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Volume 80, Issue 156 • 75 Cents

TREATING A PROBLEM

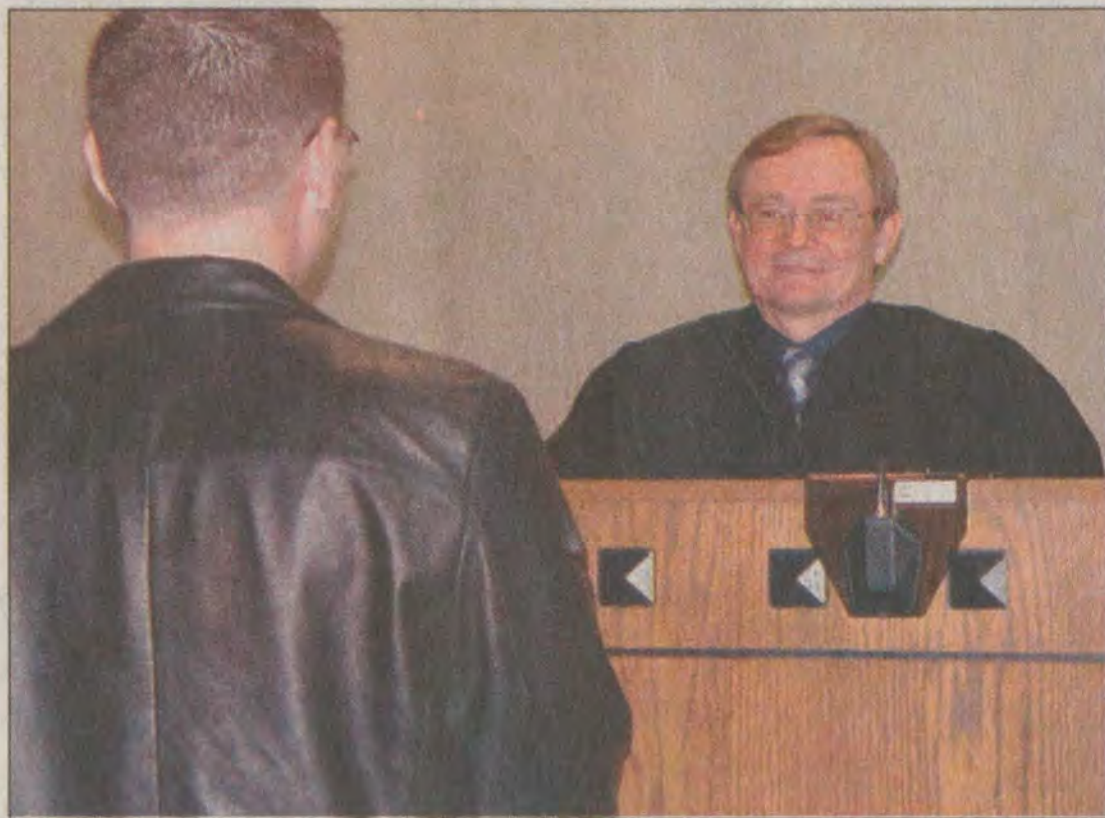


photo by Alex Smith

Judge Eric Hall implemented Drug Court for Floyd County and currently oversees the program. Hall says the program makes a difference in the community because it treats the root cause of many criminal behaviors.

Drug Court working, Hall says

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — "I've had some people tell me that they see the people in drug court more than they see their own families."

Those are the words of Judge Eric Hall, a district court judge in Floyd County and head of the Floyd County Drug Court program, a program which allows its members a chance to not only avoid jail time, but also helps them to reclaim control of their lives.

"Drug Court gives them the tools to succeed," Hall said. "Everyone in it has a substance abuse issue, and everyone's illness has its own life."

The Drug Court program began in Floyd County in March 2004 and started with a single member, with its enrollment reaching as high as 36 since. The program consists of three phases and aftercare, where members attend several drug addiction counseling sessions a week, along with group meetings where members meet with counselors and case workers to discuss how things are going in their lives. Members are also subject to random drug testing throughout the entire program. The program takes a minimum of one year to complete, depending on how closely members follow the require-

ments of the program and if they truly make an effort to better themselves.

"We use the word recovery all the time; we stress over a period of time that those who don't show the intent to recover, they can be terminated (from the program)," Hall said.

Termination means jail time because everyone in the program has a minimum of a 90-day sentence hanging over them; a majority of the current 32 members have been sentenced to at least a year. All members' sentences are probated on the condition that they comply fully with all the rules

(See COURT, page 16)

Miners with black lung don't bother with benefits

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Years of working in underground coal mines in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky left Chester Baker with the dreaded occupational disease black lung.

But the disabled coal miner from Harlan County said no thanks to money from the Kentucky Office of Workers Claims, money that could have been used to pay for retraining for a job in some other profession.

The state program, advocates say, is of little use to people sickened by coal workers' pneumoconiosis, more commonly known as black lung. The problem is there just aren't that many jobs in central Appalachia outside the mining industry, especially for people with chronic breathing problems.

Only 168 Kentucky coal miners bothered to apply for black lung benefits from the state over the past year, the fewest since 2001, a year before lawmakers tweaked the state's workers' compensation plan in an effort to make it easier for miners to qualify for benefits.

The tweak didn't work, said Thomas Moak, a Prestonsburg attorney who represents coal miners. Moak said the state program is of little use to dis-

abled coal miners because the same impairments that make them unable to work as miners also prevent them from working in other professions.

"If you're going to retrain coal miners for some other employment, you've got to think realistically about what employment is out there," Moak said. "Our economy up here is manual labor. If it's not in the mines, it's still manual labor. This whole business about retraining miners is upside down."

The result, Moak said, is that miners with early stages of black lung who are still able to work are not leaving their jobs in the mines.

"You have mines begging for qualified miners," he said. "There's no reason for these guys to leave the mines when the demand for labor is so strong."

William P. Emrick, executive director of the Office of Workers Claims, said the incidence of black lung declined over the past 35 years after federal laws were enacted to control levels of dust in coal mines.

The National Black Lung Association, however, estimates 1,500 people die each year due to the disease. New cases continue to pop up despite efforts to control the amount of black dust inhaled by miners.

(See MINERS, page 16)

FOOTBALL PLAYERS HONORED

— Page A11

briefs

Second trooper found dead

The Associated Press

PIKEVILLE — A Kentucky State Police trooper was found dead in his Eastern Kentucky home Monday afternoon, but no foul play is suspected, authorities said.

Detective Stewart "Joey" Howard, 45, was found unresponsive in his home in the Regina community of Pike County at 1:55 p.m. EST Monday, KSP said in statement. Pike County Coroner Russell Roberts pronounced Howard dead at the scene.

"The Kentucky State Police mourns the loss of one of its family members," said KSP Commissioner Jack Adams. "Detective Howard was a tremendous asset to Post 9 in Pikeville. Our sympathy goes out to Detective Howard's family and I ask that you also keep his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time."

Howard was a 16-year veteran of the KSP, serving his entire state police career at the Pikeville post.

The cause of death is being investigated, KSP spokesman Lt. Phil Crumpton said. He also said he did not know if Howard had any health problems.

"They know it's not a

(See TROOPER, page 16)

Two men indicted on drug charges

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Two Floyd County men who were arrested in September on drug trafficking charges by members of the Floyd County Drug Task Force were indicted by Floyd County grand juries last week.

The stiffer charges were directed at Brent M. Holbrook, 26, of Hi Hat, who was indicted on three felony counts of methadone possession, along

with 16 misdemeanor charges for possession of controlled substances and controlled substances not in their original containers.

Holbrook was served with an indictment warrant Sept. 20 after he was indicted on two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school. Prior to the search of his home, undercover agents working with the task force had allegedly purchased drugs from

(See CHARGES, page 16)



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Loftus, of Prestonsburg, never fail to use their artistic talents as face painters at the Prestonsburg Woman's Club "Christmas in the Park" event, held each year at the city's Archer Park. The Woman's Club served over 300 children this year, giving each child a gift, coloring book and a goody bag to take home with them in addition to treating them to lots of fun activities and refreshments for the children and their families.

photo by Kathy J. Prater

Harris says experience has prepared him to be judge

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Part 4 in a seven-part series looking at the new faces in Floyd County government.

Current Assistant Lawrence County Attorney Johnny Ray Harris has known he was set to take over the family court judge position for Floyd, Knott and Magoffin counties for the past four months, ever since incumbent Judge Julie Paxton withdrew from the race in August.

Now the wait is down to a matter of days before Harris takes his oath and is sworn in for his eight-year term on Jan. 5. Harris said he has always aspired to be a judge, and with his previous experience working domestic violence cases and as a prosecutor, he believes he will do

more than a capable job as family court judge.

"You see the whole parameters of the legal profession doing this type of work," Harris said. "You deal with lots of families and deal with both sides."

With the types of cases heard in family court, ranging from paternity and domestic violence cases to juvenile and child support cases, Harris said it's understandable that some people will believe they are treated unfairly with his decisions. He said he plans to work hard to make sure that everyone who sets foot into a family court proceeding he is presiding over is treated



(See HARRIS, page 16)

Johnny Ray Harris

2 DAY FORECAST
Today: Mostly sunny
High: 56 • Low: 39
Tomorrow: Evening showers
High: 58 • Low: 47
For up-to-the-minute forecasts, see floydcountytimes.com

inside
Obituaries.....A2
Opinion.....A4
Sports.....B1
Lifestyles.....B6
Classifieds.....B9



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Obituaries

Goldie Bullock

Goldie Bullock, age 58, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, December 21, 2006, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

Born September 16, 1948, in Floyd County, she was the son of the late Tom and Debbie Johnson Tuttle. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Okel Bullock.

Survivors include: a son and daughter-in-law, Daniel and Patty Bullock of Indianapolis, Indiana; a brother and a sister: James Tuttle of Mt. Sterling; and Helen Johnson of Prestonsburg; four grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, and parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters; Nick Tuttle, Virgil Hall, Bo Tuttle, Violet Stumbo, and Joann McKinney.

Funeral services were held Sunday, December 24, at 1 p.m., at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Old Regular Baptist ministers officiating.

Burial was in Buckingham Cemetery, Bevinville.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com
(Paid obituary)

□□□

Hubert G. Frye

Hubert G. Frye, 75, of Martin, died Thursday, December 21, 2006, at King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland.

Born July 23, 1931, in McDowell, he was the son of the late Haskell and Minnie Runyon Frye. He was a retired postal worker for the Martin Post Office, a U.S. veteran, a lifetime member of the AmVets, and a member of the Church of Christ, in Lexington.

He is survived by his wife, Glenda Mayo Frye.

Other survivors include two daughters: Kristi Frye and Lauren Vanderpool, both of

Martin; and a sister, Marlene Arms of Grove City, Ohio.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother: Haskell Frye.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, December 26, at 11 a.m., at the First Baptist Church in Martin, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com
(Paid obituary)

□□□

Valetta (Weedie) Osborne Halbert

Valetta (Weedie) Osborne Halbert, age 62, of Lexington, formerly of Floyd County, passed away on Sunday, December 24, 2006, in the Hospice Care Center, in Lexington.

She was born November 21, 1944, in Eastern, the daughter of the late Rhomer and Ada Osborne.

She was employed by the Fayette County School System for 33 years, retiring as cafeteria manager at Crawford Jr. High School in 2004. She was an active member of the Parkway Baptist Church, in Lexington.

She is survived by her husband, Donald Ray Halbert; a son, Donald (Kim) Halbert Jr.; and a granddaughter, Kelsey Mae Halbert; two sisters: Judy (Billy) Barnett of Martin, and Gloria Sue (Dick) Holbine of Lima, Ohio; and one brother, Cecil Osborne of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. Also surviving are three sisters-in-law: Sally Osborne, Karen Osborne and Belva (Joe) Cruse; several nieces and nephews, friends and family; and a special niece, Pam (Chuck) Frazier and Trey.

In addition to her parents, she was presented in death by six brothers: Romie Gene, Bill, John, Hershell, Forrest B., and David Lee Osborne.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, December 28, at 1 p.m., in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin, with Roy Harlow officiating.

Burial will be in the Osborne Cemetery, in Eastern, under the professional care of Hall Funeral Home, in Martin.

The family has suggested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Bluegrass of U.K. Markey Cancer Center.

(Paid obituary)

□□□

Wilma Jean Little

Wilma Jean Little, age 59, of Melvin, died Thursday, December 21, 2006, at the Pikeville Medical Center.

Born May 9, 1947, in Virgie, she was the daughter of the late Willie Fog and Ramie Isaac Bates. She was a homemaker, and a member of the Wheelwright Freewill Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Little.

Survivors include three sons: Teddy Little of Louisville, Jerry Little of Pikeville, and Anthony Little of Melvin; a daughter, Billie Delauder of Pikeville; six brothers: Lester Bates and Chester Bates, both of Somerset, Clyde Bates, Willie Bates, and Jackie Bates, all of Galion, Ohio, and Ray Bates, of Melvin; five sisters: Ann Moore, Mabel Bates, and Patty Ward, all of Columbus Ohio, and Evelyn Johnson and Rhonda Slone, both of Galion, Ohio; and three grandchildren: Nolan Ryan Little, Ashley Dawn Little, and Danielle Paige Delauder.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers: Tennis Bates and Cleo Bates.

Funeral services were held Sunday, December 24, at 11 a.m., at the Wheelwright Freewill Baptist Church in Bypro, with Louis Ferrari officiating.

Burial was in the Little Family Cemetery in Melvin, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin.

Visitation was at the church.

(Paid obituary)

□□□

Sarah Kathryn (Ann) Baldrige Moore

Sarah Kathryn (Ann) Baldrige Moore, age 65, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, December 21, 2006, at her residence.

Born February 5, 1941, in Jenkins, she was the daughter of the late Heber and Gypsie May Bingham Baldrige. She was a homemaker, and a member of the Tom Moore Memorial Freewill Baptist Church, in Prestonsburg.

She is survived by her husband, Robert N. Moore.

Other survivors include two daughters: Aneeva M. Wells (James) of Berea, and Tonya M. Porter (Scott) of Prestonsburg; three brothers: Frank Baldrige of Sterling Heights, Michigan, Everett Baldrige of Findlay, Ohio, and Walter Baldrige of Ohio; and five grandchildren: Whitney, Laura, Zachary,

Katie and Nicholas.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Veronica K. Moore; two brothers: Tom Baldrige and Heber Douglas Baldrige; and a sister, Ethel Baldrige.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 23, at 1 p.m., at the Tom Moore Memorial Freewill Baptist Church in Prestonsburg, with Clifford Austin and Jody Spencer officiating.

Burial was in the Moore Family Cemetery, in Prestonsburg, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was Friday, December 22, at 6 p.m., at the church.

□□□

Ray Virgil Prater

Ray Virgil Prater, age 80, of Allen, husband of the late Beulah Beverly Prater, passed away Thursday, December 21, 2006, at his residence.

He was born September 8, 1926, in Floyd County, the son of the late Troy Prater and Mary Hicks Prater. He was a retired supervisor for Kentucky Hydrocarbon, in Langley, a deacon at the Maytown First Baptist Church.

(See OBITUARIES, page five)

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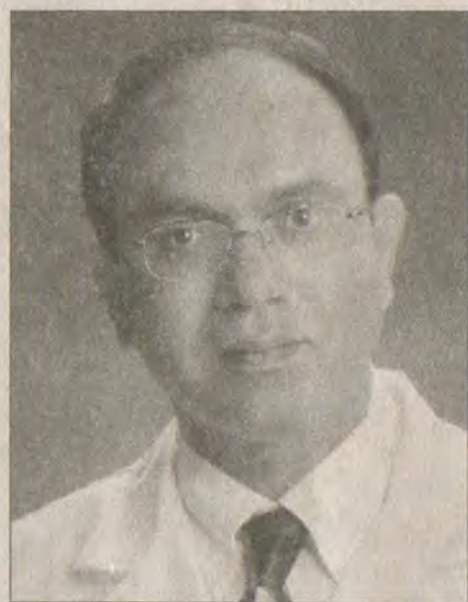
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Dr. Faruque Ahmed, General Surgeon, has joined the Medical Staff at Highlands Regional Medical Center and opened an office practice in Suite 2 of the Riverview Complex near the Medical Center. Dr. Ahmed is a graduate of the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and served his Internship and Residency in General Surgery at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockway, New York. As a General Surgeon, Dr. Ahmed will perform minor surgical procedures, laparoscopic procedures, and more complicated abdominal procedures.

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Community Calendar

Calendar items will be printed as space permits

Editor's note: To announce your community event, you may hand-deliver your item to The Floyd County Times office, located at 263 S. Central Avenue, Prestonsburg; or mail to: The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653; or fax to 606-886-3603; or email to: features@floydcountytimes.com. Information will not be taken over the telephone. All items will be placed on a first-come, first-serve basis as space permits.

HRMC Calendar

Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25 - Kiwanis, Meeting Place B, 12-1:30 p.m.

Jan. 9 - Sr. Advantage, Meeting Place A & B, 9-11:00 a.m.

Jan. 13 - Childbirth classes, Board Room, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Jan. 25 - Living Well With Diabetes Support Group, Meeting Room A & B, 5-6:00 p.m.

For more information concerning the support groups, contact the Highlands Educational Services Department at 886-7424.

Celebrate Old Christmas at Samuel May House

The custom of Old Christmas will be observed at the Samuel May House in Prestonsburg, on Sunday January 7, 2007, from 2-4:00 p.m. There will be tours of the

House, period Christmas music, and refreshments. The public is cordially invited to attend this heartwarming, free event.

HRMC December Calendar

•Dec. 28 - Kiwanis, Meeting Place A&B, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

ACHS Class of '96

The Allen Central High School Class of 1996 will be holding their 10-year reunion. For more information, call Amanda at 285-9491 or Leslie at 886-8003.

PHS Class of '97

The Prestonsburg High School Class of 1997 is currently planning their 10 year reunion. The reunion is scheduled to be held on July 14, 2007 at the Best Western, Prestonsburg. Those wishing to attend should please send in all of their personal information including name, address, phone number, occupation, spouse, children, and pets.

All teachers from 1993 to 1997 are also welcome. Classmates may send their information to phs97@bellsouth.net or mail to Mark McKinney, 69 Hospital St., Martin, KY 41640

Hillbilly Travel Club

Now scheduling trips for the upcoming year to: Myrtle Beach (Golf), March 11-15; Washington, DC, Memorial Day weekend; Niagara Falls, Canada, Labor Day weekend. All trips include roundtrip motorcoach, lodging, selected

meals. Others include rounds of golf (with cart), guided tours, entry to area attractions (Maid of Mist boat ride, IMAX theater, and more). Call Ed at 452-4149 for more information.

Hope in the Mountains

Hope in the Mountains will host public meetings on Mondays, at 9 a.m., at the junction of U.S. 23 and Rt. 80, on Watergap Rd., behind the Trimble Chapel Church.

Meetings focus will be to offer information in regard to community resources available to women seeking freedom from drug abuse. Family members are also welcome to attend. The Hope initiative proposes to help women break free from addictive lifestyles to become self-respecting contributing members of society.

Call 874-2008 or 788-1006 for more information.

Prestonsburg Rotary Club

Invites interested professionals and businesses to join them for lunch each Thursday, at 12 p.m., in the Student Grille Conference Room, on the BSCTC campus.

Each weekly program is devoted to community service and its application to the Rotary Motto: "Service Above Self."

"Lunch is served at noon and programs begin promptly at 12:40. Contact Mike Vance at 226-2075; David Kraus at 886-3082; or Nancy Johnson at 886-1156 for more info.

UNITE

The UNITE coalition of Floyd County will meet the FIRST Monday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the New Allen Baptist Church. All interested persons welcome to join UNITE's fight against drugs.

"Living Free" - A support group sponsored by the Floyd County UNITE Coalition. Group will meet weekly at the old Allen Baptist Church, on US 23 N., between Allen and Banner, on Tuesdays, at 1:15 p.m.

Living Free is a faith-based 12-step support group open to all who are searching for recovery. There is no fee to attend. For more info., contact Shirley Combs at 874-3388 or 434-8400.

Free Body Recall classes

Free Body Recall Exercise Classes will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 9:30, at the Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 11 a.m. at the old R & S

Building. Classes are offered by the Floyd County Health Department. Call the health department, 886-2788, for more information.

'Earn While You Learn'

The Big Sandy Area C.A.P. office is taking applications for its "Senior Training Program." You must be 55 or older to apply. In Floyd, call 886-2929; Johnson, call 789-6515; Magoffin, call 349-2217; Pike, call 432-2775; and in Lawrence, call 638-4067.

Senior employment program

Are you a senior citizen on a fixed income struggling with soaring medical bills and living expenses? Could you use some extra spending money but don't know how to get back into the workforce?

If you are at least age 55, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) may be able to help. Earn extra money, learn new skills, and help your community at the same time! To find out more, call: 886-2929

External Diploma Program

Kentucky residents age 25 and older can earn a high school diploma by demonstrating skills learned on the job or in raising a family. Flexible scheduling is provided and confidentiality maintained. Classes are held at the Carl D. Perkins Rehabilitation Center, in Thelma, Mon. thru Fri., with evening classes on Thursday. EDP classes are also held at the Mullins Learning Center, in Pikeville, on Tuesdays, from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Andy Jones at 606-788-7080, or 800-443-2187, ext. 186, or Linda Bell, at ext. 160 to make an appointment.

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Cinema Two • PG HELD OVER ERAGON Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:30; Fri. (4:30), 7:00-9:30; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:30), 7:00-9:30	Cinema Seven • PG HELD OVER ROCKY BALBOA Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:30; Fri. (4:30), 7:00-9:30; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:30), 7:00-9:30
Cinema Three • G HELD OVER CHARLOTTE'S WEB Mon.-Sun. 6:50-9:10; Fri. (4:10), 6:50-9:10; Sat.-Sun. (1:50-4:10), 6:50-9:10	Cinema Eight • PG HELD OVER WE ARE MARSHALL Mon.-Sun. 6:45-9:20; Fri. (4:10), 6:45-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (1:30-4:10), 6:45-9:20
Cinema Four • PG-13 HELD OVER THE HOLIDAY Mon.-Sun. 8:45-9:25; Fri. (4:00), 8:45-9:25; Sat.-Sun. (1:30-4:10), 8:45-9:25	Cinema Nine • R HELD OVER BLACK CHRISTMAS Mon.-Sun. 7:05-9:20; Fri. (4:20), 7:05-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:05-4:20), 7:05-9:20
Cinema Five HELD OVER HAPPY FEET Mon.-Sun. 6:50-9:10; Fri. (4:20), 6:50-9:10; Sat.-Sun. (1:50-4:20), 6:50-9:10	Cinema Ten HELD OVER THE NATIVITY STORY PG—Mon.-Sun. 7:00; Fri. (4:25), 7:00; Sat.-Sun. (4:25), 7:00
HELD OVER BLOOD DIAMOND Mon.-Sun. 9:00, Fri. 9:00; Sat.-Sun. (1:20), 9:00	HELD OVER APOCALYPTO R—Mon.-Sun. 9:10; Fri. 9:10; Sat.-Sun. (1:30), 9:10

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Viewpoint

Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Worth Repeating ...

"Speak out in acts; the time for words has passed, and only deeds will suffice."

— John Greenleaf Whittier

Guest View

The Joy of Sets

For numbers aficionados, time-wasters and trivia buffs, the annual holiday feast arrived this week with the release of the 2007 Statistical Abstract of the United States.

You won't find it at Borders or Barnes & Noble even if, unlike most people, you were to actually look for it.

It's an "abstract" in name only, 1,376 tables covering everything from agriculture to wholesale and retail trade. It's weighty, dry and chock-full of obscure information - the market value of Illinois corn (\$4.1 billion) or per capita lard consumption (0.7 pounds per person) - that most of us couldn't imagine needing, much less seeking.

But if you like to get lost in data sets, the Census Bureau's statistical abstract is the place to do it. It's available at local libraries, or online at www.census.gov.

The abstract has been published each year since 1878, and it makes almost no pretense of interpretation. The numbers are presented in detail with all their statistical limitations and caveats intact. What they tell us about America - who we are, what we consume and what goes wrong with us - is up to you to decide. Some of it, like the fact we're becoming increasingly health conscious, is fairly obvious. Since 1980, the average person drinks 22.5 percent less milk, 11 percent less alcohol and 760 percent more bottled water.

Some of it is ambiguous. We eat 19 percent more fresh fruit than in 1980, and 54 percent more fat.

Americans are more likely to attend an auto show than adult education classes. About 30 percent of us say we do charity work; 60 percent go to the movies. Just over half the people making more than \$75,000 a year say they enjoy gardening.

The average American dog owner has 1.6 dogs. The average horse-owner has 2.9 horses. The average cat owner and bird owner have 2.1 animals each, which if nothing else is nice symmetry. Some of the numbers are just plain counterintuitive. More than 36,000 Americans were injured by hammers in 2004. Nearly 43,000 were injured by television sets. Almost 82,000 people were hurt by lawn mowers that year; almost 80,000 by jewelry. And a staggering 518,000 were hurt by beds.

Maybe they should have gone to the auto show.

— St. Louis Post-Dispatch



The Times

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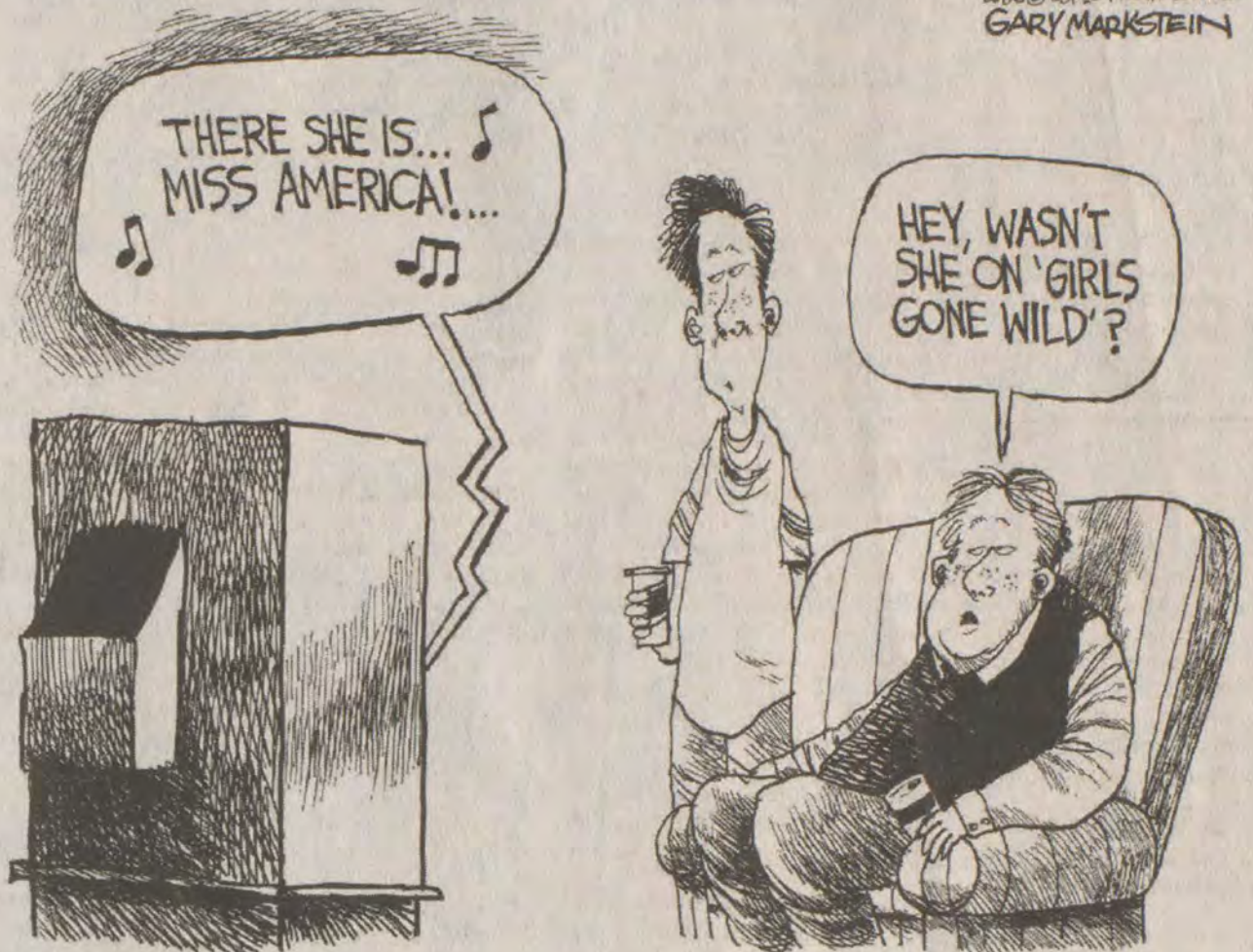
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Letters

Why do attacks continue?

In 2004, when my husband, Charles "Chuck" Meade, came home one day and announced he wanted to run for the office of state representative I guess I knew that things would be difficult. We decided to pray about it and agreed that if God opened that door we would walk through it and he did open the door and we proceeded down the path he had allowed us to. I must tell you that Chuck and I are strong Christians and try to take everything to God with prayer.

In our last campaign, we decided to not go negative in regards to James Brandon Spencer. Mr. Spencer, however, did go negative on my husband with false statements and untruths. He continues to try to advance himself in a recent article appearing in the Floyd County Times Wednesday edition by saying negative things about my husband. I guess the only way he believes he can advance himself and gather support — still — even after the election is over, is to continue to attack my husband. I ask then why? Is it because he doesn't have credibility? I challenge him to set his own precedent and provide substance to us without continuing to step on my husband to do so.

I can tell you that I have watched Chuck work hard for the people of Floyd County. He worked harder than probably any public servant ever could have. He accomplished extraordinary things in just a few years. I watched him push and lead a fight after just arriving in Frankfort to protect the sanctity of marriage, a challenge that few new freshmen legislators would have attempted, and I remember when he came home on a Friday and we decided that maybe that was why God had opened the door was to push to get the amendment on the ballot — and so with that he pushed forward and the people of Kentucky were given the opportunity to vote. I watched him fight hard to get red lights at Duff Elementary/Allen Central Middle School, even though the Senate voted against a bill he introduced that would have put those lights up. He fought for veterans and veterans' rights. He passed legislation to help our veterans. He passed legislation to recognize our coal miners on May 1 of every year. He accomplished that and much, much

more. If anyone knows what the citizens of Floyd County really lost, it is me. I watched him leave me and my boys to go to Frankfort and we missed him so badly, but we always knew that he was working so hard for the people — with no personal agenda.

James stated in the article that my husband had a personal agenda — it is just the opposite. Chuck is a good hearted, moral man of excellent character. The thing he enjoyed most about the job was getting results for the people. Just to be able to help someone was more than worth it for him. It is all untruths over and over from James Spencer. Mr. Spencer has the personal agenda and they think Frankfort is the key. He talks big and I have allowed that to happen and I'm sorry to the people of Floyd County that I didn't stand up before now and let you know what you were getting. I'm sorry this is what we will be represented by in Frankfort.

I always felt that Chuck was just Chuck and never changed. He was honored and humbled to be there — he stood up more than anyone could ever know. He was a true, genuine representative of Floyd County. He is your friend, your neighbor, and the person that would fight for you the most. Chuck is the kind of man that even if Spencer himself called him and needed help he would help him.

Mr. Spencer knows how he got to Frankfort — justly or unjustly. So, to think that I'm going to allow him to continue to degrade my husband and how hard he worked will not be tolerated any longer. He must be concerned about something for him to make Chuck the primary focus of his first headline in the Times. He will continue to degrade Chuck, because he's worried. His strategy now is to keep at Chuck just in case Chuck decides to run again. James needs to go to Frankfort and let's see him stand up to everyone down there and tell them how to get things done.

I pray for Floyd County, its citizens, and the direction we will move in. I have a real concern in my heart, not because we lost an election, but for where we live — democracy in general and how politicians advance themselves and for the quality or lack of quality of leadership that will be in Frankfort.

A quote from Abraham Lincoln comes to mind when I think about Mr. Spencer and what has come about. Abraham Lincoln once said, "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all

the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to share my feelings. May God Bless each of you and continue to bless my husband, Chuck. I thank God for giving me such a wonderful husband and for knowing when to step up and say enough.

Jackie Meade
Allen

Time for a change

Allen Central has an enviable academic record. It is among the best in the state. Surely, the leadership and students of such an outstanding school can come to realize that it is time for a change.

We can understand that the students of Allen Central High School want to continue their traditions, which include their mascots and symbols — particularly the Confederate flag. They have been around a long time. No doubt, when students at Allen Central see their current flag, it represents only their school to them — and the thought of race is likely far from their minds. That is particularly true in our area, where African Americans are in such a small minority.

But, in fact, as we know, that Confederate flag has come to represent all the trappings of a South where African Americans were enslaved before the Civil War, and a South which continued to maintain a segregated society for over 100 years after the Civil War had ended. That symbolism cannot be denied. It is the reason that African Americans understandably are so affronted by it. It is why this Confederate flag has been eliminated as a symbol by states, cities, colleges and schools throughout the South.

Hopefully the leadership, faculty and site-based council members at Allen Central will understand this (as well as the Floyd County board), and begin the necessary discussion with the students to explain to them why it is necessary that this symbol be replaced with another one. The upcoming Martin Luther King holiday in January presents an ideal opportunity for them to think about this issue and hopefully to find an alternative symbol for their school's future.

John and Jean Rosenberg
Prestonsburg

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 objection-

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

Obituaries

Continued from p2

a member of Mended Hearts, and an U.S. Army, World War II veteran.

Survivors include three daughters: Mary June (Jack) Webb, and Sandra Lynn (Danny) Flanery, both of Allen, and Theresae Lea Price of Lexington; two brothers: Darrell Pratt and Jim Harold Pratt, both of Garrett; six sisters: Ida Hale of Prestonsburg, Larue Lafferty of Hindman, Loretta Hackworth of

Bonanza, Ellazene Ritchie of Dwarf, Sheilda Ann Lawson of Michigan, and Julia Fern Jones of Langley; seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his wife, his parents, a son-in-law, Jerry Price, and a grandson, Matthew Webb.

Funeral services for Ray Virgil Prater were conducted Sunday, December 24, at 11:00

a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin, with Clergyman Bob Varney officiating.

Burial was in Davidson Memorial Gardens, in Ivel, under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

Pallbearers were Michael Flanery, Jeremy Webb, Jason Webb, David Price, Patrick Price and Allen James.

(Paid obituary)

□□□

Ershel Scutchfield

Ershel Scutchfield, age 81, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, December 19, 2006, at Cabell-Huntington Hospital.

Born March 21, 1925, in Floyd County, he was the son of the late Beckham and Elizabeth Hatfield Scutchfield. He was a retired factory worker for Ford Motor Company, and attended the Freewill Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Ruby Jarrell Scutchfield

Other survivors include a son, Randall Clay Scutchfield (Jodi) of Jackson, Michigan; two daughters: Elizabeth M. Barnett (Roger) and Shirley Scutchfield, both of Prestonsburg; a brother, Alton W. Scutchfield of Ypsilanti, Michigan; six grandchildren: Maria Ann Prater, Austin Scutchfield, Shelby Scutchfield, Isabella Scutchfield, Jacob Scutchfield, and Scotty Dean Scutchfield; a great-granddaughter, Brianna Maria Prater; and a step-grandchild, Kathy Kendrick.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Larry Dean Scutchfield; and two brothers: Ermal Clay Scutchfield and Orville Thomas Scutchfield.

Funeral services were held Sunday, December 24, at 11 a.m., at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Bill Campbell and Mike Howard officiating.

Burial was in Davidson Memorial Gardens, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

□□□

Alva Martin Spurlock

Alva Martin Spurlock, age 73, of Printer, died Friday, December 22, 2006, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg.

Born February 19, 1933, in Drift, she was the daughter of the late Crit and Zella Martin. She was a homemaker, and attended the Old Regular

Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth (Buster) Spurlock.

Other survivors include two sons: Earl Spurlock of Printer, and Danny Ray Spurlock of London; two daughters: Joyce Ann Hinkle (Kevin) of Inez, and Terri Lynn Love (Richard) of Salyersville; three brothers: Raymond Martin of Drift, Ralph Martin of Garrett, and Ballard Martin of LaGrange, Indiana; three sisters: Bessie Butler of Prestonsburg, Cassie Martin of McDowell, and Tina McKinney of Lexington; four grandchildren: Kevin Conley, Kyle Conley, Tiffany Mullins, and Andrew Spurlock; and three great-grandchildren: Kennedy, Kalea, and Regan.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers: Denver Martin and Dennis Martin.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 26, at

noon, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home in Martin, with Clinton Moore, Jimmy Hall, and others, officiating.

Burial was in the Spurlock Family Cemetery at Printer, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral

home, with church services at 6:30 p.m.

Active pallbearers: Kevin Hinkle, Richard Love, Kevin Conley, Kyle Conley, Andrew Spurlock, John Spurlock, and Brandon Mullins.

www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com

(Paid obituary)

Card of Thanks

The family of Earl Moore would like to extend their appreciation to all those friends, relatives, and neighbors, who helped in any way upon the passing of their loved one. Thanks to all those who sent food, flowers, prayers, or spoke comforting words. We are especially grateful to Clergyman Ted Shannon for his comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the staff of Hall Funeral Home for their unsurpassed service.

THE FAMILY OF EARL MOORE

Card of Thanks

The family of Paul Edward Blackburn wishes to gratefully acknowledge the thoughtfulness and kindness of friends, relatives, and neighbors, in the loss of our loved one. Thanks to all who sent food, flowers, prayers, or spoke comforting words. We are especially grateful to Clergymen Jim Smith and Bill Collins for their comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for their professional and compassionate service.

THE FAMILY OF PAUL EDWARD BLACKBURN

Card of Thanks

The family of Ray Meadows would like to take this opportunity to thank all those friends, relatives, and neighbors, who helped to comfort our family during this difficult time. We are especially grateful to Clergyman Belmont Johnson for his comforting words, the Boldman Freewill Baptist Church, for all the love and support shown to our family, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for their loving care and hand of friendship to our family.

THE FAMILY OF RAY MEADOWS

Card of Thanks

The family of James Otis Crisp wishes to thank all of those friends, neighbors, and family, who helped in any way upon the passing of our loved one. Thanks to all who sent flowers, prayers, or words of comfort expressed. We are especially grateful to Clergyman Richard Kelly for his comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for their kind and trusted services.

THE FAMILY OF JAMES OTIS CRISP

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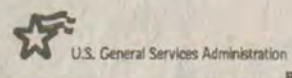
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Casebolt-May

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Casebolt, of Fords Branch, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Ryan Casebolt, to Jon Thomas May, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. May, of Prestonsburg. Kimberly is a 2000 graduate of Shelby Valley High School. She is currently attending the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy. Jon is a 1999 graduate of Prestonsburg High School and a 2005 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Mining Engineering. He is currently employed with Coal Mac, Inc., of Holden, West Virginia. The wedding will take place on Saturday, December 30, 2006, at half past two o'clock in the afternoon, at the Fords Branch Church of Christ, located on US 23 South, Pikeville.

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FLOYD COUNTY Lifestyles

SCHOOLNEWS

- Allen CMS • page A8
- Clark Elem. • page A8
- Duff Elem. • page A8

YESTERDAYS

(Items taken from The Floyd County Times, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 years ago.) page A8

INSIDESTUFF

- Jamfest • page A9
- MAC honors • page A10
- Carriere Family • page A10

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KIM'S KORNER

FYI

By: Kim Little Frasure

Here's hoping everyone's Christmas was their merriest yet, and as we prepare for a New Year, thought I'd share a little tidbit of info Kathy Prater shared with me a couple weeks ago from an article that appeared in The Dallas Morning News by Leslie Van Wassenhove.



Kim Little Frasure

The title to this article, "Author says girls have a head start."

As if that wasn't eye-catching enough, the first sentence began, "At birth, the female brain is more mature than the male brain." True or False?

Well, according to neuropsychiatrist Louann Brizendine, it's true: A girl has a head start over a boy. In fact, according to Brizendine, a girl's noggin will develop faster than that of a boy by one to two years.

Added to the article was a four question "True or False" test so people could see how much about the female brain they actually knew. Try it, here goes:

1. Men have more brain cells than women. T or F?
2. Women have more neurons than men in the brain centers for language.

(See KORNER, page ten)

POISON OAK

My parents held the keys

by Clyde Pack

Anyone who has read this column more than once, probably knows that my dad was an eastern Kentucky coal miner when I was growing up back in the 1940s and 1950s.



Clyde Pack

However, even though he had little formal education, he was an extremely smart man. Like Dad, Mom, too, had grown up in a rural

environment and had received only a bit more schooling than he. She, too, was very intelligent, however, and, as they say, as sharp as a tack.

Although I never once heard either of them so much as even utter the word "psychology," in their own way, they practiced it to perfection on their children. What made me think of my upbringing in those terms in the first place was an article I read by Dr. Joyce Brothers. Entitled "10 Keys to a Strong Family," I couldn't keep from wondering how her definition of a "strong family" would have compared to Dad and Mom's definition, had they ever attempted to define it, which I'm sure they never did.

In one way, I suppose it would be like comparing apples and oranges. Dr. Brothers' views seemed modern; to be pretty much based on the international image of what someone like Dr. Phil might think would be ideal in this day and time. My parents, on the other hand, dealing more than half a century ago with a single unit, one family, my six brothers and sisters and me, would likely have been amused at some of the things that Dr. Phil advocates.

(See OAK, page nine)

"Christmas in the Park spreads joy to local children"

Sponsored by Pburg Womans Club



photo by Kathy J. Prater

With a big painted heart on her cheek and Christmas packages in her hands, this little girl was feeling the love last Thursday evening at the "Christmas in the Park" event, held at Archer Park. The annual event draws hundreds to the city park each year, with approximately 335 children being served this past week.



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Face painting is always a popular activity at the holiday event. These volunteers were kept busy practicing their artistic skills.



photo by Kathy J. Prater

The cookies, candy and punch offered for refreshment kept a steady line of participants helping themselves to a holiday treat as Woman's Club member Thelma Lafferty helped spread some Christmas cheer.

CRITTER CORNER

Spreading the holiday spirit to wildlife

Even backyard critters appreciate the generosity of the season

WASHINGTON - The gifts that are most appreciated are those that make life a little easier. That certainly holds true for wildlife, who are grateful recipients of any goodwill that people want to show them this season.

According to Laura Simon, field director of urban wildlife for The Humane Society of the United States, "Although wild animals are able to adapt to help them survive winter cold temperatures and food limitations, there are also many

small things that people can do to help them this time of year. We suggest several 'gifts of the season' that can give wildlife a warm boost during the holidays."

Keep bird feeders full in the winter since food availability is very limited for non-migratory birds.

Fill large pine cones with peanut butter and roll them in sunflower seeds, then attach a string to the top and hang them outdoors from trees for birds (a great activity for kids).

Get a heated birdbath and keep it filled all winter long. Birds need the water at this time of year when most natural sources may be frozen.

Put decorative snowflakes 4" apart on any windows where birds might hit, or have hit in the past.

(See CRITTER, page nine)



"Rowdy," a feisty 7 month old kitten owned by Ed and Verdean Miller, of Van Lear, has enjoyed his family's Christmas tree very much this year. "He gets inside and crawls all the way up to the top and back down," said Mrs. Miller. "He's managed to bend a few branches, too! He really thinks it's 'his' tree!" Happy New Year to the Millers and Rowdy from all the critters here at the Times!

School Happenings

Adams Middle School Youth Services Center

****AMS is collecting Food City receipts! Receipts may be given to any AMS student or dropped off at the school office.**

***Book Club will meet on Thursdays, after school until 5 p.m. New members can still sign up in the YSC office.**

***Sponsors needed for the YSC Secret Santa program. Call 886-1297.**

■ The Youth Services Center is open each weekday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Coordinator is Michelle Keathley. Center telephone is 886-1297. Please call for information on center programs and services.

Allen Central High School

■ Jan. 3 - First day back to school following Christmas break.

■ Center hours: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Mon. thru Fri. Sharon Collins, coordinator. Telephone 358-3048. Center provides services for all families regardless of income.

Allen Central Middle School

****Collect Food City receipts and "Box Tops for Education" and turn them in to homeroom teachers!****

■ Career Decisions and Job Development videos available in YSC lending library.

■ The ACMS Youth Service Center offers services to all families, regardless of income. For more information, call Marilyn Bailey, center coordinator, at 358-0134.

Allen Elementary and Family Resource Youth Service Center

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

Betsy Layne Elementary

■ Lost and Found items will be located in the center. Items not claimed within two weeks will become FRYSC property.

■ Center hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Mon. thru Fri. Center offers services to all families, regardless of income.

■ The Betsy Layne Elementary Family Resource Youth Service Center is located in the 7th and 8th grade wing. The goal of the FRYSC is to meet the needs of all children and their families who reside in the community or neighborhood by the school in which the center is located. For further information, please contact the center at 478-5550.

■ Brian H. Akers, Center Coordinator.

Clark Elementary

■ F.I.T. Club meets each Tuesday and Wednesday after school, 3:15-4:15 p.m. (Fitness activities for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students.)

****Fridays are "School Spirit" days! (All year long!) Wear Clark colors (green and gold) or Clark t-shirts. Students, staff, parents - show your support for CES!!**

■ Nurse services: Floyd County Health Department nurses will be in the Resource Center on selected dates. Now taking appointments for 6th grade exams, WIC, and well-child exams for birth-18 years. Flu shots may also be scheduled. Call 886-0815 for an appointment.

■ Lost and Found located in Resource Center. Items not claimed by Dec. 7 will be donated to "One Warm Coat" program or become a part of FRC Clothing Closet (for Clark students).

■ The Clark Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the Adams Middle School building.

Duff Elementary

****School is collecting Food City receipts again this year! Please drop off your receipts at the school, or mail them to: Duff Elementary School, P.O. Box 129, Eastern, KY 41622.**

■ Yearbooks on sale - \$22.

■ FRC is also in need of clothing, sizes 3T thru adult, for emergency clothing use and burnouts. If you have clothing to donate, please call the FRC.

■ Floyd County Health Dept. is on site three days per month. Services include 6th grade school entry physical; kindergarten, Head Start and well-

child physicals (age birth to 18 years); T.B. skin test; T.D. boosters; and WIC services. Please call 358-9878 for appointment if you are in need of any of these services.

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

May Valley Elementary

■ Parent Lending Library is available to parents for video check-outs. A variety of topics are available.

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

McDowell Elementary and Family Resource Center

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

Mountain Christian Academy

■ Call 285-5141, Mon. thru Fri., from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ MCA is an accredited non-denominational Christian school.

Prestonsburg Elementary and Family Resource Center

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

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

South Floyd Youth Services Center

■ Feb. 1 - Open House. Food will be served. Teacher and parent visits. Date subject to change. Watch school marquee.

■ Parents needing assistance with daycare may contact Mable Hall for information, or the "A Step Ahead" daycare center, at 452-1100.

■ SFMS parents with concerns about your child's grades, visit the STI Home! site at <http://iiod.ssts.com> and click on the STI program. Select state, county, school, child's pin number and password. You may view your child's attendance record, class average, schedule, grades, and discipline referrals. Questions? Call 452-9607.

■ SFHS and SFMS will be participating in the Apples for Students program. Please save and turn in your Food City receipts.

■ Floyd County substance abuse counselor will be on the South Floyd campus each Tuesday. If you need to contact the counselor, please call the Youth Service Center.

■ Call center for: list of visiting speakers and presentations to be held throughout year; to make appointments to attend Parent Volunteer Training sessions; or for information in regard to Adult Education programs.

■ Walking track open to public (track closed during special events).

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

■ All new students and visitors, stop by the Center, located on the South Floyd campus, Room 232, and see Mable Hall. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

■ For more information call 452-9600 or 452-9607, ext. 243 or 153.

Stumbo Elementary/Mud Creek Family Resource & Youth Service Center

■ Lost & Found located in Family Resource Center.

■ The Mud Creek FRYSC is located on the right, by the school gymnasium. Services are offered to all families, regardless of income. For more information, call Anita Tackett, center

coordinator at 587-2233.

W.D. Osborne

"Rainbow Junction"

Family Resource Center

■ Lost & Found located in the Family Resource Center. Items not claimed within 2 weeks become the property of the FRC.

■ The FRC accepts donations of children's clothing, shoes, belts, book bags, etc. May be used but need to be in good condition. Donated items will be appreciated and utilized by OES students.

■ The Family Resource Center is located in the central building of W.D. Osborne Elementary. Those wishing more information about the center are welcome to visit, or call. Ask for Cissy (center coordinator). Center telephone and fax: (606) 452-4553.

Wesley Christian School

■ WCS Learning Center accepts toddlers, preschool age (2-4). Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

BSCTC Adult

Education & GED

2006 Fall Schedule

■ Mondays: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - McDowell FRC, Martin Comm. Ctr., Auxier Learning Ctr., and BSCTC; 1-4:30 p.m. - Layne House, BSCTC; 4:30-9 p.m., Auxier Learning Ctr.

■ Tuesdays: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Mud Creek Clinic, BSCTC; 1-4:30 p.m. - Dixie Apts., Betsy Layne FRYSC, BSCTC; 6-8 p.m. - Auxier Learning Ctr.

■ Wednesdays: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Martin Comm. Ctr.; Auxier Learning Ctr.; BSCTC; 1-4:30 p.m. - David Craft Center, BSCTC; 6-9 p.m. - BSCTC.

■ Thursdays: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - BSCTC, Mud Creek Clinic, Weeksbury Comm. Ctr.; 1-4:30 p.m. - BSCTC, Betsy Layne YSC., Weeksbury Comm. Ctr.; 4:30-9 p.m. - Martin Comm. Ctr.

■ Adult Education teachers are: Ron Johnson, Stephanie Conn, Lynn Hall, Nancy Hornes, Vanessa Adkins and Susan Stephens.

■ Program manager: Kay Hale Ross (886-7334).

YESTERDAYS

(Items taken from

The Floyd County

Times,

10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60,

70 years ago.)

Ten Years Ago

(December 31, 1996, and January 3, 2007)

Nearly 95 percent of the 245 people who participated in Donorama '96 were registered as possible bone marrow donors. A five-month-old's need for a bone marrow transplant apparently contributed to the overwhelming success of the blood drive this year...The year 1996 is history, and plenty of it. There was good news and bad news, tragedy and triumph. It was a year like all others and a year like no other. All of it was recorded in the pages of the Floyd County Times. Making the selection of our top ten stories of the year a difficult task. Here's the way we saw it, in descending order: Election History: Floyd County voted decidedly in the November General Election to change their form of county government from the magisterial form to the commission form; Bomb Threats: A series of bomb threats at Prestonsburg High School disrupted the school's routine for weeks, and ended with the expulsion of several students. Bus Wreck: A Floyd County school bus driver veered off the road on Route 80 in October, striking the rear of a loaded tractor and trailer. More than two dozen students were injured, some seriously, but none were killed. Official Imprisoned: Former Floyd County Attorney Jimmy Martin Hammond who had pleaded guilty to federal fraud charges, reported to prison on June 17, to begin a two-year sentence. Winter Storm: During the first week of 1996, a winter storm dumped nearly 28 inches of snow onto eastern Kentucky, closing schools, businesses, and generally wreaking havoc. Arts Center Opens: After years of planning and fund-raising, the Mountain Arts Center opened its doors in October, setting the stage for a new era in tourism and entertainment in eastern Kentucky. Superintendent Search: Dr. John Balentine became superintendent of the county school system in January, then died unexpectedly in October. The search for a new superintendent continues. Task Force Disbands: The Mountain Area Drug Task Force, formed to combat street level drug dealing in eastern Kentucky, disbanded in the wake of a federal investigation into the agency's operations. No charges have been issued by a federal grand jury. Workers' Comp: In his first year as the first governor from eastern Kentucky since Bert T. Combs, Paul Patton conducted a special session to reform Workers' Compensation legislation.

The move alienated many of Patton's legislative allies from the mountains. Route 23 Opens: The four-laning of Route 23 between Paintsville and Prestonsburg was completed, leaving just one section, from Jenkins to the Virginia state line unfinished...The resignation of an assistant Floyd County Commonwealth Attorney is effective today (Tuesday), December 31, and leaves the Commonwealth Attorney's office with one assistant. Assistant Floyd County Commonwealth Attorney John W. Mann resigned his position to "better serve (his) clients."...Three people have been arrested and charged in connection with the Thanksgiving Day shooting death of a Prestonsburg High School student in Lexington. John Demarco Johnson, 18, of Lexington, was charged with murder, Saturday, in the death of Natasha J. Yates, 17. Jonathan Leigh Phillips, 29, was also charged with murder in Yates' death, for allegedly firing the first shots during an exchange in which Yates was killed. Phillips is also charged with unlawful transaction with a minor, tampering with physical evidence, and failure to make required disposition of property. He is being held under a \$150,000 bond. Terry Burchett, who was with Yates and Phillips, is charged with unlawful transaction with a minor and tampering with physical evidence. He was placed under an \$8,000 cash bond...Twice convicted murderer Clawvern Jacobs should receive a third trial in the beating death of an Alice Lloyd College student, because special judge John David Caudill failed to disclose his ties to the school, according to Jacobs' attorney. On Friday, public defender Kelly Gleason, who represented Jacobs in his second trial in Bowling Green, earlier this month, said her client deserved another trial because Caudill did not reveal he had family members who had attended Alice Lloyd College. Caudill said he knew hundreds of Alice Lloyd College students, and it had no bearing on the case. Jacobs was convicted last week of murder, kidnapping, and first degree sexual assault in the death of Judy Ann Howard of Martin County. The Warren County jury recommended Jacobs be sentenced to death...Floyd County Attorney Keith Bartley reported that since March, \$307,292.88 in past due taxes, dating back to 1987, have been collected by his office. And, in February, Civil lawsuits will be filed against the county's biggest tax delinquents...Ervin Louis Adkins, 27, of Toler Creek, was arrested and charged with attempted assault on a police officer, second degree; terroristic threatening; resisting arrest; and third-degree criminal trespassing...Matthew Hughes, 20, of Pikeville,

died Wednesday, in a single-car mishap on Route 1426 at Toler Creek, according to a Kentucky State Police, Post 9 media release...There died: Charles Douglas Dalton, 72, of Prestonsburg, Saturday, December 28, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center; Doris "Mickey" Meadows, 84, of Prestonsburg, Saturday, December 28, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Martha Evans, 87, of Grethel, Saturday, December 28, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital; Thomas Ratliff, 77, of Ivel, Saturday, December 28, at Mountain Manor Nursing Home, Prestonsburg; Ora Lee Wireman, 94, of Prestonsburg, Saturday, December 28, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center; Wilburn Elliott, 86, of McDowell, Sunday, December 29, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Isom Hurd, 88, of Ivel, December 29, at Mountain Manor Nursing Home, Prestonsburg; William Kelly "Leather Ear" Hughes, 88, of Martin, Tuesday, December 26, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Ballard Haywood, 80, of Prestonsburg, Sunday, December 29, at Saint Joseph Hospital, Lexington; Clevis Gayheart, 66, of Pippa Passes, Saturday, December 28, at his residence; Daffie Slone, 77, of Topmost, Sunday, December 29, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Merdith Slone, 88, of Pippa Passes, Sunday, December 29, at her residence; Lora Ethel Conley, 101, of Jamestown, Ohio, formerly of Floyd County, December 25, at Heather Green Nursing Home at Jamestown; Myrtle Hamilton Bentley, 65, of Virgie, Tuesday, December 24, at the Rockcastle Hospital in Mt. Vernon; Allie Sparkman Jacobs, 62, of Estill, Wednesday, January 1, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Betty Thacker, 90, of Harold, Wednesday, December 25, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital; Mattie R. Hall, 63, of Lexington, formerly of Floyd County, Tuesday, December 31, at Homestead Nursing Center; Kenneth E. Hall, 51, formerly of Wheelwright, January 1, at his home in Jeffersonville, Indiana; Ella Martin, 81, of Louisville, Wednesday, January 1, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Pansy Hamilton Kimbler, 85, of Honaker, Tuesday, December 31, at her residence; Frances "Virginia" Keathley, 90, of Martin, Wednesday, January 1, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Victoria Blankenship, 87, of Teaberry, Monday, December 30, at her residence; Rose Hagans Bowling, 77, of Langley, Wednesday, January 1, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital.

Twenty Years Ago

(January 7, 1987)

In a case that could affect many former coal miners disabled by black lung disease, attorneys for a Pike County miner have pursued his claim as far as the U.S. Supreme Court...The question, if whether the state's minuscule tax on unmined coal is constitutional will be argued today (Wednesday) in the Kentucky Court of Appeals...Construction is scheduled to begin this spring on a 24-unit apartment complex at Wheelwright to rehabilitate and upgrade housing stock...Big Sandy Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation was ordered to pay \$1,000 in punitive damages to Debra Gambol, of Spurlock Creek, after she filed a complaint as a result of her service being disconnected in July after a billing dispute...No injuries were reported, Monday, after a tanker truck carrying liquefied petroleum gas overturned on Route 23, south of Hager Hill, but all Johnson County schools were canceled after the tanker hit a power pole...In her annual report to the Floyd County Fiscal Court, State Auditor Mary Ann Tobin made recommendations to the court to improve the county's financial standing...There died: Thomas Edward Neeley, 88, of Prestonsburg, Sunday evening...Joe Miller, 74, was found dead Sunday, at his home on Calf Creek...Johnny Rann Dye, 24, of McDowell, December 29, in Warsaw, Indiana...Myrtle M. Cooley, 85, of Eastern, Christmas Eve...Julia Yerrace Francis, 84, of Garrett, December 26...J.O. (Bill) Harris, 65, of Wheelwright, Saturday...William Kenneth Allen, 67, of Prestonsburg, December 29...John Paul Hunt, 43, of Tram, December 23...Luther Keens, 73, of Melvin, December 22...Ora Mae Collins Martin, 73, of Endicott, December 28...Frank Newsome, 70, of Weeksbury, December 27...Robert H. Bentley, 77, of Wayland, Saturday...Clark Nelson, 36, of David, December 23...Johnnie Walton Crider, 79, of Endicott, December 24...Roy Shepherd, 75, of Hueysville, December 21...Fred Allen Nunemaker, 79, of Martin, December 23...William F. Jones, 63, of Banner, Friday...Vernon Bays, 38, of Prestonsburg, December 31...and Rebecca Lewis, 71, of Banner, January 1.

(See YESTERDAYS, page nine)

Yesterdays

Thirty Years Ago

(Wednesday, January 5, 1977)

Snow upon snow, Monday morning, not only slowed traffic, kept schools closed, and sharply curtailed most normal activities—it hit the opening of circuit court so hard that it barely opened...The husband of a native Floyd County woman was held, last week, in the Carter County jail at Grayson, for arraignment on a homicide charge after his wife had died of a bullet wound...Cold weather, a series of light snows, and ice covered roads, conspired to reduce traffic and slow holiday activities in general, to the point that Floyd County's was generally, a quiet holiday season...Envirotech Corporation of Menlo Park, California, announced, Monday, that it has acquired the Elkhorn Industrial Products Corporation, the Floyd County Manufacturer of mining machinery which has become nationally known...The strike of approximately 300 members of the oil, chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, against the Kentucky West Virginia Gas Company, entered its 80th day Tuesday, and the end is not yet in sight...There died: Mrs. Melvina Martin Moore, 66, of Garrett, Tuesday, December 21, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin; Mrs. Lissie Henson Hall, 56, of Hi Hat, Tuesday, December 28, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Eugene Hall, 47, of Kite, Sunday, December 28, at UK Medical Center, Lexington; Mrs. Coatsy Kilburn, 89, of Arkansas Creek near Martin, December 31, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital; Leon Mosley Sr., of Wheelwright, Wednesday, December 29, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital; James P. Slone, 74, Tuesday morning, at his home at Garrett; Mrs. Minta Chaffens, 69, of Wayland, December

22, at McDowell Hospital; Mrs. Elva Samons, 57, of Martin, Jan. 1, at Our Lady of the Way; Charlie Bays, of Prestonsburg, Tuesday morning at his home.

Forty Years Ago
(January 5, 1967)

With the deaths of two mine employees in separate accidents, this week, Floyd County, recorded its first coal mining fatalities of the new year. Anthony Howell Jr., 49, of Craynor, was instantly killed, Tuesday, when he was caught beneath a slatefall in the mine of the Hall Branch Coal Company at Beaver. The following day Henry Johnson, 40-year-old Risner miner, was fatally injured while working in Mine No. 9 of the Island Creek Coal Company at Salisbury...Governor Edward T. Breathitt announced that \$703,500 of the \$18.8 million he asked the state Property and Building Commission to approve, Wednesday, for state parks construction projects, will be spent at Jenny Wiley State Park, here...Retirement of Joe A. Spradlin as assistant postmaster here, effective Dec. 30, was announced this week by Postmaster Jack Stumbo...For construction of a physical science building at the college, here, the expenditure of \$900,000 has been proposed by Governor Edward T. Breathitt...Striking employees of the United Fuel Gas Company returned to their jobs in Kentucky and West Virginia, last Friday morning, after they had, by union membership vote, approved the contract signed earlier between company and union officials...Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Derossett Jr., a daughter, Stephanie Nichole, Dec. 22, at the Prestonsburg General Hospital; to Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Harmon, of El Paso, Texas, a daughter, Leigh Ann, Friday, December 9...There died: Mrs. Ellen Harmon, 88, Monday, at her home, here; Mrs. Pheban Akers, 86, of Banner, Monday, at Banner; Mrs. Mattie Akers, 62, of Dana,

Wednesday, at the Prestonsburg General Hospital; B. M. Compton, 71, of Emma, Dec. 24, at the Mountain Manor Nursing Home, here; Orville (Jargo) Slone, 41, last Thursday, at his home at Blue River; Mrs. Alice Kidd, 70, Monday, at her home at Drift; Mrs. Sarah Parker, 80, Monday, at the home of a son at Wayland; Lacy Barbe, 73, Dec. 28, at his home at Betsy Layne; Henry Collins, 69, Friday, at his home at Melvin; Noah Cole, 63, Dec. 22, at Lexington; Charlie Fraley, 83, Dec. 26, at his home, at Drift.

Fifty Years Ago
(January 2, 1957)

An estimated 1,305,000 tons of coal reserves are still unrecoverable in Floyd County, U.S. Bureau of Mines figures show...W.J. May of Prestonsburg, has been re-appointed county agricultural chairman for Floyd County...Death of Miss Betty Lasley, 30-year-old registered nurse, whose body was found on the afternoon of Dec. 24, in her room of the nurses' home of the McDowell Memorial Hospital, resulted from barbiturate poisoning, Coroner James J. Carter said Monday...Robert J. Wallace, driver-librarian of Floyd County's Bookmobile, has been named chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Kentucky Library Association for the coming year...The Christmas home exterior decoration contest initiated by Mrs. Winnie F. Johns, Prestonsburg, to encourage the beautification of homes along U.S. 23, in this county, has been won by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Porter, of Emma, it was announced, New Year's Day...Married: Miss Gilma Catherine Jarrell, and Mr. David W. May, of Covington, Ky., Dec. 29, at Prestonsburg...Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Otis Wright, of Allen, a son, Dec. 20, at the Prestonsburg General Hospital; to Mr. and Mrs. Howard D. Sample, a daughter, Naomi Jo, Dec. 8, in Rochester, New York...There died:

Mrs. Emma T. Slone, 17, of Melvin, last Thursday, at McDowell Memorial Hospital; Abraham H. Green, 74, Saturday, at his home on Auxier Road; Mrs. Stachie Coburn, 70, Saturday, at her home at Hippo; Mrs. Rosa Hall, 95, of Hi Hat, Tuesday; Mrs. Lucy Robinson, 70, of Dwale, last Thursday, at her home.

Sixty Years Ago
(January 2, 1947)

Arthur Damron, 33, of Printer, was shot and killed by a shotgun blast, Dec. 24, at Printer...Edward A. Derossett, 35, Sloan native, died Dec. 20, at a Battle Creek, Mich. hospital, a short time after he had fallen into a tank of boiling water while at work at a Battle Creek plant...Three Floyd County coal miners were killed in mine-connected accidents during the Christmas season, Edgar Arthur Boyd, 44, was electrocuted Dec. 23, while tightening a guy line at a mine of the Inland Steel Company, at Wheelwright; James Lee Burchett, 30, of Auxier, died Dec. 21, in the Paintsville Hospital a few hours after being run over by mine cars in a mine of the Princess Elkhorn Coal Company at David; Willard Johnson, 37-year-old Melvin miner, was instantly killed, Dec. 26, in a slatefall in an Inland Steel Company mine...At a recent meeting in Louisville, Floyd County Sheriff Troy B. Sturgill was elected for the second consecutive year, to serve as president of the Kentucky Sheriff's Association...Henry Gibson, 30 years old, of Goodloe, was killed Wednesday evening, when the coal truck he was driving left the Middle Creek highway at Blue River, dropped over an embankment and toppled onto him, as he was thrown from the cab...Married: Miss Bonnie Stephens, of Lancer, and Mr. Howard B. Turnipseed, of Elgin, Texas, here, Dec. 14; Miss Margaret Bowling and Mr. Manis Gray, both of West Prestonsburg, Dec. 20, at Paintsville; Miss Maxine Conley, of Bonanza,

and Mr. Joe Osborne, of Buckingham, Dec. 21...Born: to Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Kendrick, of Prestonsburg, a son—William Spears Kendrick—Saturday, at the Paintsville Hospital; to Mr. and Mrs. Burns Workman, of Martin, a daughter, Carrie Lynn, Friday, at the Beaver Valley Hospital, Martin...There died: Dr. Thomas Everett Leslie, 57, formerly of Emma, Dec. 25, at home at Olive Hill; Mrs. Ben Webb, 68, of Allen, Dec. 24, at the Gearheart Hospital, Martin; Mrs. Garnett Watkins Robinson, 23, of Wayland, at the Stumbo Memorial Hospital, Lackey, Dec. 23; Mrs. Corbett Bentley, 40, at home at Wayland, Dec. 20; George England, 72, at the Methodist Hospital, Pikeville, Monday; B. F. Martin, 65, at home at Drift, last Thursday; Elza Hunt, 38, of Lancer, Dec. 24, at the Prestonsburg General Hospital.

Seventy Years Ago
(January 1, 1937)

Taylor Thompson, 24, of Mare Creek, was killed, by a shotgun blast, Wednesday night, on Mare Creek; in another shooting, this week, Frank Daniels, 27 years old, of Johnson County, died after being shot twice with a .45 caliber pistol at Copley's boarding house at Wayland, Christmas morning...The January term of circuit court will open here, Monday, with a heavy docket of 400 misdemeanor cases and eight murder trials...It says here, that even after recent severe winter weather, roads on Middle Creek are still passable...Mrs. Edith Fitzpatrick James, of Prestonsburg, has been appointed county supervisor of the statewide WPA recreational program...Married: Miss Gladys Burke, of Pikeville, and Mr. Robert Holcomb, of Prestonsburg, here, Dec. 23...There died: John Preston Martin Davidson, 85, of Prestonsburg, Sunday, at the Paintsville Hospital.

Oak

In defining "family," Dr. Brothers used words like "functional," "balanced," "happy," "successful," and "content." It's doubtful that any of these terms ever crossed my parents' minds, and even without their possessing a degree in psychology, all seven of Dad and Mom's coal-camp

kids seemed to have been all those things. But one idea that Dr. Brothers suggested that would have set her philosophy miles apart from that of my parents' was her notion that a family should be a democracy, that families should accept 'compromis-

ing solutions." Not at our house, boy. Majority ruled all right, but it only took two to make a majority, and sometimes, only one vote did the trick. From the time we were old enough to know anything, we knew that Mom and Dad were in charge.

What they said was never questioned. Oh, we grumbled and griped to ourselves, but it never even crossed our minds to challenge their decisions, and rest assured, there were no compromises. If they said "don't," we didn't. If they said, "do," we did.

Although firm, neither Dad nor Mom were dictatorial about their decisions. They simply stated how things were, and we, in total respect, went along with them. When it came to making a strong family, Dad and Mom held the keys.

Critter

Put a window well cover over any window wells around your house to prevent any animals from falling in. Use only environmentally-friendly sidewalk salt for melting ice such as Safe Paws Ice Melter. Regular sidewalk salts pollute the environment and can irritate cats' and dogs' paws.

Appreciate your backyard wild neighbors. Take a walk around your yard in the snow and try to identify different species' tracks. Buy a good wildlife tracking guide for yourself - or as a gift - such as Tracking and the Art of Seeing: How to Read Animal Tracks and Signs or Peterson Field Guide to Animal Tracks.

The HSUS Wild Neighbors Program promotes non-lethal means for resolving conflicts between people and wildlife and cultivates understanding and appreciation for wild animals commonly found in cities and towns. On the web at www.wild-neighbors.org

The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization with nearly 10 million members and constituents. The HSUS is a mainstream voice for animals, with active programs in companion animals, disaster preparedness and response, wildlife and habitat protection, marine mammals,

animals in research, equine protection and farm animal welfare. The HSUS protects all animals through education, investigation, litigation, legislation, advocacy and field work. The nonprofit organization is based in Washington and has field representatives and offices across the country. On the web at www.hsus.org



Dance Etc. Elite teams capture top spots at Jamfest Winter Jam

The Dance Etc. Elite All-Star Dance Teams from Dance Etc. Studio traveled to Lexington on Saturday, Dec. 9, to compete in the Jamfest Winter Jam Competition and came away with the top spot in a number of categories. Seventy-eight dancers from eight counties make up the Dance Etc. Elite Teams. The four teams all took top honors at the competition and put on amazing performances, especially considering that over 70 dancers had just completed a full week of rehearsals and four sold-out performances of the "Nutcracker" at the Mountain Arts Center the previous week. As a whole, the studio was first

awarded with the coveted "Spirit Award" which it had never won before at a Jamfest competition. The group was extremely proud of this award because it is voted on by all the Jamfest staff and is awarded to the studio or gym that displays the most spirit, exhibits the best sportsmanship, treats other teams with respect and promotes a positive image. All four teams received individual honors as well. The Pee Wee Elite Team, made up of 20 dancers in grades two through four, took first place in the Mini Jazz and Mini Pom divisions. The Junior Prep Elite Team, comprised of 25 dancers in grades four through six, captured first place in the

Youth Jazz division and runnerup in the Youth Pom division. This team also received two other top awards. Its Jazz routine, entitled "SnapShot," was awarded Class Champion for all Youth and Mini teams. Out of all the Mini and Youth teams in all categories, including Variety, Lyrical, Jazz, Hip Hop and Pom, this team's Jazz routine was selected the best overall performance. They were also awarded the Choreography Award for "SnapShot." This award was chosen out of all dance teams in all age divisions. The Junior Elite Team, made up of 17 dancers in grades seven through eight, took first place in the Junior Jazz division and second place in the

Junior Pom division. Their Jazz routine, entitled "He's A Dream," was awarded Class Champion for all Junior and Senior level teams, including all Junior and Senior Variety, Lyrical, Jazz, Hip Hop and Pom routines. The Senior Elite Team, made up of 16 dancers in grades 9 through 12, took first place in the Senior Jazz division and second place in the Senior Pom division. Parents even joined in the fun. When Dance dads out of the audience were asked to join in a "Dad's Dance Off" just for fun, one of the Dance Etc. fathers stole the show. Mark Newsome, of Inez, whose daughter Mia is a member of the Pee Wee team,

broke out some of his best moves to win the "Dad's Dance Off" title. The competition was a great showing for Dance Etc. Studio and overwhelmingly successful, as all four teams came away with Gold Bids to advance to the Jamfest Super Dance Nationals in Cincinnati, Ohio, in February. All four teams will be busy preparing for the Jamfest Nationals, as well as the EDA Nationals in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in March. Dance Etc. Elite Teams are coached by Jody Shepherd, Jennifer Smith, Kate Lowe, Lauren Bowman and Alicyn Dyer. Congratulations to this talented young group of dancers and the best of luck as they continue with their competition season.

New Arrivals

HRMC
New Arrivals



- Dec. 12, 2006** A son, Jadon Kalob Poe, to Shellia & Joseph Poe, of Salyersville
- Dec. 12, 2006** A daughter, Angelina Marie Ross, to Tiffany Marie Foster, of Hazel Green
- Dec. 13, 2006** A daughter, Kaylee Gene Tackett, to Shannon & David Tackett, of East Point
- Dec. 13, 2006** A son, Luke Brayden Combs, to Sonya Reanee & Daren Ray Combs, of Jackson
- Dec. 13, 2006** A son, Jace Harrison Martin, to Stacie Michelle & Franklin Lee Martin, of Langley
- Dec. 13, 2006** A daughter, Gracie Marie Slusher, to Stacy Marie & Jason Douglas Slusher, of Falcon
- Dec. 13, 2006** A son, Corbin Isaiah Wireman, to Sherry & Ronnie Wireman, of Waldo
- Dec. 13, 2006** A son, Logan Dominick Risner, to Maggie & Angello Risner, of Prestonsburg
- Dec. 14, 2006** A daughter, Raquel Rae-Lynn Childers, to Misty Dawn Childers, of Hager Hill
- Dec. 14, 2006** A son, Braxton Allen Maynard, to Elisha & Blaine Maynard, of Debord
- Dec. 14, 2006** A son, Kendall Bryce Rose, to Crystal & Kenton Rose, of Prestonsburg
- Dec. 14, 2006** A son, Braiden Daniel Eugene Collett, to Brittany Cure, of Salyersville
- Dec. 15, 2006** A daughter, Zoe Faith Sluss, to Paula Lee May, of West Van Lear
- Dec. 15, 2006** A son, Aden Michael Ritchie, to Marinda & Shawn Ritchie, of Bulan
- Dec. 15, 2006** A daughter, Baylee Elizabeth Stephens, to Ellen Elizabeth Stephens, of Prestonsburg.
- Dec. 15, 2006** A daughter, Hayden Michele Marie Gilman, to Sue & James Gilman, of Beauty
- Dec. 15, 2006** A daughter, Marrissia Lyashay Hicks, to Amanda Saylor, of Paintsville
- Dec. 16, 2006** A daughter, Emorie Paige Prater, to Susan LeAnn Prater, of Salyersville
- Dec. 17, 2006** A son, Landon Alexander Scott, to Brandy & Randall Scott Jr., of Blue River
- Dec. 17, 2006** A son, Tristan Lane Boyd, to Shelli Justice, of Dana
- Dec. 17, 2006** A son, Jerimiah Cayden Carty, to Tausha & David Carty, of Salyersville
- Dec. 17, 2006** A son, Gacin Ross Arnett, to Tina & Scott Arnett, of Salyersville
- Dec. 19, 2006** A daughter, Kierra Paige Morris, to Sabrina & Joseph Morris, of Hager Hill
- Dec. 20, 2006** A daughter, Lauren Addison Lauffer, to Clara Lauffer, of Paintsville

Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center births

- Dec. 19, 2006** - A son, Muhammad Mustafa, to Dr. Sundiata and Mrs. Asila El-Amin, of Jenkins
- Dec. 20, 2006** - A son, Sidney James, to Shana Newsome and James Spurlock, of Prestonsburg
- Dec. 20, 2006** - A daughter, Kaytelynn Shayenna Victoria, to Andrea and Matt Gordon of Louisa

Korner

T or F?
 3. Pregnancy causes a woman's brain to grow. (Brain -? Belly maybe, but brain?) T or F?
 4. Hugging, especially for women, releases neurochemicals that can increase trust in the hugger. T or F?
 Now let's see how well you did, check out the answers below:

- 1. False - Women have just as many brain cells, but they are packed more tightly into their smaller skulls.
- 2. True - As a result, women are naturally more talkative than men (NO! Who'd have guessed?!) using 20,000 words a day compared with the 7,000 uttered by men.
- 3. False - The brain shrinks in the last three months of pregnancy but returns to normal by six months after birth. (OHMIGOSH, that explains so much!!)

Continued from p7

4. True - After a hug lasting at least 20 seconds, the brain produces oxytocin that turns on the trust response and dulls more critical judgement. (Well, who would've ever think it?)
 So, til Next Week,
 Have a Safe & Happy New Year and may it be filled with many 20 second hugs!
 God Bless...



Shriners, pancakes and Santa

Local Shriners held a "Breakfast with Santa" event on Saturday, December 9, at the Mountain Arts Center. Santa and children of all ages enjoyed hot pancakes and sharing Christmas wishes.



Some of the smiling faces that helped out this past year as volunteers at the Mountain Arts Center are pictured here with MAC Executive Director Keith Caudill.

MAC honors volunteers

The Mountain Arts Center held its annual Volunteer Christmas Party on Tuesday evening, December 12 to honor the many community volunteers who assist during MAC activities and events throughout the year. Around eighty volunteers, security personnel and staff members were in attendance at the festive get-together where all in attendance were treated to a delicious dinner catered by Made from Scratch restaurant. Door prizes and gift certificates were awarded to the volunteers and security team members who worked the most hours this past year.



A Carriere Family Christmas benefit big success

The Carriere Family, Clayton Case, of the Kentucky Opry, and Susan Scott, of the Big Sandy Singers, perform during the "Carriere Family Christmas" event held December 18, at the US 23 Museum in Paintsville. Not pictured, but also lending his talents to the evening of entertainment was Kentucky Opry comedian Munroe. The concert event was held to benefit local charities and food banks. The cost of admission included one non-perishable food item per person and all food, along with the over \$1,300 that was raised, was donated to help local families in need.



Fiscal court officials recognized for service

Outgoing county officials were recognized at a recent meeting of the Floyd County Fiscal Court. Pictured, from left to right, are Magistrates Gerald DeRossett and Larry Stumbo, Judge Executive Paul H. Thompson, an Magistrate Alan Williams. Magistrate Jackie Owens is also pictured, but is not an outgoing member of the court as he will continue to serve on the fiscal court in the upcoming year.

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INSIDESPORTS

- Rabbit hunting • page A12
- Lady Bears • page A13

UK FOOTBALL, MUSIC CITY BOWL • A13

INSIDESTUFF

- Lifestyles • page A7
- Classifieds • page A14

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Class A, District 8 honors handed out

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PIKEVILLE – The All-Class A, District 8 football team, as voted on by district coaches, has been announced.

Pikeville running back Daniel Harmon has been named Class A, District 8 Overall Player of the Year. Austin Delpont claimed the Class A, District 8 Special Teams Player of the Year award.

Each district team – Hazard, Pikeville, Paintsville, Paintsville, Jenkins, Allen Central, Phelps and South Floyd – were represented on the

All-District 8 team. More on the All-Class A, District 8 Team follows.

Overall Player of the Year: Daniel Harmon, Running Back, Pikeville.

Special Teams Player of the Year: Austin Delpont, Kicker, Hazard.

First Team All-District

Hazard: Dan Spaulding, Chris Melton, Jared Meehan, Colby Hoskins, Shane Massey, Michael Campbell, Tyler Olinger.

Pikeville: Ryan Shurtleff, Casey Rowe, Daniel Harmon, Jacob Sword, Brad Bryant, Ted Honaker, Tim Honaker.

Paintsville: Daniel Pugh, Kyle

Sublett, Shane Cantrell, JJ Hensley.

Jenkins: Chris Puckett, Jonathan Taylor, Kevin Potter.

Allen Central: Alex Hammonds, Mike Case.

Phelps: Russell Johnson, Steven Sullivan.

South Floyd: Anthony Barker, Derek Triplett.

Honorable Mention: Greg Adams (Hazard), Josh Belcher (Jenkins), Andrew Branham (Jenkins), Chris Caudill (South Floyd), Casey Childers (Jenkins), Hunter Crowder (Allen

(See HONORS, page twelve)



South Floyd senior Anthony Barker was a first team pick for the All-Class A, District 8 Team.

file photo

JCHS to honor 1972 team

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PAINTSVILLE – Johnson County High School is set to honor its first 15th Region boys' basketball championship team 35 years after the squad captured the title. The school's Alumni Association will honor Coach Paul Williams and the 1972 Golden Eagle boys' basketball team on Friday, Jan. 5, at the JCHS boys' and girls' double-header against 57th District rival Magoffin County. Any player who played on the 1972 team should contact JCHS Assistant Principal Noel Crum via phone at 789-2508.

Players are asked to identify themselves when entering the admission gate the evening of the game. A dinner for the team will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the

(See JCHS, page twelve)

HOLIDAY TOURNEY TIME



GETTING TOURNAMENT TESTED: The Prestonsburg High School boys' and girls' basketball teams will each take part in holiday tournaments this week. The Blackcats will travel to neighboring Paintsville for the Paintsville Tiger HOOPS Classic. The HOOPS Classic will feature teams from Kentucky and three other states as well as Washington, D.C. The Lady Blackcats will be on the road in Danville at the Boyle County Invitational.

photos by Steve LeMaster and Jamie Howell



Adams guard Warren Blackburn (23) went in for a layup in Wednesday's A-Team game against Allen Central.

Lady Raiders fall to Wolfe County

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CAMPTON – Wolfe County doubled up visiting South Floyd 18-9 in the first quarter Thursday evening in its Whitaker Bank Classic and never surrendered the lead to the Lady Raiders. Wolfe County led South Floyd 29-14 at the half and went on to win 53-33.

South Floyd opened the Wolfe County tournament with a loss to Owsley County. Morgan Burton led Wolfe County with a game-high 23 points. Last season, Burton averaged 17.5 points per game for the Lady Wolves. Burton was one of two players to reach double figures for Wolfe County. Tiffany Wilson added 11 points for the Lady Wolves. In all, eight different players scored points for homestanding Wolfe County.

The Lady Wolves led South Floyd 38-27 at the end of the third quarter.

Kayla Hall paced South Floyd

(See WOLFE, page twelve)

Crusaders KO Piarist

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PIPPA PASSES – Host June Buchanan School didn't allow the visiting Piarist School Knights much in the way of offense Thursday evening. The Crusaders only allowed Piarist to score 12 points in the first half. June Buchanan rolled to a victory over the Knights, winning 92-35.

Piarist faced a tough test in its road matchup. June Buchanan ranks as one of the 14th Region's top teams. The Crusaders are beginning to make some significant noise on a statewide level.

June Buchanan outscored Piarist 24-7 in the first quarter. The Knights put up over 20 points in each quarter, leading

(See CRUSADERS, page twelve)

Ex-Wildcat leads Florida team past Paintsville

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PORT ST. JOE, Fla. – Former University of Kentucky Wildcat Oliver Simmons is making a name for himself as a high school boys' basketball coach in his native state of Florida. Thursday, Simmons guided Olympia (Fla.) High School to a hard-fought 84-73 win over 15th Region favorite Paintsville in the Gulf County Classic.

Simmons witnessed his team spread the basketball around in the win over tradition-rich Paintsville. Four different Olympia players reached double figures scoring. Two other players from the Florida team scored eight points apiece.

Olympia, a team from Orlando, outscored Paintsville in every quarter. Paintsville was on the losing end of a 16-12 score at the conclusion of the

(See FLORIDA, page twelve)

Blackcats roll over ACMS

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PRESTONSBURG – The Adams Middle School Blackcats swept visiting Allen Central Middle School last Wednesday when the two teams met up for Floyd County boys' basketball. Adams won A-, B- and C-Team games between the two programs. More on the A- and B-Team games follows.

A-Team, Adams 43, Allen Central 23: The host Blackcats outscored Allen Central in each quarter en route to the 20-point win. Adams doubled up Allen Central in the first half, leading the Rebels 22-11 at the end of the second quarter. The Blackcats outscored the Rebels 15-7 in the third quarter.

Joseph Jamerson entered the game in off of the bench and led Adams with a game-high 10 points. Alex Griffith scored nine points and Warren Blackburn added eight for homestanding Adams. Nine different Blackcats broke into the scoring column.

Mikka Harlow led Allen Central with six points.

B-Team, Adams 29, Allen Central 23: In much closer fashion, Adams was able to hold on and defeat Allen Central in the B-

(See BLACKCATS, page twelve)



photo by Jamie Howell

Pikeville College Men's Basketball Upcoming Games

- Dec. 30 UVA-Wise, 4 p.m.
- Jan. 6 at Savannah College of Art & Design, 4 p.m.
- Jan. 10 at Ohio State University at Newark, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 20 at WVU Institute of Technology, 4 p.m.
- Jan. 25 Georgetown College, 8 p.m.

JCHS

Continued from p 11

The JCHS boys' basketball program, in Mark Starns' first year at the helm, captured its fifth 15th Region title this past March...

Wolfe

Continued from p 11

Floyd with a team-high 12 points. Hall was the only South Floyd player to reach double figures scoring.

Crusaders

Continued from p 11

Piarist 26-11 in the third quarter. The Knights had their best quarter of basketball in the final frame when they managed a dozen points.

With the win, improved to 6-1. State title contender Mason County has been the only team to deal June Buchanan a loss so far this season.

June Buchanan (6-1) - Cla. Stepp 24, Cox 13, G. Collins 6, Hall 8, Short 8, Conley 6, Cli. Stepp 13, Childers 6, Sloane 2, L. Collins 2, Thomas 2, Amburgey 2, Piarist.....7 5 11 12-35 June Buchanan 24 23 26 19-92

Florida

Continued from p 11

first quarter. Olympia led 37-30 at the half. Olympia improved to 7-1. Following the loss, Paintsville dropped to 4-3.

Grimm netted 10 in Paintsville's win. The Tigers will begin hosting their own tournament - the Paintsville Tiger HOOPS Classic - today.

UK women post fourth straight win

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON - Senior guard Jenny Pfeiffer (North Vernon, Ind) scored a game-high 21 points, including five three-pointers, to lead three Kentucky players in double-figure scoring as the Wildcats claimed their fourth-straight win, defeating Southern, 70-44, in Memorial Coliseum Thursday.

more points in each of her last three games and has 12 three-pointers in her last three games combined. Junior center Sarah Elliott (McKee) tallied double figures for the seventh time in the last eight games with 13 points.

31-11 with 4:48 left until intermission. The Cats took a 37-20 advantage into the halftime locker room. UK shot 47 percent (25-of-32) from the floor in the opening period and held a 26-15 edge on the boards.

Blackcats

Continued from p 11

Team game. Blake Goble led the B-Team Blackcats with a team-high 11 points. Wes Robinson scored seven points and Joseph Jamerson flipped in six for the Adams B-Team.

and Dylan Maldonado added 11 as the Bobcats turned back Adams in the A-Team game. Nate Fraley led Adams with 11 points. Betsy Layne led Adams 33-9 at the half.

Mills named to ESPN All-Mayday Team

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON - University of Kentucky senior defensive tackle Lamar Mills has been selected to the annual ESPN "All-Mayday" Team for players who have shown extraordinary toughness and determination during their collegiate careers.

remainder of the season. In the same week, his family's home in Slidell, La., was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Having already completed his bachelor's degree in only three years, it would have been easy for Lamar to walk away from football.

starting job at defensive tackle and he helped lead the Wildcats to their first bow game in seven years. In addition, he will complete his master's degree in May from UK's Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, a very prestigious graduate school.

Honors

Central), Logan Crowder (Allen Central), Eric Crum (Allen Central), Tyler Deaton (Paintsville), Nehemiah Doderer (Paintsville), Clay Elliott (Pikeville), Spencer Fields (Jenkins), Evan Hensley (Phelps), Wes Hook (Pikeville), John Howard (Hazard), Kyle Howell (South Floyd), Cory Humphrey (Paintsville), Chaz Jackson (Pikeville), Mitch

Jackson (Pikeville), Austin Johnson (South Floyd), Jeremy Justice (Phelps), Drew Lester (Phelps), Jeffrey Martin (South Floyd), Houston McAnallen (Pikeville), Justin Meek (Paintsville), Josh Mullins (Pikeville), Brad Muncy (South Floyd), Chad Nelson (Allen C.), Kevin Osborne (Paintsville), Max Pafunda (Pikeville), Jordan Payne

(Phelps), Josh Prater (Allen Central), Josh Richardson (Jenkins), Todd Robinette (Phelps), TJ Searcy (Hazard), Brett Shepherd (Allen Central), Chase Short (Hazard), Steven Stephens (Jenkins), Chris Stumbo (Allen Central), Bart Teague (Hazard), Jordan Tibbs (Pikeville), Bryan Walker (Paintsville), Justin Walker (Pikeville).



LOOKING AT THE BASKET: Alex Griffith (30) and Joseph Jamerson (40) helped to lead Adams past Allen Central last week in an A-Team matchup. The Blackcats will resume play when school gets back in session after the holiday break.

photos by Jami Howe

Beagles better, but there is dogless rabbit hunting

by STEVE VANTREESE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PADUCAH - There's no question that the most productive rabbit hunting occurs somewhere out in front of a pack of beagles dogging the bunny on a circuitous course. Because a cottontail wants to remain in its compact home territory, a hunter can post up where dogs first roust a rabbit, and in time, the chase will usually loop back near where it began.

weapon, swing and fire as a bunny bolts away sometimes from nearly under foot. That method affords plenty of opportunity for the rabbit's escape. With a quickly moving target bounding through brushy cover, a speedy response with an open-choked shotgun (improved cylinder choke recommended) and No. 6 shot field loads is appropriate.



Brooks leaves business to others as Kentucky football team climbs

by JEFFREY McMURRAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Kentucky football coach Rich Brooks is happy to discuss blitz schemes or the I formation, but he prefers to leave the X's and O's of business to other people — even when it involves his own job.

Brooks says he didn't mingle in the behind-the-scenes maneuvering that placed the Wildcats (7-5) in this week's Music City Bowl against Clemson (8-4). Nor does he seem overly concerned about finalizing the details of the contract extension promised by Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart.

"I would assume something would be resolved," he said.

No, business isn't Brooks' game. Football is. And, while some of his

players say saving their coach's job was a motivating factor during their breakout season, they insist that didn't come from Brooks.

One day after practice last year, during the doldrums of yet another losing season, offensive lineman Michael Aitcheson recalls Brooks addressing his own job situation for the first and only time. The mention came shortly after Barnhart informed the team Brooks would be back for another try.

"He said, 'This is one of the down sides of the game — the business aspect,'" Aitcheson said.

Although Brooks insisted his team not play for him this year, tight end Jacob Tamme said he still took tremendous pride in what was accomplished — lifting the program from mediocrity and probation and

landing the first bowl appearance since 1999.

"He's a humble guy," Tamme said. "He's coached at a lot of different places, done a lot of different things and he knows what he's doing. Sometimes it's hard to get people to accept that and not a young guy that's always coming in with all that hoopla. He'd rather stay under the radar and build a quiet winner."

The players say the quiet part is just Brooks' public persona. They tell stories of their mild-mannered coach getting fired up about missed tackles or dropped catches. In fact, when linebacker Wesley Woodyard played word association with his coach's name, the first that came to his mind was "excitement."

"A lot of people don't see it, but he gets worked up," Woodyard said.

"Sometimes you need it."

Brooks says what resonates with this Kentucky team isn't tone but pride. After LSU steamrolled the Wildcats 49-0 on Oct. 14, the coach had a heart-to-heart with his players that apparently got through. They won four straight before losing narrowly at Tennessee in the season finale.

"I was very disturbed and upset after that game," Brooks said of the LSU loss. "I went in on Sunday, basically got up in front of the team and told them we were soft. We weren't tough enough, not physical enough."

Brooks knows the bowl challenge won't be easy. Clemson has a more dominant running back than any Southeastern Conference foe other than perhaps Arkansas, he says, and

a defense among the nation's best.

But, win or lose, Brooks is talking about postseason football at Kentucky. His players are getting a few extra weeks of practice. Would-be recruits get to watch the team play on national television.

Things are certainly looking up for the program. How up, Brooks says, will depend on whether the Wildcats can duplicate this year's effort next year and beyond.

"I think we've turned the corner, but it's a sharp turn or is it a long bend in the road?" Brooks said. "Whether we've turned the thing around or not can't be defined by one year. Based on the young players we have returning, it's my hope this becomes a common occurrence — having December press conferences talking about bowl games."

Cardinals 71, Savannah State 45

by WILL GRAVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Rick Pitino wasn't asking for dominance or perfection, just effort from his players after back-to-back losses at home.

The Louisville coach got a little bit of all three during the Cardinals' 71-45 win over Savannah State at Freedom Hall on Wednesday.

While the Cardinals (6-4) hardly sparked. They played with the kind of confidence and energy they lacked during a frustrating loss to Kentucky

last weekend. And for a young team still trying to find itself, it was enough.

"We were hungry to show everybody we're not going to hang our heads," Pitino said.

Instead, the Cardinals did what they expected to do against the weary Tigers (5-10). Louisville forced the tempo, pressured Savannah State into 25 turnovers and seemed eager to put a tumultuous week in the rearview mirror.

Juan Palacios scored a season-high 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds, thanks in part to solid shooting at the free throw line and a trimmer frame.

"We asked him to come in much lighter than he was last year," Pitino said. "We think (the extra weight) took away from his jumping ability, his quickness (but) he came in just as heavy, if not a few pounds heavier. Now he's lost 12 pounds in the last

month, so he looks better. He's more active; he's quicker."

Quickness, however, had nothing to do with Palacios' 10-of-12 effort from the free throw line, an area he'd struggled with all season.

It's something I've been working on a lot, staying after practice," Palacios said. "It was a normal game. Anyone can get 20 points in a game like that."

Nearly everyone got their chance. Fifteen Cardinals played and 10 scored, though freshman center Derrick Character wasn't one of them. Pitino suspended Character for the game for violating team rules. Character watched the game in street clothes from the end of the bench but will be available on Saturday when the Cardinals play Miami (Fla.). If he plays, though, is another matter.

"It's really not a concern to me (if he plays)," Pitino said. "I'm more concerned with getting the other guys

ready to play."

The "other guys" looked ready against the Tigers. They shot 45 percent from the field — not great, but a step up from their frigid 27 percent shooting in the loss to Kentucky. Even better, they displayed some enthusiasm that was lacking against the Wildcats. Then again, it helps when you make plays on both ends of the floor as the Cardinals did on Wednesday.

"They had a little quick guards, Coach P told us to play hard defense and deny," said guard Edgar Sosa. "We just came out and denied and made some steals. ... We let Coach P down losing to (Massachusetts) and Kentucky. You can't get two losses back. We've got to get everybody back on our side."

The Cardinals took a couple of major steps in that direction against the Tigers, as Terrence Williams gave the team a little spark with a handful

of spectacular plays. None was better than the alley-oop he converted on a pass from Chris Current midway through the second half.

The pass was a little high, but Williams managed to grab it and slam it home after ever so briefly sitting on top of a Savannah State player's shoulder.

"I don't know why he doesn't just do that on every possession," Pitino said with a laugh. "His (shooting) percentage would be very high."

Williams said he wasn't trying to give his team a morale boost with the dunk and that he was simply concerned about leaving the gym with a win.

"We wanted to show we've got character as a team," Williams said. "You learn more about a team with a loss than you do with a win. We lost, so we just tried to get over it and get out after it."

Flying Queens coast past Lady Bears

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ORLANDO, Fla. — The magic just wasn't there this night.

Two days after opening the Disney NAA Basketball Challenge with an impressive win over Brenau, the Pikeville College women's basketball team fell to the Flying Queens of

Wayland Baptist (Texas) University in the tournament's final game by an 86-50 score at the Wide World of Sports Complex on Wednesday night. The loss dropped the Lady Bears to 4-10 on the season, while Wayland Baptist, regarded as one of the strongest teams in the country, improved to 8-4.

The Lady Bears took a 1-0 lead on an early free-throw, but a quick three gave the Flying Queens a lead that would hold for the remainder of the game. The Lady Bears got within four when sophomore Vicki Hall (Belfry) connected on a free-throw after making a layup. Trailing only 18-14, the Lady Bears looked like they would get back into the game. But the Flying

Queens stepped up their defense, forcing 15 Pikeville turnovers during the first half alone, and went on a 22-9 run to cap off the half and take a 40-23 lead into halftime.

The second half wasn't much different. Senior Tonya Amburgey (Pinetop) connected on a three to start the half, cutting the WBU lead to 14. But that would be the closest the Lady Bears would get. During the second half the Flying Queens forced nine more turnovers and shot 53 percent from the field. Together with poor Pikeville shooting, WBU progressively increased its lead until, with less than a minute to go, a layup from Crystal Schmalzried gave the Flying

Queens its largest lead of the night at the end.

Pikeville head coach Bill Watson acknowledged the impressive play of Wayland Baptist, but he also knew that his Lady Bears did not play the way they should have. "They are a very good basketball team," Watson said. "There's no doubt of that. But we still didn't rebound, and when we don't rebound, we don't win."

There was one bright spot for Watson, however. "Beth (Patterson) played well. She got after it and did a nice job."

The junior from Middleburg led the Lady Bears with 15 points, going along with five rebounds. Senior

Jessica Lovell (Belfry) also had five points and five assists in the loss.

Wayland Baptist was led by 17 points from Brittany Spradling, while Miki Mays also poured in 16 points, eight rebounds, and three steals. The Flying Queens not only forced 24 Pikeville turnovers, but they also brought down 16 offensive rebounds which, along with shooting 50 percent from the field for the game, sealed the Lady Bears' fate.

The Pikeville women will return to action when they head back to Kentucky and play host to Tennessee's Milligan College on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Reds get Conine from Phillies

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — The Reds acquired Jeff Conine from the Philadelphia Phillies for a pair of minor leaguers Thursday, giving them a right-handed hitter who can share a spot at first base and play the outfield.

The 40-year-old Conine played the outfield and first base with Baltimore and Philadelphia last season, hitting .268 with 10 homers and 66 RBIs. The Phillies acquired him in an August trade.

In exchange for Conine, the Phillies got infielder Brad Key and outfielder Javon Moran, both of whom

played in the low minor leagues. To make room for Conine on their 40-man roster, the Reds designated infielder Brendan Harris for assignment to the minors.

One of the Reds' offseason priorities was acquiring a right-handed hitter for a lineup that revolves around left-handed hitters Adam Dunn, Ken Griffey Jr. and Scott Hatteberg. Conine initially might platoon with Hatteberg at first base.

"We talked about someone to go along with Scott Hatteberg," manager Jerry Narron said. "He hits right-handers well, too, so he might see a lot of time against right-handed pitching. We'll start out and see where it leads. I expect he'll give us great at-bats either off the bench or in a platoon situation."

Conine has played for Kansas City, Florida, Baltimore and Philadelphia during his 16-year career. He played in

151 games for the Marlins in 1997, when they beat Cleveland in seven games to win the World Series, and rejoined Florida for its title under manager Jack McKeon in 2003.

He opened last season with Baltimore, splitting his time between first base and the outfield. He played exclusively in the outfield for the Phillies, who obtained him in an August trade.

"It's a little bit of a surprise, coming a couple of days before Christmas," Conine said. "Obviously, I didn't have a long tenure there in Philly. I know the Reds were a very competitive ballclub last year. I look forward to the challenge of making them a little better and competing for a spot."

Conine became expendable after the Phillies signed former Dodgers outfielder Jayson Werth.

"We weren't going to be able to

give Jeff the playing time that we thought we were a month ago, six weeks ago," Phillies general manager Pat Gillick said. "When Werth was completed, we thought that probably the best plan for us was to move Jeff on. I know he wants to play."

Gillick said he was convinced that Werth is recovered from wrist surgery that cost him all of last season.

"We think Werth is a better option for us at this point," Gillick said.

Conine will make \$2 million in 2007, the final year on his contract.

"We were continuing to look for a quality right-handed hitter, whether through the trade route or free agency," general manager Wayne Krivsky said. "We felt this was the best alternative. We had him on a list of players that might be acquired by trade to fill that role. The cost was right in terms of his contract."

The Reds were looking for some-

one to fill the role vacated by free agent Rich Aurilia, who played various infield positions last season and led the club with a .300 average. He split time at first base with Hatteberg, starting 37 games there.

Conine also could spend some time in the outfield. The Reds opened camp with a four-man rotation last year, then traded Wily Mo Pena to Boston for right-hander Bronson Arroyo during spring training.

They also shipped starting right fielder Austin Kearns to Washington in an eight-player deal during the season. Ryan Freel played most of the games in right field after the trade.

Ken Griffey Jr. returns as the center fielder, and Adam Dunn is back in left

field.

AP Sports Writer Dan Gelston in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

Horsemen announce kicker tryout date

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — The 2007

Lexington Horsemen Indoor Football kicker tryouts will be held on Jan. 7, 2007 at Nutter Field House, which is located on the campus of the University of Kentucky behind Commonwealth Stadium.

Tryouts will be held from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. Registration will begin at 3 p.m. All players

attending will be required to pay a \$50, nonrefundable tryout fee.

Each kicker will need to bring their own kicking tee. In addition, each participant will be provided with a T-shirt.

Any questions need to be directed to the Lexington Horsemen office via phone at 859-422-PASS

a tribute to our guys' toughness."

MSU also got 13 points from Cordaryl Ballard and nine points each from Jamyron Steward and Vincent Crutcher in reserve roles. Williams hit 10-of-15 shots from the field.

Eastern Illinois was led by Romain Martin who scored 18 points. Jon "Tee" Willhite added 12 points.

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1-800-525-3456, or
www.trustforlife.org

BETSY LAYNE BASKETBALL



ON THE ROAD: The Betsy Layne Ladycats and Bobcats will be involved in tournament play this week. The Ladycats will be on the road in Middlesboro in a tournament. This year's First National Bank Holiday Classic at Bracken County will include the Betsy Layne Bobcats.

photos by Steve LeMaste

Morehead State men top Eastern Illinois

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CHARLESTON, Ill. — Shaun Williams scored 27 points and pulled down 12 rebounds to lead Morehead State to a 71-63 win over Eastern Illinois Wednesday (Dec. 20) evening at Lantz Arena in Charleston.

The win over EIU, coupled with a Monday victory at Tennessee-Martin, gave the Eagles a sweep of a two-game Ohio Valley Conference road trip. MSU is now 6-4 overall, 3-1 in the league. The Panthers fell to 4-8 overall, 1-4 in the OVC.

The Eagles trailed by 15

points, 29-14, with 4:44 remaining in the first half. MSU then scored the final 14 points of the period to trail by only one, 29-28, at intermission.

EIU stretched its lead to nine points, 41-32, in the first five minutes of the second half, before the Eagles began a rally that saw them score 10 straight points to take a 42-41 lead with 10:45 left in the game. The contest was tied twice after that, but MSU never trailed again.

"I'm so proud of our effort tonight," said MSU Coach Ronnie Tyndall. "We didn't get off to a good start, but we rallied twice, then held on down the stretch."

"We played hard and were unselfish. Shaun took good shots and was the dominating offensive force that he can be. Winning twice on this road trip is

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DEADLINES:
 Wednesday's paper @ Mon., noon
 Friday's paper @ Wed., 5 p.m.
 Sunday's paper @ Thurs., 5 p.m.
Visa - MC - Discover Check

The Best Way To Write An Ad:

- Begin with a key word (item for sale, etc.)
- Use descriptive words to identify your items
- State your price or terms
- Include a phone number and/or e-mail address

NAME _____
 ADDRESS: _____
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Write your ad here:
 (approximately 18 letters per line)

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The FLOYD COUNTY TIMES does not knowingly accept false or misleading advertisements. Ads which request or require advance payment of fees for services or products should be scrutinized carefully.

AUTOMOTIVE

130 - Cars

HICKS AUTO SALES
David Road
 93' Chevy
 Shortbed 4x4 automatic V8.
 120,400 miles. \$3,995.
 96' GrandAm 2 door V6 80,000 miles. \$1,795
 92 Pathfinder, automatic, \$2,495
 96 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited Edition. \$3,495.
 01 Chevy Ventura 80,000 Miles. \$5,500
 886-2842
 886-3451.

150-MISC

FOR SALE
 1996 Dodge Grand Caravan And a 1982 Voltswagon Rabbit Convertible stored since 1991 call 874-2421 if no answer please leave message.

EMPLOYMENT

When responding to Employment ads that have reference numbers, please indicate that entire reference number on the outside of your envelope. Reference numbers are used to help us direct your letter to the correct individual.

210-JOB LISTINGS

HELP WANTED
 Jan and Ben restaurant located at Bevinville. Delivers and cooks. Call 452-2280.

JOB OPENING

Care Recruiter, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has an immediate opening for the right candidate who will recruit and train Foster care Families, as well as coordinate the Foster Care marketing program in the Big Sandy and Kentucky River area. Masters degree in the communications or marketing field preferred, but will consider a Bachelors degree. Four years of related experience is required. Fax resume to 502-538-1141, or email to jobs@kbhc.org or mail resume indicating position applying for and salary requirements to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, PO Box 1429 Mt. Washington, Ky

40027. EOE Females ad minorities encourages to apply.

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING:

EF Foundation for Foreign Study is seeking coordinators to facilitate high school exchange program. Mentor foreign exchange students, find and screen host families, and build relationships with high schools. Applicants must be at least 25 y/o. Position is not paid, but expenses are reimbursed, and training and travel opportunities are available. For more information, call Brenda and Neil Kendrick at 866-329-4546!

JOB OPENING

Welding positions available. Excellent pay. Call between 8a-5p Mon-Fri. Drug screen required. 285-9358.

JOB OPENING

Mountain Manor of Painstville is now taking applications for Dietary position. Excellent wages and benefits. Apply in person at 1025 Euclid Avenue, Painstville, Ky. From Monday - Friday between 8a-4:30p.

HELP WANTED

Heavy equipment steam cleaning company needs employees. Must have valid drivers license and up to date surface mining papers. Mine emergency tech. Is a plus. Call Mon thru Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm 606-886-1759.

JOB OPENING

Mountain Manor of Painstville is taking applications for a LPN position. Excellent wages and benefits. Apply in person at 1025 Euclid Avenue, Painstville, Ky from Monday thru Friday between 8a and 4:30p.

JOB OPENING

Renos Roadhouse in Prestonsburg is now hiring for all positions. Shifts- Day and Night. Apply in person only.

MERCHANDISE

410-Animals

Chinese Shar-Pei Puppies Ready for Christmas! 1st shots and first wormings! Red, brown, white, and black. Already potty trained. Well socialized. Please call 606-886-0397 or 226-3543 for more information. Or email at sypv_king@msn.

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FOR SALE
 Christmas Puppies AKC Cocker spaniel, miniature schnauzer, pickanease, poodles, yorkies, shitsues, and unregistered chihuahua puppies. 606-789-5918

480-Misc.

FOR SALE
 2 Hank Williams Jr. tickets at Expo Center. Call 285-4827.

LOST

Womans gray wallet in parking lot beside of Nursing home. If found, please call 226-0378. Just want pictures and drivers license back please.

FOR SALE

1 BURIAL PLOT LOCATED ON RICHMOND CEMETERY. CALL 886-3394.

FOR SALE

Windows for sale. Five 36x62 Double Pane insulated windows. Never been used. Windows open from the inside for easy cleaning. Call 606-226-0913 Leave message.

REAL ESTATE

590-Sale Or Lease

FOR SALE
 Property for sale between Prestonsburg and Painstville. Also, double wide for rent. \$500 plus deposit. Call 606-789-6721 or 792-792-6721. No pets.

FOR SALE

REDUCED! Property for sale at Frasure Creek. Septic and water ready. \$22,500. Call 377-9221 Bobby Caudill.

FOR SALE

Large mobile home. Covered porch 14x82. Newly painted, remodeled. Call 874-2720.

FLOYD COUNTY.

Lum DeRossett Branch 75 acres more or less. Level land. Sloping / timber. Call 606-325-2809 or 606-325-4430

RENTALS

610-APARTMENT

FOR RENT

Local Home Oxygen company is seeking a full time CRT/RTT/ Must be organized, self motivated, reliable and results driven. Must poses good communication skills. Must have the ability to lift 75lbs. Please fax resume to 606-218-6131.

1 BR furnished apt on Rt. 1210 Five miles from Martin. W/D hookup. \$375 per month. \$125 deposit. All utilities except electric included. Call anytime 285-3641.

FOR RENT

3 BR 1 bath, living room, kitchen, appliances included. Located on West Prestonsburg on Main St. \$600 per month plus utilities. No HUD. Call 886-6186 or 886-8266 after 5.

1-2 BR FURNISHED

Apt. In Prestonsburg. 886-8366.

APT FOR RENT

Modern 2nd floor unfurnished apt. Approx. 1800 Sq. Ft. 3 BR 2 full bath with access to heated swimming pool. Will consider renting the apt. for office space. \$600 per month plus utilities. Deposit and references required. Located on Rt. 122 at Martin across from Floyd County Tech. Center. Call 285-9112.

APT FOR RENT

Newly remodeled unfurnished ground floor apartment. Located across from Floyd County Technical center on Route 122 at Martin. \$500 per month plus utilities. Must furnish references. Call 285-9112.

APT FOR RENT

Renovated like new apartments. Located in Martin at EP Grigsby Store. Call 285-3233 from 10am-6pm.

Furnished 1 bed room Apt.

Central heat & air. Rent starting at \$375. month, + \$300. deposit water included. Located near HRMC. 606-889-9717.

630-HOUSES

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 BR 2 Bath Log Home in Oaklawn, Hager Hill. Central H/A low utility bills. Large covered-deck, Large storage barn. Acres of privacy. Open Oct 31. \$1090.00 month or best offer. 850-222-2226. Leave message.

580-Mobile Home

FOR RENT

One Mobile Home lots for rent 1/2 mile

on right from Prestonsburg on Town Branch Road. Lots have city water, gas, sewage, and AEP electric. Call Karen 874-7155.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-0324

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that GCAS Corporation, P.O. Box 2886, Pikeville, KY 41502, has applied for a permit for a surface coal mining and reclamation operation, located 1.0 mile north of the community of Dana, in Floyd County. The proposed operation will disturb 24.27 surface acres, and will underlie 9.34 acres. 6.24 acres of the underground acreage rests beneath proposed surface acreage, and is included in the surface acreage. The total acreage to be permitted is 24.27 acres.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following items will be offered at public sale on January 5, 2007, at First Guaranty Bank, 39 Triangle Street, Martin, KY 41649.

2007, at First Guaranty Bank, 39 Triangle Street, Martin, Kentucky, 41649, at 11 a.m. 1998 Ford Eddie Bauer Expedition VIN # 1FMPU18LOWLB2869 8 1998 Chevrolet Cavalier VIN # 1G1JF52T7W7105439 All items are sold "as is where is." Seller reserves the right to bid and to reject any or all bids. Items are to be paid following the sale, or satisfactory arrangements are made with the seller. Announcements at the sale take priority over ad. Purchaser to pay all taxes and transfer fees.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's London Regional Office, 85 State Police Road, London, Kentucky 40741. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following items will be offered at public sale on January 5, 2007, at First Guaranty Bank, 39 Triangle Street, P.O. Box 888, Martin, KY 41649.

RN Unit Manager

Salyersville Health Care Center is recruiting for a qualified candidate to fill our RN Unit Manager position. The qualified candidate must be a Kentucky Registered Nurse, have knowledge of long term care and have at least 3 yrs. experience.

Responsibilities:

- Care management of 50-bed skilled wing
- Supervision of staff
- Follow policies and procedures

Qualified applicants apply to:

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 571 Parkway Drive
 Salyersville, KY 41465
 E.O.E./A.A.P.

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Executive Assistant for a medical office is needed. Must be:

- Energetic, efficient person with accounting experience and general office skills.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks, pay attention to details & have excellent organizational skills.
- A strong working knowledge of Microsoft Office plus accounting software.
- Excellent written communication skills are necessary.
- Medical office experience preferred.
- College degree welcome.

Position offers benefit package and salary commensurate with experience. This is a non-smoking facility. Send resume along with three references & phone numbers to:
 Medical Offices
 P. O. Box 3128
 Pikeville KY 41502

Treatment Nurse
 Salyersville Health Care Center is recruiting a high paced, organized, and resourceful nurse to perform treatments. Responsibilities include actual physical care, skill performance, and maintenance of records. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Qualified applicants apply to: **Salyersville Health Care Center** 571 Parkway Drive Salyersville, KY 41465 E.O.E./A.A.P.

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 HELP WANTED: Waitresses, dish-washers/busboys, cooks. Paid vacation, health insurance available. Uniforms furnished. No phone calls, please! Apply in person.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT
 1, 2, 3, 4 Bedrooms
 available for extremely low-income people at Highland Heights Apts. in Goble-Roberts Addn., and Cliffside Apts. on Cliff Road, Prestonsburg. Computerized learning centers offer social/educational programs for children and adults. All utilities included at Highland Hgts., utility allowance at Cliffside. Call (606) 886-0608, 886-1927, or 886-1819. TDD: 1-800-648-6056. Highland Heights and Cliffside Apartments do not discriminate in admission or employment in subsidized housing on account of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion and familial status. **Applications Being Accepted For 1-BEDROOM APARTMENTS FOR PERSONS 55 AND OLDER** Located behind Wendy's and Pizza Hut in Prestonsburg. All utilities are included and the rent is based upon gross monthly income. Several activities, such as line dancing, crafts, bingo, movies, hair salon and church services. The apartments are furnished with a refrigerator, stove, emergency alarm system, and air conditioner. For more information, please call Highland Terrace at 606-886-1925, TDD: 1-800-648-6056 or 711, or come by the office for an application. Highland Terrace does not discriminate in admission or employment in subsidized housing on account of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status or disability.

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 or 1-800-686-4447
 (TDD for speech & hearing impaired 711)

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-5334 Amendment No. 4

In accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.070, notice is hereby given that Matt/Co., Inc., 439 Meadows Branch; Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653 has applied for an amendment to an existing underground/refuse storage coal mining operation located 2.0 miles north of

Emma in Floyd County. The amendment will add an additional 1521.0 acres of underground area for a total area within the permit boundary of 2648.16 acres. The proposed amendment area is approximately 1.0 miles east from Ky Route 1428's junction with Sugarloaf Branch Road and located 0.1 miles north of Sugarloaf Branch. The proposed amendment is located on the Lancer U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The

amendment will use the underground mining method. The operation will underlie land owned by Jewell Crider, Lon Goble Estate, Donald L. & Joyce Goble, Bud Goble Estate, Wayne & Barbara Wright, Mary Lucille Willis, Lewis & Emma Hunt, Evan & Mari Rose, Linda Jervis, Floyd Harris Heirs, Jimmy & Ramona Burchetts, Rudy Harris, Vivian Franklin, John Harris, Martha Johnson, Bill Monroe Thompson, Army Corps Engineers, Clark Pergem, Jesse

Rudd, and Mary Crawford & Charles Porter Trust. The amendment application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resource's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive; Prestonsburg, Ky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-5437, Renewal

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Frasure Creek Mining, LLC, 1051 Main Street, Suite 100, Milton, West Virginia 25541, has applied for renewal of a permit for an underground coal mining and reclamation operation, located 2.5 miles northwest of Minnie, in Floyd County. The proposed operation will disturb 11.77 surface acres and will underlie 591.50 acres, and the total area within the permit boundary will be 603.27 acres.

The proposed operation is approximately 1.74 mile southeast from KY Route 80's junction with KY State Route 680, and is located along Gosling Branch.

The proposed operation is located on the Wayland USGS 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by The Elk Horn Coal Company, LLC and Commonwealth of Kentucky. The operation will underlie land owned by The Elk Horn Coal Company, LLC, Rondell and Jacqueline Lawson, Rebecca Conley Estate, Ida Hunter, Manda Pratt, Wendell Sexton, Richard Griffith, T. J. Hoover, Lafayette Gayheart, Gosling Branch Coal Co., Inc., Shannon Wallen, Michael Collett, David Hawley and Nancy Lee Scott, Larry Collett, John Moore Estate, James and Mary E. Patton, George Ousley and Peggy Hanover, Fred Gibson, James and Michelle Hall, Fred and Sherry Lyons, Lee and Lizzie Wallen Estate, and Gene Mullins.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director of the Division of Mine Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow Complex, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COUNTY OF FLOYD

I, Douglas Ray Hall, Clerk of the Floyd District Court, do hereby certify that the following persons have been appointed fiduciaries by the District Court. All persons indebted to an estate should settle with the fiduciary within six (6) months from the date of appointment.

Date of Appointment	Case Number	Estate Of:	Fiduciary	Attorney
11-21-06	06-P-414	Vick V. McCoy	Linda McCoy	
11-28-06	06-P-415	George E. Powers	Darrell Powers	Larry Brown
11-29-06	06-P-416	Dennis Martin	Jeanine McGuire	
11-30-06	06-P-417	Donald Bowling	Janet Bowling	
11-30-06	06-P-418	Richmond Slone	Mary J. Slone	
12-5-06	06-P-420	Fulton Meadows	Betty Meadows	
12-06-06	06-P-421	Abe Vanderpool	Isaac Vanderpool	
12-6-06	06-P-423	Barbara Hurd	Cathy Hurd	
12-6-06	06-P-424	Audrey Tackett	Lester Tackett	
12-07-06	06-P-425	Henry E. Reitz	Thomas J. Reitz	
12-08-06	06-P-427	Helen Stumbo	Kristi Pack	
12-08-06	06-P-428	Curtis Moore	Betty Moore	Thomas Moak
12-11-06	06-P-431	Laverna Allen	Carlos Ray Hall	
12-11-06	06-P-433	Charles Walker Prater	Sheba Prater	
12-12-06	06-P-434	Brad Hall	Stephanie Hall	
12/13-06	06-P-435	Rondall H. Leslie	Rhonda Heinze	
12-14-06	06-P-437	Eunice Mae Flanery Hall	George Michael Hall	
12-18-06	06-P-438	Monford Howell	Roma Lou Howell	
12-19-06	06-P-442	Garnett Burchett	Bill Goble	Timothy Parker
12-19-06	06-P-444	Ray Meadows	Estill Reed	Anthony Craig Davis
12-07-06	06-P-426	Geoffrey T. Grace	Michael Vance	Michael Cain
12-20-06	06-P-446	Fred Conn	Geraldine Jarrell	Christy J. Love

NOTICE (OF FINAL SETTLEMENT)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COUNTY OF FLOYD...SCT

I, Douglas Ray Hall, Clerk of the Floyd District Court, do hereby certify that the following settlements of estates have been filed in my office. Anyone desiring to take exceptions to said settlements must do so on or before January 31, 2007, at 8 a.m.

Settlement	Case Number	Estate Of:	Fiduciary	Date Filed
Final	01-P-425	James Manns	Gladys McKinney	11-20-06
Final	04-P-382	Sammy Maggard	Lynda Maggard	11-20-06
Final	06-P-174	Oliver Ratliff	Gorman Bradley, Jr.	11-20-06
Final	06-P-193	Sam Meade	Marielith Meade	11-21-06
Final	05-P-51	Joan Patton	Billy R. Patton	11-22-06
Final	06-P-194	Earnest M. Sword	Bonnie Sword	11-29-06
Final	06-P-208	Donald Ray McGarey	Sandra L. McGarey	11-22-06
Final	04-P-330	John M. Newsome	Juanita Collins	11-28-06
Final	04-P-329	Vada Newsome	Juanita Collins	11-28-06
Final	04-P-426	Franklin Howard	Berneice Howard	12-11-06
Final	04-P-439	Joy Hall	Bobby Hall	12-11-06
Final	06-P-221	Roy Hicks	Anita H. Martin	12-11-06
Final	04-P-400	Hester N. Hall	Albert J. Hall	12-14-06
Final	04-P-427	Deborah Reynolds	Dock Reynolds	12-11-06

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Help Us Celebrate and Remember Our Eastern Kentucky Heritage!

Send us your Suggestions/Ideas, and photos that you'd like to see in Black Diamonds 2007. (photos will be returned)

"Coal"
The Floyd County Times
Black Diamonds
P.O. Box 390
Prestonsburg, KY 41653

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Charges

Continued from p1

Holbrook at his home, which is located less than half a mile from the entrance to South Floyd High School, on two previous occasions.

Also indicted as a result of an arrest made by the drug task force was Carlos Carbide Little, who was indicted on 12 misdemeanor charges ranging from possessing a defaced firearm, possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia to five counts of having a con-

trolled substance not in its original container.

The 53-year old Little was also originally arrested for drug trafficking within 1,000 yards of a school, in his case Opportunities Unlimited in Martin. Little was arrested after a six-month investigation where agents working for the drug task force purchased drugs from Little on three separate occasions.

Harris

Continued from p1

with the utmost respect.

"I want to make sure they leave court knowing I treated them fairly," Harris said.

Harris has been practicing law since 1996, working in private practice working a wide array of cases. He said his early prosecutorial experience has helped him out a lot, breeding confidence in his abilities and leading him to run for the family court position.

One program Harris would like to see implemented in his jurisdiction area is a new family drug court program, which could be used to get people who have drug problems into a system where they can overcome their problems as well as work to keep the family together. Harris said the drug

problem has broken up a lot of families in the area, and the program would be a good way to fight the problem. He said the program may take a while to get federal funding as the number of projects funded by the state government has decreased, but he said he already has plans to sit down and work out a grant to kick-start the program.

Harris said he is glad he has an opportunity to help out in a position where he can do some real good, and he is willing to put in some overtime to ensure the job is done correctly.

"People know I'm an honest person," Harris said. "And I'll do my best, 24 hours a day if I have to."

Miners

Continued from p1

Federal researchers believe coal miners in some Appalachian counties are getting black lung at a younger age and higher rate than other mining regions, despite the government's measures to control coal dust levels and eliminate the disease. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has identified 22 counties in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia as "hot spots" for rapidly progressive black lung.

In these coal-producing counties, some miners in their 30s, 40s and early 50s are experiencing rapidly progressive black lung — about 10 to 30 years sooner than cases observed in the past, according to the federal study.

Lawmakers in Kentucky made slight changes to the state workers' compensation law in 2002 to loosen restrictions on black lung claims. A complete revamping of the black lung program in 1996 prevented most miners from winning awards from the state. Under the 1996 law, the Office of Workers Claims approved only 11 claims over a five-year period.

Under the revamped law, miners with any evidence of black lung are eligible for retraining benefits worth nearly \$65,000 over four years. That would cover basic literacy instruction to college classes. Miners age 57 and older could receive cash instead of retraining benefits.

Wes Addington, an attorney for the Appalachian Citizens Law Center in Prestonsburg, said Kentucky's black lung benefits program is worthless to miners.

"The system is basically dead," he said. "It's written in such a way that it doesn't give miners real alternatives. The likelihood of a miner being retrained at 55 is not a practical alternative. I think that's shown by the number of min-

ers who don't use the system. It's not a practical, workable system."

Baker's case made its way to the Kentucky Court of Appeals earlier this month, not because he was pursuing benefits, but because his attorney, Johnnie Turner of Harlan, was trying to collect legal fees from the Office of Workers Claims. Neither Turner nor Baker could be reached for comment. But Moak said their situation points to an additional reason why the number of miners who apply for black lung benefits is low. Lawyers have no guarantee they'll be paid if they take on the time-consuming cases.

"There's less incentive for attorneys to file these retraining cases if the attorney isn't going to get paid," Moak said.

Moak said lawmakers need to take a fresh look at the black lung issue, and consider making further changes to a 1996 law that made getting benefits almost impossible.

"Common sense tells you we've not eliminated the disease," he said. "Yet we've got a system that closes the door on miners getting benefits."

Trooper

Continued from p1

suicide," Crumpton said. "The cause of death is still being determined."

Howard was not married, but had family in the area.

Howard was the second trooper from the Pikeville post to die in less than a week.

Trooper Jonathan K. Leonard, 28, died Dec. 19 in a car crash in Pike County. He had worked at the Pikeville post for three years.

Visitation for Howard will be from 5 to 9 p.m. today and Thursday at Hall Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held Friday at 11 a.m. at the Allen Central High School gym.

Court

of the court, meaning a member who follows all the rules will not spend any time in jail.

The court admits anyone over 18 arrested for a drug-related crime, such as a drug possession charge or a DUI offense, but every potential member is evaluated thoroughly by a drug court caseworker to ensure that if admitted they will have a reasonable chance of success. Not every eligible person is placed in the program, with violent offenses and drug-trafficking charges being grounds for exclusion.

Phase 1 begins when the member is convicted and accepted into the program. Counseling and drug rehabilitation sessions kick off with a strict 30-day sober period. Individuals are tested a minimum of three times a week during this period to ensure they remain clean; any "dirty" screen will result in a return to Day 1 of the 30-day cycle, where the person will again have to go 30 consecutive sober days before advancing to Phase 2. The number of screenings decreases to two and then one with each successive phase of the program.

Phase 2 lasts approximately eight months and is what Judge Hall calls "the core" of Drug Court, where members receive the bulk of their treatment. At this point the number of meetings members are required to attend increases, including one Mountain Comprehensive Care meeting and one self-help meeting, a minimum of three Narcotics Anonymous or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings a week, and also weekly sessions with counselors from Floyd County's Drug Court office to touch base. This phase also requires that members either obtain work, attend school or perform community service if they are doing neither.

Case specialist Sue Blackburn, of the Floyd County Drug Court office, said she believes the court's slogan that the court does work is true because of all the hard work members are forced to do. As a retired police officer who said her new position has helped her see both sides of the addiction problem, Blackburn said

there is no question the program is a success.

"I think one of the reasons it works is because we are in their lives a lot, we keep an eye on them; we do expect them to change their whole lifestyle," Blackburn said.

Phase three is a period where members are required to stay clean for 90 days, followed by three months of aftercare treatment. When a person successfully completes the program there is a graduation ceremony.

The state's Administration of the Courts keeps track of all graduates in the state for a five-year period, keeping a record of where they live and contacting them at least once a year to check in. Depending on the member's original violation, Judge Hall is occasionally permitted to expunge an offense from a member's criminal record.

The Floyd County Drug Court has held two graduations, with seven graduates so far. Hall said not one graduate has fallen back into drug addiction. He said five of the seven are gainfully employed, with the other two currently taking care of recently born

children.

"It's a struggle; I wish I could tell you it's all successes, because it's not," Hall said.

Even so, three years into the program, Hall says it has been a worthwhile and successful project in Floyd County. He said the program, which is funded with grant money by Operation UNITE, should easily continue with further funding when the grant runs out in two years because of the drug court's growth and success statewide.

across the state, serving 78 counties," said Connie Payne, general manager for Kentucky Drug Court. "In its 10 years of operation, nearly 2,000 participants have graduated from the program."

Continued from p1

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