

The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

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Volume 79, Issue 57 • 75 Cents

Ladycats keep winning

- Page B1

briefs

Sex offender faces judge

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A child sex offender from out of state had a hearing in circuit court Monday after moving to Kentucky and failing to notify the Department of Probation and Parole for two years. Timothy Arnold, whose last known address was in Harold, appeared in court and asked for a reduced bond after being jailed for failing to notify probation and parole for two years, which carries a 1-to-5-year penalty.

Judge Danny P. Caudill heard the case and denied a motion to reduce Arnold's \$10,000 cash bond.

Arnold's attorney, Jim Adkins, argued that Arnold did not notify probation and parole several weeks ago but Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Wayne Taylor noted that Arnold still waited two years to do so and only came forward after recent media reports that authorities were looking for registered offenders in who had failed to keep their addresses current as required.

"I think the bond is lower than I would normally set," Caudill told Arnold. "I think you pose a risk. We do count this as a serious offense."

Golf course closes

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Department of Parks announced the closing of Jenny Wiley's golf course Thursday, citing financial losses that began with the opening of the Stonecrest Golf Course.

Financial losses at the Jenny Wiley Golf Course have steadily increased since Stonecrest opened its 18-hole course to golf enthusiasts in 2000.

According to Commissioner George Ward, Jenny Wiley's course rounded out 2003 with losses totaling \$27,500. Financial losses nearly doubled as popularity drew golfers away to Stonecrest last year. The golf course reported a loss of \$43,900 for 2004, Ward said.

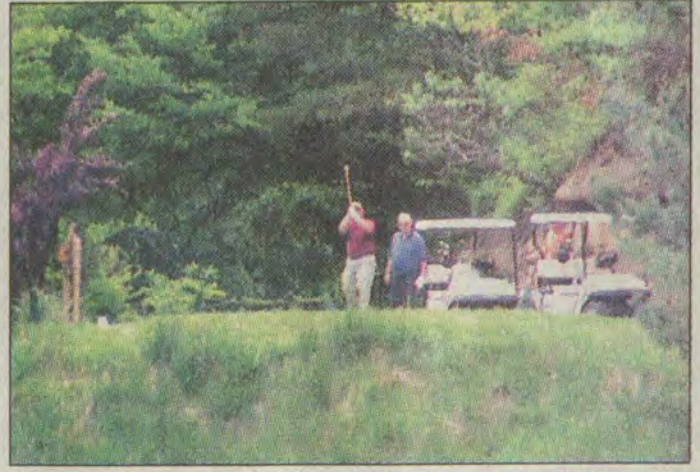
State parks spokesman Jim Carroll said that 5,500 rounds were played on the course in 2003. In 2004, the number drastically reduced to 2,850 rounds.

"You can't compare apples to

oranges," Carroll said, referring to Stonecrest, "but if you compare apples to apples, revenue generated by this course was not comparable to that on other nine-hole courses in the state parks system."

In order to continue operations, Ward said the state would have to buy \$45,000 worth of equipment this year to maintain the nine-hole course, which closed temporarily last summer because of flood dam-

(See CLOSED, page three)



Ken Termeer, of Virginia Beach, Va., and Steve Hammonds, of Georgia, played the last round of golf at the Jenny Wiley Golf Course Thursday afternoon.



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Peter Hodges, guest conductor, directs the 2005 Floyd County All-County High School Band as the members perform on the Mountain Arts Center stage. Performances by both the all-county high school and middle school bands, were presented Wednesday evening and Thursday morning. An all-county art exhibit was also on display, with an art awards program also being conducted. More in the Lifestyles Sunday edition.

Mock disaster scheduled for next week

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

Tuesday, May 17, at Prestonsburg High School.

PRESTONSBURG — A rolling meth lab crashes into a loaded school bus at Prestonsburg High School. Students are injured, screaming. Chemicals seep into the air, causing respiratory damage, burns, and other injuries.

What would you do? Who would make the call for help? How quickly will emergency officials respond? How can anyone turn such a disaster into a successful rescue mission?

Those are some of the questions being pondered by the Floyd County School District's Crisis Support Team and community emergency responders.

The mock disaster planning committee held its last meeting Thursday morning to finalize plans for a mock disaster that will take place

Derossett will pull onto the high school property around 9 a.m. His bus, loaded down with 20 students and three health assistants (acting as severely injured students), will crash with a "rolling meth lab" driven by Scott Young, from the Floyd County Health Department.

Someone, or possibly many someones, will call 911. Then, the real test begins.

Prestonsburg Police and Fire Departments, Kentucky State Police, Respond Ambulance, Transtar Ambulance and other officials will respond to the scene, where they will assess the damage and deal with the situation accordingly.

(See DISASTER, page three)

FYI

The mock disaster will take place at Prestonsburg High School on Tuesday, May 17, at 9 a.m.

Lawsuit blames Stonecrest runoff for Brandy Keg flooding

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — One day after Prestonsburg city council members discussed residential code enforcement problems at Stonecrest, a lawsuit was filed against the city for flooding damage allegedly caused by the construction of Stonecrest Golf Course.

Brandy Keg Estates resident Brent G. Clark, represented attorney John T. Chafin, alleges that the

construction of Stonecrest caused flooding at his home last year.

The suit alleges that the 20-inch drainpipes installed by the city on Stonecrest weren't large enough to carry the capacity of water it should have carried during last year's Memorial Day flood.

The "inadequate" drain pipes contributed to the flooding of Clark's residence, which was immersed in at least 20 inches of water, the lawsuit says.

Chafin also alleges that surface

water from the mountain "eroded the land" and caused an accumulation of silt to be deposited on Clark's property, "killing the lawn" and creating a "visually unattractive patch of bare, often muddy ground."

Personal property was lost in the flood and the residential property has since diminished in value, Chafin argues.

Chafin accused the city of tres-

(See LAWSUIT, page three)

Woman injured in U.S. 23 wreck

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

Rescue workers examined the damage after this wreck yesterday on U.S. 23. The driver, an unidentified woman being tended by paramedics on the driver's side of the vehicle, received only minor injuries, officials said.



photo by Mary Music

PRESTONSBURG — An unidentified woman was injured Thursday afternoon in a collision on U.S. 23 near Holiday Inn.

Prestonsburg Police Officer Brian Walker, who investigated the scene, said the woman, driving a gray Concord CX in the northbound lane, rammed into the back of a coal truck as it

(See WRECK, page three)

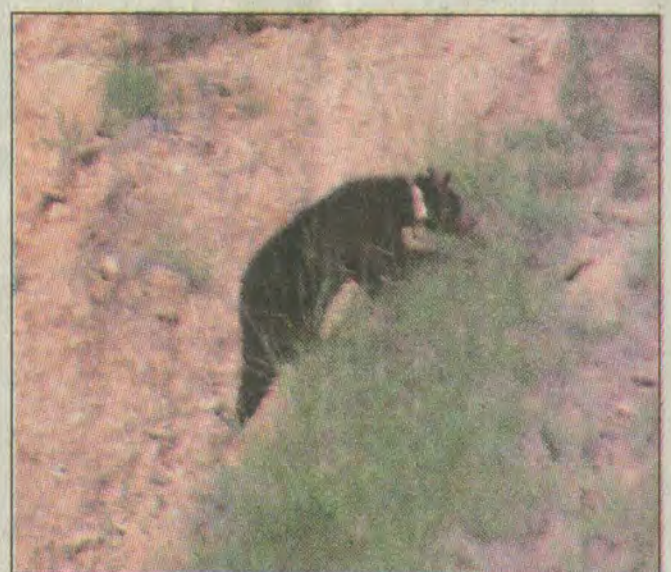


photo by Mary Music

Sam an' Tonio's customers and several passersby got a special visit Thursday evening from a black bear. The bear, dubbed "Sam" by restaurant owner Jack Absher, walked down the hillside behind the restaurant and helped himself to a meal in the dumpster. Prestonsburg City Police officers responded to the scene sometime after 7 p.m. and made attempts to contact Fish and Wildlife officials, but no one was available as of press time. Officer Mike Conn says Thursday's visit was the third sighting of the bear this week. Officers responded to a call at Long John Silver's Wednesday night, after the bear had torn into some garbage bags. Conn said he was concerned that the bear, wearing a tracking collar, was not afraid to come off the hill in view of so many people.

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



Isolated storms

High: 82 • Low: 61

Tomorrow



Scattered storms

High: 79 • Low: 52

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

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Odds & Ends

■ **LONG BEACH, Calif.** — Real estate agent Wendy Heath is undressed for success.

Heath, 34, said a blazer and slacks just don't cut it in the highly competitive Belmont Shore housing market.

She chose to wear a bikini on a billboard that went up May 2.

"It's kind of flipped people out," said Heath, who reported receiving almost as many calls from Realtors upset with the ad as those voicing support. "A couple of agents are having a fit about it, but that's because they just didn't think of it

first."

The billboard features Heath, a former personal trainer, wearing a bikini alongside the family English bulldog and the words, "Got real estate?"

"I'm here to create relationships with down-to-earth people who want to do business with me and appreciate who I am. More than anything, it's got people thinking," Heath said.

■ **WASHINGTON** — U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon is on the fast track - literally.

The dean of Tennessee's congressional delegation retained his claim as the

fastest member of Congress in a three-mile road race on Wednesday.

Gordon, 56, finished the race in 18 minutes and 17 seconds, nearly a minute and a half faster than his nearest rival, Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev.

Gordon, a Democrat, holds the record for U.S. Representatives, running a blistering 16:59 in 1995, according to race records.

"Each year it seems the competition in the Capital Challenge gets younger and faster. But that's a challenge I look forward to facing," he said.

Gordon has won 16 times

since he first entered the race in 1988.

The race included teams assembled from various offices and the media. Gordon finished 35th overall out of more than 620 runners.

■ **OKLAHOMA CITY** — Police have a pretty good idea who the burglar was who broke into a home, ate a meal, soaked in a hot tub and stole \$4,000 worth of tools.

A driver's license was found near the hot tub in Nathan Sassamon's home.

"It's not a pleasant feeling to know someone has been in your home, especially when you see these people made

themselves comfortable," Sassamon said.

Police still are searching for the 27-year-old man whose identification they found.

Sassamon said he was out of town over the weekend and returned home Sunday to find that an air compressor, eight tool boxes, a television and a stereo system were missing. Several other items had been taken, and dirty dishes were left in the kitchen.

Sassamon said his home was locked but the burglar apparently got in through a dog door in the garage and pried a door to get into the

house.

■ **SALT LAKE CITY** — Identical twin brothers are in trouble with the FBI after one went to the other's job in a secure area of the Salt Lake International Airport.

The agency said Olimpiu Nedelcu looks exactly like his brother Silviu, who works as an aircraft refueler at the airport.

FBI agent Bob Wright said Silviu couldn't make it to work so his brother went in his place.

Airport police fingerprinted the man who showed up for work and found out that he was not Silviu.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 13, the 133rd day of 2005. There are 232 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca.

On this date:

■ In 1607, the English colony at Jamestown, Va., was settled.

■ In 1842, composer Sir Arthur Sullivan, who collaborated with Sir William Gilbert in writing 14 comic operas, was born in London.

■ In 1846, the United States declared that a state of war already existed against Mexico.

■ In 1917, three peasant children near Fatima, Portugal, reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary.

■ In 1918, the first U.S. air-

mail stamps, featuring a picture of an airplane, were introduced. On some of the stamps, the airplane was printed upside-down, making them collector's items.

■ In 1940, in his first speech as prime minister of Britain, Winston Churchill told the House of Commons, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

■ In 1954, President Eisenhower signed into law the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Act.

■ In 1954, the musical play "The Pajama Game" opened on Broadway.

■ In 1958, Vice President Nixon's limousine was battered by rocks thrown by anti-U.S. demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.

■ In 1985, a confrontation between Philadelphia authorities and the radical group MOVE ended as police dropped an explosive onto the

group's headquarters; 11 people died in the resulting fire.

Ten years ago: Army Capt. Lawrence Rockwood was convicted at his court-martial in Fort Drum, N.Y., of conducting an unauthorized investigation of reported human rights abuses at a Haitian prison (the next day, Rockwood was dismissed from the military, but received no prison time).

Five years ago: Explosions at a fireworks warehouse in the Netherlands killed 22 people and injured nearly 1,000 others.

One year ago: Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld visited the Abu Ghraib prison camp in Iraq, where he insisted the Pentagon did not try to cover up abuses there. During a campaign swing in West Virginia, President Bush said he felt "disgraced" by the images of U.S. soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners but reminded his lis-

teners that actions of a handful of Americans should not sully the nation's military. TV anchorman Floyd Kalber died in Burr Ridge, Ill., at age 79.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Beatrice Arthur is 83. Critic Clive Barnes is 78. Actor Buck Taylor is 67. Actor Harvey Keitel is 66. Author Charles Baxter is 58. Actor Franklin Ajaye is 56. Singer Stevie Wonder is 55. Actress Julianne Phillips is 45. Basketball player Dennis Rodman is 44. Actor Tom Verica is 41. Country singer Lari White is 40. Singer Darius Rucker (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 39. Actress Susan Floyd is 37. Actress Samantha Morton is 28. Rock musician Mickey Madden (Maroon 5) is 26.

Thought for Today: "The worst-tempered people I've ever met were people who knew they were wrong." — Wilson Mizner, American playwright (1876-1933).

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Disaster

Continued from p1

What they won't know is which one of three scenarios will be picked out by Lola Ratliff, Floyd County safety schools coordinator. They won't know the extent of injuries at the crash site. They possibly won't even know about the "chemical spill" before it's too late and rescue responders are already contaminated.

"Victims" will be decontaminated at the scene and at Highlands Regional Medical Center and Our Lady of the Way Hospital.

The Prestonsburg Fire Department will host the designated command post and evaluators, organized by Floyd County Health Department Director Thursa Slone, will observe and take notes during the disaster. The information will be used to determine the strengths and weaknesses of school officials and those responding to the scene.

During the meeting, the group discussed a variety of possible scenarios that could turn the mock disaster into a real disaster for rescuers who respond. It's possible, they said, that a meth-crazed "gunman" will enter the school, or, it's just as possible that the school will be locked down with Principal Ted George caught outside and exposed to the dangerous "chemicals" himself. It's even possible that a real emergency occurs and the entire event will be canceled.

That, one member said, would be the real test for rescuers.

As ideas were tossed around the room, Jim Caldwell, director of public safety, asked if there would be any "fatal injuries."

The crowd grew silent.

One thing is certain, however: Rescuers will learn from this event.

Dwayne Osborne, a Respond paramedic, suggested that the entire disaster be videotaped for critiquing purposes.

Respond Ambulance participated in a mock disaster three years ago at American Standard in Paintsville and they learned more from the video than they did the actual disaster, he said.

Ratliff and Beverly Crisman, community education coordinator for Floyd County Schools, say the District Support Team has been trying to plan a mock disaster in Floyd County for several years, but was unable to do so because such an event carries with it a lot of "liabilities."

Ratliff said the board is willing to risk those liabilities because the event will help ease problems that could arise during a real disaster.

"Anytime you go through anything as realistic as a real crisis, you can go back and reflect on it and find your weaknesses," Crisman said.

Every school in Floyd County has a crisis planning manual in place. The district, with the help of other agencies, has done extensive crisis planning research, and now Ratliff says, they want to take it to the "next level."

Prestonsburg Police Chief Mike Omerod expressed concern about passersby, who may think the crisis is actually occurring.

That, he said, could make the practice drill become a bit messy.

Signs will be posted on the highway and the media will be notified, the group decided.

Wreck

reached the top of Katy Friend Mountain. The impact, Walker said, sent the car shooting across the southbound lanes "like a horseshoe." The car eventually crashed into the rock cliff adjacent to the southbound lane.

"I felt a jar and I looked up and saw her shooting across the road," said Arkansas Creek resident Daryl Adkins, who was driving the coal truck.

Jonathan Shepherd, a former EMT who witnessed the accident, said the rear end of the woman's car lifted up off the

pavement. She crashed back down in the left northbound lane, he said, causing a jolt that sent the entire car at least 3 to 4 feet off the ground.

"The entire car was airborne," he said. "I'm surprised it didn't flip."

A trail of antifreeze marked the "horseshoe" path from the left bound lane to the rock cliff alongside the southbound lane after the accident yesterday. The front end of the totaled vehicle, which had Martin County plates, smashed against the rocks.

The coal truck received minimal damage. No other injuries were reported.

Shepherd, who remained on the scene with officers, firefighters and Respond Ambulance rescuers, said the woman was conscious when he approached the vehicle.

"She said she had glanced away and looked back up and the first thing she saw was the back end of the coal truck," Shepherd said.

Walker said the woman, who remained unidentified by press time, complained with neck

Continued from p1

pain. She was transported to Highlands Regional Medical Center by Respond Ambulance.

"The main thing is," Walker said, looking toward the vehicle, "cars can be replaced. People can't. She should be okay. I hope she is okay."

The woman was wearing her seat belt, Walker said, pointing out that it's rare to investigate non-fatality wrecks on U.S. 23. Alcohol or drugs do not appear to be a contributing factor in the accident, he said.

Walker continues the investigation.

Closed

They decided to promote Stonecrest instead. Ward said the state plans to offer golf packages that include overnight accommodations at May Lodge.

Park visitors Ken Termeer, of Virginia Beach, Va., Steve Hammonds, of Georgia, and Bob Piper, of Grand Rapids, Mi., played the last round of golf on the course Thursday afternoon.

"It's a shame," Termeer said. "This is a nice facility. I always enjoy coming here."

Hammonds questioned what area children, who routinely practice on the course after school, will do now to occupy their time.

Plans for the future use of the golf course are still undetermined, state officials say.

The property could be used as an archery range, for croquet, Frisbee, disc golf, miniature golf, a playground or a fitness trail, Carroll said.

Carroll said the closing would not negatively affect the four state employees who worked at the course. One permanent employee,

he said, chose to move closer to his home, where he will work in Fort Boonesboro. Three others, he said, have taken other positions at

Jenny Wiley.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Lawsuit

pass, because they "knew or had substantial reason to know," that the drain pipes were inadequate.

He also alleges negligence and breach of contract because the city failed to adhere to a promise in Clark's easement deed to "divert all water drainage from the area disturbed by the golf course construction to the opposite side."

Chafin alleges that there are "constant" mudslides on the hill due to water runoff. He says the suit was filed because the city failed to respond to correspondence sent by Clark to rectify the situation.

Clark is seeking compensation of more than \$150,000, punitive damages and injunctive relief to stop the surface water from discharging on his property. Chafin asks that the deed pertaining to the two easements be declared null and void so that Clark can once again gain full ownership.

This is the second lawsuit filed recently against the city for property damage due to flooding last year.

Ronald and Connie Cooley, of Mays Branch, filed a similar suit last month, seeking more than \$128,194 in damages. They claim the city installed small culverts in the creek upstream from their property, causing

repeated flooding of their home.

City attorney Jimmy Webb said he didn't have enough information to comment on Clark's lawsuit. He did, however, say that the city will rectify any problems for which it is liable.

In regards to Cooley's complaint, Webb said that the culverts installed on Mays Branch were the appropriate size to carry a "normal" runoff flow and that runoff during flooding last year exceeded the normal capacity flow.

"The city is examining the situation and will file an appropriate response," Webb said.

Continued from p1

Judge allows Newsome to keep office pending appeal

The Associated Press

HINDMAN — A state judge has ruled that Knott County judge-executive and convicted felon Donnie Newsome can keep his office, at least for now.

Special Judge James E. Bondurant issued a ruling last month declaring the office vacant, but decided Monday that Newsome could keep the seat until the Kentucky Court of Appeals issues a ruling in the case.

Newsome filed a notice of appeal Tuesday, and appeals-court clerk George Geoghegan said election-contest cases are expedited.

"A decision should be made within two weeks to a month," he said.

Bondurant's rulings were on an election-contest suit filed in

Knott County Circuit Court by a defeated opponent in a 2002 county primary. Bondurant said Newsome admitted in federal court last September that he violated the state Corrupt Practices Act.

Newsome testified that he accepted \$20,000 in illegal cash contributions for the race from Ross Harris of Pikeville.

Under Kentucky law, a con-

victed officeholder does not have to resign his office until his appeal is resolved.

In 2003, Newsome was sentenced to 26 months after being convicted of vote-buying in a 1998 county primary.

He was sent to prison, but was able to keep his job and \$65,000-a-year salary while he appeals his conviction in federal court.

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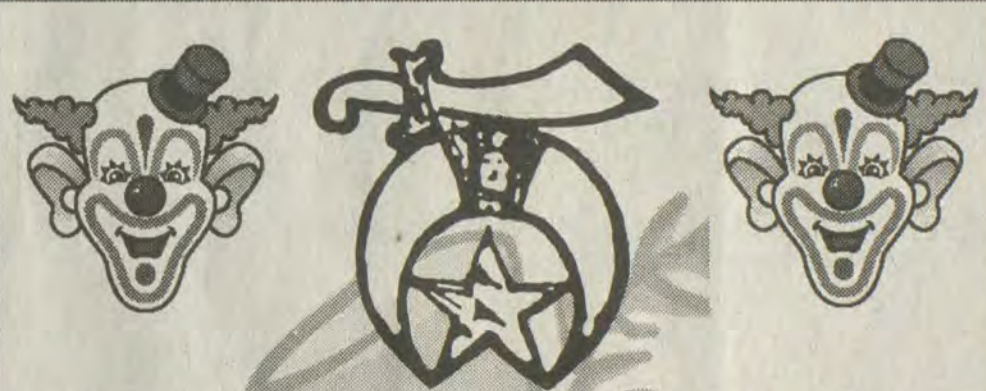
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Viewpoint

Worth Repeating ...

"All animals except man know that the ultimate in life is to enjoy it."

— Samuel Butler

Amendment 1

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Our View

Course deserves second chance

It is truly a shame to see that state park officials have shut down the Jenny Wiley State Resort Park golf course, especially with such little notice and without input from the community.

It could be argued that the move needed to be made. The course had lost money over the past couple of years and the opening of Stonecrest five years ago gave Floyd County a bigger and better course within easy access of the park. Plus, flooding had created a need to make some expensive repairs, and we imagine that the prospect of sinking additional funds into a money-losing course probably sealed its fate.

But while the Jenny Wiley course was certainly hurting, we don't believe it was quite dead, yet.

While Jenny Wiley was somewhat small and lacked the luster of Stonecrest, it had endeared itself to many local golfers with its distinctive features and from its days as the only game in town. Those are sentimental reasons, to be sure, but there are others that would have made the course worth saving:

- Many communities in the area have turned to golf courses as a means to develop tourism, trying to mimic the success Myrtle Beach, S.C., has had. However, the range of opportunities golfers can now find in Eastern Kentucky are not being marketed very well. We think a course such as Jenny Wiley could have benefited tremendously from working with Stonecrest and Beaver Valley golf courses, as well as local hotels and other tourist attractions, to create package deals that would have brought golfers and their families to our region for extended stays.

- Jenny Wiley would have also been an ideal spot for a local chapter of The First Tee, a youth organization that introduces children to the game of golf. Such an affiliation would have served two goals by keeping a steady stream of customers on the course now and developing a larger generation of future customers who would fondly remember their days learning the game at Jenny Wiley.

- With some work, Jenny Wiley could have been transformed into a par 3 course, something which is not readily available in this area. As a one-of-a-kind attraction in this region, the park would surely have gained more customers.

- Finally, if park officials were just frustrated with trying to make the golf course work on their own, why not lease it to a private operator? Privatizing the course would have guaranteed a steady stream of revenue for the park, making that option far more financially sensible than closing it altogether. We hope park officials will reconsider this decision.

— *The Floyd County Times*



Capitol Ideas

Pickup truck occupants the targets of latest seat belt campaign

by MARK R. CHELLGREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — The numbers add up to a very dangerous sum.

Barely half of the occupants of pickup trucks are wearing seat belts. In rural southeastern Kentucky, substantially less than half are restrained, especially if they're under age 35. More crashes happen on rural roads than elsewhere. Pickup trucks are twice as likely as ordinary passenger cars to roll over in a wreck. Occupants of pickups are more likely to be thrown out of their vehicles in a crash. Three-fourths of people

ejected from their vehicles in a crash are killed. Seventy percent of pickup drivers killed in 2003 crashes were not wearing seat belts.

"They're alarming statistics," said Kentucky State Police spokeswoman Capt. Lisa Rudzinski.

Yet in Kentucky, the numbers apparently don't add up for many drivers, who wear their seat belts at the fifth lowest rate in the nation.

Officials estimate that 43.7 percent of the occupants of pickups in eastern Kentucky are wearing seat belts. Across the state, seat belt use among pickup riders is only 50.3 percent, compared

with 70.4 percent of passenger car occupants, 70.9 percent of those in vans and 73.3 percent in sport utility vehicles.

Hard to figure, especially when this number is added to the calculation from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration — Safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people in vehicle crashes.

Kentucky law requires vehicle occupants to wear a seat belt. But there's a twist in enforcement. Kentucky has what is known as secondary enforcement — police can only cite people for

(See **CAPITOL IDEAS**, page seven)

Letters

Appreciation from Chamber

The Floyd County Chamber of Commerce recently held its Annual Awards and Installation Banquet on May 3, 2005. Together with members and friends the Chamber came together to honor the businesses and business leaders who contribute to the growth of Floyd County and the Big Sandy Region. On behalf of the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce I want to thank everyone that attended this event and helped make this banquet such a success. A special thanks to Misha Curmutte, Dr. George Edwards, Kelli Hall, Mary Begley, and Trish Cieslak, the Banquet Committee for all their time and work on this years banquet, it was greatly appreciated.

This event, sponsored by Appalachian Wireless, honors outstanding Chamber Volunteers and businesses who have excelled in service and much more. I want to thank all Floyd County

Chamber Members and recognize them for their efforts to improve the business opportunities and economic growth of Floyd County. Thanks for your support and commitment that you have given over the past year.

I want to thank Terry Spurlock and Keith Taylor of Perry Distributors for sponsoring the Banquet Reception and Laura Ford Hall for providing entertainment for the event. Thanks also to our sponsors: Citizens National Bank, Prestonsburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, AEP/Kentucky Power, and Big Sandy Community & Technical College. Words can't express the wonderful and efficient service provided by the staff of Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. Rob Shepherd and ICC Technology Partners need to be commended for their work in producing the slideshow for the event, thanks so much! Thanks to Senator Johnny Ray Turner once again for installing our Board Of Directors and Officers. To Beverly Hackworth & Cindy Hackworth, and other volunteers' thanks for all that you do.

Mandy Stumbo
Executive Director
Floyd County Chamber of Commerce

Johnson to rally against drugs

As secretary of the Johnson County UNITE Coalition, I was pleased to see such strong support for Floyd County's Coalition March and Rally last week.

Many of us from Johnson County came to march with Floyd County, because drugs don't stop at the county line, and we all need to unite against this problem. I would therefore like to extend a personal invitation to all Floyd County concerned citizens to put on their Floyd County UNITE t-shirts and come join with Johnson County at our March, Rally and Gospel Sing on June 3.

We will meet in front of the courthouse at 5:30 p.m. Then we will march down Trimble Boulevard, to South Mayo Trail, and on to Mayo Plaza, where the rally and gospel sing will begin at 7 p.m. Flyers are currently being distributed and more information is available at our website at www.johnsonunite.org.

Cathy Combs
Secretary
Johnson County UNITE Coalition

Letter Guidelines

Letters to the Editor are welcomed by The Floyd County Times.

In accordance with our editorial page policy, all letters must include the signature,

address and telephone number of the author.

The Times reserves the right to reject or edit any letter deemed slanderous, libelous or otherwise objectionable.

Letters should be no longer than two type-written pages, and may be edited for length or clarity.

Opinions expressed in letters and other voices are

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May proposes unifying Big Sandy area counties

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A press conference held Wednesday to introduce the free distribution of a medical newspaper to Floyd County residents gave one man the forum to share his vision of creating the "third largest city" in the state.

Walter E. May, board president of Pikeville Medical Center says he's been contemplating a "vision" for several years, one that, if acted upon, would combine Prestonsburg, Paintsville and Pikeville into one city under one urbanized government.

May, who was "born and raised" in Pikeville, expressed his devotion to the Big Sandy region. He pressed local leaders to consider his proposal because he believes it would be a step in the right direction for all three counties involved.

"What would it change?" he asked. "It would change the way the rest of the world looks at us. It would change

the way that we look at ourselves ... I think too many times we as leaders spent too much time talking about our problems and not enough time bringing up ways to fix it."

May said the area's biggest problem is that local communities are spread out, which prevents them from communicating effectively.

He also mentioned the "I'm better than you" mentality expressed between the three counties. This way of thinking, he said, is detrimental to future economic growth of the region.

May commended efforts of Floyd and Johnson County hospitals and governments and said that Pikeville Medical's intent is not one of competition with any other city or hospitals in Johnson or Floyd counties. The hospital, he says, wants to compete with larger cities, like Lexington, that now serve area patients who must travel because specialists are not currently available in Eastern Kentucky.

The "City of East

Kentucky," as May called it, would not be easy to incorporate, but he hopes that area leaders will become interested enough in the idea to propose a discussion of it. It would benefit "our grandchildren," he said, referring to the move as "the natural progression of things."

"It will eventually happen anyway," he said. "It just isn't happening fast enough."

If joined, May estimated that the new "dynamic" city would house more than 20,000 people. If the three counties were combined, residency would shoot up to more than 100,000, he said.

Some of the benefits he pointed out included a regional airport, expansions in community services, more attention and economic expansion to the community as a whole because of the larger tax base and more governmental representation because of the larger voting bloc.

The press conference introduced the *Pikeville Medical Leader*

to Floyd County, a publication of the Pikeville Medical Center Foundation, that will be distributed free to every Floyd County family.

The publication will focus on "good news," and "uplifting stories," about medical

issues and community happenings, representatives said.

Other speakers at the conference (Joann Anderson, CEO; Laura Charles, editor; and Sherri Allen, sales manager) expressed their "excitement" in bringing the publi-

cation to Floyd County and outlined several new services offered or to be offered at the hospital.

"Eastern Kentucky needs to speak as one voice, and that's what we're trying to do with this," Allen said.

Police cracking down on downtown parking

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Attempts to add teeth to parking regulations in Prestonsburg are currently underway with the city council and the Prestonsburg Police Department.

During a council meeting Monday, Police Chief Mike Omerod said that people have been dodging the enforcement of the previous two-hour parking limit in front of Prestonsburg businesses on Court Street by moving their cars from one space to another before their time limit is exhausted.

The council passed a motion approving the enforcement of the two-hour limit during a meeting on April 11. Monday, Omerod said that the council's traffic committee changed the two-hour parking limit (which previously had not been enforced, he said) to three hours. Employees of local businesses, who pay \$15 monthly for parking permits, can now park in any of the three parking lots in Prestonsburg.

The parking lot at the riverbank is considered free and does not require permits. Council members Kay Ross and Donna Wells said local employees don't want to park in the lot behind Billy Ray's Restaurant because vandalism has already been reported there.

Omerod said that the new parking regulation signs in the city should read, "three-hour on-street customer parking only."

In other news, Crestwood residents are not adhering to

mandatory residential housing codes at Stonecrest.

Henry Hackworth, speaking on behalf of Crestwood residents, requested during a meeting Monday that the city council ensure that all residents on the hill are adhering to those regulations.

Hackworth thanked the city for citing two of his neighbors for noncompliance on Monday, but he said he still isn't sure that "everybody's getting it."

He complained of siding, fencing and satellite television noncompliances, and said that pieces of equipment are being left on project development sites after the projects are completed.

Hackworth also asked that the city routinely mow vacant lots in Crestwood because grass and weed seeds from those lots are being transferred to other residents' lawns.

Mayor Jerry Fannin said he would put Bobby Carpenter, the city's code enforcement officer, "on top of" the situation.

Carpenter, who was asked to inspect abandoned mines in the city during the last council meeting, then reported to the council that there are seven such mines that could potentially blow out like mines in Knott and Harlan counties last month.

Of those mines, Carpenter said, the most critical is around the S-curve. This mine, which ties into Joseph's Flats, Carpenter said, is currently not in danger of blowing out, but it will require the most monitoring in the future because of its location and connection with Dewey Lake.

Carpenter said mine

blowouts are generally caused by material failure or by debris that filters through and covers up vents, creating a dam that eventually causes the mine to fill up with water.

Carpenter said that routine monitoring should be conducted on these mines and that any abnormal water discharge should be reported to the Department of Surface Mining.

The Big Sandy Area Development District, Abbott Engineering and the Department of Surface Mining assisted the investigation, Carpenter said.

During the meeting, the council also discussed littering caused by local teenagers. Council member Gorman Collins said that he witnessed some children stuffing garbage down a storm drain. He asked what the council could do to deter this behavior. Omerod said the child must first be cited for a juvenile criminal action before they can be assigned to do any type of community work.

Council members also handed compliments to Randy Lawson, the local artist who repainted the "Welcome to Prestonsburg" sign in front of the Justice Center.

Lawson has made an offer to do other murals throughout the city, Mayor Jerry Fannin said.

Before the close of the meeting, Fannin clarified that the funding for the horse ring at Stonecrest came from a federal grant that can only be used for trails and the construction of the horse ring. Those funds cannot be used for the ball fields or any other project, he said.

Capitol Ideas

not wearing a seat belt if the traffic stop is made for another infraction.

All efforts to make Kentucky a primary enforcement state — officers could stop vehicles and cite occupants for not wearing seat belts without any other infractions — have failed in recent years.

Two years ago, the General Assembly crossed a threshold of sorts when the House passed primary seat belt enforcement legislation. But it died in the Senate, much like a proposal to require booster seats for larger children did earlier this year.

Rep. Hubert Collins, D-Wittensville, chairman of the House Transportation Committee, said sentiment is moving toward more stringent requirements for passenger restraint — at least in the House and its Democratic majority.

"I would think it would probably be able to pass the Transportation Committee and probably the House after that,"

Collins said. The question remains in the Senate, where Republicans hold a majority.

"Some of the sentiment is basically, if you don't wear your seat belt, that's up to each individual person," said Sen. Brett Guthrie, R-Bowling Green.

Guthrie, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, acknowledged the apparent contradiction between that perspective and the existing legal requirement to wear a seat belt.

"Getting pulled over for not wearing your seat belt, there's some people who have issues with that," Guthrie said.

The Fletcher administration is straddling the fence. A spokesman said Fletcher strongly encourages the use of seat belts and booster seats for children.

Asked if the administration supports primary enforcement legislation for seat belt use and a requirement for booster seats, spokesman Mike Goins said,

Continued from p4

"There is a balance between the government's responsibility to protect its citizens and the citizen's responsibility to make decisions."

Capt. Rudzinski said there is a book full of traffic rules that police could use if they wanted to harass drivers for simply not wearing seat belts.

State police and most other law enforcement agencies around the state will be emphasizing seat belt use in a series of broadcast public service announcements and enforcement efforts this month.

The "Buckle Up in Your Truck" radio and television spots have already begun, targeted to eastern Kentucky. "Click it or ticket" will follow later in the month.

On The Web:
Kentucky State Police:
www.kentuckystatepolice.org

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

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2005 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT Reg Cab 4WD Stk# WUT445, V8, auto, hemi, 20" wheel pkg., pwr win/locks, A/C, tilt, cruise, CD, 14K miles.....	\$28,450	\$25,459

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For the Record

Marriage Licenses

Angela Lynette Akers, 21, of Banner, to Jamie Edward Mullins, 23, of Prestonsburg.
Diane Marie Jarrell, 32, of Paintsville, to James Wesley Lafferty, 27, of Prestonsburg.
Jessica Danielle Shepherd, 20, of Prestonsburg, to Scott Goble, 27, of Prestonsburg.
Kimberly Darlene Branham, 25, Boonscamp, to Timmy Evans, 37, Grethel.

Civil Suits Filed

Green Tree Servicing vs. Henry Burkett; complaint.
Bobby Coleman vs. Teresa Stephens and Progressive Insurance Company; complaint.
Mabel Watts vs. Roxie Galloway; petition for child support and health care insurance.
Mabel Watts vs. James Galloway; petition for child support and health care insurance.
Ella Crum vs. Amanda Knox; petition for health care insurance.
Cloteen Stone vs. Shelby Mosley; petition for health care insurance.
Charlene Hamilton vs. Homer Hamilton; petition for health care insurance.
Ellis Hall vs. Vanessa Hall; petition for child support and health care insurance.
Henry Lafferty vs. Paul Lafferty; petition for health care insurance.
William D. Guess vs. Ruddy W. McCrite and Schlei Dray Line Inc.; complaint.
Vicki L. Hill vs. John Preston; complaint.
Collins Receivable Funding Partners vs. James L. Hall and East Kentucky Gutting; complaint.
Michael Robinette vs. John W. Boyd and Fuel Transportation Inc.; complaint.
Capital One Bank vs. Janice S. Wells; complaint.
Palisades Acquisition V, LLC vs. William Hinchman; complaint.
Patricia Williams vs. Rusty Hamilton; petition for child support and health care insurance.
Glenda Rogers vs. Kevin Hohenecker; petition for health care insurance.
Douglas Blevins vs. Tamara Howard; petition for health care insurance.
JP Morgan Chase Bank vs. Steve Conn and unknown defendant, spouse of Lola Conn on April 14, 1999.
Charlie Rose vs. Connie J. Poulter; divorce transferred from Nelson Circuit Court.
Brent G. Clark vs. Prestonsburg; complaint.

Small Claims Filings

Housing Authority of Martin vs. Jessie Artrip; unpaid rent.

Charges Filed

Amy Isaacs, 26, Prestonsburg; shoplifting.
Charles Alan Duncan, 27, Betsy Layne; public intoxication, disorderly conduct, terroristic threatening.
Jennifer Rowe, 19, Salyersville; public intoxication, fourth-degree assault.
Sigsbee Rowe, 30, Salyersville; public intoxication, fourth-degree assault.
Christine R. Thacker, 30, Prestonsburg; pickpocketing.
Brad Hunt, 31, Teaberry; third-degree criminal trespass, third-degree terroristic threatening.
Monica Akers, 28, Teaberry; third-degree criminal trespass, third-degree terroristic threatening.
Jason Lance, 22, McDowell; harrasment.
Linda Gayheart, 37, Wheelwright; harrasment.
Paul Sartin, 37, Wheelwright; misdemeanor theft (failure to make required disposition of property).
Rica M. McGruder, 19, Pensacola, Fla.; disorderly conduct.
Kevin Woods, 19, Allen; public intoxication and disorderly conduct.
Terrance Phillips, 20, Fayetteville, N.C.; disorderly conduct.
Lorenzo Williams, 18, Fayetteville, N.C.; disorderly conduct.
Camron Rowe, 19, Wayland; second-degree criminal trespass.
James A. Gilliam, 21, Blue River; public intoxication, possession of open alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle.
Sandra Ousley Williams, 34, Prestonsburg; fourth-degree assault.
Steven J. Bobo, 22, Allen; disorderly conduct, public intoxication.
Tristina M. Burchett, 19, Prestonsburg; fourth-degree assault.
Cecil A. Hunter, 24, Auxier; possession of marijuana.
Jeremy S. Childers, 21, Prestonsburg; public intoxication.
Jason Alan Greer, 24, Allen; public intoxication.
Eric D. Flemming, 23, Salyersville; public intoxication, disorderly conduct.
Michael A. Cutting, 36, Wayland; public intoxication.
Joe D. Stumbo, 44, Drift; public intoxication.
Jeffrey W. Shepherd, 42, Hueysville; public intoxication.
Joseph C. Mullins, 30, East Point; public intoxication.
Dennis M. Greer, 26, Prestonsburg; public intoxication.
Hope Renee Setser, 24, Prestonsburg; hindering prosecution or apprehension.
Bobbie J. Bentley, 24, Prestonsburg; possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance, use/possession of drug paraphernalia.
Clifford E. Williams, 26, Auxier; second-degree burglary.
Pamela J. Smith, 36, Meta; theft of identity.
Tara Hamilton, 22, Beaver; reckless driving, driving under the influence, failure to produce insurance card, no/expired registrations plates, first-degree trafficking in controlled sub-

stances, trafficking within 1,000 yards of a school, first-degree possession of a controlled substance, prescription not in original container, use/possession of drug paraphernalia.

Inspections

Allen Elementary Cafeteria, regular inspection. Violations noted: Chemical test strips not in three-compartment sink, wiping cloths improperly stored, clean silvers stored without protective covering, garbage container in food prep area not covered, floor tile in disrepair, cleaning equipment broom stored in dry storage area (should be in utility room). Score: 93.
Down to Earth, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Restroom door not self-closing. Score: 98.
Allen Elementary School, regular inspection. Violations noted: Hand towels not available in the kindergarten restroom, shower room with restroom facilities should not be used to store food equipment, primary hallway structure in disrepair, student desk in room 205 and several other rooms in disrepair. Score: 91.

Property Transfers

Rose Marie Collins to Don C. Hall; property located at the right fork of Town Branch.

Obituaries

Elizabeth "Libby" Rowe Owens

Elizabeth "Libby" Rowe Owens, 54, of Prestonsburg, died Monday, May 9, 2005, at her residence.
Born October 16, 1950, in Prestonsburg, she was the daughter of the late Reverend Charlie Rowe and Cleo Gray Rowe. She was a homemaker and a member of the Faith Independent Freewill Baptist Church, in Prestonsburg.
She is survived by her husband, Charles Ray Owens.
Other survivors include a daughter, Angela Elizabeth Owens Williamson of Prestonsburg; two granddaughters: Emily Elizabeth Williamson and Hevin Nicole Faith Spears; five brothers: James Rowe of Winchester, Jack Rowe and Roger Rowe, both of Prestonsburg, and Jay Sammons and John Sammons, both of Prestonsburg; five sisters: Grace Woody of Prestonsburg, Sylvia Mosley of Cookeville, Tennessee, Dorothy Day of Lake Placid, Florida, Ruth Bridgett of Holiday, Florida, and Toy Ann Sammons of Louisville; her mother-in-law, Delta Owens of Prestonsburg; aunts: Kay Gray, Fay Gray, and Glenda Sue Gray; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her father-in-law, Homer Owens; two brothers: Charles C. Rowe and Charlie M. Sammons; uncles: John H. Gray and Charles Gray; an aunt, Florence Gray; a brother-in-law, Charles Woody; and a son-in-law, Keith Williamson.
Funeral services will be conducted Friday, May 13, at 1 p.m., at the Faith Independent Freewill Baptist Church, in Prestonsburg, with Clinton Buddy Jones, and others, officiating.
Burial will be in the Gethsemane Gardens, in Prestonsburg, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin.
Visitation is at the church.

(Paid obituary)

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U12 TIDE DOUSE FIRE

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BELFRY – The U12 Tide traveled to Belfry on Saturday to take on the Fire, missing two of their 10 players. Fortunately, the opponent graciously agreed to play eight-on-eight, rather than the usual nine; even though the Fire had 14 players available. The Tide quickly found itself in an unfamiliar position, trailing 1-0 shortly after the game began, the first time all season the Tide has been on the short end of the score. Belfry went on to win 6-1.

It took the Tide several minutes to knot the score at 1-1 on a goal by Alexis DeRossett, playing the right forward position. Her running mate on the left side, Kaitlyn Minix, added another goal shortly thereafter, and the Tide didn't trail again. The Tide earned several corner kicks in the game, choosing to play the corner kicks short, due to the extreme crown on the rocky Belfry field. On their

third corner, midfielder Kathleen Smith took the pass back from DeRossett, and placed a centering kick directly in front of the Belfry goal, where Minix and midfielder Clara Osborne were waiting, resulting in the Tide's third goal.

The Tide was pushing the ball toward the Belfry goal again when Smith was injured and had to leave the game. Down a player, the Tide defense, led by Tori Hunt, stepped up and kept the Fire from seriously threatening. Allison Conley played goalkeeper the entire game, and directed her defense of Hunt, Joseph Kidd and Austin Newsome well. When Smith returned to the field, she and Osborne moved to the forward position, and DeRossett and Minix dropped back to midfield. Osborne and Smith immediately began to press the attack, capped off by a nice goal by Smith.

At the start of the second half, DeRossett moved back to

center fullback, and Hunt and Minix took over at midfield. Osborne made several nice runs with the ball, and took some nice shots, but couldn't connect, much to her frustration.

Without subs, the Tide again had to rotate players through the midfield position. When Minix and Hunt went up to forward, they quickly capitalized. Minix recovered the ball from a Belfry defender, made a nifty move from the left side and found the back of the net to push the score to 5-1.

Minix and Hunt got behind the defense again, and when Minix's shot bounced off the right post, Hunt was there to punch it in. Newsome, Kidd and DeRossett played stellar defense in the second half, Conley made a couple of great saves, and Belfry was unable to score again, making the final score 6-1.

The Tide remains undefeated at 4-0, and plays the Belfry Falcons next Saturday at home



YOUTH SOCCER – Above: The defense of the U12 Tide is tough, as Tori Hunt and Alexis DeRossett demonstrated during the Tide's 6-1 victory over the Belfry Fire. Above, right: Clara Osborne, playing midfield for the Floyd County Tide, won possession of the ball for her team. Above, left: Forward Kaitlyn Minix of the U12 Tide looked at her options early in Saturday's 6-1 win in Belfry. Left: Fullback Austin Newsome booted the ball away from the Belfry attacker and out of his backfield, as teammate Kaitlyn Minix looks on.

Patriot track takes first, second at Berea Invitational

TIMES STAFF REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG – Cumberland College's women's track team took the top spot in the team rankings recently at the Berea Invitational, scoring 175 points with the next closest team scoring 144 in 19 events. The men's team finished in second place with 175 points barely edging out the top spot by Lindsey Wilson College with 185.5 points in 20 events.

In the men's competition Jordan Jeffers (Fairview, Tenn.) took the top spot in the 100m dash with a time of 10.75 while Lawrence McGee (Quitman, Ga.) came in third with a time of 11.15sec. In the 200m dash Jeffers took first as well with a time of 21.42 while McGee came in seventh, his time 22.96. Brandon Careathers (Rome, Ga.) came in 11th with a time of 23.46 in the 200m dash as well. Jarred Tackett (Jenkins) took first in the 400m run, Kraig Kitts (Sharp's Chapel, Tenn.) came in fifth with a time of 52.95, and Caleb Brooks (Louisville) came in seventh, his time 55.23. Cumberland's Michael Veatch (Middletown,

Ohio) took second place in the 800m run with his time of 1:59.09, Alex Revlos (Troy, Ohio) came in seventh with his time of 2:11.58, and Aaron Jefferies (Williamsburg) came in eighth, his time 2:12.21.

In the 1500m run Derrick Breylen (Ft. Thomas) took fourth place with a time of 4:21.38 and Josh Patrick (Williamsburg) took eighth place with a time of 4:50.19. In the 5000m run Carl Roberts (Austin, Ind.) came in third with a time of 16:02.00, Malcom Tipton (Middletown, Ohio) took fourth place with a time of 16:19.27, and Adam Honnold (Frankfort, Ohio) came in ninth with a time of 17:54.49. Landon O'Banion (Camden, Ohio) took fourth place in the 1000m run. In the 110m hurdles Lemuel Holifield (Johnson City, Tenn.) took first place with a time of 15.73 and Brandon Careathers took second with a time of 17.22. Holifield also took first in the 400m hurdles with a time of 55.67, Moses Cochran (Thomasville, Ga.) took second place with a time of 56.33, and Thelton Detry (Port St. Lucie, Fla.) took third with a time of 58.48. In the 3000m steeple-

chase Brad Wells (Portage, Ohio) took the top slot with a time of 10:11.49 and Landon O'Banion took second with a time of 10:44.63.

The men's teams swept the relays taking first in the 4x100 with a time of 41.95, the 4x400m with a time of 3:22.61, and the 4x800m with a time of 7:46.83. In the long jump Moses Cochran finished fourth with a distance of 21-00.50m while Jordan Jeffers took sixth place with a distance of 19-04.00m. In the javelin throw Caleb Brooks came in 12th with a distance of 120-00m and Caleb Dodson (Valparaiso, Ind.) finished 17th.

What was painfully absent from this meet was the pole vault event. Realizing that this is a hypothetical scenario, Cumberland does have probably the best pole vaulter in the conference and if this event had been present at this meet the men's team could have very possibly won the team scores with a first place finish by Caleb Dodson.

The Patriots will wrap up their season at the NAIA Outdoor Nationals on May 26-28 in Louisville.



Erica Meade showed her support for the Allen Central Middle School volleyball team earlier in the week during the Floyd County Volleyball Tournament.

ACMS advances to Floyd County Tournament Semifinals

TIMES STAFF REPORT

EASTERN – The Allen Central Middle School volleyball team pulled off a win over Stumbo in first round action of the Floyd County Volleyball Tournament, 2-0 (21-7, 21-11).

The host Mustangs could not mount an offense from their serve receive formation miscuing 22 serves and allowing two Aces. Koko Martin put 12 serves in play recording an Ace while Brittany Hodge put six in play and received Allen Central's other Ace.

The Rebel defense returned 25

Stumbo point attempts setting up their offense 14 times while taking eight Attack tries. Hannah Howard earned four confirmed digs without error and Hodge turned back three Mustang attempts without error. Brittany Johnson returned six Stumbo volleys committing two errors. Kimbo Blevins and Martin each earned three digs, Kristin Reed returned two attempts, and Tiffany Clark, Sasha Jones, Brittany Smith, and Whitney Ousley dug up one each.

Howard ran the offense five times getting two assists setting

Hodge three times. Martin ran the offense six times earning an assist and Brittany Clark received an assist placing one for Jones. Kimbo Blevins' attack game was perfect on the night, getting one kill on the Martin set and popping in a backcourt hit on a broken offense set. Hodge thumped in two kills in four tries and Jones skidded one in with one attempt.

ACMS was back in action last night in the semifinals against Mountain Christian Academy, a winner over Betsy Layne. Results were unavailable.



photo by Jamie Howell
Visiting Paintsville beat Prestonsburg 11-1 Tuesday evening in a fast-pitch softball game held at Archer Park. Pictured at the plate is Prestonsburg's Rikki Hughes.

Heart condition caused basketball player's death

– THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE – Western Kentucky basketball player Danny Rumph's death was caused by cardiomyopathy, a condition that causes cardiac arrhythmia and sudden death,

the school said Wednesday.

Rumph collapsed and died Sunday during a pickup game in his hometown of Philadelphia. The 21-year-old junior guard was visiting his family when he died.

Funeral services were scheduled for May 16 at 11 a.m. at

Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia.

Arrangements were being made for a memorial service in Bowling Green.

The 6-foot-2 Rumph started 29 of 31 games last season, averaging nine points and three assists.

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FLOYD COUNTY Lifestyles



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THROUGH MY EYES

Reflections: PHS Prom 2005

Cost of formal evening gown: \$100+; Cost of sparkly, sequined shoes: \$40; Cost of sparkly accessories: \$65; Cost of make-up and "prom-do": \$50; Cost of tuxedo rental: \$130; Cost of tickets, flowers, photos and dining out (per couple): \$250; Cost of those who helped single mom afford costs: Awe-inspiring.

Cost of gasoline to pick up son and friend at after-prom party, at 3 a.m.: Minimal; Listening to son and friend laugh about swinging "Tarzan style" on old rope tree swing in middle of night while watching misty road through sleepy eyes: Heads and tails above other possible Prom night scenarios; Cost of Sunday morning weekend visit to ER to have son treated for poison oak allergic reaction (Yay! Swinging on rope swings "Tarzan style" in the middle of the night! And, "Happy Mother's Day" to me - yeah, right!): \$150 co-pay, with larger bill sure to follow; Cost of prescription medication and over-



Kathy Prater
Lifestyles editor

(See EYES, page nine)

POSTSCRIPT

Political Cats

In light of the dismal political situation this country seems to be wallering in these days, I just have to share a little story that a long-time friend of mine in Pennsylvania sent me, via email.

A Senate staffer is taking a stroll around Capitol Hill when he meets a little girl carrying a small basket with a blanket over it. Curious, he says to the girl, "What's in the basket?"

She replies, "New baby kittens." She opens the basket to show him. "How nice," he says. "What kind are they?"

The little girl says, "Republicans." He smiles, pats the little girl on the head and continues on.

About three weeks later, he and another member of the Senate staff are again strolling on Capitol Hill

(See POSTSCRIPT, page nine)



Pam Shingler
contributing writer

BSCTC Spring Concert: a success

Big Sandy Community and Technical College Community Choir and the Big Sandy Singers presented A Celebration of Music: A Concert for Spring this past April 30 on the Prestonsburg Campus in the newly renovated Gearheart Auditorium. The performance was directed by Laura Ford Hall and the choir was accompanied by Candace Nall.

The choir presented its performance during the first portion of the program, as they took the audience on a journey

through styles and generations of music. The audience was thrilled with songs such as "The Circle of Life," "Over the Rainbow," "Rockin' Robin," and "The Phantom of the Opera Medley," among others. Solos were presented by Nellie Baldwin, Louanna Calhoun, James Eason, Bridget Baker, Violinist Rachael Hayes, Tim Cooley, Judith Valade, Nall, and Hall.

A ten-minute intermission was fol-

(See BSCTC, page nine)



photo by Kathy J. Prater
Tim, right, with mother, Connie Slone, a 30-year employee of Citizens National Bank. Connie worked for The Bank Josephine prior to its purchase by Citizens.

Tim has been in and out of hospitals, suffering with pancreatitis, since age 4. Here, he flashes an optimistic smile during a stay at Vanderbilt Medical Center, in Tennessee, at age 11.

A wish for normalcy - local man seeks assistance with organ transplant

by Kathy J. Prater
FEATURES EDITOR

Imagine life consisting of daily bouts with nausea, dizziness and vomiting; a swollen, tender abdomen; and, feverish sleepless nights followed by daytime bouts of depression.

This is the life of one Corn Fork resident, Timothy Slone, age 29, who suffers with a condition known as chronic pancreatitis. From the age of 4, Tim has periodically fallen ill with debilitating attacks of pancreatitis. In and out of hospitals nearly all of his life, it

wasn't until Tim was 11 years old that doctors were finally able to correctly diagnose his condition.

"I don't blame our doctors at all," said Connie Slone, Tim's mother. "They did the best they knew, it's just rare for a child to suffer from pancreatitis."

Despite frequent attacks, Tim was able to live a relatively normal life while growing up and hope always existed that his condition would eventually be controlled. But, says his mother, following a surgical procedure to correct the condition, performed at Vanderbilt Medical Center, in Nashville, Tennessee,

when Tim was 11, no significant changes occurred to improve Tim's condition. For the past seven years, according to the family, Tim has suffered from almost daily chronic pain. Pain that prevents him from attending college, holding down a job and engaging in the normal social interactions that young adults his age enjoy.

"We just want to see Tim have a normal life," said Connie. "It's been a long time and he really has no life at all. He stays so sick that he really can't do anything. You know,

(See TRANSPLANT, page nine)

THINGS TO PONDER

Medications for Kids

(Last week, someone recommended the topic of children taking mental health medications. The following was written over four years ago and is repeated, given that the information still holds true today, in my opinion.)

Since I've always been interested in working with children and their families, a study described this winter in the Journal of American Medical Association caught my attention. The results reportedly found that an increasing number of parents were accepting the "putting their toddlers on psychiatric drugs." Of the more than 200,000 children followed across the United States, there had been more than a 50 per cent increase in the use of these drugs between

1991 and 1995. What do you think about the question of "should children of any age be given medication?" Should youngsters with symptoms such as hyperactivity and anxiety be treated with drugs like Prozac or Ritalin or do parents try to cope with these problems through therapy, communication and a lot of patience?

Of course, experts gave different reactions to the outcome of the above study. The chairman of the psychiatry department of Harvard Medical School felt that the study revealed "a troubling trend. There is no empirical evidence to support psychotropic drug treatment in very young children", plus he expressed valid concerns that such treatment could impair brain development. In contrast, the response of the chairman of the American Psychiatric

Association's Council on Adolescents and Their Families was, "(medications) can be extremely helpful for some children, even quite young children," as long as they are prescribed only after a comprehensive evaluation and are used in conjunction with other therapy. The researchers' suggested that the increase is partly due to a growing acceptance of psychiatric drugs, and also to the fact that more children are attending daycare, where care providers often do not have time or patience to give special attention to children who repeatedly misbehave. In turn, parents are likely to be under pressure to do whatever is deemed necessary to get their children to conform to school standards of good behavior. The above psychiatrist involved with children and families felt that the use

of the drugs is increasing in part because doctors are getting better at diagnosing behavior disorders at an early age.

The discussion of this study's outcome reminded me of a couple of kids that have been seen over the years. One is Toby, a real cute, blonde-headed, big talker, about 2 1/2 year old. He was so bright and his level of mental functioning seemed to be a miracle, since his biological mother had used various drugs while pregnant with him. A hypothesis was that his general lack of behaviors related to the probably impact of his mother's substance abuse on his brain and nerve development while he was in the womb. Toby had been taking Ritalin for about a year, due to his extreme



Mable Rowe Lineberger,
Ph.D.

(See PONDER, page nine)

ORDINANCE NO. 04-004
An Ordinance Approving a Lease for the Financing of a Project; Providing for the Payment and Security of the Lease; Creating a Sinking Fund; and Authorizing the Execution of Various Documents Related to Such Lease.

WHEREAS, the governing body of the County of Floyd, Kentucky (the "Lessee"), has the power, pursuant to Section 65.940 et seq. of the Kentucky Revised Statutes to enter into lease agreements with or without the option to purchase in order to provide for the use of property for public purposes;

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Lessee (the "Governing Body") has previously determined, and hereby further determines, that the Lessee is in need of the Project, as defined in the Lease hereinafter described;

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has determined and hereby determines that it is in the best interests of the Lessee that the Lessee and the Kentucky Area Development Districts Financing Trust (the "Lessor") enter into a Lease Agreement (the "Lease") for the leasing by the Lessee from the Lessor of the Project;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Fiscal Court of the County of Floyd, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals and Authorization. The Lessee hereby approves the Lease Agreement (the "Lease") and all Collateral Documents, as defined in the Lease, each in substantially the form presented to this Governing Body. It is hereby found and determined that the Project identified in the Lease is public property to be used for public purposes. It is further determined that it is necessary and desirable and in the best interests of the Lessee to enter into the Lease for the purposes therein specified, and the execution and delivery of the Lease and all representations, certifications and other matters contained in the Closing Memorandum with respect to the Lease, or as may be required by the Lessor prior to delivery of the Lease, are hereby approved, ratified and con-

firmed. The Judge/Executive and Fiscal Court Clerk of the Lessee are hereby authorized to execute the Lease, together with such other agreements or certifications which may be necessary to accomplish the transaction contemplated by the Lease.

Section 2. General Obligation Pledge. Pursuant to the Constitution of the Commonwealth and Chapter 66 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, as amended (the "General Obligation Statutes"), the obligation of the Lessee created by the Lease shall be a full general obligation of the Lessee and, for the prompt payment of the Lease Payments, the full faith, credit and revenue of the Lessee are hereby pledged. During the period the Lease is outstanding, there shall be and there hereby is levied on all the taxable property in the Lessee, in addition to all other taxes, without limitation as to rate, a direct tax annually in an amount sufficient to pay the Lease Payments on the Lease when and as due, it being hereby found and determined that current tax rates are within all applicable limitations. Said tax shall be and is hereby ordered computed, certified, levied and extended upon the tax duplicate and collected by the same officers in the same manner and at the same time that taxes for general purposes for each of said years are certified, extended and collected. Said tax shall be placed before and in preference to all other items and for the full amount thereof; provided, however, that in each year to the extent that the other taxes of the Lessee or revenues of the Lessee's sewer system are available for the payment of the Lease Payments and are appropriated for

such purpose, the amount of such direct tax upon all of the taxable property in the Lessee shall be reduced by the amount of such other taxes and revenues so available and appropriated.

There is hereby established with the Lessee a sinking fund (the "Sinking Fund"). The funds derived from said tax levy hereby required or other available taxes and revenues shall be placed in the Sinking Fund and, together with interest collected on the same, are irrevocably pledged for the payment of all Certificates or obligations issued under the General Obligation Statutes and all Tax Supported Leases, as defined in General Obligation Statutes, including the Lease herein authorized, when and as the same fall due. Amounts shall be transferred from the Sinking Fund to the Lessor at the times and in the amounts required by the Lease.

Section 3. Investment of Funds. Ross, Sinclair & Associates, Inc., as Program Administrator, is hereby authorized to direct the Trustee to invest funds on deposit under the Lease in such manner, subject to all legal limitations, as will, in the Program Administrator's judgment, produce the most favorable financial result for the Lessee.

Section 4. Severability. If any Section, paragraph or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such Section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Sunshine Law. This Governing Body hereby finds and

determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Governing Body, and that all deliberations of this Governing Body and of its committees, if any, which resulted in formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements.

Section 6. Conflicts. All ordinances, resolutions, orders or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed and the provisions of this Ordinance shall prevail and be given effect.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and publication of a summary thereof, as provided by law.

Introduced, Seconded and Given First Reading and Approval, at a duly convened meeting of the Floyd County Fiscal Court, held on the 11th day of May, 2005. This Ordinance will be given Second Reading and voted upon at a duly convened meeting of the Floyd County Fiscal Court, to be held at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the 20th day of May, 2005, in the County Courtroom, located on the Second Floor of the Old Floyd County Courthouse, 149 South Central Avenue, Prestonsburg, Kentucky.

PAUL H. THOMPSON,
 Floyd County Judge/Executive

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