several former legislators now in other state jobs who might be able to benefit from the new provision — Gov. Ernie Fletcher; Attorney General Greg Stumbo; Brian Crall, deputy secretary of Fletcher's cabinet; Mark

Treesh, revenue commissioner; Lindy Casebier, now in the Commerce Cabinet; Charles Geveden, now in the attorney general's office; and Richard Murgatroyd, former legislator and Kenton County judge-executive. Rep. Tim Feeley of Oldham County, who will soon be taking a judgeship, might also benefit.

The section of the legislation that might open the door to a new kind of double-dipping will have to be examined more closely, said Stockton-Early.

"There may have been a hidden agenda to help a few," she said.

Mark R. Chellgren is the Frankfort, Ky., correspondent for The Associated Press.

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Sharon received her Diploma in Professional Nursing from Saint Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Huntington, WV. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Morehead State University and graduated from the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in Hyden, KY. Sharon is a member of the National Association of Childbearing Centers, the American Nurses Association and the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Sharon has been employed with Big Sandy Health Care in Prestonsburg since June 2003. She provides a wide array of women's health care services including prenatal care, labor and delivery, family planning and gynecological services.

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Odds

see.”
Once inside the car, Grassley told Nelson not to worry about the brake light that is always on, the power steering that sometimes sticks and the fact that “every two or three times, the starter won’t catch.”
Yet, Nelson was satisfied and got out his check-

book.
The deal done, the men shook hands. Nelson smiled and had Grassley sign the dashboard and trunk lid with a marker.

■ **BANGKOK, Thailand** — Call it the Case of the Missing Cobras — all 82 of them.

The deadly snakes were apparently stolen from a Red Cross facility, and police fear they were destined for the stew pot.

The King Cobras had been kept with other poisonous snakes at the Red Cross’ compound in downtown Bangkok, where they are milked for their poison

to be used as serum for snakebite medicine.
Workers discovered that 62 snakes went missing in January. After 20 more were gone on Feb. 2, Red Cross veterinarian Montri Chiewbamrunkiat filed a complaint with police.

Authorities said they suspect a Red Cross

employee stole the cobras, which have never escaped through the steel nets that enclose the cement pits where they lived.

“The veterinarian said he believed that the missing snakes had already gone into cooking pots, and that the thief who stole them must be someone who

knows how to handle snakes,” said police Lt. Col. Vichien Vatchirasaeng.

Continued from p2

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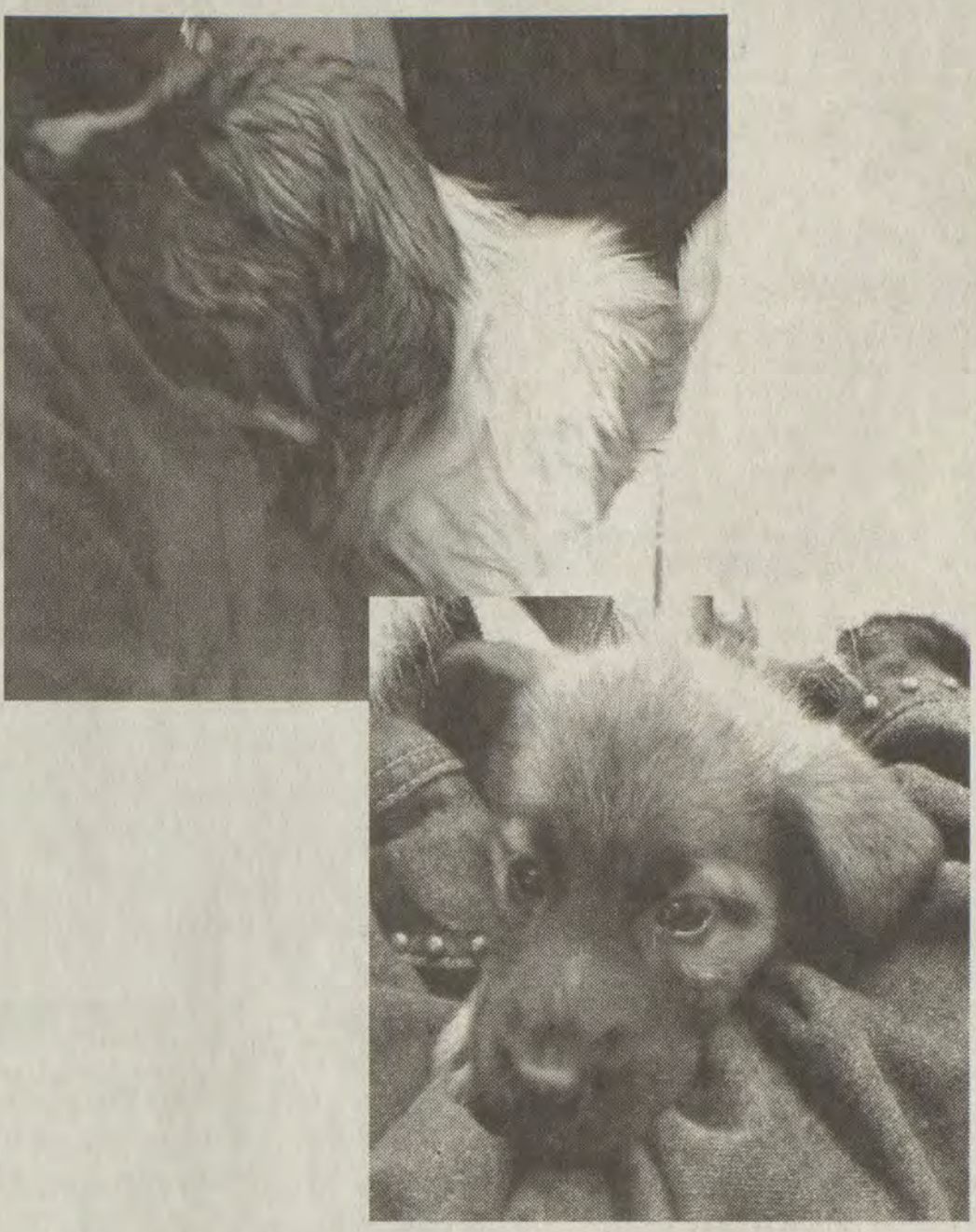
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The Floyd County Animal Shelter is located at Sally Stephens Branch in west Prestonsburg. The shelter is open from 10:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and 10:00 to 3:00 Saturdays, and can be reached by phone at (606) 886-3189.

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Food City Favorites result in 400 area jobs

ABINGDON, Va. — Food City is in the process of rolling out a new in-store product sampling program in its 89 retail grocery outlets. The new program, called Food City Favorites, is administered by Summit Demonstration Services, a division of Daymon Worldwide.

Food City Favorites will provide customers with an opportunity to try new items, obtain meal suggestions and receive recipes and money-saving coupon offers on select items.

The program will also result in the addition of numerous area jobs. Summit currently employs 16 full-time and 318 part-time sales advisors to manage the Food City chain wide program. That number is expected to climb to between 360 and 400 part-time advisors by the program's maturation, with each Food City location staffed with an average of four

sales advisors to meet customer needs.

"We are very pleased to offer our customers an opportunity to sample our items and gain valuable tips on meal planning and preparation, while creating additional jobs for the markets in which we operate — it's a win/win situation," said Steven C. Smith, president and chief executive officer for Food City.

Summit offers a top-rate demo program, equipped with the latest technology, including stainless steel carts, microwave and convection ovens, skillets, grills and griddles. And their sales advisors are well-trained in the areas of food preparation, sanitation and food safety.

"Food City and Summit Demonstration Services have invested a great deal in our associates and equipment to deliver a quality demo program to Food City customers," said Jeff Ryder, Summit director of

operations.

Food City Favorites will be available seven days per week, during the hours of 12 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., although the hours may vary slightly by store.

"With their increasingly busy schedules, we want to provide our shoppers with every possible advantage to make their shopping experience as convenient and enjoyable as possible," said Richard Gunn, executive vice president merchandising/marketing for Food City.

Headquartered in Abingdon, Virginia, K-VA-T Food Stores operates 90 retail food outlets throughout the tri-state regions of Southeast Kentucky, Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee.

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Bill "Dad" Hackworth
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 Knowing where you are;
 An angel looking over us,
 Like an extra brighter star.

Memories are forever,
 The void is so severe;
 We know you couldn't stay,
 But we wish you were still here.

A husband, a daddy, a papaw,
 A brother and a friend;
 We came to you for guidance,
 It didn't matter when.

We wish everyone knew you,
 For their life would be changed;
 You were such a special person,
 But you had to spread your wings.

Your birthday once again,
 The memories will always stay;
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Joseph Shepherd of Prestonsburg, is one of several student-artists currently featured in the Weber Art Gallery at Pikeville College. The show, on display through March 31, features a variety of works, including drawing, painting and 3-D art. The gallery is located in Record Memorial Building, second floor. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10-11 a.m. and noon to 4 p.m. and on Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. School groups are welcome to tour the gallery. For more information contact Janice Ford at (606) 437-4448 or (606) 218-5759.

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An embankment failure on Route 979 has settled, making one-lane travel necessary at Ligon Hill.

Glen Tackett, superintendent at Highway District 12's Minnie Maintenance Garage, said that the break is part of a contract of work that includes numerous embankment failures. "Until the contractor gets to this one, we will keep the barricades up for safety's sake," he said.

Tackett said that people should slow down and drive cautiously in the area. "There is only one lane open on the road. The other lane is broken and has settled several inches below the roadway. We have signs and barricades up and people need to be careful."

Darold Slone, Highway District 12's operations

branch manager, said that the district, which covers seven Eastern Kentucky counties, had more than 500 embankment failures during the past year. When repair work was put out for bids to contractors, each letting included more than one route.

"The contractors are still trying to work their way through the list of breaks they are responsible for fixing," he explained. "We will do everything we can to move this one up on the list, but in the meantime, people just need to be aware that the road is down to one lane in this area."

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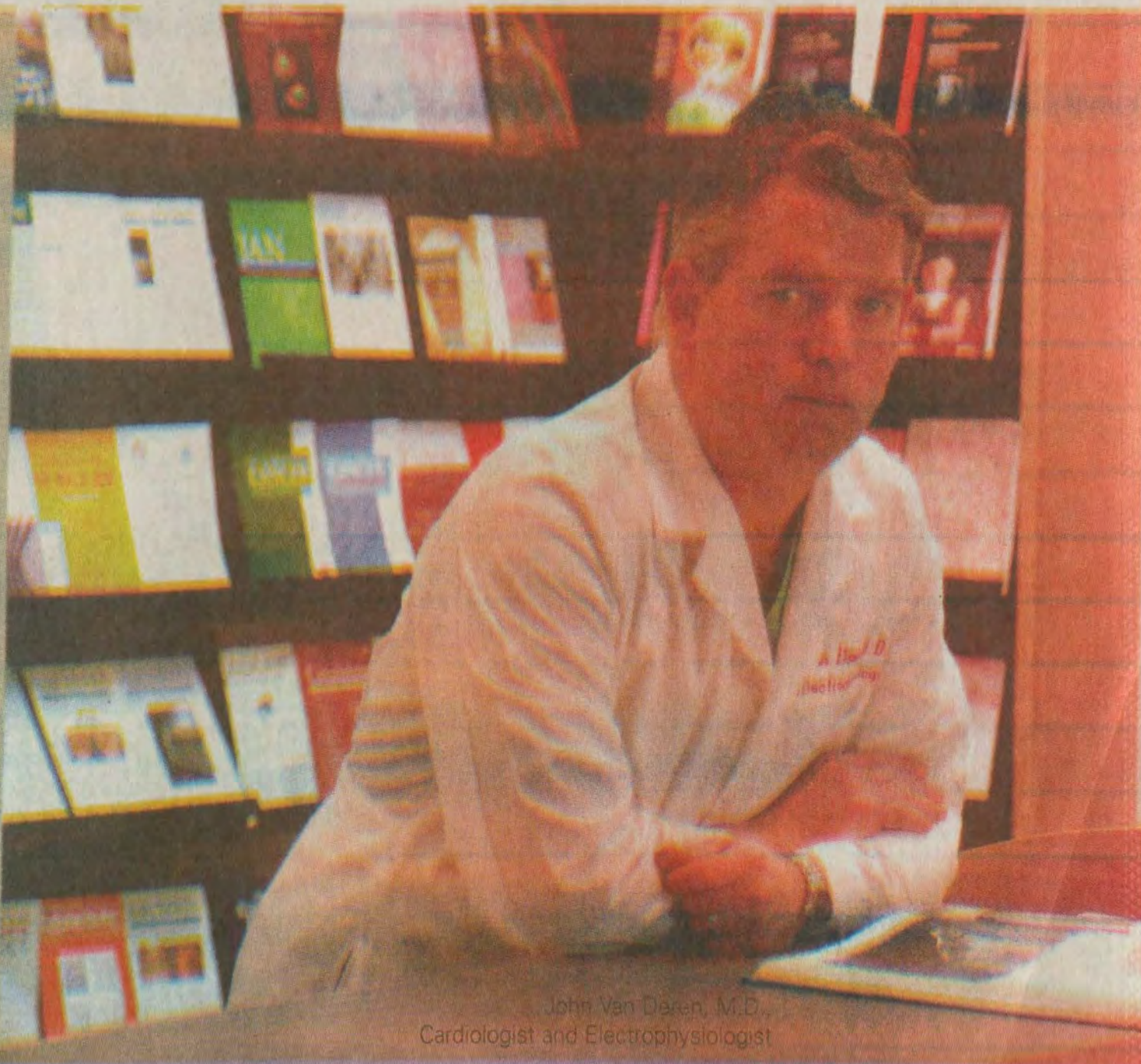
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BACK ON TOP: Wildcats roll into Rupp

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

ROBINSON CREEK - Shelby Valley reserved the top spot in the 15th Region for the third time in four years Saturday night, beating Pike County rival Belfry 79-71.

Valley won despite the hot shooting hand of Belfry senior Doug Howard, who hit four three-

pointers in the fourth quarter and finished with a game-high 40 points.

Shelby Valley (26-5) weathered a couple of Belfry rallies, for the most part handling the Pirates from the opening tip. Valley took a 20-6 lead out of the first quarter and led 38-21 at halftime.

Kelsey Friend led Shelby Valley with 22 points. Patrick Tackett

added 20 points and Mitchell Riddle tossed in 18. Kris Bentley, a player who transferred to Shelby Valley from Prestonsburg following the Blackcats, added 10 points. Bentley scored five of his 10 points in the final quarter. Tackett also had 10 points in the final period.

Valley led 55-38 at the end of the third quarter. Belfry cut Valley's

lead down to 10 points with just over two minutes remaining, but could get no closer.

Shelby Valley's scoring was balanced.

John Johnson added four points for the Wildcats while Cade Riddle tossed in three and Nick Potter added two.



photo by Steve LeMaster

Shelby Valley Coach Jason Booher acknowledged the home crowd Saturday night following the 15th Region title victory over Belfry.

(See WILDCATS, page two)



photo by Jamie Howell

Betsy Layne senior Kim Clark lofted a shot over Belfry's Mary Beth Johnson. Clark finished with 15 points in Betsy Layne's win over Belfry. Kristen Smith led Betsy Layne in scoring with a game-high 24 points.

LADYCATS BACK IN REGION FINALS Late free throws lift Betsy Layne over Belfry

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE - Betsy Layne won its way back into the Girls' 15th Region Championship Game for the third time in four years Monday night at Johnson Central, turning back 60th District winner Belfry.

The Ladycats, led by a game-high 24 points from senior guard Kristen Smith, defeated Belfry 66-58. Smith went to the free throw line often Monday night. She finished 24-of-30 from the charity stripe and had five rebounds, four steals, two assists and two blocks to go along with her game-high 24 markers. In a game that included 43 fouls and 55 free throws, Betsy Layne connected when it counted.

"Coming into the game, we talked about four keys - taking care of the ball, rebounding, stopping dribble penetration and making free throws," Betsy Layne Coach Cassandra Akers noted during a post-game interview. "Kristen really

stepped up for us." Smith was 15-of-18 from the free throw line.

Betsy Layne senior forward Breann Akers, who finished with 10 points, shot six-for-six from the stripe.

Betsy Layne seniors Kim Clark and Kristal Daniels also played key roles, finishing with 15 and nine points, respectively.

By winning Monday night, Betsy Layne's four seniors earned the right to take part in a third regional championship game.

"This is three out of four years in the regional championship game for our seniors," Akers acknowledged. "They wanted to have a chance at another regional championship."

Betsy Layne captured a regional title in 2003, beating Johnson Central inside the same building that plays host to this year's 15th Region Tournament.

Betsy Layne outscored Belfry in every quarter except the opening period.

The Lady Pirates got out to a quick, successful start and ended the

first quarter strong, leading 17-13 at the conclusion of the initial period.

Each team had their least productive offensive quarter of the game in the second frame, but Betsy Layne was able to make up ground. The Ladycats outscored Belfry 12-7 in the second quarter and after after outscoring the opposing team 20-14 in the third quarter, put the game away in the final quarter - mostly from the free throw stripe.

Betsy Layne had to go to its bench early in the first half. A few different Ladycat starters were hit with early foul trouble. The Ladycats went into halftime with a 25-24 lead.

"At halftime, with a one-point lead and that many players in off of the bench and in the game in the first half, we were happy," Akers added.

Daniels eventually fouled out. Akers and Smith each ended the game with four personal fouls.

Betsy Layne outrebounded Belfry 38-35, getting 19 rebounds on each end of the floor.

Candice Meade added five points

for Betsy Layne. Kaidin Lawson rounded out the Ladycat scoring with three points on a made three-point field goal.

Brooke Stanley paced Belfry with 17 points. Shae Deskins and Amanda Moon each had 11 points apiece. Falon Muncy flipped in six points for the Lady Pirates. Mary Beth Johnson and Brittany Chapman each had five points.

Betsy Layne went into last night's 15th Region title game against familiar foe Pike County Central. In 2004, on its way to the 15th Region crown, Pike Central knocked out Betsy Layne during the regional semifinals.

"Everything that could go wrong in that game, did," Akers said Monday night, looking back at last season's regional tournament game between the two schools. "We're happy to be back in the finals."

Results of last night's regional championship game were unavailable at press time and will appear in Friday's edition.

Lady Rebels fall prey to Pike Central

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE - After beating Shelby Valley in the opening round of the Girls' 15th Region Tournament, Allen Central moved into the semifinals looking to beat another Pike County team. The Lady Rebels entered the regional semifinals on Monday night against Pike County Central. For one half, the first half, Allen Central outscored Pike Central. Allen Central played from behind for some of the opening half, but went into the intermission with a 24-20 lead. In the second half, Pike Central livened up offensively and ended Allen Central's postseason run, beating the Lady Rebels 71-48.

Mishay Weddington, who did most of her damage in the second half, led Pike Central in scoring with 18 points. Weddington hit five-of-eight on three-point attempts. Paige Lowe added 17 points and Haley Ratliff netted 11. Ratliff added a trio of made three-pointers. As a team, Pike Central shot eight-of-18 from behind the three-point line.

Eight different Pike Central players provided scoring in the winning effort.

"Pike Central came out and really hammered the ball inside and challenged us defensively," Allen Central Coach Mark Martin said. "We got down early, yet, our girls kept their composure during the early part of the game. The second quarter we were able to score and take some pressure off of us defensively. We had a good balance of scoring in the second quarter and were able to take a halftime lead into the locker-room."

(See FALL, page two)



ALLEN CENTRAL'S AMANDA MILLS

Hunter named All-State Honorable Mention

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

EASTERN - Allen Central High School junior Yumekia Hunter has broken through and joined some elite company. Hunter has been selected to the 2004 KHSVCA (Kentucky High School Volleyball Coaches Association) All-State Volleyball Team. Hunter, who Monday night completed another high school basketball season, in the sport of volleyball recently received an all-state honorable mention nod. She is one of 87 female student-athletes who earned all-

state volleyball recognition. She is the first player to receive the honor from the 30th District and the 15th Region.

During an accomplished junior volleyball season, Hunter posted 131 kills with a .190 attack percentage. She also had 27 assists, landed 53 aces and dug up 701 defensive returns while recording 27 blocks.

"It's a well-deserved honor for an outstanding young woman," said Colonel Larry Maynard, Allen Central High School volleyball coach. "We're all proud of Yumekia. It's definitely a great honor."



YUMEKIA HUNTER

Blackcats, Golden Eagles fall in region semis

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

ROBINSON CREEK - Prestonsburg and Johnson Central each fell short of a spot in the 15th Region Finals. Both lost Friday night in the 15th Region Tournament Semifinals.

Shelby Valley beat Prestonsburg 63-47. The Wildcats turned what was an even game at halftime into a blowout win.

Belfry held on to beat Johnson Central 55-52.

Shelby Valley and Belfry advanced

on to meet in the 15th Region Finals. Shelby Valley and Prestonsburg went into halftime deadlocked at 25-all. Then, the second half went the way of the home team.

Kelsey Friend paced Shelby Valley with 22 points. Kris Bentley added 17 points for the winning team.

The Blackcats got behind early in the game, but fought back. In the second half, host Shelby Valley prevented a similar Prestonsburg comeback.

Trevor Compton drained three

(See SEMIS, page two)

Fall

Pike Central held Allen Central to just seven points in the third quarter. The Lady Hawks outscored Allen Central 26-7 in the third quarter.

"At the half, we told our kids that they were going to come out and that we had to hang tough during the first part of the second half," Martin added.

"We just lost our composure there in the latter part of the third quarter. Paige Lowe along with Weddington just shot the lights out. Give credit to both of those kids for stepping up at a big time for Pike Central. We missed a couple of defensive assignments and you just cannot do that at this time of the year.

"Overall, once they got the big lead, the game just got away from us. It was a tough loss to end up the season but, overall very happy for this group of kids. They developed into a close and gritty group over the season that created some excitement for all of us.

"We had a tremendous fol-

lowing and want to say thanks to our student body."

Allen Central struggled some against Pike Central's defensive pressure. The Lady Rebels ended the game with 14 turnovers.

After Allen Central scored the first two points of the game, Pike Central went on to provide the most potent play in the first quarter. The Lady Hawks led 14-7 at the end of the first quarter before managing just eight points in the second period.

In the second half, Pike Central took advantage of good looks at the basket and hit the Allen Central defense hard.

Pike Central had 15 assists opposed to just six turnovers. The Lady Hawks shot 11-for-18 from the free throw line. For the game, Pike Central shot 44 percent from both the floor and beyond the arc.

Each team blocked eight shots. Allen Central outrebounded Pike Central 46-43. Pike Central did, however, pull down 30 defensive rebounds.

Continued from p1

Taylor Brown and Kim Coleman finished with six points apiece for Pike Central. Kayla Lowe had five points while Elizabeth Birchfield and Ashley Vanko chipped in four each.

Allen Central senior Becky Thomas finished her career with a respectable double-double performance of 12 points and 17 rebounds. Thomas also blocked six shots.

Junior Alanna Cline led the Lady Rebels in scoring with 16 points. Yumekia Hunter and Amanda Mills both added eight points while Mara Bilitier and Amanda Thacker netted two apiece.

Allen Central struggled from the outside. The Lady Rebels hit just two-of-14 from outside of the three-point line. For the game, Allen Central shot just 28.6 percent from the floor.

Last night, defending 15th Region champ Pike Central was taking on Betsy Layne in the 15th Region title game. Results from the championship game were unavailable at press time.



The Allen Central High School girls' varsity cheerleaders took top honors recently in the 58th District Girls' Basketball Tournament.

Wildcats

David Jones added 10 points for the Pirates. Jones was the only other Belfry player to reach double figures. Matt Maynard tossed in eight points and Adam Warren added six. Jamie Case and Bruce Young finished with five and two points, respectively.

Shelby Valley is back on top of the 15th Region following a season out of the regional title mix. At the beginning of the 2004 15th Region Tournament, Shelby Valley, again the regional favorite, fell to then-tournament host Prestonsburg.

Shelby Valley's most recent regional title comes in Jason Booher's first season at the helm of the Wildcat boys' basketball program. Booher, who came to Shelby Valley from Belfry, served as an assistant coach on another Wildcat staff during an earlier stint at the Pike County high school.

Valley will take on 11th Region champ Henry Clay (30-3) in the opening round of the Boys' Sweet 16 Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Henry Clay brings into the tournament with the best record of any of the par-

ticipating high school boys' basketball teams.

Other opening round matchups include Ohio County (26-7) vs. South Laurel (28-4); Elizabethtown (26-4) vs. Perry Co. Central (23-7); Pendleton County (19-4) vs. Pleasure Ridge Park (29-5); Ballard (28-2) vs. Bullitt East (25-7); Rowan County (27-5) vs. University Heights (30-4); Lone Oak (23-9) vs. Corbin (20-10); and Warren Central (27-4) vs. Holmes (24-6).

Warren Central is the defending state champion.



photo by Jamie Howell

The Prestonsburg High School football program held its annual banquet Sunday at the Mountain Arts Center. As part of the banquet, senior football players were honored.

Semis

three-point field goals and did his part for the Blackcats, finishing with a team-high 13 points. John Mark Stephens followed with 10 points, Sean Leslie scored nine points and Jesse Chaffin added five. Lewis Barnette had four points for the Blackcats (18-11).

This year's senior group of Prestonsburg High boys' basketball players were a part of three straight 15th Region semifinalist teams.

Belfry 55, Johnson Central 52: Belfry continued its post-season basketball run Friday night, beating Johnson Central 55-52 in the 15th Region Tournament Semifinals.

Johnson Central battled back and nearly pushed its way to a win and a spot in the 15th Region Finals.

But the Pirates held on. Adam Warren led the Pirates with 18 points. Doug Howard

and Jamie Case finished with 13 points apiece. Matt Maynard added nine points for Belfry.

Josh Stapleton paced Johnson Central with a game-high 24 points. Kyle Rice had eight points and Jamie McCarty added seven.

Belfry's victory set up a 15th Region championship game Saturday night against Shelby Valley.

15TH REGION BOYS' BASKETBALL

Team	Record
Shelby Valley	26-5
Johnson Central	19-10
Belfry	18-10
Prestonsburg	18-11
East Ridge	18-11
Betsy Layne	16-10
Pike Co. Cent.	16-11
South Floyd	16-15
Phelps	15-10
Paintsville	14-15
Pikeville	9-20
Sheldon Clark	6-19
Magoffin Co.	4-22
Allen Central	3-23



photos by Jamie Howell

Prestonsburg senior Jesse Chaffin eyed a free throw attempt Friday night during the regional semifinal game against Shelby Valley. Shelby Valley guard Kris Bentley is also pictured.



Johnson Central's Kyle Rice (40) tried to pull down a rebound over teammate Josh Stapleton.

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Wolfe County 63		
	Mar 11, 6:30 PM at Hazard	Perry County Central 52
Perry County Central 81		
Mar 7, 8:15 PM at Hazard		Perry County Central 74
Jenkins 48		
	Mar 12, 7:00 PM at Hazard (championship)	Perry County Central
Owsley County 73		
Mar 8, 6:30 PM at Hazard		Owsley County 71
Jackson City 54		
	Mar 11, 8:15 PM at Hazard	Leslie County 49
Letcher 58		
Mar 8, 8:15 PM at Hazard		Leslie County 81
Leslie County 65		

15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament

Shelby Valley 90		Shelby Valley 63
Mar 7, 6:30 PM at Shelby Valley (double overtime)		
Paintsville 86		
	Mar 11, 6:30 PM at Shelby Valley	Shelby Valley 79
Pike County Central 59		
Mar 7, 8:00 PM at Shelby Valley		Prestonsburg 47
Prestonsburg 61		
	Mar 12, 7:30 PM at Shelby Valley (championship)	Shelby Valley
South Floyd 62		
Mar 8, 6:30 PM at Shelby Valley		Belfry 55
Belfry 71		
	Mar 11, 8:00 PM at Shelby Valley	Belfry 71
Johnson Central 66		
Mar 8, 8:00 PM at Shelby Valley		Johnson Central 52
East Ridge 56		

Kentucky's Moss a rarity – a walk-on who plays and contributes

by MURRAY EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON – When Ravi Moss joined Kentucky's basketball team in 2002, there was little hype involved, which isn't surprising for a walk-on.

"To tell the truth, when I first saw him walk in as a freshman, I didn't know who he was," said highly recruited Kelenna Azubuike, who like Moss now is a junior with the Wildcats.

Before long, Moss had won over Azubuike and other teammates with his humor, hustle and humility. Gradually, the Kentucky coaching staff realized that Moss was a major-league sports rarity – a walk-on talented enough to see significant minutes for a marquee program.

Moss now is averaging 11.2 minutes a game and sometimes is the first player off the bench for second-seeded Kentucky (25-5), which will play Eastern Kentucky (22-8) in a first-round NCAA tournament game Thursday in Indianapolis.

Moss is one of only a handful of walk-ons playing key roles on a tournament team.

"Whenever I think of great walk-ons, I think of him and (Christian) Moody from Kansas," Azubuike said. "He's really big for us. He's a bigger part of this team than most peo-

ple would imagine."

Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said there's one reason Moss plays so much: he's earned it.

"I'm sure Ravi is living out one of his dreams," Smith said. "This is where he wanted to go to school and get an education, whether he played basketball or not. I'm sure he's thrilled, and it's a thrill for us that he is contributing as much as he has."

Moss is averaging 3.8 points per game and has scored in double figures three times in nine games since Feb. 15. But teammates say that a stat sheet doesn't adequately measure Moss' contributions to the team.

"He's a spark plug coming off the bench," said senior forward Chuck Hayes, one of Moss' closest friends. "His energy level is so high, our opponents have to try to keep up with him."

Moss said his secret is simple: staying prepared. After all, he said, he never knows when Smith might choose to put him in a game.

"You have to be ready at all times," Moss said. "When he calls your number, you have to go in and produce. Staying in the game and staying focused is a big part of what we do."

It doesn't hurt when you show a knack for making clutch shots.

This season, with Kentucky

trailing Louisville by four points, Moss hit a 3-pointer with 2:08 left, a key moment as the Wildcats pulled out a 60-58 win. He hit another 3-pointer to keep Kentucky close in the late stages of a loss to Kansas.

"It's just a lot of hard work and listening, putting in the extra time shooting or watching film or doing things that I need to do to improve myself personally," Moss said. "It's staying within the system and staying within yourself, having the confidence in yourself and working hard."

Moss was the star at tiny University Heights Academy in Hopkinsville, but didn't receive any scholarship offers from NCAA Division I schools. Kentucky showed interest in him as a walk-on, and that was enough to lure Moss. It didn't hurt that Moss received an academic scholarship, one that requires him to maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average.

Moss said he has tried to emulate Hayes, whose most impressive stat is the Wildcats' 90-17 record with him in the starting lineup. Moss also credits his parents with instilling in him a strong work ethic.

"He's a kid that knows who he is and appreciates what he does and knows that we appreciate what he does," Smith said.

Shelby Valley quartet leads 15th Region all-tourney squad

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

ROBINSON CREEK – When the dust settled following the 15th Region Tournament title game, four players from regional champion Shelby Valley found themselves on the all-tournament team. Kelsey Friend, who had three of the best games of his storied high school career during this year's regional tournament, led the way for the Wildcats. Shelby Valley's Kris Bentley, Patrick Tackett and Mitchell Riddle all joined Friend on the all-tournament team.

Regional runner-up Belfry placed three players on the all-tournament squad as Doug Howard,

Adam Warren and Matt Maynard were all honored. Howard fired in a game-high 40 points in Belfry's championship game setback.

Regional tournament semifinalist Prestonsburg also placed three players on the all-tournament team. Blackcat seniors Jesse Chaffin, John Mark Stephens and Trevor Compton were also named to the regional team.

The 15th Region All-Tournament Team was voted on by members of the media. In all, 16 players were named to the team. Paintsville, Pike County Central, South Floyd and East Ridge all had one player named to the team. Johnson Central, the tournament's other semifi-

nalist, was represented by two players. A rundown of the all-tournament team follows.

15th Region All-Tournament Team
Landon Slone, Paintsville
Brad Lowe, Pike Central
Steven Stanley, South Floyd
Eric Slone, East Ridge
Trevor Compton, Prestonsburg
John Mark Stephens, Prestonsburg
Jesse Chaffin, Prestonsburg
Jamie McCarty, Johnson Central
Josh Stapleton, Johnson Central
Adam Warren, Belfry
Matt Maynard, Belfry
Doug Howard, Belfry
Patrick Tackett, Shelby Valley
Kelsey Friend, Shelby Valley
Kris Bentley, Shelby Valley
Mitchell Riddle, Shelby Valley



The 15th Region All-Tournament team included four Shelby Valley players. Prestonsburg and Belfry each had three players named to the squad.



Kaitlin Lawson came in off of the Betsy Layne bench and helped the Ladycats to a win over 60th District champ Belfry.

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			Mar 19, 12:00 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington
Elizabethtown	Mar 16, 1:30 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington	Perry County Central	
			Mar 19, 10:00 AM at Rupp Arena, Lexington
Pendleton County	Mar 16, 8:30 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington	Pleasure Ridge Park	
			Mar 19, 1:30 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington
Ballard	Mar 16, 8:00 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington	Bullitt East	
			Mar 19, 8:00 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington (time subject to change)
Rowan County	Mar 17, 12:00 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington	University Heights	
			Mar 19, 11:30 AM at Rupp Arena, Lexington
Lone Oak	Mar 17, 1:30 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington	Corbin	
			Mar 18, 6:30 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington
Henry Clay	Mar 17, 5:30 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington	Shelby Valley	
			Mar 18, 8:00 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington
Warren Central	Mar 17, 8:00 PM at Rupp Arena, Lexington	Holmes	

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POISON OAK

Coal trucks, then and now

There's been a great deal in the news lately about overweight vehicles, especially coal trucks. Although the problem with coal trucks on public roads has become a serious concern to



Clyde Pack

a lot of people, I can recall when coal trucks were not something to worry about, but simply something to count on.

"That's twelve," I'd say as a loaded truck lumbered by the front

porch of the Northeast Coal Company's store, followed by a cloud of black dust.

The driver would get in line behind the three or four trucks waiting at the bottom of the little slope where a narrow road had been scraped from the yellow hillside that led to the hopper. He'd dump his load so it could be processed and loaded into the C&O coal gons that had been parked beneath the massive tin structure.

Within a minute or two, an empty truck would whiz by in the opposite direction, again stirring the black dust into a frenzy as it sped to wherever it was it picked up its load.

On those long summer afternoons as I'd sit on the company store steps and eat a chilly imp and count trucks, I had no interest in where the coal came from. All I knew was that some of the empty trucks would turn left onto Route 581 and head in the direction of Tutor Key,

(See OAK, page four)

KIM'S KORNER

Walking tall

This past Sunday I attended the funeral of the father of one of my dearest friends, Rev. Morris (Tootsie) Hall, held at the Pine Grove Baptist Church, in Hi Hat.

The service was beautiful, and listening to the impact Tootsie has left on so many lives was definitely a blessing to witness.

As I sat and looked around at the pictures displayed of this larger than life man (and he was - especially to us growing up) I remembered one particular incident from our childhood when Tootsie became a giant teddy bear, instead of someone to fear.

His stature and frame so tall, and with a voice so deep, to a seventh grader could certainly be termed intimidating, at best. Cathy, whom we affectionately refer to as "Berthie" still to this day, had our entire gang over for a pajama party one night.

The typical giggling, loud and obnoxious 12-13 year old girls had

(See KORNER, page five)

Women in History

Miss Billie Jean Osborne



Miss Billie takes great pride in all the youngsters who enroll in MAC programs in hopes of embarking upon an entertainment career. Here she is shown with two of her Jr. Pro members, Brittany Hamilton, left, and Alison Lovely, right.

Showcasing our region's talent

by Kathy J. Prater
FEATURES EDITOR

Today's featured "Woman in History" is one who has forged herself a place in the hearts of Floyd Countians near and far, as well as gaining the respect of those regions away. The pages of history are already indelibly marked by the hand of Billie Jean Osborne, the founder of one of the county's brightest stars, The Mountain Arts Center.

"Miss Billie," as she is affection-

ately known by many, was born and reared in Betsy Layne, where she attended school as a youngster and later returned to teach music and to serve as Betsy Layne High School's award-winning band director. Under her direction, the "Marching Bobcat Band" was lead to state recognition year after year.

Miss Billie, however, began her teaching career at the tender age of 17, in another part of Floyd County, that of the Wheelwright area. At 17, she began teaching school at W.D.

Osborne Elementary. "I was so young, the principal had to sign to be responsible for me," she said.

Miss Billie saw much success with her students at Osborne and soon became the elemental force behind the formulation of an impressive school band. Throughout the county, her talents quickly became known and her attentions sought after.

"Everything I have ever been, and everything I am, I owe to my wonderful Christian mother," she said. "God gave me the talent and mother gave me

the discipline. So God and my mother are what made me what I am, any glory belongs to God and to having a good Christian mother who was strong enough to instill that discipline."

Osborne said that throughout her years teaching the youth of Floyd County, she "always dreamed of having a place where students from all across this region could work, study music, and perform to an audience in a quality theater atmosphere, set right

(See MISS BILLIE, page five)

CRITTER CORNER

The hazards of Easter

By Dr. Carol Combs-Morris, DVM

Reader Lisa Gray stopped by the other day and requested an article on Easter and the potential hazards the holiday poses for pets. Thanks, Lisa; it's a good idea to remind folks that Christmas is not the only season that exposes pets to particular dangers.

Like all celebrations, Easter is associated with certain foods. Chocolate is everywhere. Unlike Christmas, the candy is more accessible to pets because children tend to set their treat-filled baskets on low tables or on the floor.

Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine, which is very similar to caffeine. It causes the body to release adrenaline, speeding up the heart and causing it to beat erratically. About 50mg per pound of body weight of theobromine can be fatal to a dog. The size of the animal and the type of chocolate makes a difference in how easily poisoning occurs. Darker

chocolate contains higher concentrations of theobromine; unsweetened baking chocolate is the worst of all, containing 6-9 times more than milk chocolate. One ounce of baking chocolate can kill a small breed dog or a cat.

Not only the candy itself, but also the wrappers can also pose the threat of intestinal obstruction. Few dogs will take the time to unwrap the goodies! The Easter grass that fills the basket is tempting for both cats and dogs to chew and play with. It could also cause GI blockages, as could chewed-off pieces of the basket itself. Small toys contained in plastic eggs can pose choking hazards to both pets and children, so beware.

Remember that some hidden eggs may be overlooked on Easter morning. Real eggs can absorb bacteria and lawn chemicals through their shells and make Rover

(See CRITTER, page four)



"Mrs. Peepers." Mrs. Peepers is a rescued Zebra Finch who, according to owner, Sherry Prater, "likes to spend her time laying eggs." She's gorgeous, Sherry!

In Honor of Women in History Month

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"Give me a child and give me the opportunity to put a song in that child's heart, and I will give you back a child with a desire to learn."

- "Miss Billie" Jean Osborne

School Calendar

Adams Middle School Youth Services Center

■ March 15-22 - "Magic Me" will meet, weather permitting.

■ March 16 - Youth Services Center Advisory Council meeting, 4 p.m. Everyone welcome to attend.

■ March 21 - Nutrition program, 6th grade.

■ March 21-25 - Scholastic Book Fair. Volunteers needed.

■ March 23 - "Career Exploration Day," 8th grade.

■ March 24 - "Give Yourself a Break Day," for all Floyd County parents/guardians. To be held at the MAC. Registration at 8:30 a.m. Fun workshops, door prizes and free lunch.

■ March 28 thru April 1 - SPRING BREAK!!

■ If you would be interested in volunteering at AMS, contact the Youth Services Center to schedule a time for Volunteer Orientation.

■ Adams Middle School Youth Services Center is open each weekday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center offers services to all families regardless of income. For more information about any of the activities or services of the center, please contact the center at 886-1297. Center Coordinator - Michelle Keathley; Assistant - Sheila Allen.

Allen Central Middle School

■ March 21 - SBDM meet-

ing, 5 p.m.

■ March 23 - Career Expo.

■ March 24 - "Give Yourself a Break Day," 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Mt. Arts Center.

■ March 31 - Last day to turn in Food City receipts!!

■ The ACMS Youth Service Center is open each day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or later by appointment. For more information about the center, call LaDonna Patton, coordinator, at 358-0134.

Allen Elementary and Family Resource Youth Service Center

■ Call Allen Elementary Youth Service Center at 874-0621 to schedule your child's Hepatitis B vaccination, immunizations, and WIC appointments.

Betsy Layne Elementary

■ The Betsy Layne Elementary Family Resource Youth Service Center is located in the 500 building of the campus. The goal of the FRYSC is to meet the needs of all children and their families who reside in the community or neighborhood by the school in which the center is located. For further information, please contact the center at 478-5550 or 478-9751, ext. 310.

■ Brian H. Akers, Center Coordinator; Charlotte Rogers, Program Assistant II; Debra Hayes, School Nurse.

Clark Elementary

■ A nurse from the Floyd County Health Dept. is in the center weekly and sees WIC patients, does well-child exams (birth-18 years), and gives immunizations. Currently scheduling exams for students who will be in the 6th grade in the next school year. Call for an appointment - 886-0815.

■ The Clark Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the Clark Elementary School building and can be reached by calling 886-0815.

Duff Elementary

■ Floyd County Health Dept. is at the school each Tuesday. Services include 6th grade school entry physical; kindergarten, Head Start and well-child physicals (age birth to 18 years); T.B. skin test; T.D. boosters; and WIC services. Please call 358-9878 for appointment if you are in need of any of these services.

■ The J.A. Duff Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the tan metal building at the rear of the school. Contact persons are Judy Handshoe, coordinator, and Ruby Bailey, assistant.

May Valley Elementary

■ Parent Lending Library is

available to parents for video check-outs. A variety of topics are available.

■ Floyd County Health Dept. nurse at school every Wednesday. Services include Head Start physicals, kindergarten physicals, 6th grade physicals, well-child physicals, immunizations, TB skin test, WIC program, blood pressure checks, and more. Must call the FRC at 285-0321 for an appointment.

McDowell Elementary and Family Resource Center

■ Floyd County Health Department Nurse Joy Moore, is at the center each Monday to administer immunizations, T.B. skin tests, well-child exams, WIC, prenatal and post-partum services, and school physicals. Call 377-2678 for an appointment.

Mountain Christian Academy

■ Now accepting applications for enrollment for Kindergarten for the 2005-06 school year. Call 285-5141 for more information.

Prestonsburg Elementary and Family Resource Center

■ The Family Resource Center is open weekdays 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and later by appointment. Office provides services for all families, regardless of income.

■ After School Child Care, 3-6 p.m., school days.

■ Call 886-7088 for additional information regarding the Prestonsburg Elementary Family Resource Center or its programs.

South Floyd Youth Services Center

■ Committee sign-ups may be done through the Youth Services Center office.

■ Walking track open to public.

■ The center has a one-stop career station satellite that is available to the community as well as students.

■ Anyone interested in Adult Ed may contact the center for information.

■ All new students and visitors, stop by the Center, located on the South Floyd campus, Room 232, and see Mable Hall.

■ For more information call 452-9600 or 9607 and ask for Mable Hall, ext. 243, or Keith Smallwood, ext. 242.

Stumbo Elementary/Mud Creek Family Resource Center.

■ March 17 - "Tobacco Prevention," Our Lady of the Way Hospital, 1 p.m., for 5th grade.

■ March 24 - "Give Yourself a Break Day," for all Floyd County parents, grandparents and guardians, at Mountain Arts Center.

■ March 24 - "Let's Talk

About Drugs," Our Lady of the Way Hospital, 1 p.m., for K-3.

■ FRC monthly Advisory Council meetings will be held the first Wednesday of each month, at 4 p.m. Call for more info.

■ Lost & Found located in Family Resource Center.

■ Resource Center hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parents and community members are welcome to visit. For questions, call 587-2233 - ask for Tristan Parsons, Center Coordinator, or Anita Tackett, Assistant.

W.D. Osborne "Rainbow Junction" Family Resource Center

Character Words for the Month: Tolerance and Kindness.

■ March 14-16 - "Good Touch, Bad Touch," for grades K-3, by Lisa Hamilton, in individual classrooms.

■ March 18 - Heart Health/CPR demonstration, 5th grade, 1:45 p.m., in gym. Presented by Kim Sanders, OLWH.

■ March 24 - "Give Yourself a Break Day," at Mountain Arts Center, registration at 8:30 a.m. For parents, grandparents, guardians of Floyd County students. Learn to relax while you relax and enjoy guest speakers, door prizes, and a free lunch.

(See SCHOOL, page three)

YESTERDAYS

(Items taken from
The Floyd County
Times,
10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and
60 years ago.)

Ten Years Ago March 15 and 17, 1995

Prestonsburg City Council said, Monday, they needed more information and time to make a decision about a proposal to turn an abandoned mine into a tourist attraction...Almost a month before the current labor contract expired, members of the United Steel Workers Union ratified a three-year contract with the Appalachian Regional Health Care Corporation...The Kentucky Tourism Cabinet is developing a master plan for tourism, and Floyd County could be included in its blueprint. Tourism officials will conduct a regional forum at Wilkinson/Stumbo Conference Center on March 22, at 1 p.m. to solicit citizen input from eastern Kentuckians for the statewide master plan...A special meeting of the Prestonsburg Housing Authority will be held Wednesday, March 15, at the Green Acres office in Prestonsburg. Items on the agenda are the proposed operating budget for 1995-1996; revised operating budget for 1994-95; disposition of vacated tenants accounts, admissions and continued occupancy policies and procedures; and disposition of junked equipment...Floyd County's Democratic Party has a new executive committee chairman and a candidate to run in November for magistrate, in district three. Floyd Sheriff Paul Hunt Thompson was elected at committee chairman, and Elmer Ray Johnson of Buckingham was the party's choice for the magistrate's post...At Monday's Allen City Commission meeting, board members voted to purchase two additional sets of Christmas street lights for just under \$2,000...A 32-year-old Floyd County woman was killed and her daughter was injured, Monday morning, in a traffic accident at an intersection near Garrett. Malissa G. Slone, of Garrett, died when the vehicle she was operating apparently pulled into the path of a tractor trailer driven by Adam Wireman of Hueysville on KY 80...Former Floyd County Times society editor Docia Baldrige Woods died Monday, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. She was 83. Woods filled the society pages of the Times with her snippets of news for approximately 16 years. She laid aside her journalism pen in 1993, after she broke a bone in her hand...Floyd County school officials are investigating how two Prestonsburg High School students managed to take home state assessment tests to complete. The

incident happened last month during the final stages of the state KIRIS testing in the school system, Geoff Belcher, communications director for the district, said Tuesday. Floyd School Board attorney Phil Damron said, Thursday, that he had been designated by school officials to take over the investigation into the incident, and that no student would be reprimanded...Former United States Congressman Chris Perkins, 40, was sentenced to 21 months in a federal prison, Monday, after pleading guilty in December to charges of fraud...Hallard Hall, 47, of Prater Creek, is charged with the attempted murder of a police officer, and his wife and daughter are facing assault charges after an altercation with police, Wednesday, afternoon at Prater Creek...The case of Wesley Martin, 19, of Wayland, accused of pointing a gun at a Wayland woman was referred to a grand jury, Wednesday, by Floyd District Judge James Allen...It appears that Floyd Countians are satisfied with the tax rates announced by the Floyd Board of Education, because no one appeared at a hearing, Tuesday, to comment on the issue...The threat of closure of Melvin Elementary's lunchroom by the Floyd County Health Department ended this week after a reexamination of the facility revealed that the school has corrected critical health violations...When Governor Brereton Jones' bus rolled into Prestonsburg Wednesday, two Floyd County projects became a little richer. Jones brought \$230,000 in state and federal monies to fund an education and a historical project in the county. These included the David School and the May House project...A \$100,000 bond was set, Thursday, for Bill Powers, 64, of Auxier, who was indicted last week by a Floyd County Grand Jury on charges of sexually abusing six minors between 1989 and 1993...Sam Chaffins, of David, was arrested by a bailiff, Wednesday morning, when he arrived at Floyd Circuit Judge John David Caudill's office to explain why he was late for court...There died: Docia Baldrige Woods, 83, of Prestonsburg, Monday, March 13, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Alex Hamilton, 86, of Prestonsburg, Sunday, March 12, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Eddie Dean Tackett, 39, of Beaver, Monday, March 13; Elizabeth Ann Johnson Hall Norvell, 54, of Prestonsburg, Tuesday, March 14, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Maudie Mae Collins, 74, of Prichard, West Virginia, formerly of Wheelwright, Sunday, March 12, at

Cabell Huntington Hospital; Mary F. Bailey, 58, of St. Clemenes, Michigan, formerly of Prestonsburg, February 21; Jessie James Woods, 68, of Prestonsburg, Thursday, March 9, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Alverta Samons, 46, of Drift, Friday, March 10, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Dixie Lewis, 62, of Banner, Wednesday, March 8, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin; Flonnie Marshall, 82, of Prestonsburg, Sunday, March 12, at Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington; Brandy LeAnn Mullins, seven-month-old daughter of Rodney Mullins and Regina Hall, both of Melvin, Friday, March 10, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Homer Hall, 68, of Galveston, Friday, March 10, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Brigham Young Roberts, 78, of Ashland, Saturday, March 11, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital; Josephine Spradlin, 89, of Ada, Ohio, Friday, March 10, at Lima Memorial Hospital, Lima, Ohio; Malissa Gail Slone, 32, of Garrett, Monday, March 13, at Garrett, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident; Claude Allen Shumate, 47, of Sesser, Illinois, Friday, March 10, at Marshall Browning Hospital in DeQuoin, Illinois; Anne Newsome Read, 62, of Stone Mountain, Georgia, formerly of Ligon, Tuesday, March 14, at Dekalb Medical Center in Decatur, Georgia; Kathryn Henkel Blackburn, 79, of Betsy Layne, Wednesday, March 15, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Herbert Lewis, 69, of Sydney, formerly of Banner, Thursday, March 16, at Paul B.Hall Medical Center; Alverta Samons, 46, of Drift, Friday, March 10, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg; George Johnson, 73, of Speight, March 11, at Mountain Manor Nursing Home, Pikeville.

Twenty Years Ago March 13, 1985

Prestonsburg or its utilities system will have to pay five local gas producers around \$50,000 for gas the city never used as a result of a recent decision by the Supreme Court of Kentucky...Floyd County school officials sparred last week with a state appointed watchdog, Don Fightmaster, whose report had earlier prompted the State Board of Education to hand Floyd County school officials a set of curt directives...There died: Former Prestonsburg policeman Ray Click, 73, of

Manton, at Highlands Regional Medical Center...Stephen Dean Gibson, son of Daryl and Nancy Lee Stumbo Gibson of McDowell, stillborn, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital...Joe Helton, 90, of Prestonsburg, Sunday, at Highlands Regional Medical Center...Michael Gregory Keen, five-week-old son of Joey and Bertha Meade Keen of West Prestonsburg, was dead on arrival at the Highlands Regional Hospital, Sunday...Watt Hale, 88, former Prestonsburg police judge and city councilman, Monday, at the Mountain Manor Nursing Home...James Lee Ousley, 54, died Monday, at his home on Middle Creek.

Thirty Years Ago March 12, 1975

The Floyd Fiscal Court, last Wednesday, awarded contracts for the collection and disposal of solid waste to Floyd County Sanitation, Inc., and Okie Lawson, of Harold...Brandishing a bayonet, a 17-year-old Chicago youth robbed Roberts' Market of \$800, and wounded store owner Lee Roberts, Sunday night, at the Goble-Roberts Addition...The weight of Monday's wet snowfall caused a section of metal dock to tilt and partially sink at Jenny Wiley State Park boat dock...Paintsville votes, last Friday, defeated the move to legalize the sale of alcoholic beverages there...There died: Myrtle Ousley, 73, of Topmost, last Wednesday, at the McDowell Hospital; Glenn Allen Hale, 60, at his home at Harold, Monday; H. Scalf, 73, of Endicott, Saturday, at his home; Martin Hall, 66, of Hi Hat, Feb. 26, at the McDowell Hospital; Allen Chaffins, 83, of Garrett, last Saturday, at a hospital, here; Oliver Branham, 91, Monday, at Grethel; W. E. Parker, 85, of Wayland, last Wednesday, at a nursing home, here.

Forty Years Ago March 11, 1965

President Johnson signed, Tuesday, the \$1.1 billion Appalachian Development Act which, with the so-called antipoverity funds made available through the federal Office of Economic Opportunity, is designed to set in motion large-scale measures to bring the Appalachian states out

(See YESTERDAYS, page three)

Critter

Continued from p1

sick when he conducts his own egg hunt a week later.

The traditional Easter dinner often includes a ham or other meat dish. Fatty meats are often the cause of digestive disorders in pets, ranging from a mild upset stomach to a painful and potentially fatal case of pancreatitis. As always, bones are very hazardous in any size and in any quantity. They should never be fed to pets, and they should be disposed of carefully and safely.

Lisa also brought in an article about the dangers of Easter Lilies in cats. Only a very small amount of the plant has to be ingested—two or three leaves can be fatal.

Cats who chew on a Lily plant (most species of Lily are toxic to cats to varying degrees) generally start to show signs of nausea (drooling, vomiting), loss of appetite, and increased urination within a very short time—early indications of kidney damage. The condition progresses to complete kidney failure with severe nausea, seizures and no urine production very rapidly. Death

generally follows in 3-4 days.

Apparently cats are the only species affected this severely by Lilies; dogs generally develop an upset stomach without any long-term effects. Obviously, if you even think your cat has nibbled on a Lily plant, you should call your vet immediately.

Once again, a reminder to avoid purchasing live chicks, ducklings or bunnies as Easter gifts for children. Unless you have plans to provide a home to an adult chicken, duck or rabbit long term, don't get an animal as a novelty. It is inhumane to the animal and unfair to the child. I feel sorry for the baby animals being exploited this way, too, but the best thing to do is not even go look at them when you see them being sold. If we don't provide a market, people will stop thinking of Easter pets as a way to make a quick buck.

If we keep these tips in mind for a safe and happy Easter, our most vivid holiday memory should be how ridiculous Spike looked wearing those fake bunny ears.

Oak

Continued from p1

while others would turn right and head toward town.

I'm not sure that at the time I was even aware that there were three sets of railroad tracks that ran beneath the tipple. One was for gons to be loaded with large lumps of coal, another was for medium lumps and the third was for fine coal. After it was dumped, the coal was carried by a belt to noisy screens which sifted the various sizes and when one gon was full, they'd push it out of the way and drop another one in its place. Every afternoon the C&O shifter would come and collect the loaded gons and pull them off to a train yard in town. I never gave a thought to where they went from there.

Sometimes I'd stop what I was doing in the late afternoon to watch the empty gons being pushed up a fourth set of

tracks where 15 or 20 would sit waiting for the time they'd be needed. The trackful of empties sat on a pretty good grade, with gravity being the primary power that moved them to beneath the tipple.

Anyway, back to the truck counting part of my tale, on days I had nothing else to do - that is to say if no one was particularly interested in going swimming or something - and depending upon who joined me in the cool shade of the store's front porch, sometimes I'd sit long enough to count as many as 20 loaded trucks.

But, I guess it's pretty obvious that we're a lifetime away from the days when the primary purpose of coal trucks was to give a kid something to count other than the number of days remaining before school started again.

Weddings



Music-Gambill

Mr. and Mrs. M. Jack Music, of Auxier, along with Mr. and Mrs. Faron Gambill, of Hazard, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Honchel, of Lexington, are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their children, Jessica Elizabeth Music and Faron Gregory Gambill. Jessica and Greg are both graduates of Alice Lloyd College and Union College, with master's degrees in educational administration. Jessica teaches language arts at Adams Middle School; Greg teaches social studies at Paintsville High School. The couple plan to reside in Auxier, following a destination wedding on St. Lucia Island. A post-wedding reception will be held in the couple's honor on July 29, 2005, at the First Presbyterian Church, in Prestonsburg.



Adams-Young

Connie Adams, of Langley, and Jonathan Young, of Pike County, are happy to announce their forthcoming marriage. Connie is the daughter of Polly Hall, of Prestonsburg. Jonathan is the son of Margaret Young and John Young, both also of Pike County. The couple will marry on June 25, 2005.

Town Branch Church to hold Easter clothing give-away on March 19

Shown above are some local girls who attended a recent voluntary seminar and informational meeting, held especially for young girls, at the Town Branch Hope Center, Town Branch Christian Victory Fellowship Church. The meeting included a question-and-answer session by which the young ladies were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding personal care and other health issues, as well as any other topic that they may have had an interest in.

The session was conducted under the ministry of the Town

Branch Church, located on Town Branch Road, in Prestonsburg.

Pastor Tom Nelson and church teachers and leaders strive to make themselves available to those in need, whether the need may be for food, clothing, or other physical needs or for spiritual needs.

This coming Saturday, March 19, the church will hold its annual Easter clothing give-away. Children of all ages, both boys and girls, are welcome to come and receive new Easter outfits, underwear, socks and

shoes and goody bags containing personal care items.

The give-away will get underway at 10 a.m. and continue throughout the day until all

have been served. All are welcome to participate and more information may be received by calling the church office at 889-9286.



These girls enjoyed an evening of information, refreshments and door prizes recently at the Town Branch Church. The church will hold its annual Easter clothing give-away on Saturday, March 19, beginning at 10 a.m.

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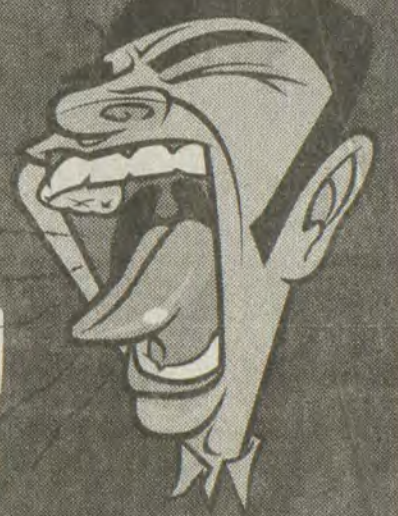
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Korner

invaded Tootsie's territory. Food, clothes, and shoes were strewn all about and as the music was blaring, we were convinced we could cut a rug as good as anyone on American Bandstand. Chatty, Cathy's mom, could too, and had even joined in on our dance fest. The front door opened, and in walked Tootsie. He always reminded me of "Buford Pusser" in the movie "Walking Tall" - larger than life itself. My first thought was, "Uh-oh, we've had it." "His living room's a mess, the music's loud, and he's

going to have our heads on a platter," I thought. No more than the thought had crossed my mind, Tootsie grabbed Chatty and they showed that room full of giggling girls just exactly how to cut a rug! And boy, could they dance! When he laughed, I remember instantly thinking "He's not scary, he's just a big ol' teddy bear." And that seemed to be the same conclusion arrived at by so many as they reflected on their memories of this large loveable man. Tootsie loved to share Jesus

and His Word and his Light shined through to the many souls he came in contact with. Yes, my heart ached that Berthie would no longer hear his voice on the other end of a phone, or feel his hugs and have her father here in the flesh with her any longer. Yet, I felt joy that Tootsie would be reunited with Chatty in Heaven and what rejoicing was taking place. A real roller coaster of emotions. Sunday was the first time I had been back to the Pine Grove Baptist Church since Spouse and I had said our vows there twenty-five years ago!

Continued from p1

To think that it had been thirty-two years since that pajama party and Tootsie becoming a bigger than life teddy bear really blew my mind. My prayers for Berthie, her sister Jeff and brothers Gilford and Morris Joe, are for strength, wisdom, and most of all, peace of mind knowing they have not one, but two of God's most precious guardian angels now watching over them!

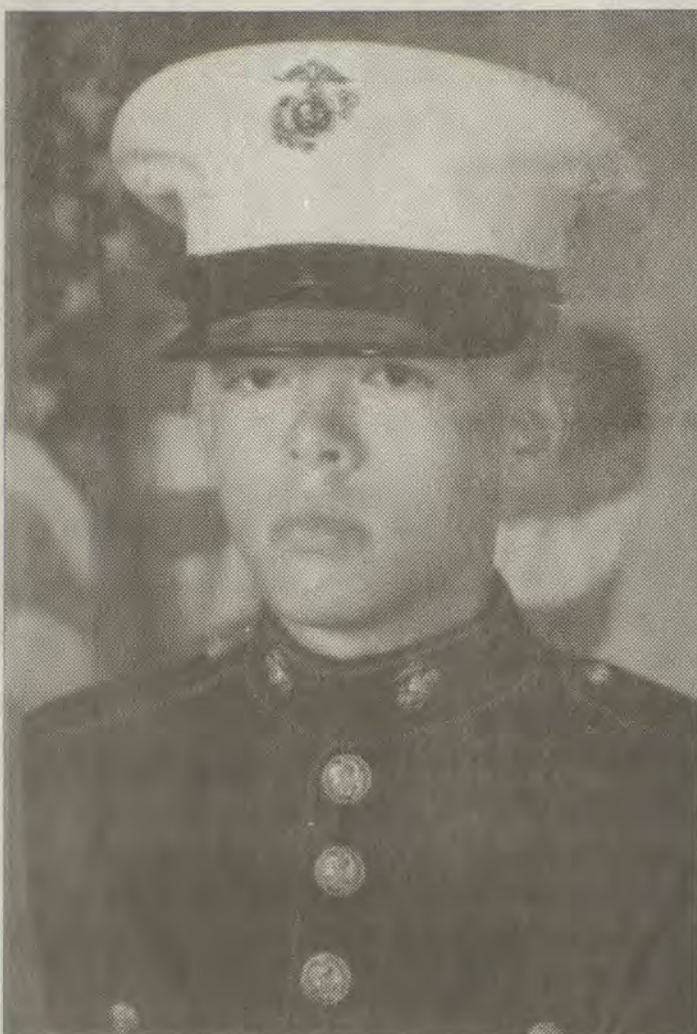
'Til Next Week,
I love you Berthie
God's Blessings....

Births/Birthdays



Happy 1st Birthday, Emily!

Emily Grace Evans will celebrate her first birthday on March 18, 2005, with a "Dora the Explorer" theme party and lots of family members and friends. Emily is the daughter of Bradley and Susan Evans, of Grethel, who wish their "Little Princess" a very happy day!



Marine Corp graduate

John Newsome, the son of Connie and Denver Newsome, of McDowell, graduated from Marine Corp boot camp, at Parris Island, South Carolina, on Janu-

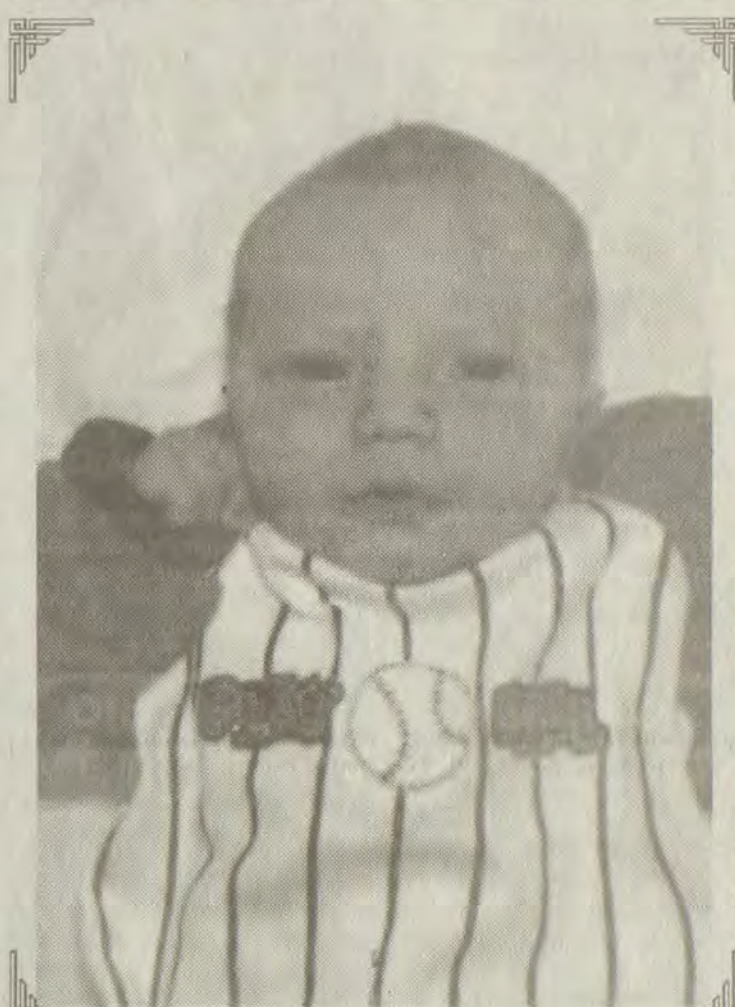
ary 28, 2005. He is the grandson of Grace Yates, of Garrett, and the late Maynard Hooper, and the late Faye and Earl Denver Newsome, formerly of McDowell.

Miss Billie

Continued from p1

here in Eastern Kentucky." In 1990, she brought together a group of talented musicians and performers gleaned from the very hills of her native region. She dubbed this group "The Kentucky Opry," from which the "KY Opry Junior Pros" soon followed. For several years, Osborne and her musicians performed from the backs of pickup trucks in local parking lots and in various school auditoriums, as well as from the stage of the Jenny Wiley Theatre. "We just made do however, and wherever we could," she said. The group soon gained acclaim through both word of mouth and rave reviews, mustering ever more courage and determination along the way. Holding special performances for statesmen and potential sponsors, Miss Billie soon convinced a wide array of supporters that the talent of our region deserved to be showcased in a state-of-the-art music center and performance hall. Finally, in the autumn of 1996, Miss Billie's dream came true when the doors of the Mountain Arts Center were opened to the public. Miss Billie's "kids" finally had a place they could call their own. Stellar performances by both regional talent as well as

nationally known musicians have graced the halls of the arts center and Miss Billie is more than proud of her KY Opry and Jr. Pro performers. But, she speaks with a special pride of her performing arts summer program, held annually for children of elementary and middle school age. "It's just a wonderful program, wonderful," she said. "I go out to nine different counties. I'm out in these counties just all the time, looking for talented children. The schools love to see me come and they always just welcome me right in. I tell the children all about our program and I invite them to sing for me and then those that are interested will show up in the summer to learn about putting on a show. It takes a lot of hard work, but we feed them each day, and bus them in, and in one month's time, these kids put together a show that just blows your mind," she continued. "Why Hal Rogers (US Congressman) says he's never seen anything like it," she said. Rogers has been noted as saying that "Billie Jean Osborne was the driving force behind the creation of this spectacular performing arts showplace we call the Mountain Arts Center." Miss Billie, who has received numerous honors, recently received a special honor of which she is most proud when her alma mater, Eastern Kentucky University, recognized her as one of Kentucky's most successful people. "I like the honors," she said, "but really, God gets the glory, not me...not me!" Miss Billie Jean Osborne - bringing glory to Floyd County and its young people. We are proud to call you our own.



New Arrival

Christopher Elwood Scott Hughes was born on February 14, 2005, to proud parents Randall and Chayla Hughes, of Banner. He weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz. He is the first grandson of Chris and Joanna Reid, of Banner, and the grandchild of Arlene and Ronnie Goble, of Harold. He is the little brother of Lesley Hughes, of Banner. His family is overjoyed with his arrival.

MEET DR. QURESHY



Dr. Hammad Qureshy
Internal Medicine Specialist

Martin County "After Hours" Clinic
Located on Route 3, near Route 645 Intersection
Monday through Friday, 5:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.;
Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
appointments are not required
For more information, call 298-4000

Highlands Martin County After Hours Clinic, located on Route 3 near Inez, is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Hammad Qureshy. Dr. Qureshy is a Board Certified Internal Medicine Specialist and Pulmologist. He will be available to see patients of all ages in the After Hours Clinic for minor illnesses or accidents, and for more serious conditions such as COPD, asthma, lung cancer, and diabetes.

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to the residents of Martin County to
help you feel better soon.

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Double Delight

Bobby and Bulah Gayheart, of Leburn, are proud to announce the birth of their precious grandchildren, Daniel Patrick and Reagan Caroline Wombles, born January 31, 2005. The twins are the children of Mark and Teresa Wombles, of Lexington. They are the paternal grandchildren of Russell and Linda Wombles, of London.

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Kid Scoop

This Week: Women's History

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THE AMAZING BABE

From track and field events to golf to bowling to baseball to basketball, Babe Didrikson-Zaharias proved that women can excel in sports. Meet this sports legend on today's Kid Scoop.

INDIVIDUALITY

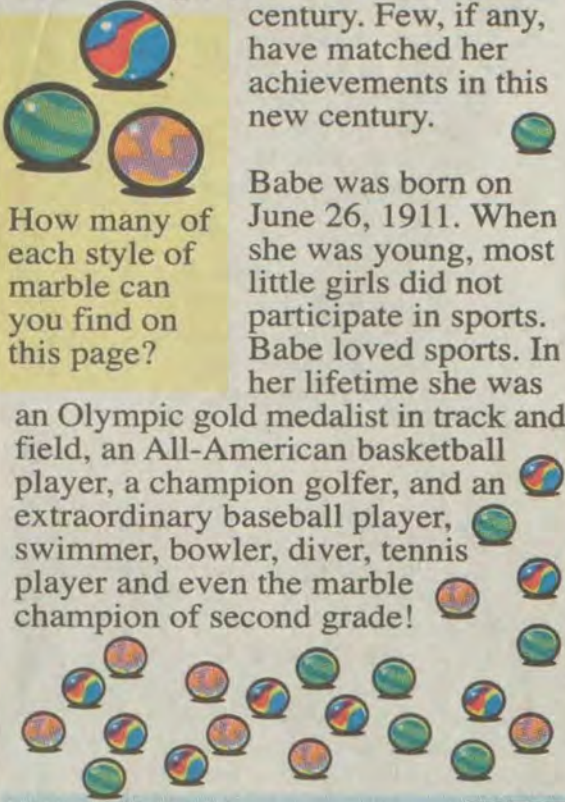
The Sporting Life

Babe Didrikson Zaharias is considered one of the greatest athletes of the last century. Few, if any, have matched her achievements in this new century.

Babe was born on June 26, 1911. When she was young, most little girls did not participate in sports. Babe loved sports. In her lifetime she was

an Olympic gold medalist in track and field, an All-American basketball player, a champion golfer, and an extraordinary baseball player, swimmer, bowler, diver, tennis player and even the marble champion of second grade!

How many of each style of marble can you find on this page?



COMMITMENT

Hedge Hurdles

When the news of the 1928 Olympic Games filled the papers, Babe decided to begin training right away. Babe practiced hurdles and high jumps by soaring over seven hedges alongside her street. When one of the hedges was a bit too high, she asked the people who lived there to cut it down to the right size – and they did!



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?

USGA Offers FREE Booklet about Babe: Would you like to know more about Babe? Email DNormoyle@USGA.org and ask for a free copy of the U.S. Golf Association's booklet for kids "Character of a Champion."

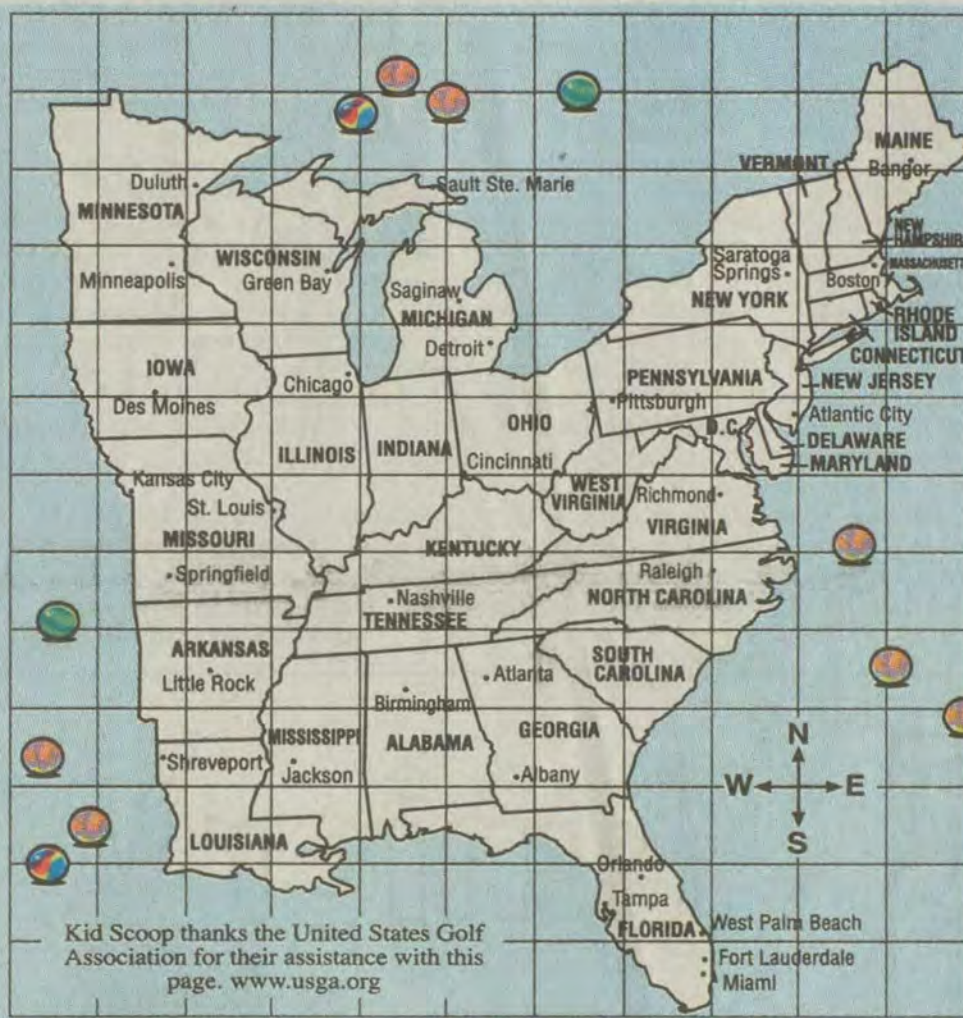
PERSEVERANCE

Baseball Babe

In the summer of 1934, Babe played 200 baseball games as she traveled the country with an all-male team called, the House of David. Babe was their star pitcher.

Use the clues to find the names of four cities where Babe played baseball with the House of David team.

Standards Link: Social Science: Use map skills to locate information.



CLUE 1: Find Fort Lauderdale, FL on the map. Move 1 square west. Next, move 9 squares north. Then move 2 squares to the east. What city is located in that square?

CLUE 2: Start in the square where the city you found in Clue 1 is located. Move 3 squares west. Next move 1 square south. Which city is located in that square?

CLUE 3: From the final square in Clue 2, move 2 squares south. Next move 2 squares west. Then move 2 squares north. Which city is located in that square?

CLUE 4: From the final square in Clue 3, move 2 squares west. Next move 1 square north. Which city is located in that square?

Extra! Extra!

Just Like Babe

Babe was a woman of commitment, discipline, perseverance and determination. Find examples of people with those same character traits in today's newspaper.

Standards Link: Language Arts/Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

DETERMINATION

Babe the Golfer

Babe played her first game of golf when she was in Los Angeles for the 1932 Games. She took to the game at once.

However, Babe's entry into a Texas state golf championship was rejected at first. Some _____ in the Texas Women's Golf Association complained about Babe's lack of social standing.

But Babe was determined to be a _____. For several years she played exhibition games until she was finally permitted to play in _____ tournaments. The first year, 1946-47, she won 13 tournaments in a row. Babe would go on to _____ 113 golf tournaments.

Standards Link: Social Science: Understand the importance of individual action and character.



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Where does each word belong?

- GOLFER**
- AMATEUR**
- WIN**
- LADIES**
- OLYMPIC**

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

- BABE
- ZAHARIAS
- HURDLES
- OLYMPIC
- SOCIAL
- CHARACTER
- GOLFER
- EXCEL
- MARBLES
- HIGH
- TRACK
- GAMES
- SEVEN
- MALE
- PLAYER



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Write On!

Woman I Admire

Deadline: April 10, 2005
Published: Week of May 8, 2005
Send your story to:
Woman I Admire
P.O. Box 390
Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653
Please include your school and grade.

I admire Rosa Parks because she was an extraordinary person. She stood up against racism and stood up for herself. It must have been very hard to do.
Christina
2nd grade

I admire Sacagawea because she helped Lewis and Clark on their journey. If it weren't for her, they probably wouldn't have made it.
Jesse
5th grade

The woman I admire is my mother. I admire her because she never gives up on anything, no matter what it is.
Taylor
6th grade

A woman I admire is Selena. She was a good singer. Selena died in 1995 when I was one year old. I admire her because she sings my favorite song and I appreciate her music.
Rosa
6th grade

A girl who I deeply respect and look up to is my best friend, Erica. She always has something fun for us to do. Also, she's always kind, understanding and inviting. She is fair to everyone. Lastly, you never have to feel embarrassed about being weird or funny in front of her because she's always got an even funnier joke and never worries if she looks hilarious. I'm probably not the only friend of hers who looks to her as a role model.
Rachel
6th grade

The woman I admire the most is my mom. She listens to what people say and she cares about people.
Ashley
6th grade

I admire Oprah because she has made reading popular all around the world. She has also taught Americans to eat right and exercise more and to express their feelings. Oprah Winfrey is also amazing because she started out very poor and now she is one of the richest people on earth. Oprah doesn't just use the money on what she wants, but she uses her money for poor people.
Emily
4th grade

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Famous Fun
Babe's athletic talent and quick wit often made headlines in the newspaper. Select headlines from today's newspaper and rewrite them so they convey the opposite meaning.
Standards Link: Writing Strategies: Use descriptive words when writing.



Why did the golfer wear two pairs of pants?

ANSWER: In case he got a hole in one.

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Mountain Arts Center
StoneCrest Golf Course



Mayor Fannin
and
City Council

BRAIN FREEZE

School of Surprises

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LG&E ENERGY FOUNDATION
 Partners in Education
 LG&E KJ

Written by Bob Rouse
 Illustrated by Frank Yates

CHAPTER 10 (Final Chapter)

The story so far: Faced with losing their school, a team of students played a cross-country scavenger hunt, trying to win a rap star's mansion. But there's one clue left to solve.

Last week's clue:

The lesson doesn't end at the door to the classroom.
 Keep weaving threads of the story on life's loom.
 You're always learnin',
 Brain always churnin'.
 You traveled many miles and saw our great country.
 Now share with others what you know and you did see.
 In your new school,
 Y'all be cool!

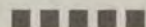
"I don't know what to do first when I get home," Nathan said to Amber as the plane left New Orleans and soared over the Mississippi River.

Amber smiled. "I do. I'm going to the Limestone Corner Grocery to get a cheeseburger," she said. "They're the best."

A few rows back, Myron and Latisha talked about their last clue. "It's really an assignment," Myron said. "Haven't we already won the scavenger hunt? Don't we get the mansion?"

Latisha took a drink of airline orange juice. "FreeZee said we need to come up with a plan before he gives up his mansion."

"This is the hardest one yet," Myron said before eating a pretzel.



Six months after the students returned to Limestone, the town was crowded with newspaper reporters, TV satellite trucks, and hundreds of visitors.

At the dedication of the new Goldenrod Elementary School, Principal Sanchez cut the ribbon held by the rest of the Goldenrod staff. The visitors and reporters rushed into the school. They wanted to see how the mansion built for a wealthy rapper had been transformed into a school.

They weren't disappointed.

The grand hall was now the main office, featuring everything from security monitors to educational video games. The bedrooms and dining room had been made into classrooms, with personal computers at each desk, comfy furniture for reading, and a huge plasma screen to show everything from educational videos to Internet hook-ups.

The ballroom (or "jam hall," as FreeZee had called it) was now the school cafeteria, and the kitchen was

equipped with pizza ovens and smoothie makers. The cooks couldn't stop grinning.

The gym didn't need many changes. It already had a full-size basketball court, gymnastic equipment, and a climbing wall. Extra space was added to the locker room, though, so that up to 60 students could change and shower after swimming in the Olympic-size pool.

Another addition was needed for the recording studio, so several classes could record and review their rehearsals.

Outside, a fresh bed of wood chips was under the biggest collection of playground equipment in the state: swings, slides, an obstacle course, a racecourse for pedal-powered racecars, and more.

Mr. Sanchez showed the visitors all the fancy features of the new school. But then he said, "I've saved the best for last. Let's check out the school library."

When the visitors entered the room, most of them stared for several minutes before taking notes or pictures. "FreeZee had already built an amazing library," Mr. Sanchez said. "We added tables and chairs, a main desk, and extra equipment and computers."

"I think you'll really like this, though," the principal said as he led the adults around a corner. "We took a courtyard and created learning centers designed by students."

In a wide hallway with glass walls, the visitors could see rooms filled with hi-tech equipment.

"Let me give you an overview of these centers before you talk to the members of the scavenger hunt team who designed them," Mr. Sanchez said. "This first center is all about personal safety at home, at school, on the Internet — and in airports. It was designed by Myron Stepp."

As Myron gave a small wave, the principal continued. "Next up is Amber Tally, who worked with our librarians to develop a readers' and writers' room," he said. "Students can use special software to search for books by author, topic, type, and time period. Amber will host discussions about writers who took chances."

Mr. Sanchez propped open a glass door. "In this room, the focus is on American heroes. Students can read books,

view videos, and download information about the people who made our country great — from presidents and generals to preachers and teachers."

"Latisha Deel will be here soon," Mr. Sanchez continued. "She's on a conference call with Lance Armstrong and Jimmy Carter, arranging a visit."

"Here we have Nathan Page's research room." Nathan looked up from a computer screen and waved. "Nathan pulled together a team of computer experts to give students all the information they could ever want about any topic," Mr. Sanchez said. "No brain freezes in this school, right Nathan?"

At the end of the hallway, the visitors saw Ms. Roosevelt in a brightly lit room. "Finally, this is our First Amendment center. This room was a gift to Ms. Roosevelt from FreeZee and the team," the principal said. "At each station, students learn about a different part of the First Amendment in a virtual reality booth. It's quite amazing."



The next day was the start of school. Myron, Latisha, Nathan, and Amber joined the other fifth-graders in a sparkling classroom near the escalator. No one was surprised to see FreeZee at the front of the classroom with Ms. James, the teacher. But they were totally surprised when Ms. James introduced FreeZee as Mr. Jerome Frost, student teacher.

After comments of "No way!" and "Student teacher?" faded, Mr. Frost addressed the class.

"You seem surprised that I'd go from rapper to teacher," he said, smiling. "Well, I've made all the money I need. Now I need to make a difference."

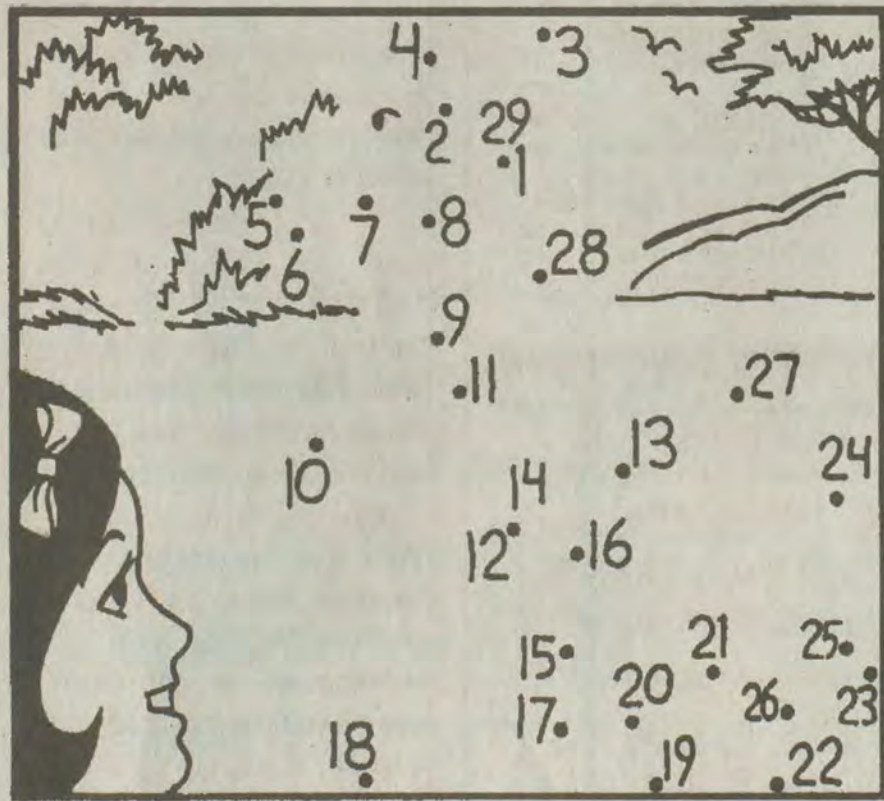
Mr. Frost continued. "Load your history CDs, please, and we'll get started..."

Bob Rouse and Frank Yates both work for the Lexington Herald-Leader. For classroom activities to use with this story, go to www.kypress.com.

Brought to you by: LG&E Foundation and Kentucky Press Association



CLIP & SAVE EACH CHAPTER IN YOUR CHAPTER BOOKS, AVAILABLE FROM THE FLOYD COUNTY TIMES



WHA DOT? Hop to it before this subject gets away ... add lines to complete the picture. What can you draw?

SPRING AHEAD! In the words of G.K. Chesterton, "Spring never is spring unless it — — —." Add the three missing words. "uoos 001 sallow"

DICE-Y TRICK! Display two dice. Place one atop the other, say a few magic words, lift the top die, and alakazam, the dice cling together as one. Here's how it's done:

Before producing the dice, wet your finger with your tongue. Apply moisture secretly to the bottom of the upper die.

When the dice are pressed together, moisture will cause them to adhere sufficiently to allow both to be raised at the same time.

Separate dice and put challenge to friends. By the way, keep dice away from young children, who may swallow them.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

	1	2	3	4	5
1		I	T	C	H
2	I				
3	T				
4	C				
5	H				

TO ITCH HIS OWN WORD SQUARE

FIVE five-letter words form a word square at left, with four letters (ITCH) of the first word in place.

You are asked to insert missing words in accord with definitions below:

1. Advertiser's come-on.
2. Toughen up to pain.
3. Another word for "potato."
4. Set of beliefs.
5. Long-billed, long-necked, long-legged wader.

Keep in mind that word square words read alike both across and down.

Remember, only one letter is missing from first word.



1. Pitch. 2. Inure. 3. Tuber. 4. Credo. 5. Heron.

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

My name: _____

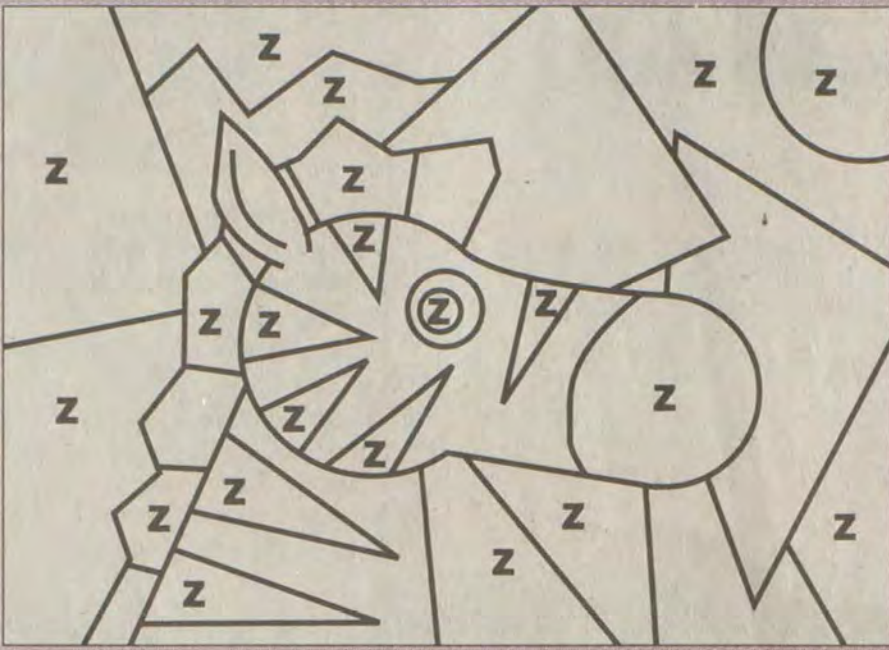
My Kid Scoop™

Vol. 4 No. 12 © 2005 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

Learning Buddies: Spell your child's first name, using the lines to write large letters. Use an uppercase letter for the first letter in the name and lowercase letters to spell the rest. Have your child trace the letters with a finger, crayon or pencil.

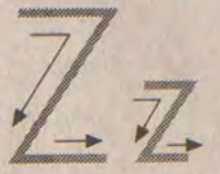
What is hiding here?

Color the spaces with the letter Z black. What do you see?



My Letters

Z is for Zipper
z is for zipper



Learning Buddies: Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter Z. Say the letter as you trace it.

How many words or pictures can you find on this page that start with the Z sound like the word zipper?

My Numbers

How many ?
How many ?
How many ?



Learning Buddies: Trace and say the number. Read the questions. Touch and count to find the answers.

My Rhyme Time

Z is for the Zebra
That kept Zoe busy,
She counted his stripes
'Til she felt she was dizzy.

My Sentence

Learning Buddies: Read the first part of the sentence aloud. Ask your child to think of a way to finish the sentence. Write your child's words in the lines. Read the entire sentence to your child while pointing out that reading is done from left to right. Older children may want to trace all or some of the letters in the sentence.



Zoom goes the



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Letter Identification With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that start with the same sound as the letter Z in zipper.	Math Play Point to the number 3 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.	Fasteners Look at the clothes people are wearing in pictures in the newspaper. Talk with your child about how those clothes might be fastened. Do they use zippers, buttons, hooks, belts? Something else?	Handwriting Stripes Lay one sheet of newspaper on the table so that it is horizontal. Use the columns of type as lines to practice writing. Have your child trace the lines of type to make zebra stripes.	Who's in the Zoo? With your child, look through the newspaper for pictures of animals. Ask which animals could be found in a zoo. Where else could you find each of the animals?	Three Z Practice rhyming, listening and large motor skills. Wad a sheet of newspaper into a ball. Tape the ball so that you can toss it back and forth. Each time you or your child tosses the ball, say a word. The person who catches the ball needs to say a rhyming word.	Zebra Visit Pretend you and your child are going to have a visit from a zebra. Look through the newspaper for things you would need to have on hand to care for the zebra.



My Kid Scoop comes out once a week, but you can use the newspaper every day to prepare your child for success in school. Each daily activity focuses on a specific learning readiness skill.

Step by Step Success 1. Read the activity instruction aloud. 2. Show how to do the activity by doing it yourself first. 3. Ask your child to copy what you do.

Wishing Well®

2	7	3	6	7	6	7	8	7	6	2	7	6
W	A	T	E	L	X	E	R	R	P	A	T	E
7	4	2	8	3	7	6	7	6	5	4	5	8
N	A	R	E	E	E	C	S	T	L	N	O	T
6	4	5	2	4	2	4	2	6	2	4	7	2
T	E	V	M	L	F	O	E	O	E	Q	S	L
4	5	3	5	7	2	8	2	8	7	4	2	4
U	E	A	E	P	I	U	N	R	A	E	G	N
2	4	8	4	5	7	3	8	6	7	3	4	7
S	T	N	I	X	Y	C	T	W	S	H	D	O
4	8	6	7	4	6	3	5	3	5	8	7	3
E	O	I	F	A	N	S	T	U	E	N	F	C
5	8	5	8	5	8	3	8	3	5	3	8	3
N	A	D	T	E	U	C	R	E	D	S	E	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Rational Numbers

by Linda Thistle

Using the clues, simple arithmetic, and a little logic, place a single digit (0 to 9) in each empty box in the diagram. To help you get started, one digit has been entered in the diagram.



- ACROSS**
- Three less than 10-Down
 - Five less than 10-Across
 - The first digit is the sum of the other digits
 - 10-Across plus 15-Across
 - Twenty less than 1-Down
 - One less than 1-Down
 - 12-Down minus 15-Across
 - Consecutive digits in ascending order
 - 11-Across plus 4-Down
 - Four less than 8-Down

- DOWN**
- The first digit is four times the last digit
 - Digits of 13-Across rearranged
 - 16-Down minus 5-Across
 - 9-Across plus 12-Across
 - Five times 16-Down
 - Seven times 1-Down
 - The last digit is the sum of the other digits
 - 2-Across plus 17-Across
 - 10-Across plus 16-Down
 - The first digit is three times the last digit

Rational Numbers answers

2	9	0	3
9	8	6	8
6	8	6	8
4	0	4	0
2	1	4	0
1	7	0	1
1	6	9	6
3	6	3	9
4	2	8	4

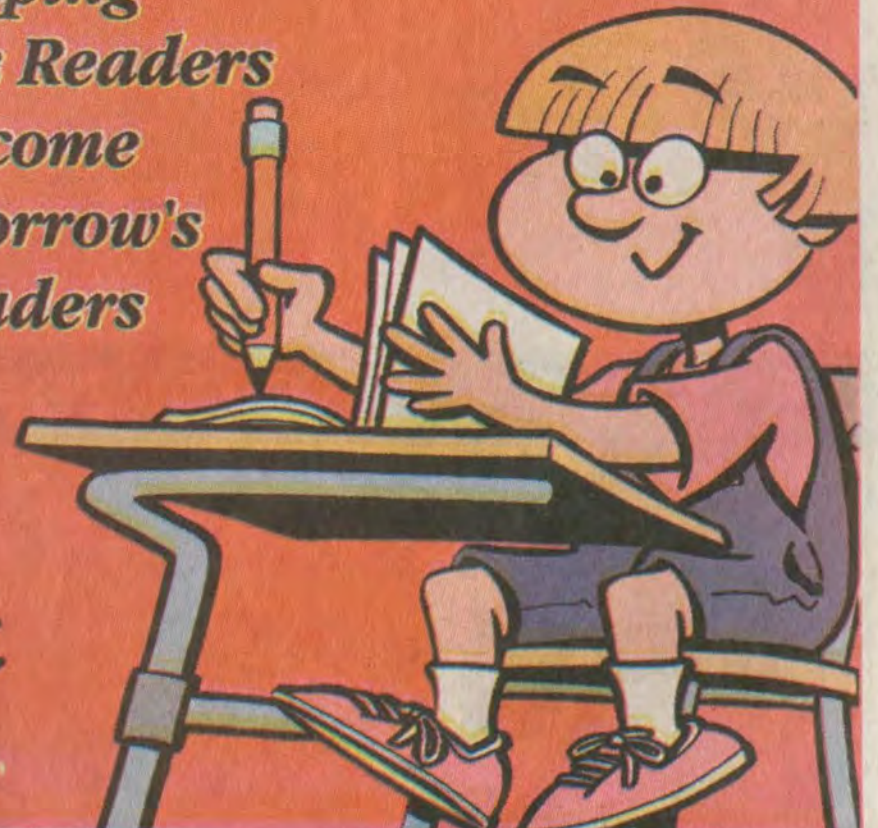
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"Kishpin bontoyeg kidatsokanan, kiga onikemin kajibikinamagoyeg..."
 "If we cease sharing our stories, our knowledge becomes lost."

The Algonquins

For more than 6,000 years, the Algonquin (or Algonkin) people lived in what is now Western Quebec and Northeastern Ontario. It is not known what the Algonquin population was before contact with Europeans and war with the Iroquois decimated their numbers.

Today there are 10 Algonquin tribes, or nations, with a population of about 8,000.

What's in a name?

The Algonquin people usually call themselves the Anishnabe or Anishinabe (plural: Anishnabek or Anishnabeg), which means "the people" or "the original people." Sometimes, to distinguish themselves from other native people in their area, they will refer to themselves as Algonquins.

It is important to distinguish between Algonquin (pronounced AI-GON-kin) and Algonquian, because while a tribe may speak an Algonquian dialect, they do not necessarily belong to the Algonquin family of peoples.

Algonquin refers to a particular tribal community, while Algonquian is a very large linguistic group. Many tribes throughout North America speak a form of Algonquian, but Algonquins live in the Ottawa Valley of Canada.

Learn the language

Today, some Algonquin tribes, or bands, speak French. Others speak English. About half of the population also speaks their native language. If you ever have an opportunity to meet an Algonquin, you might say "kwey" (which rhymes with "day") as a friendly greeting. Below are some other easy Algonquin words.

English	Algonquin	Pronounced
heart	odey	oh-day
hand	onindji	oh-knee-dgee
river	zibi	see-bee
lake	sagahigan	saga-ye-gan
corn	madamin	ma-da-min
apple	wabimin	wabi-min
strawberry	odeimin	o-day-ye-min
soup	nabobi	na-bow-be

A brief history: Battle for trade and space

The Algonquin peoples have lived in the region of the Ottawa River watershed for more than 6,000 years. The timeline begins in the 17th century, when contact with Europeans began to change their world.

1609 French traders established a trade agreement with the Algonquin.

1615 The French made a trade alliance with the Hurons, while the Iroquois allied themselves with the Dutch traders.

1754—1763 The French and Indian War. During this time the Algonquin were vital allies for the French.

1775—1783 The American Revolution. During the late 1700s, Algonquin lands were overrun with timber-men, trappers, settlers and British loyalists.

1812—1814 Despite continuing land conflicts, the Algonquins fought with the British during the War of 1812.

1821 The Northwest Company merged with the Hudson's Bay Company.

1840s Lumber crews arrived, disrupting the natural wildlife.

1870s The Algonquin of Golden Lake purchased reserve lands.

1929 The Cabonga hydro dam was built, damaging Algonquin lands.

1991 The historical Trilateral Agreement gave the Algonquins a voice on how sensitive forest lands could be used and protected.

1962 The Abitibi-winni purchased their reserve at Pikogan.

1974 The Kipawa obtained their reserve lands.

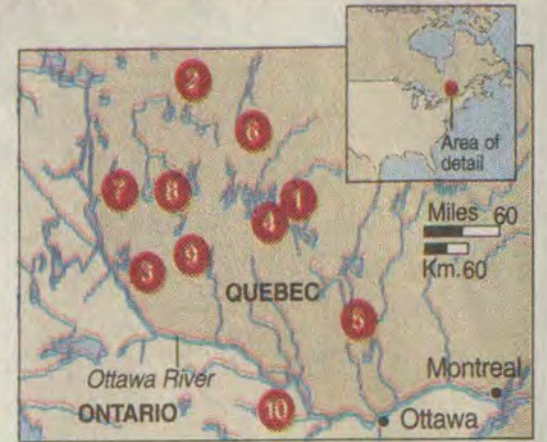
c. 1620—1680 Firearms and furs played a deadly role in what is sometimes called the Beaver Wars. Many Eastern tribes become embroiled in battles for control of land and trade, like the Algonquin and the Iroquois.

1763 Britain's King George III promised to respect the territories of 24 nations, including those of the Algonquin.



Where are they today?

Today there are 10 recognized Algonquin nations with a population of about 8,000 people. Nine of these communities are in Quebec and one is in Ontario.



- 1 Barriere Lake (Rapid Lake)
- 2 Dominion Abitibi (Abitibiwinni, Pikogan)
- 3 Eagle Village (Kebaowek, Kipawa)
- 4 Kitcisakik (Grand Lake Victoria)
- 5 Kitigan Zibi (Maniwaki, River Desert)
- 6 Lac-Simon
- 7 Timiscamigue (Timiskaming, Notre dame du Nord, Ville Marie)
- 8 Winneway (Long Point)
- 9 Wolf Lake (Hunter's Point)
- 10 Golden Lake (Pikwakanagan)

The First Nations

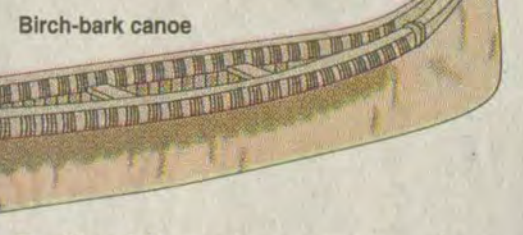
The Algonquin community is divided into tribes or bands (also called First Nations). Most of the tribes live on a reserve or reservation; the Wolf Lake Nation, the Kitcisakik (Grand Lake) and the Winneway (Long Point) are still fighting for the rights to reservation land.

Each Algonquin band has its own government, laws, police and services (much like a small country), but the Canadian government considers the Algonquin people citizens and does control some decisions.

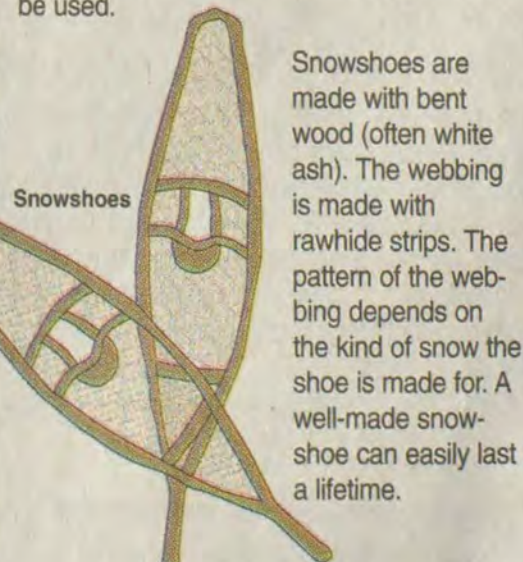
Each First Nation has a political leader called the **ogima** or ogema. Historically the ogima was a man chosen by tribal council members. Today the ogima can be a man or a woman and is elected by the Algonquins.

Getting around

The early explorers and traders greatly envied the Algonquins' beautifully crafted birch-bark canoes and the clever snowshoes that made winter travel so much easier. Today the Algonquin people get around just like most people in North America — by motor vehicle. But some Algonquins remember the skills of their forefathers and continue to make canoes and snowshoes in the traditional way.



Traditional Algonquin canoes are made with a hand-carved cedar wood frame. The gunwales are bound or lashed with spruce root. If the right tree can be located, a skilled builder can create a canoe using one large piece of birch bark. If such a tree cannot be found, several smaller sheets of bark may be used.



SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; Algonquin Nation Secretariat; Algonquin Nation Tribal Council; Museum of New France; Native Languages of the Americas; www.nativetech.org

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After coming up short in his first three seasons, Kentucky senior Chuck Hayes is determined to reach the Final Four

MAN ON A MISSION

The Cats begin their quest Thursday when they take on Eastern Kentucky

NORTHCAROLINATARHEELS

Coach: Roy Williams Conference: Atlantic Coast Location: Chapel Hill, N.C. Website: tarheelblue.com Record: 27-4 (14-2) RPI Rank: 7 Sagarin Rank: 1 RPI Schedule Rank: 32
Skinny: The Tar Heels are arguably the most talented team in the country. What they can do with that talent come NCAA Tournament time remains to be seen.



Starting Five table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg. Key Reserves table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg.

#1 NORTH CAROLINA (27-4) VS. #16 OAKLAND/ALABAMA A&M

OAKLANDGOLDENGRIZZLIES

Coach: Greg Kamme Conference: Mid-Continent Location: Rochester, Mich. Website: www.ougrizzlies.com Record: 18-13 (7-9) RPI Rank: 196 Sagarin Rank: 185 RPI Schedule Rank: 129
Skinny: In order for Oakland's Cinderella story to continue, which seems very unlikely, they'll have to have enormous contributions from their two leading scorers, Rawle Marshall and Courtney Scott, both of whom average more than 17 points per game.

ALABAMA A&M BULLDOGS

Coach: Van Pettaway Conference: SWAC Location: Normal, Ala. Website: aamu.edu/PR/sports/athletics.htm Record: 18-13 (11-7) RPI Rank: 230 Sagarin Rank: 290 RPI Schedule Rank: 323
Skinny: A year ago Alabama A&M had a losing record, but with the influx of 10 new players this season, the Bulldogs turned the program around and made the Big Dance on the last day of the season.

Best wins: Southern (86-59) Worst Losses: Fairfield (47-62), UAB (68-100), Texas Southern (75-82)

VILLANOVAWILDCATS

Coach: Jay Wright Conference: Big East Location: Philadelphia, Penn. Website: villanova.com Record: 22-7 (11-5) RPI Rank: 15 Sagarin Rank: 17 RPI Schedule Rank: 8
Skinny: It's easy to get overlooked in the Big East when your league-mates include the defending national champion and a team that spent the first 20 games unbeaten.



Starting Five table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg. Key Reserves table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg.

#5 VILLANOVA (22-7) VS. #12 NEW MEXICO (26-6)

NEWMEXICOLOBOS

Coach: Ritchie McKay Conference: Mountain West Location: Albuquerque, N.M. Website: golobos.com Record: 26-6 (10-4) RPI Rank: 71 Sagarin Rank: 39 RPI Schedule Rank: 299
Skinny: Weak schedule or not, the Lobos are looking to make some noise in March after a 23-win regular season.



Starting Five table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg. Key Reserves table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg.

MINNESOTAGOPHERS

Coach: Dan Monson Conference: Big Ten Location: Minneapolis, Minn. Website: gopherssports.com Record: 21-10 (10-6) RPI Rank: 45 Sagarin Rank: 37 RPI Schedule Rank: 56
Skinny: Dan Monson deserves a lot of credit for leading a group expected to be a Big Ten doormat to the NCAA Tournament.



Starting Five table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg. Key Reserves table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg.

#8 MINNESOTA (21-10) VS. #9 IOWA STATE (18-11)

IOWASTATECYCLONES

Coach: Wayne Morgan Conference: Big 12 Location: Ames, Iowa Website: cyclones.com Record: 18-11 (9-7) RPI Rank: 78 Sagarin Rank: 49 RPI Schedule Rank: 108
Skinny: After a horrid 0-5 start in Big 12 play, the Cyclones are playing great ball of late, something the committee rewarded them for.



Starting Five table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg. Key Reserves table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg.

FLORIDAGATORS

Coach: Billy Donovan Conference: Southeastern Location: Gainesville, Fla. Website: gatorzone.com Record: 23-7 (12-4) RPI Rank: 23 Sagarin Rank: 15 RPI Schedule Rank: 34
Skinny: Florida has been a NCAA Tournament flop each year since it stormed the championship game in 2000, failing to get to the Sweet 16 in four tournaments since.



Starting Five table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg. Key Reserves table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg.

#4 FLORIDA (23-7) VS. #13 OHIO (21-10)

OHIOBOBCATS

Coach: Tim O'Shea Conference: Mid-American Location: Athens, Ohio Website: ohiobobcats.com Record: 21-10 (12-7) RPI Rank: 33 Sagarin Rank: 79 RPI Schedule Rank: 84
Skinny: The Bobcats made the field of 65 for the first time in 11 years after knocking off Buffalo in overtime on a last second putback.



Starting Five table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg. Key Reserves table with columns: pos, ht, wt, yr, ppg, rpg.

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MARCH 18 & 20; NASHVILLE, TENN.



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4	BOSTON COLLEGE (24-4)
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6	LSU (20-9)
11	UAB (21-10)
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3	ARIZONA (27-6)
14	UTAH STATE (24-7)
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16	MONTANA (18-12)
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8	PACIFIC (26-3)
9	PITTSBURGH (20-8)
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12	GEORGE WASH. (22-7)
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14	WINTHROP (27-5)
7	WEST VIRGINIA (21-10)
10	CREIGHTON (23-10)
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IOWA STATE (18-11)	9
VILLANOVA (22-7)	5
NEW MEXICO (26-6)	12
MARCH 18 & 20; GAYLORD CENTER, NASHVILLE, TENN.	
FLORIDA (23-7)	4
OHIO (21-10)	13
WISCONSIN (22-8)	6
NORTHERN IOWA (21-10)	11
MARCH 18 & 20; FORD CENTER, OKLAHOMA CITY	
KANSAS (23-6)	3
BUCKNELL (22-9)	14
CHARLOTTE (21-7)	7
N. C. STATE (19-13)	10
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CONNECTICUT (22-7)	2
CENTRAL FLORIDA (24-8)	15
DUKE (25-5)	1
DELAWARE STATE (19-13)	16
MARCH 18 & 20; CHARLOTTE (N.C.) COLISEUM	
STANFORD (18-12)	8
MISSISSIPPI STATE (22-10)	9
MICHIGAN STATE (22-6)	5
OLD DOMINION (28-5)	12
MARCH 18 & 20; CENTRUM CENTRE, WORCESTER, MASS.	
SYRACUSE (27-6)	4
VERMONT (24-6)	13
UTAH (27-5)	6
UTEP (27-7)	11
MARCH 17 & 19; MCKALE CENTER, TUCSON, ARI.	
OKLAHOMA (24-7)	3
NIAGARA (20-9)	14
CINCINNATI (24-7)	7
IOWA (21-11)	10
MARCH 17 & 19; RCA DOME, INDIANAPOLIS	
KENTUCKY (25-5)	2
EASTERN KENTUCKY (22-8)	15

* PLAY-IN GAME IN DAYTON, OHIO; TUESDAY, MARCH 15
OAKLAND (12-18) VS. ALABAMA A&M (18-13)

The Cats' Pause
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Hayes demands that success in NCAA is a 'matter of will'

DARRELL BIRD

dbird@catspause.com



ATLANTA - The debate now isn't whether Kentucky deserved a No. 1 seed for the 2005 NCAA Tournament beginning this week. It's whether the Cats will play like a contender or a pretender?

"We've had spurts where we look like we could be a dangerous team going into the NCAA Tournament. But there are times when we have spurts where we look like we're beatable and not as good as we've been hyped," a somber Chuck Hayes offered moments after UK lost 70-53 to Florida in the SEC Tournament championship.

"We can compete with anybody in the country," Hayes said. "We just have to want it. We have to go get it. It's a matter

of will. Who wants it more?"

Kentucky enters NCAA play with a 25-5 record, but lost twice in the past eight days to Florida. In Sunday's game, UK was out-rebounded 48-31 and made just 2-of-19 three-pointers.

"It would've been nice to receive the SEC Tournament championship trophy," Hayes said. "It would've been nice to cut down the nets. To get the hats and the T-shirt. But we have to put that in the past now."

"The SEC is over, the regular season, the tournament," he added. "It's a whole new ball game and we've got to put this game behind us."

A new season, indeed, with more at stake than ever before as the senior begins his final quest for an elusive Final Four berth.

"We have to snap out of it," Hayes said. "Right now, it's a single-elimination so we have to bounce back and get the job done. A lot of people are going to have to look in the mirror and do some soul-searching before we start the NCAA."

Kentucky has looked terrific and terrible within the same season, scintillating and stagnant as a team that plays hard from tip to buzzer but rarely wins games going away.

"One minute you'll see it and the next minute it's gone," Hayes said. "We know we have it in us, the will and the drive to get the job done. We just need to get some consistency and a killer instinct to get out there and get the job done."

One dramatic change for Kentucky in this NCAA Tournament is that the Cats will be a bit under the radar. For the past two seasons, they've been proclaimed as the overall No. 1 seed when Selection Sunday pairings were announced only to have fallen short of the Final Four.

"I think it's good for us that we have the motivation of this loss going into the tournament," Hayes said. "We'll be flying underneath the radar a little bit with a chance to achieve our goals right under people's noses. That will feel good."

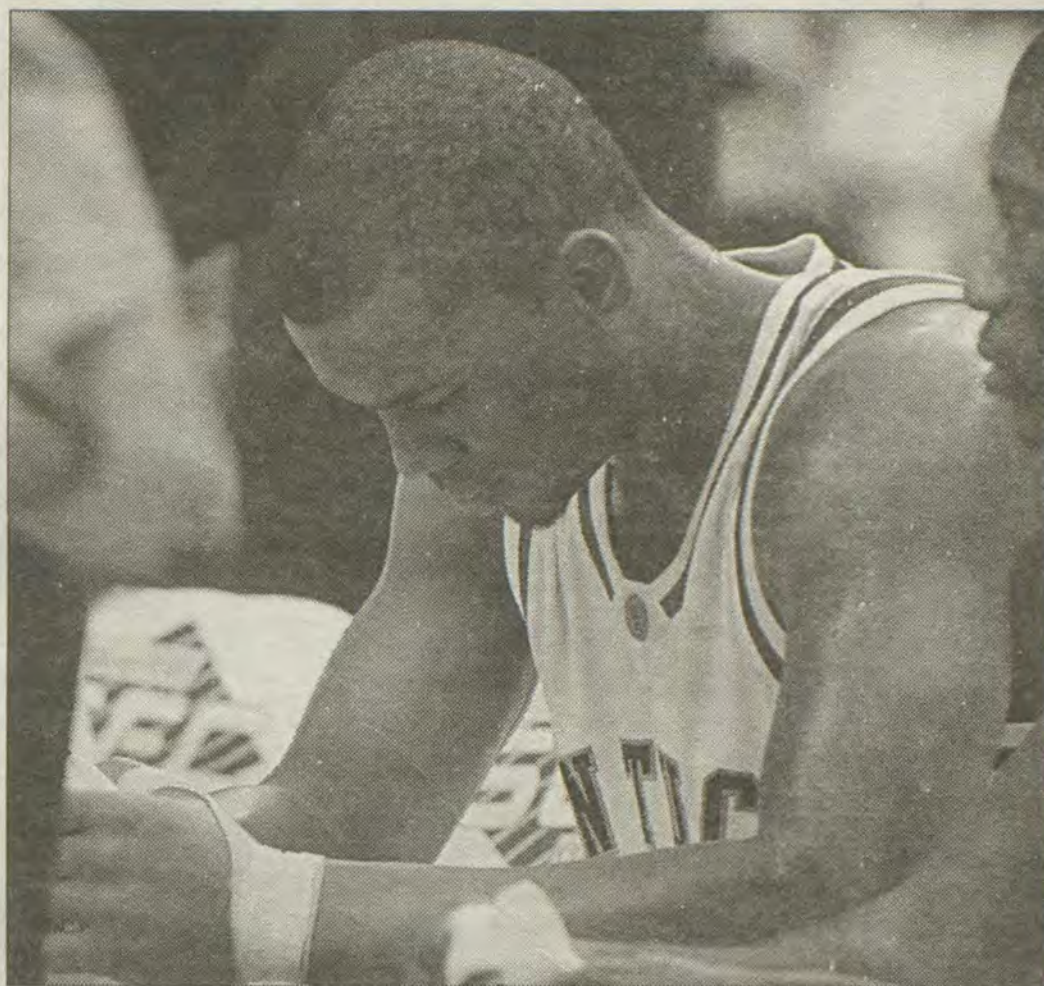
Assuming Kentucky can be one of the teams that gets its act together in an otherwise bizarre season that saw a string of upsets in conference tournament play.

"The season can now go as long as six games or as short as one," Hayes said. "The secret will be whoever has the chemistry and the focus for those six games. They'll be the ones who are successful."

All of which brings us full circle to the opening question. Will Kentucky show up for NCAA play as a contender or pretender? The now-you-see-it, now-you-don't mystery described by Hayes?

"This program is measured by championships," Hayes said. "We let one slip by as far as the SEC Tournament goes. Now, we have a chance to go get one more."

►►►Darrell Bird is general manager of The Cats' Pause.



UK senior Chuck Hayes said the team has to put the disappointing loss to Florida behind them and focus on the team's goal of reaching the Final Four.

TCP/Victoria Graff



BIRDCALLS

Observations from Darrell Bird

Rondo feared worst with ankle sprain

ATLANTA - Imagine if you have started every single game of the regular season only to have the reward of tournament play snatched away in an instant?

That fear was racing through the mind of Kentucky's **Rajon Rondo** (right) when he suffered an ankle sprain one day before the Cats' first game in the Southeastern Conference Tournament.

"I was nervous that I wasn't going to play anymore for the rest of the season," Rondo said. "I really didn't know what to think."

Rondo did play, collecting nine points, four assists and three steals in 19 minutes as Kentucky defeated Tennessee 76-62 to advance.

To the unsuspecting, it was hard to tell any injury had occurred in that game or throughout the three-day tournament.

"Well, I didn't want to show a weakness," Rondo said with a smile.

But the injury is real. Near the conclusion of UK's last practice at Memorial Coliseum before boarding a flight for Atlanta, Rondo rolled his right ankle while running full speed on a fast break. It was his first ever sprained ankle.



"For about 10 minutes, I wouldn't talk to anybody. I was really upset," Rondo said. "I went down on the play. It was really painful."

That's when UK trainer **David Kindy** stepped in.

"I got good treatment so I was out there and ready to play," Rondo said. "I iced it every 20 minutes on and off and I've been laying in bed keeping it elevated."

"I wanted to play so bad," Rondo added. "I was hoping and praying that everything would be all right for the game."

The sprained ankle follows bruised ribs which Rondo suffered a few weeks ago. With his weighing only 155 pounds, the question begs whether the rigors of a college schedule are taking a toll?

"It is a long season and guys are more physical so I've got to step my weight training up next year," Rondo said. "But **Allen Iverson** is my inspiration. He's a little guy and he does it 82 nights a year, so I'm going to keep coming out."

Smashed Moss

Rajon Rondo didn't have the corner on foot injuries during the SEC Tournament. Near the end of regulation during Saturday's UK-LSU semifinal, the Tigers' 300-pound **Glen "Big Baby" Davis** fell on **Ravi Moss** foot during a scramble for a loose ball.

"Yeah, if Big Baby falls on you it's gonna hurt real bad, and it's gonna hurt for a while, too," Moss said with a smile, his foot wrapped with an ice pack for precaution.

Moss (right) was headed for the sidelines in pursuit of the ball, so did at least never see the collision coming?

"Yeah right," he said. "It was like slow motion. I could see him coming right at me and I was like, 'Oh my goodness.'"



Cats open NCAA Tournament with Eastern, Travis Ford

MATT MAY
The Cats' Pause

Kentucky coach Tubby Smith knows Travis Ford well, but the UK coach will have to put friendship aside this week when the Cats square off with Ford's Eastern Kentucky squad in the NCAA Tournament's first round.

The Cats were awarded a No. 2 seed in the Austin region as an at-large team after they lost the SEC Tournament final to Florida on Sunday. Eastern Kentucky won the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament last week to make it to Big Dance for the first time in 26 years. Smith, who coached Ford when he was UK's point guard from 1992-94, is excited to see the Colonels matched up with his team in Indianapolis.

"Knowing Travis Ford the way I do, having coached him back when I was an assistant at Kentucky, he's a tough, competitive coach and his team plays the way he played," Smith said. "They can shoot the three and are aggressive at both ends of the court. We played them last year and saw first hand the impact Travis has had on that program. It's great for the fans in the state that Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky are playing one another."

The Cats come into the tournament in a bit of a slump, having lost to Florida twice in a week, thus ending their hopes for what would have been a third consecutive No. 1 seed in the tournament. Instead, Duke took the top spot in the Cats' region, setting up what could be a rematch of the 1992 and 1998 Elite Eight games between the two schools.

"We had our chances," Smith said of getting a top seed. "I thought we had two opportunities in the past week to wrap up a No. 1 seed. I think if we had beaten Florida at Florida or in the SEC Tournament championship game then we would have been a one."

UK will try to erase the bad memories of the upset loss to UAB in last season's second round. The players have made no secret of the fact they want to atone for that defeat in Columbus.

"We certainly remember last year, but this is a new team," Smith said. "You're always excited this time of year. We've lost two of our last four, and that's never good. But I'm very proud of this group of young men and think they can go far."

How far the road goes this season remains to be seen, but it will start Thursday in Indianapolis with a familiar foe.

UK vs. Possible opponents (since 1990)

No. 1 Duke 2002: Duke 95, UK 92 (ot) 1999: Duke 71, UK 60 1998: UK 86, Duke 84 (NCAA-Elite 8) 1992: Duke 104, UK 103 (ot)	No. 7 Cincinnati 1991: UK 75, UC 71
No. 4 Syracuse 2000: SU 52, UK 50 (NCAA-2nd Round) 1997: UK 87, SU 53 1996: UK 76, SU 67 (NCAA-Final) 1995: UK 77, SU 71 1994: SU 93, UK 85	No. 8 Stanford 1998: UK 86, Stanford 85 (ot) (NCAA-Final Four)
No. 5 Michigan State 2004: UK 79, MSU 74 2003: MSU 71, UK 67 2001: MSU 46, UK 45 2000: UK 60, MSU 58 1999: MSU 73, UK 66 (NCAA-Elite 8)	No. 9 Mississippi State (Last five meetings) 2005: UK 94, MSU 78 2004: UK 67, MSU 66 2003: UK 64, MSU 57; UK 70, MSU 62 2002: MSU 74, UK 69 (ot)
No. 6 Utah 2003: UK 74, Utah 54 (NCAA-2nd Round) 2001: UK 56, Utah 48 1998: UK 78, Utah 69 (NCAA-Title) 1997: UK 72, Utah 59 (NCAA-Elite 8) 1996: UK 101, Utah 70 (NCAA-Sweet 16)	No. 10 Iowa 2001: UK 92, Iowa 79 (NCAA-2nd Round) 1997: UK 75, Iowa 69 (NCAA-2nd Round)
	No. 12 Old Dominion 1992: UK 88, ODU 69 (NCAA-1st Round)
	No. 15 EKU 2004: UK 101, EKU 72 2001: UK 94, EKU 79 1999: UK 99, EKU 64 1994: UK 107, EKU 78 1993: UK 82, EKU 73 1992: UK 85, EKU 55 1991: UK 74, EKU 60

REPORT: A LOOK AT THE STARTING LINEUP AND BENCH FOR EASTERN KENTUCKY

BACKCOURT

Eastern uses a three-guard lineup, but there isn't much size on the perimeter. Zach Ingles is the biggest starter in the backcourt at 6-foot-2, while both Matt Witt and Jason McLeish measure 6-foot. But the Colonels can shoot the basketball, with both Witt (14.1) and Ingles (11.9) averaging double figures. Witt is also a terrific passer, leading the Colonels by handing out 6.4 assists per game, a eye-catching stat on any level. All three starters are juniors and should be able to hold their own in size with UK's Rajon Rondo and Patrick Sparks.

FRONTCOURT

Senior forward Michael Haney is Eastern's go-to-guy on offense. The 6-foot-6 Haney averages 13.5 points a night, but he is hitting on nearly 63 percent of his field goal attempts, indicating he gets the ball in positions where he can finish. Alonzo Hird is light for a center at 205 pounds, but he averages just a shade under 10 points a game and basically matches the 8.3 rebounds Haney hauls in with 8.2 of his own.

BENCH

Ben Rushing is the only real backcourt threat off the bench, but he is yet another shooter that can cause problems if he gets hot. Eastern has two freshmen big men at their disposal in Darnell Dials and Ryan Wiersma. Those two provide some nice depth for the Colonels, who will likely need as many bodies as they can muster for the Kentucky matchup.

2004-05 Schedule

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score
Nov. 21	at Dayton	W	73-68
Nov. 23	WEBSTER	W	102-47
Nov. 27	MT. ST. JOSEPH	W	103-75
Dec. 2	SAVANNAH ST.	W	87-59
Dec. 4	at Coastal Car.	W	77-62
Dec. 8	at Western Ky.	L	63-75
Dec. 11	at Robert Morris	W	79-69
Dec. 14	GREENVILLE	W	87-62
Dec. 20	at Savannah St.	W	80-64
Dec. 22	at Florida	L	49-98
Dec. 30	at Louisville	L	63-78
Jan. 6	at UT Martin	W	71-67
Jan. 8	at Murray State	L	78-80
Jan. 13	at Austin Peay	W	67-63
Jan. 15	at Tenn. Tech	L	64-78
Jan. 20	JACKS. STATE	W	72-60
Jan. 22	SAMFORD	L	61-67
Jan. 27	MURRAY STATE	W	73-61
Jan. 29	UT MARTIN	W	95-71
Feb. 1	MOREHEAD ST.	W	83-69
Feb. 3	at Tennessee St.	L	63-75
Feb. 10	at Samford	W	56-53
Feb. 12	at Jacksonville St.	L	55-70
Feb. 17	SE MISSOURI	W	83-72
Feb. 19	EASTERN ILL.	W	74-72
Feb. 22	at Morehead St.	W	69-61
Feb. 26	AUSTIN PEAY	W	70-66
Mar. 1	TENN. STATE	W	74-68
Mar. 4	vs. SE Missouri	W	69-52
Mar. 5	vs. Austin Peay	W	52-46

Game at a Glance

When: 12:20 p.m.; Thursday, March 17
Where: RCA Dome; Indianapolis, Ind.
TV: CBS
Radio: UK Radio Network
Series: UK leads 8-0
Last Meeting: Dec. 23, 2003 - @UK 101, EKU 72

Coach: Travis Ford will be a man torn when the Colonels meet UK because the coach was one of the most beloved players in recent UK history when he played for Rick Pitino from 1992-94. Ford has struggled to get EKU over the hump before this season, but he had a terrific playing career at UK, finishing ninth on the all-time assists list.



Did You Know?


Despite being just 20 minutes apart, the Cats and Colonels have played just eight times in their histories, most of which came during Pitino's days in Lexington. Tubby Smith's UK teams have beaten Eastern three times since his arrival in Lexington.

EASTERN KENTUCKY ROSTER

#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown/High School/Previous School
3	Zach Ingles	G	6-2	190	Jr.	Gowen, MI/Pasco-Hernando JC
4	Stephen Gabbard	G	6-4	185	Fr.	Annville, KY/Jackson Co. HS
5	Bubba Long	G	5-10	180	Fr.	Owensboro, KY/Apollo HS
10	Ben Rushing	G	5-11	175	Sr.	Clinton, KY/Hickman Co. HS
11	Austin Newton	G	5-8	165	Sr.	Campbellsville, KY/Campbellsville HS
12	Matt Witt	G	6-0	180	Jr.	Tipp City, OH/Bethel HS
15	Michael Brock	F	6-7	225	So.	Independence, KY/Simon Kenton HS
21	Darnell Dials	F	6-8	200	Fr.	Lexington, KY/LaFayette HS
23	Julian Mascoll	F	6-5	200	So.	Clearwater, FL/Countryside HS
30	Jason McLeish	G	6-0	165	Jr.	Queens, NY/Westchester JC
32	Brandon Moore	F	6-4	190	So.	Huntington, WV/Spring Valley HS
33	Alonzo Hird	F	6-9	205	Jr.	Deland, FL/Sante Fe JC
35	Michael Haney	F	6-6	221	Sr.	Madisonville, KY/N. Hopkins HS
44	Ryan Wiersma	F	6-6	220	Fr.	Newark, OH/Hargrave Military Academy



Zach Ingles Matt Witt Jason McLeish Michael Haney Alonzo Hird



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Florida 70, No. 4 Kentucky 53

by PAUL NEWBERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Kentucky cost itself a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament by doing something totally out of character — losing in the Southeastern Conference tournament.

The No. 4 Wildcats were blown out over the final 11 1/2 minutes by Florida, which cruised to its first SEC tournament championship with a 70-53 rout Sunday.

The NCAA selection committee had penciled in Kentucky (25-5) as a top seed, but the second loss to Florida in eight days bumped the Wildcats to No. 2 in the Austin Regional. They will open Thursday against Eastern Kentucky in Indianapolis.

"It's just one game, but we didn't play well," coach Tubby Smith said. "Obviously, we're going to have to play better to do well in the tournament."

Matt Walsh scored 26 points, including consecutive 3-pointers that sparked a stunning 30-9 run to

close the game.

"We wanted to take down the champ," said Walsh, the tournament's MVP. "I can't imagine a better feeling than beating Kentucky for the championship."

Florida (23-7), which had beaten the Wildcats a week earlier in the regular season finale, defied history by winning its first tournament title on its 40th try against the team that has defined success in this event.

Kentucky had won the last two tournaments, 10 of the past 13 and 25 in all — more than every other school in the SEC combined. It was the worst tournament loss ever for the Wildcats, and only their fourth in the last 38 games going back to 1992.

Florida, which has a seven-game winning streak, certainly helped its NCAA positioning. The Gators earned the fourth seed in the Syracuse Regional and will meet Ohio at Nashville, Tenn., on Friday.

"We proved we're a team that can really follow through when it

counts," said David Lee, who helped the Gators manhandle Kentucky on the boards. "There were times in March the last couple of seasons where we came up short in the big games."

Even though the Georgia Dome resembled Rupp Arena South — Florida fans took up only one section in the crowd of 24,408 — the Wildcats couldn't fend off a team that's playing its best basketball of the season at the perfect time.

Kentucky shot only 37.5 percent from the field, including a dismal 2-of-19 outside the 3-point arc — depriving the Wildcats of one of their favorite weapons. They were dominated on the inside as well.

Florida set the tone in the first half with 13 offensive rebounds. The Gators finished with a 48-31 edge, led by Lee's 17 rebounds and Al Horford with nine.

"That's something we've been dealing with all year long," Smith said. "We're just not a very physical team."

Kelanna Azubuike led

Kentucky with 17 points, but none of his teammates reached double figures. Patrick Sparks missed all six of his 3-pointers and managed just four points.

Florida led throughout the first half and well into the second, but Kentucky appeared to seize control with a 15-1 outburst that had its blue-clad fans in an uproar.

Randolph Morris scored on an offensive rebound with 12:32 remaining, letting out a yell after giving Kentucky its first lead of the game at 42-40.

After Florida turned it over, Sparks drove into the lane and flipped in another basket that pushed the Wildcats to a four-point lead.

But it was all Gators the rest of the way. Coach Billy Donovan began calling plays for Walsh, and solid picks by the big men freed him up for clear looks at the basket.

"We couldn't get to him in time," Azubuike said. "He doesn't need that much space."

Walsh buried an open 3-pointer to stem Kentucky's momentum.

After Morris put up an airball, Walsh hit another 3 from the corner to put Florida back in front at 46-44.

Anthony Roberson drove right by Kentucky freshman Rajon Rondo for a layup, the Wildcats turned it over, and Walsh again connected from beyond the arc to make it 51-44.

"We just started executing and screening," Walsh said. "I did the easy part: hitting open shots. It was more my teammates setting me up than me doing anything special."

Ravi Moss broke the run of 11 straight points with a 10-foot jumper, but that was merely a brief respite in Florida's dominance. Roberson swished a 3, Walsh hit a leamer in the lane, Corey Brewer scored on a fast-break layup, Walsh made one free throw, and Brewer scored on another drive to make it 61-46.

At that point, the Florida bench was hopping up and down, knowing the Gators had finally broken Kentucky's stranglehold on the tournament. The Wildcat faithful began heading quietly for the exits.

Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky not thrilled with matchup

by MURRAY EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND — Eastern Kentucky basketball coach Travis Ford still wore a brave face the day after learning his team's first-round NCAA tournament foe would be second-seeded Kentucky.

The previous week, Ford, a former Kentucky point guard, had said several times he'd rather the Colonels not have to face his alma mater.

But when the 15th-seeded Colonels (22-8) make their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1979 on Thursday in Indianapolis, their opponent in the Austin Regional will be the team from the school about 30 miles away, in whose shadow they long have toiled.

"I don't think it's either good or bad," Ford said. "We knew we were going to have to play somebody very, very good. We're going to be an underdog. We're going to

have to play extremely well. It's going to be an incredible challenge for us."

Such a pairing seemed somewhat unlikely last week, when Kentucky (25-5) was in the running for a No. 1 seed. But the Wildcats' 70-53 loss to Florida in the Southeastern Conference tournament final on Sunday dropped them to a No. 2 seed.

Ford thought a Kentucky-Eastern Kentucky matchup would be "too obvious" for the tournament committee to consider.

Kentucky coach Tubby Smith shared that sentiment.

"We would prefer that we be able to cheer for them," Smith said. "We're sure our fans would love to cheer for Eastern Kentucky as well. But I guess the selection committee saw this as a good opportunity to match us up."

The decision by the committee to pair the Colonels and Wildcats isn't a particularly popular one in

central Kentucky, where the schools share a number of fans, although Kentucky loyalists are far more prevalent. One Eastern Kentucky player even acknowledges growing up as a Kentucky supporter.

"I was born in Missouri, but I moved to Kentucky in the fourth grade," senior forward Michael Haney said. "I followed them. I was a pretty big UK fan."

Conversely, many Kentucky fans have become followers of the Colonels during the five seasons that Ford has been their coach. Ford played one season at Missouri before transferring to Kentucky, where he played until 1994 under coach Rick Pitino and helped the Wildcats reach the 1993 Final Four.

Ford ranks second in Kentucky's record book in career free-throw shooting (88.2 percent) and ninth in career assists. He holds the single-game record for assists with 15, ironically set

against Eastern Kentucky in 1993.

Kentucky-Eastern Kentucky is one of only two first-round matchups between in-state foes. Charlotte and North Carolina State were paired in the Syracuse Regional.

"I think there was a reason they did it," Ford said of the committee's rationale. "I think they had to look at it and think, let's do this. I don't know any other reason they'd put two teams 30 miles apart from each other together."

"I think the NCAA got a little bit of a chuckle out of it at the end."

Smith, who worked with Ford when Smith was Pitino's assistant at Kentucky, is one of Ford's biggest fans. Smith and Ford have remained close — Ford and his staff even sat in on a Kentucky practice earlier this season.

"We're excited for Eastern that they're in," Smith said. "They're very deserving. We watched (Ford) build that program the right way."

During his eight seasons at Kentucky, Smith has scheduled in-state schools when possible. The Wildcats have played Eastern Kentucky three times during his tenure, most recently last season, when Kentucky won 101-72 in Lexington.

"It's not like we don't play (each other)," Smith said. "You hate to play (in the postseason) against friends and peers that you have so much respect for. That's always tough, because somebody has to win and somebody has to lose."

Eastern Kentucky is 0-5 in NCAA tournament play, while Kentucky has won seven national titles and reached the Final Four 13 times. Only four 15th-seeded teams have ever won a tournament game. But Haney said the Colonels won't be intimidated.

"Once the ball is thrown up," he said, "anything can happen. It's happened four times for a reason — because it's possible."

Cardinals a surprising fourth seed

by CHRIS DUNCAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE – Louisville has won 18 of its last 19 games, swept the Conference USA regular season and tournament championships and is currently ranked sixth in the nation.

The NCAA tournament selection committee was still not impressed.

The Cardinals (29-4) earned a No. 4 seed, a bitter surprise considering they beat four NCAA-bound teams away from home and finished the season on a nine-game winning streak. Louisville will play Sun Belt champion Louisiana-Lafayette (20-10) on Friday in Nashville, Tenn.

"We have ourselves a very difficult opening round game," said Pitino, coaching in his 11th NCAA tournament. "We'll go right to work and be ready for it."

Pitino's former team, Kentucky (25-5), blew its chance at a top seed by losing to Florida 70-53 in Sunday's Southeastern Conference tournament championship. The Wildcats earned a No. 2 seed and will play none other than nearby Eastern Kentucky (22-8), the Ohio Valley Conference champ, in the first round in Indianapolis on Thursday.

"We had our chances," said Kentucky coach Tubby Smith. "I thought we had two opportunities in the past week to wrap up a Number One seed. But you have to compliment and credit Florida because they're playing extremely well right now."

The Cardinals, meanwhile, gathered at a ritzy Italian restaurant to watch the unveiling of the brackets.

When Louisville's pairing popped up, Pitino shook his head. He was going to meet with his players later and expected they would be disappointed, too.

"I've got to lift them up a little bit," he said. "But we're in the tournament, we've met the criteria, we've met all the challenges and we've just got to keep on going."

The Cardinals had No. 2 seeds both times they won the NCAA championship, in 1980 and 1986, and fans at the restaurant were anticipating another one. But two years ago, the Cardinals were Conference USA tournament champions and also got a No. 4 seed, prompting a warning from Pitino on Sunday.

"People inside here were saying, 'We're definitely a 2, maybe a 1,'" said Pitino, entering his 11th NCAA tournament as a coach. "I said, 'Look, don't be surprised if we're a 3.' I had a gut feeling."

A win against the Ragin' Cajuns will give Louisville its first 30-victory season since 1986. If Louisville wins three more games, it will match its best record since 1983, when the Cardinals lost to Houston in the Final Four.

Pitino is trying to become the first coach to lead three different programs to the Final Four. He led Kentucky there in 1996 and 1997 and did it with Providence in 1987.

It won't be an easy path this time. If the Cardinals beat Louisiana-Lafayette, their likely second-round opponent is Georgia Tech, a Final Four team last season. Beat the Yellow Jackets or 12th-seeded George Washington and Louisville is likely to run into Pac-10 tournament champion Washington, the top seed in the Albuquerque region.

Third-ranked Wake Forest (26-5) and West Coast Conference champion Gonzaga (25-4) are the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds in Louisville's region.

The Cardinals earned a No. 10 seed last year and lost to Xavier in the first round, their ninth loss in their last 13 games. Pitino is still 27-9 in NCAA tournament play, the fourth best winning percentage among active coaches.

Kentucky, meanwhile, is a No. 2 seed, as it was when it won the 1998 NCAA championship in Smith's first season.

"We certainly remember last year, but this is a new team. You're always excited this time of year.

We've lost two of our last four, and that's never good. But I'm very proud of this group of young men and think they can go far."

The top seed in the Wildcats' region is Atlantic Coast Conference tournament champion Duke – setting up a possible third regional final between the rivals since 1992.

That would surely be intensely hyped considering the history.

Kentucky fans still cringe about Christian Laettner's last-second shot that beat the Wildcats in the 1992 East Region final. Six years later, the Wildcats came back from 17 points down to beat Duke 86-84 in the South region final.

Kentucky's first round opponent will offer a bit of history, too.

Ohio Valley Conference champion Eastern Kentucky drew a No. 15 seed and a date with the Wildcats in Indianapolis on Thursday.

Colonels' coach Travis Ford, a Madisonville native, played for

Kentucky from 1992-94 and helped the Cats reach the 1993 Final Four.

"I'm sure they'll be a lot said about that," Ford said, "but we have a game to prepare for – a very, very tough game against not a good Kentucky team, but a great Kentucky team."

The Wildcats and Colonels have only played eight times, with Kentucky winning every meeting. They met two years ago in Rupp Arena and the Wildcats won 101-72.

"We played them last year and saw first-hand the impact Travis has had on that program," Smith said. "It's great for the fans in the state that Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky are playing one another."

About 500 Eastern Kentucky fans gathered for a pep rally in Richmond on Sunday night. No one seemed to mind the pairing.

"You can't ask for anything else than to play the best," said forward Michael Haney, also a Madisonville native. "They're the

best team in this state. It's a great opportunity for this program."

Kentucky had been a No. 1 seed the last two seasons, losing one game shy of the Final Four in 2003 and falling to UAB in the second round last year.

"We certainly remember last year, but this is a new team," Smith said. "You're always excited this time of year. We've lost two of our last four, and that's never good. But I'm very proud of this group of young men and think they can go far."

Sunday's loss to Florida might not be such a bad thing. The Wildcats lost to Mississippi State in the SEC tournament championship in 1996, then rolled to the school's sixth NCAA title.

Eastern Kentucky is playing in its first NCAA tournament since 1979 and sixth all-time. The Colonels have lost their previous five first-round games.

The winner would play either Cincinnati (24-7) or Iowa (21-11) in the second round on Saturday.



photo by H. Allen Bolling

Kentucky is looking to ride the momentum from Rupp Arena into this year's NCAA Tournament.

John J. Gray

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