

# The Times

FLOYD COUNTY REGIONAL NEWS

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### briefs

## Jarvis ruled competent for trial

by TOM DOTY  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Joshua Jarvis, 23, of Prestonsburg, had a pretrial conference date set in circuit court Friday following a determination by the court that he is mentally competent to stand trial after being charged with sexually molesting the children of a relative with whom he was staying.

Jarvis was staying with his sister when the incident occurred. He was charged with three counts of sexual abuse, three counts of rape and three counts of sodomy for allegedly engaging in sex acts with three of his sister's children.

The incidents, which are alleged to have happened last June, reportedly led to an altercation with Jarvis' brother-in-law, who tried to hold Jarvis after calling police. This led to a struggle between the two in which Jarvis is accused of trying to stab his brother-in-law in order to escape the house before the police could arrive.

His pretrial conference was set for July 22.

# Judge to listen to tape of alleged plot



Dottie Neeley

by TOM DOTY  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — An 87-year-old woman facing multiple drug charges was sent to jail after an appearance in circuit court Friday.

Dottie Neeley was indicted several weeks ago for being involved in two separate drug trafficking cases which came in the wake of a previ-

ous arrest on a separate trafficking charge.

Neeley was the subject of a hearing on Monday in which a motion filed by Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner noted that her \$50,000 bond should not be reduced as there is currently an investigation into charges that she was taped by an informant saying that she wanted a relative killed, as well as Turner.

Neeley's attorney, Terry Jacobs, asked for a hearing on the tapes, saying that the material on them did not say to him that Neeley meant to have anyone murdered.

"I think there were comments of frustration [captured on tape] and certainly some dislike for the honorable Mr. Turner," Jacobs said. But he noted that the informant on the tape appears to be soliciting the

comments.

"I ask that the court listen to the tape before making a decision adverse to Mrs. Neeley's freedom," Jacobs said.

Judge John Caudill ordered that Neeley's bond not be reduced at this time, but did agree to get together with Jacobs and the prosecution Tuesday afternoon to listen to the tapes.



American Veterans were honored Friday during the first annual memorial service at the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center.

photo by Mary Music

# Veterans honored at Job Corps tribute

by MARY MUSIC  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center hosted its first annual Memorial Day service Friday, honoring members of the armed forces and celebrating 40 years of service for the national Job Corps organization.

The Center's Military Training Unit opened the service with a march around the gymnasium and a Color Guard Display. Their energetic appearance was followed by a rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner" by student government

officer Jerri El Williams, who later joined the Center's choir, "True Melody," in a musical tribute that received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Center Director Debbie Burchell spoke about the recognition that should be given to area veterans, the "protectors of freedom," on Memorial Day weekend. She led a moment of silence to salute those who have fallen.

"The U.S. is powerful because of people like you, the veterans of the United States of America,"

(See VETERANS, page three)

### FYI

The DAV Chapter 18 in Auxier is currently recruiting new members. The only requirement for membership is an honorable discharge from the armed forces. Meetings, held in Auxier on the first and third Friday of each month, are open to the public. For more information, contact Commander Ballard Shepherd at (606) 886-7887.

# Hunt to stand trial for murder next January

by TOM DOTY  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Martin man accused of killing his estranged wife is set to face a jury on the charge Jan. 9, 2006.

James Hunt, 56, of Martin, was arrested on Nov. 30, after Kentucky State Police and the Floyd County Sheriff's Department responded to a 911 call from his wife's residence.

Bettina Chaffins called 911 after Hunt allegedly showed up at her home and began pounding on the front door. A .357 magnum was used to shoot through

the door and Chaffins was found dead in the home by responding authorities.

Hunt was discovered near the scene after authorities arrived.

His car had gone off the road into Buck's Branch Creek, where he was arrested by law enforcement.



James Hunt

Court records show Hunt had had a strained relationship with his wife and there were several emergency protection orders filed against him over the years.

A Floyd County grand jury issued an indictment against Hunt on charges of burglary and murder in December.

# Collins gets 11 years for shooting

by TOM DOTY  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Ray Collins, 51, of Debord, was formally sentenced to 11 years in prison for charges of recklessly shooting at a car full of women, including his ex-girlfriend, in June 2003.

The term includes two consecutive sentences of five years, with one being for second-degree assault and the other for wanton endangerment. He received one additional year for a

second charge of wanton endangerment.

Collins took a long road to his sentencing. He went through four attorneys in two years before finally entering a guilty plea last month. The incident that brought on the charges occurred in June 2003, when Collins spotted his ex-girlfriend in a car with two other women. He followed the women in his car along with a friend and emptied a handgun into the

(See COLLINS, page three)

### 2 DAY FORECAST

**Today**  
Isolated storms  
High: 79 • Low: 55

**Tomorrow**  
Some showers  
High: 73 • Low: 55

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### inside

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# Cigarette tax increase takes effect Wednesday

by MARK R. CHELLGREN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — For Frank Hinton, who operates four Discount Tobacco City & Lottery outlets near the Tennessee line in far western Kentucky, Wednesday looms as a day of reckoning.

For David Tandy of the American Cancer Society, it will be a day of celebration.

Kentucky's cigarette tax rises for the

first time in 30 years. From the national low of 3 cents per pack, the tax will rise to 30 cents per pack, still near the bottom of state cigarette taxes, but a dramatic increase for Kentucky given its historic reliance on tobacco.

"As of right now, it's going to knock my socks off. It's going to nail me to the wall," said Hinton.

"Thirty cents is a great start and it's a monumental leap for a state like Kentucky," Tandy said.

The two perspectives mirror the polar extremes that have long accompanied debate over tobacco taxes in Kentucky.

Former Gov. Wallace Wilkinson initially included a cigarette tax increase in his proposal for overhauling the tax code in 1990 to accompany the Kentucky Education Reform Act. It was summarily dismissed as too politically radioactive.

The state is the nation's leading producer of burley, a type of tobacco used in cigarettes. Cash receipts from sales of

Kentucky-grown tobacco peaked at about \$900 million in 1998, but have fallen to roughly half that in recent years and are declining.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher added a cigarette tax component to his tax proposal in 2004, but the package was not embraced by the General Assembly.

But the steady march of tobacco tax increases across the country, and even in

(See TAX, page three)

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# Odds and Ends

■ VALPARAISO, Ind. — Drop a dime — get 50 bucks. Porter County officials are offering a bounty for tips about drunken drivers over Memorial Day weekend.

"I hope it encourages people to call the police when they see

unsafe driving," said Michael Grennes, chairman of the Porter County Drunk Driving Task Force.

The tip-line was operating last Memorial Day weekend, too. County officials say four people reported drunken drivers

and claimed their rewards.

Besides offering the rewards, the task force is paying for police departments throughout Porter County to have extra officers out whose sole responsibility is to look for drunken drivers.

■ DELEON SPRINGS, Fla. — The high school seniors thought they were pulling a memorable graduation prank when they sneaked into the school one morning and covered the toilet seats with plastic wrap and greased up the door handles.

They even left a note for the principal that read, "We love you, Mr. Pearson."

But Mr. Pearson wasn't amused — he canceled the graduation ceremony and ordered the school's senior class to stay home the last six days of school.

"They have to learn self-control," said Lighthouse Christian Academy Principal Luke Pearson.

Early last Thursday, seven of the school's eight seniors sneaked into the school and pulled off their prank. They even replaced the desk in Pearson's office with a child-sized version.

Some parents and students said the punishment was too harsh.

"We thought it was funny," said senior Dottie Jo Thomas. "I still think it's funny."

■ CHICAGO — Bean there, not done yet.

Plans to complete Millennium Park's Cloud Gate sculpture — popularly known as the Bean — by Memorial Day have stalled because buffing the seams of the stainless steel sculpture is taking longer than expected.

The city plans to partially unveil the sculpture on Friday and the tent covering the rest of it will be removed gradually as sections are polished, officials said.

The 110-ton stainless steel sculpture has been hidden from the public's view since January so workers can polish and grind the seams in its 168 plates to a mirror-like finish.

The delay "will allow us to bring the finish on the sculpture to the 'absolute perfection' that it needs," said the work's scul-

tor Anish Kapoor.

The sculpture's north end — or about 20 percent of its length — will be exposed to the public on Friday.

During the work, visitors will be able to watch through clear plastic windows as crews polish the Bean. Some workers will be suspended from harnesses and others will lie on their backs polishing the sculpture's lower portions.

■ BOULDER, Colo. — A police officer weeded out a pile of marijuana growing alongside some tulips on the Pearl Street Mall.

Officer Mike Pease said he said he uprooted the pot so nobody gets to it.

"It will be placed into property and evidence and labeled for destruction," Pease said. "We don't know who the owner is, so no charges will be brought against anybody," said Pease.

"This is so funny. This is hilarious. This is so Boulder," said Erika Kriksciun, a graduating senior at Boulder Fairview High School.

■ ALTON, Ill. — Tim Pruitt went fishing and pulled up a whopper of a beast.

No, seriously: It was roughly the size of a sixth-grade boy.

Pruitt, casting his line in the Mississippi River on Sunday, hauled up a 58-inch-long, 44-inch-around blue catfish that weighed a whopping 124 pounds.

To get a sense of just how big that is, the state record holder was a mere 85 pounds and the official world record holder tipped the scales at 121 pounds, eight ounces.

"My adrenaline was really pumping, so it wasn't that bad," said Pruitt. "Later on, when I was lifting him out of the livewell and into another tank I really felt the weight."

Now, Pruitt, whose fish has already been weighed in the presence of a conservation

police officer and measured by a biologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, is expected to submit documentation to the International Game Fish Association so that it can be certified a world record holder.

Once that's done, the catch should be approved as the world's largest blue catfish, replacing the current champion that was caught Jan. 16, 2004, in Lake Texoma, Texas, said Becky Reynolds, a spokeswoman for the association.

The Cabela's Outfitter store in Kansas City, Kan., had planned to display the fish in a tank, but it died en route.

■ MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. — A former parking meter attendant accused of stealing \$120,000 — quarter by quarter — has pleaded guilty to embezzlement and has promised to pay most of it back.

Vincent J. Howard agreed in court Tuesday to repay \$70,000 within 30 days and \$30,000 more over the two years that he will be on probation.

Macomb County Circuit Judge Richard Caretti also ordered the 50-year-old Howard to spend six months on an electronic tether.

Howard, who worked for the Detroit suburb of Mount Clemens for 23 years, was arrested last year after police raided his home and found thousands of dollars in coins. They also found \$500 in Howard's car and \$2,000 in a city-owned car he used on his rounds.

"He said he took \$500 every two weeks for 10 years to pay bills," said county Assistant Prosecutor Steve Steinhardt. "But I think he used the money to more than supplement his income."

Howard now works as a \$9-an-hour laborer for a fence company.

(See ODDS, page three)

## Today in History

### The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, May 29, the 149th day of 2005. There are 216 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On May 29, 1765, Patrick Henry denounced the Stamp Act before Virginia's House of Burgesses. Responding to a cry of "Treason!" Henry declared, "If this be treason, make the most of it!"

### On this date:

■ In 1790, Rhode Island became the 13th original colony to ratify the United States Constitution.

■ In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th state of the union.

■ In 1903, comedian Bob Hope was born Leslie Townes Hope in Eltham, England.

■ In 1917, the 35th president of the United States, John F. Kennedy, was born in Brookline, Mass.

■ In 1932, World War I veterans began arriving in Washington to demand cash bonuses they were not scheduled to receive for another 13 years.

■ In 1942, actor John Barrymore died in Hollywood at age 60.

■ In 1943, Norman Rockwell's portrait of "Rosie the Riveter" appeared on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post.

■ In 1953, Mount Everest was conquered as Edmund

Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norkay of Nepal became the first climbers to reach the summit.

■ In 1985, 35 people were killed in rioting that erupted between British and Italian spectators at the European Cup soccer final in Brussels, Belgium.

■ In 1998, Republican elder statesman Barry Goldwater died in Paradise Valley, Ariz., at age 89.

**Ten years ago:** The last three bodies entombed in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City were recovered. Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both the House and the Senate, died in Skowhegan, Maine, at age 97.

**Five years ago:** President Clinton left Washington for a weeklong European tour. The space shuttle "Atlantis" returned from a repair mission to the international space station. Indonesia's state prosecutors placed former President Suharto under house arrest (however, Suharto's trial on corruption charges was abandoned because of health concerns).

**One year ago:** A shooting rampage by al-Qaida militants at a housing complex in Khobar, Saudi Arabia's oil hub, killed 22 people, most of them foreign oil industry workers. America dedicated a memorial to its World War II veterans on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Death claimed former Watergate spe-

cial prosecutor Archibald Cox at age 92 and Sam Dash, former chief counsel of the Senate Select Committee on Watergate, at age 79.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Clifton James is 84. Former Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent is 67. Race car driver Al Unser Sr. is 66. CBS Correspondent Bob Simon is 64. Actor Kevin Conway is 63. Actor Helmut Berger is 61. Rock singer Gary Brooker (Procol Harum) is 60. Actor Anthony Geary is 58. Singer Rebbie Jackson is 55. Movie composer Danny Elfman is 52. Rock musician Michael Porcaro is 50. Singer LaToya Jackson is 49. Actress Annette Bening is 47. Actor Rupert Everett is 46. Rock musician Mel Gaynor is 46. Actor Adrian Paul is 46. Singer Melissa Etheridge is 44. Actress Lisa Whelchel is 42. Rock musician Noel Gallagher (Oasis) is 38. Singer Jayski McGowan (Quad City DJ's) is 38. Rock musician Chan Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 36. Rock musician Mark Lee (Third Day) is 32. Singer Melanie Brown (Spice Girls) is 30. Rapper Playa Poncho is 30.

**Thought for Today:** "How much did I hear of religion as a child? Very little, and yet my heart leaped when I heard the name of God. I do believe every soul has a tendency toward God." — Dorothy Day, American activist (1897-1980).

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# expression

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

— Felix Frankfurter

## Guest view

### Governor faces important test

Amid ever-widening probes into whether his administration illegally used political background and connections as deciding factors in hiring and firing of Merit System employees, Gov. Ernie Fletcher has been presented with a test.

The test will determine whether the governor is all about rewarding friends and supporters or about rewarding experience and qualifications.

The governor must pick someone to fill a vacancy on the state Supreme Court. A nominating commission has given him three names, narrowed down from a longer list.

Two of the people are sitting circuit court judges.

Franklin Circuit Judge Roger Crittenden has 25 years on the bench and has presided over numerous constitutional cases, including one that explained the ramifications of not passing a state budget and one looking at whether Kentucky's system of capital punishment is inhumane.

Fayette Circuit Judge Mary Noble has 13 years on the bench and 10 years as a domestic relations commissioner and, among other things, is credited with starting one of the state's first drug courts.

But it's the third candidate, the one who is not and has never been a judge, who is considered the one most likely to get the appointment to Kentucky's top court.

John Roach has no judicial experience. But he is Fletcher's general counsel and a holdover from Fletcher's congressional staff. He says he is more than qualified, having clerked for the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, practiced corporate law in Washington, D.C., and handled state cases under Fletcher.

In a seeming defense of his colleague, Fletcher said recently he didn't think judicial experience was "necessarily important" in a new judge.

Aides to Fletcher say the governor hopes to make a decision before Justice James Keller steps down May 31. The new justice would serve until the end of 2006, when the seat is up for election.

This governor has made a habit of awarding judgeships to relatives of key Republicans, but we hope he supports experience over political connections here. We realize that unlike with the Merit System, whose laws expressly forbid taking political connections into account when hiring or firing, there are no laws against naming supporters to fill out the terms of elected officials.

But it's hard enough for the court, any court, to create the aura of objectivity and fairness without one of the governor's key advisers being put on the top court.

Besides, to win Kentuckians' votes two years ago Gov. Fletcher promised he wouldn't resort to patronage in filling key positions. To go against that

— *The Kentucky Post*



## Rich Lowry Column

### Sgt. Rafael Peralta, American hero

You probably don't know Rafael Peralta's name. If we lived in a country that more fully celebrated the heroics of its men in uniform, you would. He was a sergeant in Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment for Operation Dawn, the November offensive to retake the Iraqi city of Fallujah, which had become a haven for terrorists. What he did on the day of Nov. 15 was an awe-inspiring act of selfless sacrifice and faithfulness to his fellow Marines.

The only way we can honor Sgt. Peralta's heroism is to tell his story and remember his name. What follows is mostly drawn from the reporting of Marine combat correspondent Lance Cpl. T.J. Kaemmerer, who witnessed the events on that day.

Sgt. Peralta, 25, was a Mexican-American. He joined the Marines the day after he got his green card and earned his

citizenship while in uniform. He was fiercely loyal to the Corps. A week into the battle for Fallujah, the Marines were still doing the deadly work of clearing the city, house by house. As a platoon scout, Peralta didn't have to go out with the assault team that day. He volunteered to go.

According to Kaemmerer, the Marines entered a house and kicked in the doors of two rooms that proved empty. But there was another closed door to an adjoining room. It was unlocked, and Peralta, in the lead, opened it. He was immediately hit with AK-47 fire in his face and upper torso by three insurgents. He fell out of the way into

one of the cleared rooms to give his fellow Marines a clear shot at the enemy.

During the firefight, a yellow fragmentation grenade flew out of the room, landing near Peralta and several fellow Marines. The uninjured Marines tried to scatter out of the way, two of them trying to escape the room, but were blocked by a locked door. At that point, barely alive, Peralta grabbed the grenade and cradled

it to his body.

His body took most of the blast. One Marine was seriously injured, but the rest sustained only minor shrapnel wounds. Cpl. Brannon Dyer told a reporter from the Army Times, "He saved half my fire team."

Peralta's sacrifice should be a legend in the making. But somehow heroism doesn't get the same traction in our media environment as being a victim or villain, categories that encompass the truly famous Jessica Lynch and Lynndie England respectively. Peralta's story has been covered in military publications, a smattering of papers and ABC News. But The Washington Post and The New York Times only mentioned Peralta's name in their lists of the dead.

Scandalously, the "heroism" of Spc. Thomas Wilson — the national guardsman who asked a tough question of Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld — has been more celebrated in the press than that of Peralta.

Kaemmerer recounts how later on the night of Nov. 15, a friend approached him and said: "You're still here; don't forget that. Tell your kids, your grandkids, what Sgt. Peralta did for you and the other Marines today."

Don't forget. Good advice for all of us.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.



The Rich Lowry column

## beyond the beltway

### Republicans seem smarter than the rest

by DONALD KAUL  
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

Seldom does a single event in Washington seem to summarize an entire

era, but last month saw such an event. Congress passed the 2006 federal budget, which gave a huge tax cut to the rich, took away money from the program that funds health care for the poor and opened the way for oil drilling in the Alaskan wildlife refuge.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is an anti-New Deal trifecta: Soak the poor, enrich the rich and to hell with effete concepts like "wilderness" and "conservation."

My favorite quote of the day was supplied by none other than House Majority Leader Tom "Greasy Thumb" DeLay, who said:

"This is the budget the American people voted for when they returned a Republican House, a Republican Senate and a Republican president to the White House."

Yes they did (although they may not have known it at the time).

And, as if Congress hadn't done enough mischief, the president followed by suggesting that the Social Security deficit can be ameliorated by cutting benefits.

At times like these I think of H.L. Mencken, who said:

"Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard."

That's where we're at now folks, getting it good and hard.

I know what you're thinking. If the Republicans are such a malign party, inhospitable to the majority of the American people, how do they get elected?

I have a theory, several as a matter of fact.

Some people are Republicans by birth or habit or conversion. They identify with the GOP and simply cannot bring themselves to vote for a Democrat, no matter what. (Comparable Democrats are called "Yellow Dog Democrats," because they'd vote for a yellow dog if he appeared on the Democratic ticket. Republicans like that might be termed "Bush Republicans.")

Some people are rich. They don't need a safety net; they're attached to a bungee cord. They think what's good for them is good for the country and they have their Mercedes to prove it.

Some people consider the wall between church and state an impediment to a moral society and see the Republican Party as the means to tear it down. These often are the same people who read the Bible mainly in order to memorize its prejudices.

Some people are dumb as dirt. We have raised successive generations of Americans who are accustomed to getting their information from television, where there is none. Thus they are easy prey to cynical campaign tactics that unfairly demonize opponents and mask

true intentions (like lowering your Social Security). Both parties play this game, but the Republicans are much, much better at it.

Add them all together and what do you get? A Republican House, a Republican Senate and a Republican in the White House.

That's my theory and I'm sticking to it.

One more word about Social Security, however. Despite his honeyed words, the president is not trying to save the program for future generations. His aim is to get rid of it and the Trojan horse he has chosen as a weapon is "private accounts."

Whether one will accumulate more or less retirement money in private accounts is a matter for legitimate argument but this much is clear: Once people accept the notion that they're saving for their own retirement and no one else's, the concept of Social Security as a shared responsibility for the aged is doomed.

Because the next argument will be: What right has the government to force me to invest for my own retirement? If I want to invest in a flat-screen television instead, I should be able to. It's my money. That's an argument that will appeal to many young wage earners.

It won't happen this year or the next or the next decade, probably. But the Republicans have been hacking away at this for the past 40 years or so. They're not going to stop any time soon.

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

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# FLOYD COUNTY Lifestyles



## INSIDESTUFF

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Jim Davidson  
Do you have time for a cup of coffee?  
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## This Town, That World

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

## We're experts

The U.S. Civil Service Commission submits a release for publication stating that a dozen or more city and regional planners are urgently needed in the Washington, D.C. area. They've come to the right country for their experts. We all in these parts have had years of practice planning and telling each other what's wrong, and what should be done and why, and so forth.



Norman Allen

"Backward, turn backward, O time, in thy flight; make me a child again just for tonight"—these are lines many the oldster reads with nostalgia, and perhaps a bit of repining.

And then there are some who act as if they're reading it, "Make me childish again for tonight."

If it were not for man, a mule could rightly be called the most stubborn animal on earth.

There are some who have intimidated that my movements do not connote any great store of physical energy in the old frame. I would remind such detractors that if they could have watched me fight fire in a boat the other afternoon with one hand, and row like mad for the shore with the other, they would have lined up to apologize. Verily, the old boy stood on the burning deck, and up front was the young son, who was wondering which would leave first—I or the motor.

And that about sums up my fishing for the week. I could, and will, report with a touch of envy that John R. Baldrige, of Warco, and Heber Burke, of Prestonsburg, contrived to land two good bass this week. They used the doll-fly and eel pork rind—a bait which I have juggled, pumped and snagged onto underwater impediments for months, without getting a nibble.

SIGH  
But there is good news from



A fun-filled week of activities including special Mother's Day awards, a hula hoop contest, Mexican Fiesta Day, 50's Day, and a volunteer luncheon created special moments and memories at the Prestonsburg Health Care Center.

## National Nursing Home Week celebrated locally

The Prestonsburg Health Care Center celebrated National Nursing Home Week during the week of May 8-13. The center hosted a variety of fun-filled activities, kicking off the week with a special celebration on Mother's Day - a chicken and dumplings dinner (with all the "fixin's") for residents and their families. Ms. Lucille Davis, age 94, was honored as the center's oldest mother. Ms. Sharon Damron was honored as the center's youngest mother. Both honorees were further graced with the presence of family members, as well as receiving beautiful bouquets of flowers from the facility's staff and administration.

On Monday, it was time to thank all of the wonderful center volunteers who give of their time on a regular basis to visit with residents, sing, provide church services, read to the residents and much more. A wonderful luncheon of baked

ham, potato salad, green beans, homemade rolls and cheesecake was prepared in honor of these volunteers.

On Tuesday, things got hoppin' with a big 50's Days celebration! Bob Wireman provided music and 50's style refreshments such as root beer floats, chocolate and caramel sundaes and ice cream cones were served to all.

The excitement continued to build as Wednesday ushered in Mexican Fiesta Day. Both residents and staff dressed in traditional Mexican costumes and took their turns hitting at a huge piñata filled with candy and cash. The center's skilled dietary staff provided the extra special treat of the day - "Authentic Mexican Fried Ice Cream!"

On Thursday, the fun-filled themes continued as residents and staff pointed their eyes and ears to Hawaii. On "Hawaiian Luau Day," the active folks of the center participated in a hula hoop

and limbo contest. Fresh fruit and Hawaiian foods were served.

The week of events culminated on Friday with a good down-home backyard cookout on the patio. Hot dogs and barbecued chicken were prepared on the grill and served up with corn on the cob, baked beans and, what else but...watermelon! Good food, great weather and good company all added up to a day of great fun!

The Prestonsburg Health Care Center enjoys honoring their residents, staff and all their volunteers. The combined efforts of all make the center a very special place to live and to visit. Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's National Nursing Home Week a success.

To find out more about volunteer opportunities available at Prestonsburg Healthcare Center, call Cheryl Lafferty at 886-2378.

## MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

### 'The Bullet Train'

by TOM DOTY  
Staff Writer

Police and transportation officials must work together to protect passengers on a train that has been rigged to explode should it decrease speed.

The turmoil begins after the rigged train has left the station. The transportation cabinet gets a call from terrorists who tell them a bomb will detonate aboard the train if it slows down. The caller also informs them that a similar device has been placed on a freight train so that they can see that it is not a hoax. The freight train is contacted and the conductors jump ship just as the train explodes.



Tom Doty  
Staff Writer

The demonstration works and the company begins assembling the \$5 million ransom that the crooks ask for.

The police are alerted and everything goes wrong as they decide to make capturing the gang behind the extortion plot their first priority. They turn a ransom drop into a chase that kills one of the gang but gets them no closer to saving the passengers.

The corpse is identified and leads them to a second gang member, but they wound him and he escapes. The mastermind behind the plan arranges to get the money himself. He succeeds but can't save his injured partner, who is killed by the police in a shootout.

The surviving gangster turns out to be a downsized worker who doesn't want innocent blood on his hands, so he calls in instructions for defusing the bomb. He informs the police that the instructions are taped under a table at a popular restaurant. The police arrive to find that a fire has destroyed the eatery, but with no phone number for the bad guys they must alert the train to follow plan B and try to figure out how to disarm the bomb themselves.

Meanwhile the extortionist heads out to the airport while the police finally stumble upon his identity and send out men to all airports and bus depots to find him before he can leave town. To say how it all ends would be truly criminal.

Disaster films were all the rage in the mid-1970s in America ("Towering Inferno") and abroad. Japan saw a lot of profits from these films and this is one of their best efforts.

This film follows the disaster film rule of casting a ton of big stars, though many of them may be unfamiliar to American audiences. Karate film star Sonny Chiba ("Kill Bill") gets to play the conductor while Ken Takakura ("Black Rain") is also on hand as the head bad guy.

The effects are pretty good, too, with the freight train explosion in reel

(See LAGOON, page seven)

# A few kind words

by A. DOUGLAS ROWLEY  
"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE PRISONER'S SOUL"

There I was on Christmas Day, in the lockdown unit. After having worked there as an officer for six years, I moved up the ladder and was eventually assigned to transporting prisoners, one of the better assignments available at the time. On Christmas there would be no transporting of prisoners. I was given the unenviable task of feeding the inmates who were locked down in the Special Management Unit.

The unit was always loud, and the aggressive inmates it housed were usually at their worst. Screaming, cursing and throwing food trays were the norm. On the particular

Christmas Day I found myself preparing to serve the breakfast, another officer worked along with me, assisting with the preparation of the trays and distributing the beverages. The meals were issued through an opening in the cell door, which we called the "chuck door." We knew that serving the meal would be a challenge, because the inmates were upset and frustrated about being locked down on Christmas.

It seemed that as quickly as we passed the food trays through the slot, the inmates would throw them back at us through the chuck doors and onto the cell-house floor. We endured many insults. I focused my thoughts on how I would soon be having Christmas dinner with my family. I decided not to take it personally, and focused on doing the job.

One of the inmates was particularly nasty and vile that

morning. His insults never ceased, continuing as we delivered the morning meal to each cell. Finally, as we were finishing up the detail, and I began to secure his chuck door, I asked him to come to the opening in the door. When he did, I wished him a merry Christmas and then secured the door.

Five months passed, and in late May I was approached in the yard by an inmate saying, "Ya know, you really messed me up." He repeated the message several times, and I asked him what he meant.

He asked if I remembered him. I replied, "No," and again asked what he was talking

about. After refreshing my memory about the incident in the lockdown unit on Christmas morning, he told me that after his verbal assault, the last thing he expected to hear from me was a simple remark — "Merry Christmas."

He and I spent several minutes talking, and he shared how my words provided a wake-up call for him. He learned that not everyone was an enemy, and he recognized he was the one responsible for the choices he would make in his life.

I still ponder this exchange and remember what a few kind words can mean.



## Jim Davidson

### Do you have time for a cup of coffee?

When a human being is born and comes into the world, one of the most precious gifts he is given is something we call time. The American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), once said, "Time is the shadow on the dial, the striking of the clock ... these are but arbitrary and outward signs, the measure of Time, but not Time itself. Time is the life of the soul."

Unless we have been convicted of a crime and sentenced to death, the amount of time we each have is not ours to know. However, we do know that how we use our time while we are here in this earth, whether we use it wisely or waste it, will determine our success or failure as a human being.



In these days when we must purchase most of our basic needs from others, that is to say, goods and services, time has become money. This fact has resulted in a dilemma that has produced stress, high blood pressure, heart disease and other medical conditions that take a toll on millions of people in our nation every year. This is exacerbated by the fact that an ever-increasing tax burden, especially the hidden tax of inflation, has caused the pace of life to quicken to the point that we meet ourselves coming back from places we should never have gone in the first place.

Along these lines, a friend

sent me something the other day that has a wonderful message and something that every person who is caught up in the rat race should think about from time to time. When things in your life seem too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar — and the coffee.

Several years ago at a small college in upstate New York, a professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor next picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the stu-

dents again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes." The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things — your God, your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions — things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

"The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else — the

small stuff."

He continued, "If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all of your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your spouse or a good friend out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there is always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

This last line certainly has a

lot of meaning. It says to me, and maybe to you, too, that if we get in too big of a hurry, we are going to miss spending some quality time and the blessings of being in touch with other human beings. In a far less important realm, the correct answer to the question, "Do you have time for a cup of coffee?" can mean extra money in our pocket, especially if we happen to be in the sales profession.

When I was in outside sales and someone would ask the question, "Do you have time for a cup of coffee?" I always said "yes," even if I had 10 cups just before I got there. Coffee is fellowship and coffee is quality time to tell your story about what you are selling, and we are all selling something. Quality and fellowship are good thoughts to ponder.

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

## Lagoon

one a standout.

The film also demonstrates a very 1970s counterculture mojo. Here the police are depicted as rigid while the transportation company represents a more understanding nature. Nowadays these notions are reversed, but there was actually a time when business types were heroes and supposedly represented the masses in Japanese culture.

It's obvious that "Speed" got its plot here, but this is still worth your

rental dollar as it manages to tell the same story on a broader canvas. The people on the train come off as the most angry, and who can blame them as the conductor is told to lie to them from the outset. When the media starts reporting the story it almost leads to full-scale riot on the train.

The film also scores points by developing its characters a little more than your standard disaster film caricatures.

This film is available in a three-pack DVD set called, appropriately, "The Kill Chiba Collection." The reasonably priced set also includes two other Sonny Chiba films. "The Executioner" is a karate flick with some good set pieces, and "Golgo 13" is an adaptation of an anime title about an international assassin played with grim menace by Chiba.

Best line: "The bomber's dead? What is he like?" 1975, unrated.

Continued from p6

## This Town

other parts. The only fly in the ointment, is, those parts are so distinct that I can only look westward, ho! and wonder why it is in this land of the free-loader a-body can't simply pass the hat, pocket the take and shove off...I refer to a letter received from George Alley of Salem,

Oregon. To get even with some other luckier fisherman, I quote:

"You should visit Oregon for some real fishing. I have landed five chinook salmon in two days. Largest 47 pounds...They have just started to come into the river now. Was out this morning at 3, and by 5, I had

two salmon...No trouble at all to get the limit (10) of rainbow trout in two hours. Rainbow are running nice size, 15 to 25 inches..."

This man Alley tells me he is just recovering from two operations...I tell Mr. Alley he's in a country where it's worth recovering.

Continued from p6



Big Sandy Community and Technical College is offering a Children's Music and Drama Summer Workshop, directed by Laura Ford Hall. Pictured is Hall taking a bow with a group of children after performing "Cinderella," the result of a previous workshop Hall directed.

## Children's Music and Drama Summer Workshop at BSCTC

Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC) will be offering a Children's Music and Drama Summer Workshop for children ages 8 - 12. The workshop will be free of charge and will be taught and directed by Laura Ruth Ford Hall, BSCTC Music and Drama Coordinator.

The workshop will be held on the BSCTC Prestonsburg Campus and will start Tues., June 28 and will run every Tues. and Thurs. from 3:00 - 5:00 PM until the children's performance on Tues., Aug. 2 on the stage of the Gearheart Auditorium, Prestonsburg Campus.

This class will be a fun experience that will explore the basics of

theater and music. During the class, children will be taught the fundamentals of both areas. In the area of theater, children will learn stage directions, blocking, staging, and techniques of acting, as well as costuming, and how lighting and sound play a role in a production. In the area of music, the children will learn basic notes, rhythm, and techniques of singing including matching pitch, singing scales, and harmony singing. The class will finish with a production of a musical — in which every child participating will have a role.

Hall has been teaching music and drama classes to children for the past seven years. She has been a member of the Kentucky Opry for

the past eleven years. Hall taught children's music and drama classes at the Mountain-Arts Center, as she served as the Center's Arts Education Director for two years. She now teaches at BSCTC as well as coordinates the college's Community Choir, Big Sandy Singers, and the BSCTC Theater Troupe.

Only 25 spots are available for this Children's Music and Drama workshop. Call or email Laura Hall today to reserve a spot for your child. Hall can be reached by phone at (606) 886-3863 ext. 67227 or (606) 478-4448. You can email Hall at [laura.hall@kctcs.edu](mailto:laura.hall@kctcs.edu) or [lauraruthhall@setel.com](mailto:lauraruthhall@setel.com).

## 'Customer Appreciation Day' held at Eastern P.O.

Eastern Post Office recently held a "Customer Appreciation Day" in order to recognize their many customers and to let them know that they think they are "the greatest,"

said Postmaster Sharon Combs. Postmaster Combs, PMR Glessie Stumbo, Postal Carrier Madonna Kisor and "Honorary Postmaster for the Day" Anna Mae Huff, were all

on hand to meet and greet their daily customers with cake and assorted refreshments. The Eastern Post Office staff wish to thank all their customers for brightening their days.

## Screenshots: What are

A screen shot is a very helpful tool because it allows you to take a picture of the application you are using or take a picture of your computer screen exactly as you see it.

This can be helpful because when you need technical support or you want to do a set of instructions you can use this nifty feature. Did you ever see a picture of a computer screen in a manual? Well now, you too will be able to create such a picture.

They are very easy to do. First look for your print screen button on your keyboard. It is usually located next to the F12 or the top right of the keyboard. If you are using a laptop it may be located elsewhere.

Follow these easy steps to capture a screenshot into Microsoft Word:

1. Open up a blank Word document
2. Minimize the Word document by clicking on the "-" in the upper right hand corner of your screen.
3. Show on the screen what you want to take a picture of, whether it is the desktop or a program screen.

4. Press the print screen button. If you

press Alt+PrintScreen.

5. Now maximize the Word document and right click on it. Then click on paste to insert your picture onto the Word document.

This is a handy feature to have. I have used it to email a screenshot or picture for online classes.

Did you know that there are several types of pictures? The most common type is the .jpg or jpeg. The other type is .bmp or bitmap. Jpeg (pronounced jay-peg) stands for the Joint Photographic experts Group. It is a type of file compression that makes the picture file size smaller but still keeps the quality of the pictures.

The .bmp or bitmap image makes an even better quality of picture, but it takes up larger file space. Bitmap in a nutshell is basically millions of dots that are literally created bit by bit.

When saving a picture file, all you need to do is add ".jpg" as an extension to the name of your file and your computer does the rest. For instance, if you have a document named cat and you want to save it as a picture, just save it as cat.jpg. Bit map is exactly

the same way, except that add you need to use ".bmp" as a file extension.



COMPUTER GURU

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

## Engagement



Ousley-Cox

Jerry and Edith Butcher, of Prestonsburg, and Delmer Ousley, also of Prestonsburg, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Tiffany Lynn Ousley, to Jackie Dean Cox, the son of Karen Cox, of Lexington. The couple will wed on Saturday, June 4, 2005, at the McGinnis Home, at Inez, at half past six o'clock in the evening. The gracious custom of an open wedding will be observed for this outdoor event.

# Regional Obituaries

## FLOYD COUNTY

Goldia "Snookie" Marie Burchett, 81, of Prestonsburg, died Monday, May 23, at King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 26, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Juanita Conn, 57, of Printer, died Wednesday, May 18, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, Johnny Conn. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, May 21, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Richard Elkins, 79, of Prestonsburg, died Monday, May 16, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Nora Rorrer Elkins. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Eddie Harris, 55, of Melvin, died Friday, May 20, at Saint Joseph Hospital East, Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Little Harris. Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 24, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Elder Michael Johnson, 40, of Teaberry, died Saturday, May 23, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Wanda Carlene Johnson. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 28, under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home.

Martha Marsillett, 70, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, May 21, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, Edward Marsillett. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, May 24, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Dennis "Denny" Moore, 78, died Friday, May 6. A memorial service was held Wednesday, May 11, in San Mateo, California.

Anna Mae Ousley, 66, of Martin, died Sunday, May 22, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, Vernon Ousley. Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 24, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Palestine Isaacs Riley, 66, of Cowpens, South Carolina, a Floyd County native, died Sunday, May 22, at her home. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 26, under the direction of J.F. Floyd Mortuary, Cowpen, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Rodney Mark Rose, 57, of Langley, died Thursday, May 19, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Sherlene Ramey Rose. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, May 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Eugene Slone, 69, of Medway, Ohio, a native of Craynor, died Sunday, May 22, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Naoma (Taylor) Slone. Services were conducted Thursday, May 26, under the direction of Trostel, Chapman & Christmas Funeral Home, New Carlisle, Ohio.

## PIKE COUNTY

Sheila Lynn Adams, 52, of Austin, Texas, formerly of Pikeville, died Thursday, May 19. Funeral services were held Sunday, May 22, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home of Pikeville.

Andy Joe Adams, 44, of Edgerton, West Virginia, died Wednesday, May 25, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 28, under the direction of R.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home, Phelps.

Reuben Thomas Adkins, 65, of Columbia, South Carolina, a native of Virgie, died Thursday, May 19. He is survived by his wife, Alice Sue Willis Adkins. Funeral services were held Monday, May 23, under the direction of John Steen Funeral Home of Ashland and Dunbar Funeral Home of Irmo, South Carolina.

Maggie Davis Allen, 96, of

Pikeville, died Monday, May 23, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Services were held Wednesday, May 25, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Randy Blake Carter, 49, of Belfry, died Monday, May 23. He is survived by his wife, Diane Maynard Carter. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 26, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Ray Caudill, 78, of Hatfield, died Friday, May 20, at Appalachian Regional Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility. He is survived by his wife, Nollie Caudill. Funeral services were held Monday, May 23, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Bob R. Coleman, 91, of Phelps, died Wednesday, May 25, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 28, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

James E. Damron, 84, of Ashland, formerly of Virgie, died Saturday, May 21, at his home. Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 24, under the direction of Carmen Funeral Home of Flatwoods.

The Rev. J.L. Diamond Jr., 79, of Ransom, died Friday, May 22, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Erna Mae Varney Diamond. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 26, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Home.

Ferrell Dorton, 53, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, May 18, at his home. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 21, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Mandy Dotson, 78, of McCarr, died Wednesday, May 25, at Williamson Memorial Hospital, Williamson, West Virginia. Funeral services will be held at noon Sunday, May 29, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Home.

William Howard Flanary, 54, of Collins Highway, died Wednesday, May 18, at his home. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 21, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Josephine Ferrell, 82, of Stopover, died Monday, May 23, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday, May 27, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

Anel T. Hampton, 92, of Virgie, died Tuesday, May 24, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday, May 27, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Erma Howard Howard, 88, a native of Pikeville, a resident of Clapp's Convalescent Nursing Home, formerly of Asheboro, North Carolina, died Saturday, May 21, 2005, at the nursing home. Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 24, under the direction of Ridge Funeral Home of Asheboro.

Robert Alan Johnson, 44, of Belfry, died Tuesday, May 24. Funeral arrangements, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Ernest "Slick" Jones, 52, of Rockhouse, died Thursday, May 19, at his home. Funeral services were held Sunday, May 22, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Anna Thacker Miller, 75, of Steele, died Monday, May 23, at her home. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 26, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Reba Sammons Pauley, 88, of Lawndale, North Carolina, a Pike County native, died Monday, May 23, at Hospice & Palliative Care Cleveland County, Shelby, North Carolina. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Edward Pauley. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 26, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home of Belfry, and Stamey Funeral Home of Fallston, North Carolina.

Edwin L. Roewer, 77, of St. Cloud, Florida, died Saturday, May 21, at Orlando Regional Hospital, Orlando, Florida. He

is survived by his wife, Viola Church Roewer. Graveside services were held Wednesday, May 25, in the Thacker Family Cemetery, in Canada. Arrangements, were under direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Lilly Sluss, 87, of Shelbyana, died Thursday, May 19, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, May 22, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Jessie Mae Smith, 80, of Williamson, West Virginia, died Sunday, May 22, at Williamson Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 26, and burial was in Mountain View Memory Gardens, in Huddy, under direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Lorene Smith, 59, of Dry Fork Road, Shelby, died Saturday, May 21, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral arrangements, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

James "Jimmy" Bennett Spears, 73, of Regina, died Thursday, May 26, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Myrna Loy Butler Spears. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 29, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Columbus Sword, 85, of Pikeville, died Monday, May 23, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Sword. Funeral services were held Friday, May 27, under the direction of West Funeral Home.

Ruth Swanston Wagler, 94,

of Lawton, Oklahoma, died Tuesday, April 19, at the Willow Park Nursing Home. Funeral services were held Sunday, April 24, and burial was in the Bent Ridge Cemetery, in Meta, under direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Verda M. Williamson, 63, of Feds Creek, died Monday, May 23, at Buchanan General Hospital, Grundy, Virginia. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 26, under direction of Justice Funeral Home.

Janet Colleen "Cody" Murphy Wilson, 71, of Belfry, died Sunday, May 22, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 25, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

## MAGOFFIN COUNTY

Delores Arnett Davis, 69, of Salyersville, died Friday, May 20, at Bloomington Pavillion, Bloomington, Illinois. She is survived by her husband, Floyd Davis. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 26, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Maude R. Wireman Forester, 85, of Salyersville, died Monday, May 23, at Drew's Place Village Green, Hillsdale, Michigan. Funeral services were conducted Friday, May 26, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Brondell Reed Howard, 71, of Salyersville, died Thursday, May 19, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted

(See REGIONAL, page eight)

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# Personnel investigation haunting Fletcher early in term

by MARK R. CHELLGREN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — In a letter to state employees during his 2003 campaign, Republican Ernie Fletcher pledged to end the "good old boy politics" that had become ensconced during 32 years of Democratic govern-

ment. Fletcher now finds his administration at the center of an investigation into exactly the kind of political tinkering with state employment that he excoriated. The investigation blew up just as Fletcher embarked on a trade mission to Japan and China, and should have been enjoying some of the best publicity of his 17-month term — the announcement that Toyota Motor Corp. would locate its long-sought gasoline-electric hybrid assembly plant in Kentucky.

Instead, Fletcher had to conduct a late-night conference call from Japan and explain to a room full of shouting reporters that his administration's hiring practices, while perhaps enthusiastic toward Republicans, were not illegal.

"They probably have been cut out for the last 30 years," Fletcher said of his fellow Republicans. "They should feel like that they have an opportunity, and that we have attempted to

make a level playing field based within the law."

"All I'm saying is that we've certainly made mistakes, and we will continue to because we're human," he added. "But from my standpoint I think the mistake that was made is not having a formal process for these recommendations."

There is a fair amount of partisan grumbling because the investigation is being conducted by Attorney General Greg Stumbo, the highest-ranking elected Democrat in the state and a potential opponent for Fletcher in 2007.

"It is clear that this is a political maneuver by Stumbo in preparation for the next gubernatorial race. This investigation is hardball politics, pure and simple," said Kentucky GOP executive committee member Spencer Noe.

But the investigation was started when a 30-year state employee in the personnel office of the Transportation Cabinet came forward with e-mails, handwritten notes and memos detailing the partisan tint to personnel decisions in the agency.

Doug Doerting, who has since retired, took hundreds of pages of documents and copies to Stumbo's office and the showdown began.

Stumbo dispatched investigators from his office to retrieve

transportation department documents because he feared they were being destroyed. Transportation officials balked, however, and attorney general investigators and executive branch security personnel spent a weekend outside a locked file room keeping an eye on each other and the door.

Administration officials pledged cooperation with the investigation, but have gone to court at least three times, seeking to quash subpoenas or limit the information investigators can obtain through search warrants.

As many as 500 transportation jobs might have been affected by improper political influence, Stumbo said. And he said the investigation may extend to other agencies. He also asked for appointment of a special grand jury.

"It does appear serious, and it does appear widespread," Stumbo said.

For example, a recommendation in one applicant's file described how the job seeker worked for the Republican Party during the 2003 gubernatorial campaign.

"He made phone calls every night and walked when he could. He put flyers on cars, walked and made phone calls during the last weekend," said the recommendation, which was

sent by a party employee to staffers in the governor's office. One of the recipients was Dave Dispenet, who is a volunteer in the governor's office and also is state GOP treasurer.

A list that accompanies one grand jury subpoena lists 23 people of special interest to investigators, including two cabinet secretaries and several top aides in Fletcher's office, including his chief of staff and deputy chief of staff. The names of Fletcher and Lt. Gov. Steve Pence, who is a former federal prosecutor, are not on the grand jury materials.

While a governor has unfet-

tered power to appoint whomever he wants to top administrative jobs throughout state government, a 1960 law that created the state civil-service program called the Merit System requires the majority of state jobs to be filled based on qualifications.

There are 38,000 state employees and all but about 4,000 of them are Merit System, or otherwise not political appointments, such as court employees.

Charges under the personnel laws are largely misdemeanors and carry a one-year statute of limitations. Stumbo has said delays may already have prohib-

ited some prosecutions and hinted that delay may be part of the administration's tactic.

Charles Wells, director of the Kentucky Association of State Employees, a public worker union, said the documents reflect "the most blatant abuse of the Merit System that I've seen in 20 years."

Wells said Fletcher drew the votes of many state workers because of his promises to take politics out of state employment.

"All they're seeing is not only more of the same, but worse than the same," Wells said.

## Fletcher says probe of hiring practices is 'start of 2007 governor's race'

by JOE BIESK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Back from a trade trip to Asia, a defiant Gov. Ernie Fletcher said Friday that an investigation into his administration's hiring practices marked "the start of the 2007 governor's race."

Attorney General Greg Stumbo's office is investigating allegations that GOP preference was being shown in the administration's merit system job hirings, and the probe became public just as Fletcher left for Japan earlier this month. The merit system was created in 1960 to insu-

late rank-and-file state employees from political influence. Stumbo is a Democrat and a potential gubernatorial rival.

"My assessment as we look at this and what is it all about, I think it's pretty clear this is the beginning of the 2007 governor's race is what this is about" Fletcher, a Republican, told reporters Friday.

"By saying that this is the beginning of the 2007 governor's race, I think it's pretty clear what I mean by that," he said.

Fletcher said he hadn't "seen anything that was inappropriate" in how his subordinates handled state hires and noted that an

internal review of his administration's hiring practices by the Personnel Cabinet did not turn up any irregularities.

But he said his administration would institute a plan to revise how it filters recommendations for state job candidates.

A spokesman for Stumbo's office did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Fletcher returned late Thursday from a nearly two-week trade trip to Japan and China. Friday's remarks were the first he's made in public about the investigation since his return. Last week he addressed reporters via speakerphone.

## State's prosecutor of mine-law violators replaced

by ROGER ALFORD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIKEVILLE — The state attorney responsible for prosecuting coal operators and miners who violate safety laws has been replaced.

Tony Oppgard, 54, of Lexington, who served as prosecutor for the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing, said he was given no reason for the action on Thursday.

A letter from LaJuana Wilcher, secretary of the Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, told Oppgard his services as attorney for the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing were no longer needed. The position is a political appointment not covered by the state's merit system.

Oppgard, appointed to the position in 2001 by former Gov. Paul Patton, has handled cases that resulted in more than 100 coal miners or mine operators being penalized for violating safety standards. Thirty-three people had their mining certificates revoked.

United Mine Workers of

America President Cecil Roberts said Oppgard's firing is "a tremendous blow" to the safety of miners in Kentucky.

"Tony's relentless pursuit of coal operators who flout the law and ignore even basic safety procedures meant that Kentucky coal miners could, for a time, go to work with a reasonable expectation of coming home again safely," Roberts said. "With this irresponsible action, Gov. Fletcher has bowed to pressure from the coal operators who poured money into his campaign, and put Kentucky coal miners on notice that they do not have a friend in Frankfort any longer."

Wilcher said Friday that Oppgard's departure is part of a reorganization. He is being replaced by C. Michael Haines, a veteran attorney for the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet.

Haines was named Thursday as general counsel for the Department of Natural Resources. Part of his duties will be prosecuting violators of mine safety laws.

"We want to send a very strong signal that mine safety is

at the top of our priorities," Wilcher said.

Bill Caylor, president of the Kentucky Coal Association, said Haines is a respected attorney within the mining industry.

"He is one of those attorneys who will fairly apply the law and who will not lean toward one side or the other," Caylor said. "He'll be a middle-of-the-road type of attorney and that is exactly the type of attorney for that position."

Oppgard said the letter advised him to turn in his keys and state-employee identification card because his services were no longer needed.

Oppgard served as adviser to the head of the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration from 1998 to 2001, and headed the investigation into the sludge spill that covered portions of Martin County in black goo in 2000. He worked for the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund in Hazard from 1980-1991, then became directing attorney for the Mine Safety Project in eastern Kentucky, a job he held until 1998.

### Regional

ed Sunday, May 22, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Brian M. Prater, 30, of Salyersville, died Wednesday, May 18. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, May 21, under the direction of Salyersville Funeral Home.

#### JOHNSON COUNTY

Claude O. Christian, 76, of Danville, a former Johnson County extension agent, died Thursday, May 19, at Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville. He is survived by his wife, Naomi Sergeant Christian. Funeral services were held Sunday, May 22, under the direction of the Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals, of Morehead.

William Thomas Mollette, 41, of Paintsville, died Thursday, May 19, at the U.K. Medical Center in Lexington. He is survived by his wife,

Kathy McKenzie Mollette. Funeral services were held Sunday, May 22, under the direction of the Preston Funeral Home.

Elzie Ramey, 82, of Ashley, Ohio, formerly of Flat Gap, died Friday, May 20, at St. Ann's Hospital in Westerville, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice "Bobbie" Bunyard Ramey. Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 24, under the direction of the DeVore-Snyder Funeral Home of Delaware, Ohio.

Hank Scott, 37, of Carey, Ohio, formerly of Swamp Branch, died Wednesday, May 18, at his residence. Funeral services were held Sunday, May 22, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

James "Pawnee" Sublett, 80, of Sitka, died Thursday, May 19, at the Mountain Manor Nursing Home, Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Wanetta

Home Sublett. Funeral services were held Sunday, May 22, under the direction of the Preston Funeral Home.

#### MARTIN COUNTY

William "Bob" Farra, 66, of Inez, died Tuesday, May 24, at his residence. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 26, under the direction of the Phelps & Son Funeral Home, of Inez.

Nancy Jewell, 84, of Kissimmee, Florida, a Martin County native, died Tuesday, May 10, at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 12, under the direction of the Preston Funeral Home.

Monaville Staton, 64, of Pilgrim, died Thursday, May 19, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, May 22, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Continued from p7

# WIN a Caddy for Daddy!

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# Regional SPORTS

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TIMES Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

## Amber Alert consortium to sponsor IRL race



by MURRAY EVANS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPARTA - Granger Whitelaw twice has known the thrill of being part of a team that won the Indianapolis 500, experiences

that gave him an appreciation for speed and technology.

Now he's using his auto racing industry contacts to bring organizations together to work for a cause for which speed and technology are critical - the Amber Alert system.

The system, used to notify the public about missing and abducted children, will have its name on an Indy Racing League race at Kentucky Speedway in August, track officials said Thursday.

The Amber Alert Indy 300

will be sponsored by the Amber Alert Portal Consortium, a public-private partnership that provides states new technology that expands the alert system to make it more effective.

"This is the best technology in the world, to let the police communicate with the public, and each other, to win the most important race of our lives - the race to save a child's life," Whitelaw said. "When it comes to Amber Alert, we're all on the same team."

It's the first time a major

sporting event has had a cause-related title sponsor, said Whitelaw, a former race car owner and the managing director of BlueCar Partners, which helped bring together the consortium, racetrack, IRL and other involved parties.

"I hope it spurs more of this to happen with other causes," he said. "What a great platform! You do it on a national level and you support a great cause. You create awareness."

The sponsorship, for an undis-

closed sum, is only for this year's race, Kentucky Speedway executive vice president and general manager Mark Cassis said. The race, which will be televised nationally by ABC, will be Aug. 14.

On that day, Kentucky will become the seventh state to begin use of the Amber Alert Portal, which enables the quick communication of detailed data - including physical descriptions, photographs and biographical information - by law enforcement agencies. The data

can be delivered through cell phones, pagers, e-mail, fax machines or other personal communication devices.

States already using the new technology - provided by the consortium at no cost to government - include Washington, Arizona, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Missouri. Besides Kentucky, 16 other states soon will use it, said Todd Sander, the chief operating officer of the

(See ALERT, page two)

## RE/MAX now official real estate partner of Little League

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. - In an agreement announced today, global real estate franchisor, RE/MAX International has become the official real estate partner of

Little League Baseball and Softball in the United States and Canada.

The arrangement affords RE/MAX offices and associates the opportunity to become involved in

a wide variety of sponsorships of an array of Little League programs at the local, league and district levels as well as RE/MAX participation in five Little League Baseball Division regional finals and the Little League Baseball World Series scheduled for August 19-28 in Williamsport.

"Those of us who played on Little League teams while growing up still remember the experiences and the valuable lessons learned," Mike Reagan, RE/MAX senior vice president, brand marketing, said. "For more than 65 years, Little League programs have engrained values like courage, loyalty, character and sportsmanship into young people's lives. We are hopeful that this relationship touches millions of families and demonstrates that RE/MAX understands the present and future value of instilling healthy and sound principles in our youth."

As part of the new relationship, RE/MAX is encouraging local offices and sales associates to become active supporters of local and regional Little League programs in any way possible, through cash contributions for equipment, sponsorship of local teams or financial support of playing fields and venues. Numerous Little League programs offer a variety of baseball and softball participation from the Tee Ball level for players as young as 5 years old to the Big League Division for 16-18-year-olds.

At its core, the purpose of Little League is to provide a safe, fun, wholesome combination of recreation and competition through regular season play

(See PARTNER, page two)



## CHUCKIE MAY RACING



photo by Rick Schwallie

Floyd County racer Chuckie May (28), pictured racing in an NARA Battle of the Bluegrass feature event, took the Late Model division checkered flag last week at 201 Speedway. May remains in the NARA BoB top 10

## NARA BoB Late Models

### 2005 Points Standings

Pos.	Car.	Driver name	Points
1.	5m	Whitney McQueary	1100
2.	5E	Michael England	1030
3.	47	Chris Combs	1005
4.	18	Tim Tungate	970
5.	9	Mike Jewell	920
6.	83	Scott James	840
7.	33	Aaron Hatton	830
8.	28	Chuckie May	825
9.	49	Frankie Coomer	805
9.	1	Wayne Chinn	805

## Horsemen sign DL Bobby Leffew

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

LEXINGTON - The Lexington Horsemen have signed defensive lineman Bobby Leffew to their 2005 roster, head coach Bob Sphire announced Wednesday.

Leffew, 6-foot-4, 289 lbs., was a four-year letterwinner for the

University of Louisville where he played in 44 games (32 starts). In his senior season at U of L, Leffew posted 36 total tackles, including seven tackles for loss (25 yds.). He also recorded five sacks for a loss of 18 yards in his final campaign. For his career, Leffew posted 132 total tackles with 28 tackles for

loss and 12.5 sacks.

"Bobby is an addition that can really help us again move toward a championship caliber," Sphire said. "Anytime you can add a former central Kentucky high school hero and a former local college player it's exciting. He is really going to

(See LEFFEW, page two)

## Kinzer leads Southern All Stars East points

TIMES STAFF REPORT



ALLEN - Brandon Kinzer Motorsports competed in one Southern All Stars East (SAS-E) event and a Southern All Stars (SAS) event last weekend and successfully took over the SAS-E points lead with its performance.

The first event of the weekend took place at Lavonia Speedway in Lavonia, Ga.

In qualifying, Brandon Kinzer paced the dirt oval with third fast time overall in qualifying. This meant an inside second row starting spot for the feature.

(See KINZER, page two)

## Dunn signs with Alice Lloyd

by STEVE LeMASTER  
SPORTS EDITOR

CAMPTON - Alice Lloyd College has signed one of Eastern Kentucky's top high school baseball players.

Wolfe County High School senior catcher Andrew Dunn, who entered the postseason this week batting over .500 has signed with Alice Lloyd.

Wolfe County, which ended its season earlier this week with a 56th District Tournament loss, got most of its offensive production from Dunn. The Wolfe County High senior ranked as one of Eastern Kentucky's top hitters and catchers.

As a member of the Wolfe County High baseball team, Dunn, who also played basketball for the Wolves, played under the tutelage of head coach Greg Potter.

At Alice Lloyd, Dunn will play for veteran head coach Scott Cornett.

Recently wrapping up his 14th season as head coach of the Alice Lloyd baseball program, Cornett has filled the ALC baseball roster with area Eastern Kentucky players. The Leslie County native is also an Alice Lloyd College alum. Floyd County resident Julius "Jad" Deaton is a member of the ALC baseball staff.



*Joe Bolton got both merriam and rio turkeys during a recent hunt in Nebraska. Right: Bolton is pictured with the rio turkey. Right: The Floyd County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation member is pictured with the merriam turkey. Each turkey weighed over 20 pounds.*



**Alert**

portal consortium, which is funded by corporate sponsors.

Sander hopes the publicity generated by the race will influence more private companies to donate to the cause, more states to use the technology and more people to sign up to be notified on their personal communication devices.

"The level of awareness that will be raised by the race will help us turn this into a national system and give those dastardly people who would steal a child no place to hide," Sander said.

Mark Miller, the Kentucky State Police commissioner, said 11 Amber Alerts have been issued in the state since Kentucky began using the system in 2002, resulting in the recovery of 14 children, ranging in age from a

few hours to 16 years old.

"When this is broadcast throughout the nation, and citizens see what this is — a way to protect their children in their community — they're going to demand that their state get involved," Lt. Gov. Steve Pence said.

The previous title sponsor for the Kentucky IRL race, Belterra Casino, opted not to renew that contract with the speedway, leaving the track looking for a replacement, Cassis said.

"We've never had an unsponsored event at this venue, but I was starting to get a little concerned," Cassis said.

In February, Whitelaw told IRL officials about the consortium's potential sponsorship interest. The IRL contacted the speedway, which began negoti-

ating with the consortium.

Cassis said the speedway negotiated a reduced-rate deal for television time for the race with ABC and made sure state police officials were willing to begin using the new system.

"Once all those meshed together, we were able to do it," Cassis said. "It wasn't overnight."

Whitelaw said the event will be a classic example of a public-private partnership.

"This is a public need being paid for by private, can-do type of organizations," he said. "It's a great tool we have in the U.S. Without those type of dollars, we can't make this thing work. It takes tens of millions of dollars. You're talking about 50 states. You're talking about millions and millions of children. This is a major, major issue."

■ Continued from p1

**Partner**

among local teams. For those players whose skills are more advanced, the Little League International Tournament provides the largest sports tournament in the world, with more than 40,000 games played each summer on the road to the various World Series tournaments.

Little League leaves no one out — it has a Challenger Division for physically and mentally challenged players, giving every child a chance to be a Little Leaguer. The Little League Urban Initiative is a vigorous attempt to provide access to the benefits of the program to boys and girls within urban communities.

Little League also offers a variety of easy-to-implement programs for local leagues that help keep children safe, and make the game more fun for everyone: A Safety Awareness

Program (ASAP), and the Little League Manager/Coach Education Program, just to name two.

The innovative Little League Child Protection Program was the first for any national youth sports organization (and remains the ONLY national youth baseball/softball organization) mandating background checks on managers, coaches and other key volunteers. But it doesn't stop with a mandate. Little League provides its member leagues with advice on how to perform the checks simply, and affordably.

The words "Little League" have symbolized the very best in youth sports for more than six decades. Little League is played in more than 70 countries, and all 50 U.S. states. This year, 42 Little League Baseball and Softball games of

the International Tournament will be televised nationally on ESPN, ESPN2, or ABC.

A true World Series is played in four divisions of baseball and four divisions of softball, with four other tournaments advancing to state level. And, making it to the granddaddy of all youth sports world championships, the Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, happens for 16 communities around the world each year.

Little League, founded in 1939 in Williamsport, Penn., is the world's largest youth sports program, with more than 2.8 million children and 1 million volunteers. More than 30 million people have played in Little League programs.

For information on RE/MAX, go online to www.remax.com.

■ Continued from p1

**Leffew**

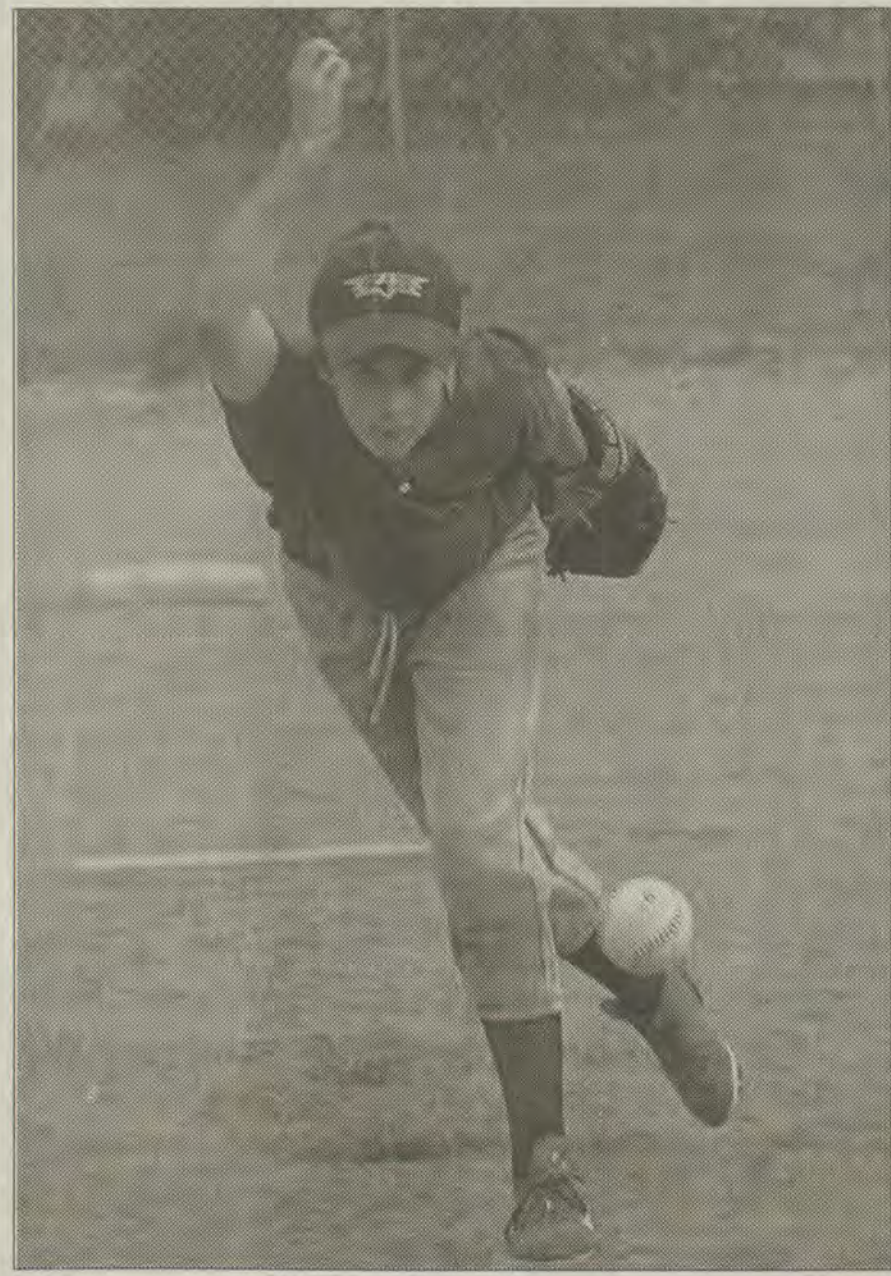
help improve our talent."

Leffew is a graduate of Boyle County High School in Danville, where he was rated as the seventh-best prospect in the state of Kentucky by Superprep as a senior.

He was a first-team all-state selection by the Louisville Courier-Journal and was an honorable mention USA Today All-America choice. The Lexington Herald-Leader named Leffew among 21

others as the Class of the Commonwealth in 1999. As a senior, Leffew recorded a team-high 232 tackles in leading Boyle County to the KHSAA State Championship with a perfect 15-0 record.

■ Continued from p1



**GIRLS' FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL:** The Prestonsburg Bats fast pitch softball returned to the diamond this week.



# Asheville sends Legends to second place

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

LEXINGTON — The Asheville Tourists defeated the Lexington Legends 5-1 on a Thirsty Thursday in Asheville. The Tourists broke open a tight game in the sixth and cruised to the fourth win. The loss drops the Legends to 29-18 on the season.

The series is even at one game apiece with game three scheduled for Friday night at McCormick Field. The Legends slip to second place thanks to Hagerstown's 9-7 win over Delmarva.

Red-hot Jonny Ash got the Legends going in the third

inning with a solo home run for the second straight night. The blast was the fifth of the year for the Legends second baseman.

Unfortunately the lead didn't last for the Legends. Asheville returned the favor in bottom half of the third when Sandy Almonte scored on a Joe Koshansky ground out.

The Tourists took their first lead in the sixth inning. Justin Nelson led off with a single and scored on Dustin Hahn's double to left field. Hahn advanced to third on a ground out and scored on a wild pitch by Paul Estrada.

Asheville added two more runs in the seventh inning. Jeff

Dragicevich scored on an error by Francisco Caraballo. Hahn doubled in Koshansky to complete the scoring at 5-1.

Evan Englebrook made a spot start for the Legends and didn't disappoint. The right-hander worked just four innings but still whiffed eight Asheville batters. Paul Estrada (1-4) took the loss allowing two runs in two innings of work.

Ryan Thompson had a rare struggle. Thompson allowed two runs on five base hits in two innings. Franklin Morales (1-0) earned the win for Asheville in relief of starter Larry Robles.

# Louisville 3, Syracuse 0

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Brian Rose threw seven shutout innings to lead the Louisville Bats to a 3-0 win over Syracuse Thursday night.

Rose (2-1) allowed four hits while striking out two and walking one.

The Bats went up 2-0 in the sixth inning when Kenny Kelly's two-out hit scored Santiago Perez. Perez finished with two hits and A.J. Zapp added two hits for the Bats.

Chad Gaudin (3-2) allowed two runs in 5 2/3 innings for the SkyChiefs.

Syracuse threatened in the

eighth inning. With two outs, Bats reliever Joe Valentine issued back-to-back walks, but second baseman Bryant Nelson hit a fly ball to Zapp to kill the rally.

Louisville added an extra run in the seventh inning when Edwin Encarnacion scored from third on a one-out sacrifice fly by Perez for a 3-0 lead.

# Winslow apologizes to Browns

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — Kellen Winslow Jr. apologized to Browns fans for his reckless use of a motorcycle and confirmed that he will miss the upcoming

season because of injuries sustained in the crash.

Winslow tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee and suffered unspecified internal injuries on May 1 when he wrecked his high-powered motor-

cycle while attempting tricks in a secluded parking lot near his home.

For the first time since the crash, Winslow confirmed that he will miss his second season as a pro and acknowledged that it was a mistake to take up motorcycle riding.

**Kinzer**

■ Continued from p1

At the drop of the green flag, a car behind Kinzer made contact with the rear of the No. 18 car. The contact caused a flat tire on the rear and forced the number 18 pitstop. Once the tire was changed, Kinzer returned to the track and began his march to the front. When the 40 laps had expired, the Floyd County driver found himself in fifth-place. An admirable finish due to his starting on the tail of the field at the beginning.

The next event the team competed in was at Cleveland Speedway, Cleveland, Tenn. on May 21. The SAS format is unusual for Dirt Late Models as the top 16 qualifiers are locked in for the feature, leaving only six spots open for teams to race for in the B-Mains.

The Allen-based race team

missed the cut by one spot, qualifying 17th. Kinzer's effort in qualifying rewarded him with pole position start in the first B-Main of the evening. The track was rough and this proved to be a problem for the team as Kinzer fought the track and other competitors to weather a third place finish in the B-Main and qualify for the 50-lap feature.

Kinzer's Barry Wright race-car started 19th and soon advanced to 16th. However, due to the track conditions not improving, Kinzer decided not to take the chance on hurting his equipment any further and went pitstop on the evening. The team finished 16th.

"We had a really good car at Lavonia, it's a shame that someone had to get into us and cut

our tire," said Kinzer. "I really think that we would of had an honest shot of winning that race. Cleveland was pretty rough, I wasn't advancing any positions and it didn't make sense to just ride around out there and take a chance on hurting our car."

The Annual "Show Me 100" was scheduled for the Brandon Kinzer Motorsports team this weekend. The 100-lap event at West Plains Motor Speedway was to pay a top payout of \$39,000 to the winner. Following the "Show Me", the Kinzer race team tentatively plans on heading back east for the Sunoco ALMS race at Eldora Speedway on Sunday, May 29. For more information on Brandon Kinzer Motorsports, go online to www.brandonkinzer.com

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