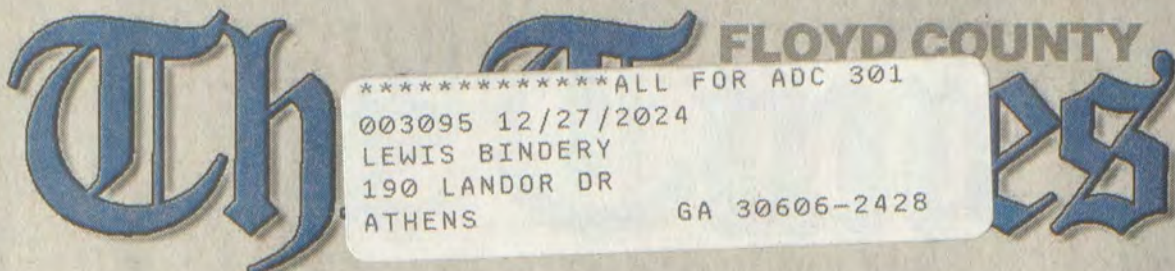




Shag Campbell tournament page B1



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In brief

Driver cited in fatal crash now charged with murder

The Associated Press

PIKEVILLE — An Eastern Kentucky woman faces a murder charge in the death of a 67-year-old woman after a traffic crash.

Patricia Dotson pleaded not guilty Thursday in the Pike County crash that injured Helen Smith. She died later at a hospital and a prosecutor says the death was from injuries suffered in the wreck.

State Police reported at the time of the crash last week that Dotson acknowledged taking the prescription tranquilizers Xanax and Lortab before driving. She was initially charged with DUI.

Dotson's attorney says she has no history that would indicate she would drive under the influence of drugs.

Bail was not immediately set.

Nurses agree to work through talks; ARH mum

by JACK LATTA STAFF WRITER

Kentucky Governor-elect Steve Beshear and West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin stepped into the bitter two-month-long labor dispute between Appalachian Regional Healthcare and Kentucky/West Virginia Nurses Association on Thursday, with a proposal to return nurses to work for 90 days while negotiations resume.

According to Pat Tanner, lead negotiator for the nurses association, "We have just completed a conference call with the nurses local union presidents and they have voted unanimously to accept the

Beshear/Manchin proposal. It is now up to ARH as to whether or not they are willing to work with us and the governors to resolve this dispute in a fair and equitable manner for both sides."

Tanner added, "On behalf of the nurses, we stand ready to work in a spirit of cooperation and civility with ARH and the governors to ensure an orderly transition by which nurses can quickly return to their jobs and begin providing safe patient care."

The Manchin/Beshear proposal is essentially the same proposal that was made by Gov. Manchin nearly a month ago, but was rejected by ARH. The proposal calls for the striking nurses to return

to work for 90 days while negotiations continue; negotiations teams must be limited to five persons, and requires all third parties on both sides be removed from negotiations.

"I'm very concerned about the impact this impasse may have on the health care of our people in Eastern Kentucky," said Beshear. "It is time for both sides in this dispute to come together for the good of the patients they serve."

ARH spokesperson Candace Elkins said, "hospital leaders would be willing to meet with the governors and union leaders," but according to ARH officials they would not comment specifically on the proposal.



Pansy Witten, an original "Rosie the Riveter," was honored at Thursday's Hall of Fame induction ceremony at Riverview Health Care Center.

Riverview honors residents at Hall of Fame banquet

by JACK LATTA STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A former Air Force airman and an original "Rosie the Riveter" were this year's inductees Thursday night, when Riverview Health Care Center held its third annual Hall of Fame banquet honoring past and present residents.

Pansy Witten, 89, who was born in Johnson County, received a place on the Hall of Fame for her many accomplishments, including being an

original "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II. According to RHCC, Witten spent time working in a Detroit, Mich., auto factory, and then later at a secret plant in Long Beach, Calif., assembling parts for airplanes.

Pansy accepted the award in person and thanked everyone for coming out.

"This is just great," said Witten.

Also being honored was the late Richard Gary "Dickie" Hall, an Air Force airman second class during the Korean

Conflict and former softball coach in Floyd County. Hall passed away in 2005, at the age of 63 due to complications from Alzheimer's.

Family and friends were in attendance to celebrate his life and accomplishments.

According to RHCC's mission statement they are dedicated to "providing spiritual, physical and emotional support, and have the honor of serving the people of our community by preserving their heritage and celebrating the landmarks of their lives."

ARH loses appeal on scheduling

by JACK LATTA STAFF WRITER

CINCINNATI — The continuing nurses strike is just one of the problems facing Appalachian Regional Healthcare after a federal Court of Appeals panel in Cincinnati affirmed an order directing ARH to schedule nurses as required by its contract with the Kentucky and West Virginia Nurses Associations (KNA/WVNA) and to pay them hundreds of thousands of dollars in back pay.

According to officials, the RNs have now won the

decision three times — before an arbitrator, before a federal district judge in Lexington and now with the Court of Appeals, all ruling that ARH was in breach of its contract.

"The decision announced today by the Sixth Circuit is welcome news for many nurses on the picket lines. This ruling by the court sends a clear and expensive message to ARH corporate officials that they must honor their contractual obligations, something they have had difficulty understanding."

(See APPEAL, page three)

Southeast fire tax squeaks through

by JACK LATTA STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — An ordinance to create a taxing district for Southeast Volunteer Fire Department came before a special session of the Floyd County Fiscal Court Friday morning.

The resolution passed on a 3-2 vote, with Judge

Executive R.D. "Doc" Marshall casting the tie breaking vote.

"I am in full support of the volunteer groups, having done that, and I knew that if it came to that (a tie vote), there was no question how I would vote," Marshall said.

According to the resolution (See TAX, page three)

Luallen bows out, opens Democratic field for Senate

by BRUCE SCHREINER ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — State Auditor Crit Luallen on Friday stepped away from challenging Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell in next year's election, reshaping the lineup of Democrats looking to take on the four-term Republican whose campaign is well under way.

As soon as Luallen pulled out of consideration, Iraq war veteran Andrew Horne and Louisville businessman Charlie Owen began reassessing their own possible entry into the Senate race.

Attorney General Greg Stumbo, a Democrat who leaves office next

Stumbo weighing Senate or return to state House

month, said he was still evaluating his possible candidacy. And political newcomer Greg Fischer, a Louisville businessman whose father served in former Gov. John Y. Brown's administration, also is looking at the Democratic primary.

"What her announcement does is probably opens up another round of conversations about who might be the best Democrat prepared to beat Mitch

McConnell," Democratic strategist Mark Riddle said.

While Democrats jockeyed for position, McConnell was reaching out to voters with a new round of television ads. A commercial on Louisville stations touted McConnell's efforts to win federal funding for medical research at Kentucky universities. An ad appearing on Lexington stations focused on McConnell's work on the 2004 tobacco

buyout ending the Depression-era federal program that set production and price controls.

"Senator McConnell has promised to run a razor-sharp, aggressive campaign," McConnell campaign adviser Justin Brasell said in a statement. "That effort continues with our latest TV ads."

McConnell has been a target of outside interest groups that have run television ads in Kentucky slamming him for supporting the Iraq war and opposing legislation to expand a children's health insurance program.

The senator countered with his own TV ads, which started airing last

(See SENATE, page three)

3 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 66 • Low: 54

Tomorrow



High: 71 • Low: 53

Tuesday



High: 68 • Low: 48

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inside

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

■ Sabrina Lyn Blakeman, 41, of Allen, died Thursday, November 29, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington. Graveside services were conducted Monday, December 3, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Clifford Lee Brown, 35, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, November 29, at the Cabell-Huntington Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia. Funeral services were held Monday, December 3, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Flem Estill Burchett, 78, of Martin, died Friday, November 30, at the Baptist Hospital Northeast at LaGrange. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 4, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Howard D. Goins, 80, of Weeksbury, died Friday, November 25, at home. Funeral services were held Friday, November 30, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Imogene Hamilton, 55, of Ligon, died Tuesday, November 27, at the Kenton Healthcare Center in Lexington. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 3, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Elder Zee Holbrook, 72, of Franklin County, Indiana, a Knott County native, died Friday, November 23, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Burke Holbrook. Urban-Winkler Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

■ Sue Gayheart Johnson, 93, of Wheelwright, died Thursday, November 29, at the McDowell ARH. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 4, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Edith M. Tackett Jones, 74, of Beaver, died Tuesday, December 4, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Friday, December 7, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Elinor Florence Martin, 81, of Miamisburg, Ohio, formerly of Floyd County, died Thursday, November 29, at The Kingston of Miamisburg, Ohio. Graveside services were conducted Monday, December

3, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Stephen Lawrence Patton, 13, of Eastern, died Wednesday, November 28, at Cabell-Huntington Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 2, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Jeremiah "Jerry" Turner, 43, of David, died Tuesday, November 27, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette Shepherd Turner. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 1, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Wendell Dogulas Vance, 35, of Beaver, died Sunday, December 2, at his residence. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 5, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Theron Williamson, 94, of Tipton, Iowa, formerly of Floyd County, died Wednesday, November 28, in University Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa. He is survived by his wife, Jean Williamson. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 1, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

PIKE COUNTY

■ Troy Blankenship Jr., 54, of Delbarton, West Virginia, a native of Williamson, died Friday, November 30, at the Williamson (W.Va.) Memorial Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Jeannie Tiller Blankenship. Funeral services were held Monday, December 3, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Virginia Mae Blankenship, 83, of Williamson, West Virginia, a native of Williamson, died Monday, December 3, at St. Mary's Hospital, Huntington, West Virginia. Funeral services were held Thursday, December 6, under the direction of Weaver Mortuary of West Williamson.

■ Myrtle Milum Bowling, 84, of Turkey Creek, died Sunday, December 2, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 5, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Earl Johnny Boyce, 81, of Slaters Branch, a native of

Oppy, died Tuesday, December 4, at Cornerstone Hospital, Huntington, W.Va. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 8, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Janice J. Caudill, 58, of Virgie, died Thursday, November 29, in Indiana. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 4, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Luna M. Clevenger, 67, of Belcher, died Sunday, November 25, at Mountain View Health Care Center, Elkhorn City. She is survived by her husband, Gary B. Clevenger. Funeral services were under direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Sharon Lynn Justice, 58, of Pikeville, a Floyd County native, died Friday, November 29, at the Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, James Glenn Justice Sr. Funeral services were held Monday, December 3, under the direction of the Hall and Jones Funeral Home.

■ Chalmer Lowe, 74, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, December 5. Funeral services were held Friday, December 7, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ James Maynard, 53, of Rising Sun, Md., a Pikeville native, died Friday, November 30, at Laurelwood Care Center. He is survived by his wife, Brenda L. Maynard. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 5, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

■ Carol Mullins, 68, of Virgie, died Thursday, November 29, at the Hazard Nursing Home. Funeral services were held Monday, December 3, under direction of the Hall and Jones Funeral Home.

■ Ronnie Ratliff, 52, of Kimper, died Thursday, November 29, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Lois Ratliff. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 2, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

■ Harrison Jr. Ray, 85, of Varny, died Tuesday, December 4, at his home. Funeral services were held Thursday, December 6, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

■ Helen Jean Smith, 67, of Phelps, died Tuesday, December 4, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 8, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

■ Abbeyle Raine Stewart, an infant, a Pike County native, died Thursday, November 29. Funeral arrangements, under the direction of Hall and Jones Funeral Home.

■ Charlotte U. Swinehart, 90, of Pikeville, formerly of Warren, Ohio, died Monday, December 3, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday,

December 7, under the direction of McFarland & Son Funeral Services Co. of Warren.

■ Mary Ellen Thacker, 63, of Shelbiana, died Sunday, December 2, at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 5, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

MARTIN COUNTY

■ Irma Louise Booth Cooper, 84, of Nashville, Tennessee, formerly of Warfield, died Friday, November 21, at the home of her sister, Jean Small. Funeral services were held Sunday, November 25, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Eugene Hinkle, 70, of Inez, died Wednesday, November 21, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Francis Hinkle. Funeral services were held Sunday, November 25, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Beverly Tipton Horn, 64, of Inez, died Monday, November 19, at UK Medical Center, in Lexington. Graveside services were held Wednesday, November 21, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Marvin (Porky) Morrison, 55, of Debord, died Tuesday, November 20, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Spence Morrison. Funeral services were held Wednesday, November 21, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ David Nicholas Whitt, infant son of David Ulysses G. Whitt and Ashley Jude, died Tuesday, November 27, at U.K. Medical Center, in Lexington. Graveside services were conducted Wednesday, November 28, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

JOHNSON COUNTY

■ Delano Cochran, 59, of Wittensville, died Wednesday, November 28, at U.K. Medical Center, in Lexington. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 1, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Lenora Ratliff, 66, of Paintsville, died Sunday, December 2, at Community Hospice Care Center, in

Ashland. Funeral services were held Thursday, December 6, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

■ Larry Sparks, 61, of New Baltimore, Michigan, a Johnson County native, died Wednesday, November 21, in New Baltimore. He is survived by his wife, Philis Castle Sparks. Funeral services were held Tuesday, November 27, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

■ James C. "Tart" Spencer, 71, of Hager Hill, died Friday, November 23, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, in Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Polly Click Spencer. Arrangements, under the direction of Phelps & Son Funeral Home.

■ Walter Eliphas 'Bob' Wells, 83, of Paintsville, died Friday, November 23, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, in Paintsville. Funeral services were held Monday, November 26, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Rubyc Marion Williams, 68, of Paintsville, died Thursday, November 29, at St. Mary's Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia. She is survived by her husband, Edward Park Williams. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 2, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

KNOTT COUNTY

■ Earl Shannon Bailey, 58, of Hindman, died Friday, November 30, at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Moore

Bailey. Funeral services were held Monday, December 3, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Burl Dean Mullins, 68, of Pinctop, died Saturday, December 1, at the Hazard ARMC. He is survived by his wife, Roxie Mullins. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 4, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Kanowah Ritchie, 72, of Campbellsville, a native of Knott County, died Friday, November 30, at home. Funeral services were held Monday, December 3, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Deborah Lynne Slone, 52, of Topmost, died Friday, November 30, at Kite, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She is survived by her husband, Clinton Slone. Funeral services were held Monday, December 3, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

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Obituaries

Floyd J. Rinker

Floyd J. Rinker, age 65, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, December 5, 2007, at St. Mary's Hospital, Huntington, West Virginia.

Born July 9, 1942, in Willard, Ohio, he was the son of the late Marvin and Nettie Wilson Rinker. He was a retired glass factory worker, and a member of Trinity Full Gospel Church of God.

He is survived by his wife, Rosanna Watkins Rinker.

Other survivors include four stepsons: Riley Collins, and Dwayne Collins, both of Prestonsburg, and Marvin Collins and Junior Collins, both of Warsaw, Indiana; four stepdaughters: Linda McKenzie and Lois Wright, both of Prestonsburg, and Edith Slone and Faye Prater, both of Claypool, Indiana; three brothers: Gladden Rinker of Pelu, Indiana, Robert Rinker of Sebastian, Florida, and Eugene Wilson of Georgia; and several grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a stepson, Kenneth Collins; and a sister, Dorothy Smith.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 8, at 1 p.m., at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Johnny Patton, and others, officiating.

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

Visitation was at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

Effie Sword

Effie Sword, age 85, of Wellington, passed away peacefully at home Monday, December 3, 2007, after a lengthy illness.

She was born, May 15, 1922, in Pikeville, the daughter of the late Bert and Rattie (Gayheart) Dye. She had been a resident of Ohio since 1959. She was a homemaker and a member of the Old Regular Baptist Church.

She is survived by her three daughters: Louise Wright and Bulah Newsome both of Wellington, Teresa Marozsan of LaGrange; four sons: Bobby Sword of New London, Bertis Sword of McDowell, Benny Sword of Wellington and Norbert Sword of Rochester; 27 grandchildren; 69 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandson; four brothers and a sister.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Everett Sword; two daughters: Linda Diane Sword and Jonie Marie Sword Parsons; great-granddaughter, Cora Brock; four sisters; and three brothers.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, December 6, at the Eastman Funeral Home, 200 West Main St., New London, with elders of the Church officiating.

Burial will follow at Rochester Cemetery.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be made at: www.eastmanfuneralhome.com (Paid obituary)

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Our Yesterdays

The Floyd County Times reported in its March 19, 1937, issue that 3,269 students are now enrolled at the University of Kentucky.

You never know what you might be missing, if you are not reading "Our Yesterdays," printed each Wednesday in The Times.

Beshear to take office after scandal-ridden predecessors

by JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT

Democrat Steve Beshear knows one of Kentuckians' expectations for him over the next four years: Stay out of trouble.

Beshear, Kentucky's governor-elect, gets sworn in Tuesday, following two consecutive scandal-ridden administrations. Just like his predecessor, Gov. Ernie Fletcher, Beshear campaigned on a promise to bring back honesty and integrity to state government.

"After the experiences of the last few years, the people of Kentucky are certainly demanding a highly ethical administration and they have a right to demand that," Beshear told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "It's my job to make sure that we deliver on that promise."

Beshear, 63, is a former lieutenant governor and attorney general, as well as a prominent Kentucky attorney. Voters rejected Fletcher, a Republican, in last month's election by 17 percentage points, a margin even the defeated governor acknowledges was due to his political troubles during the last four years.

Former Gov. Paul Patton, Fletcher's immediate predecessor, had been caught up in a salacious sex scandal with a former nursing home operator. Patton's administration also had various other mini-scandals, such as state employees caught viewing pornography at work. And shortly before leaving office, Patton pardoned his chief of staff and three others from charges they colluded to help Patton's 1995 campaign skirt spending limits.

Fletcher took office in 2003 with a golden resume — congressman, physician, engineer, former fighter pilot and ordained Baptist minister. He ended the Democrats' decades-long stranglehold on the Kentucky governor's office with a promise to "clean up the mess in Frankfort."

But Fletcher's administration became embroiled in an investigation by the Democratic attorney general into allegations of improper patronage.

By the midway point of his first term, Fletcher had pardoned his entire administration for any possible charges that could result from the probe. Fletcher, who still claims no wrongdoing, was later indicted on misdemeanor charges that were eventually

dropped in a deal with prosecutors. The deal came after a judge ruled Fletcher could not face trial while in office.

But the saga mortally wounded Fletcher's re-election chances.

"That was something I just couldn't overcome," Fletcher said recently.

Beshear capitalized on the scandal, proclaiming to voters that state government was "morally bankrupt." He promised to change that.

"Our government needs to be run as an open book, in a highly ethical manner," Beshear said. "I am going to set the tone."

Beshear said he believes state government must be run ethically in order for the state to meet its challenges. Rules will be clear, and rules will be followed, Beshear said.

Scott Lasley, a political scientist at Western Kentucky University, said Fletcher's troubles, combined with Beshear's campaign promises, could make it easier for a scandal-free term.

"Beshear probably has a stronger hand saying, 'Hey, we can't do this. We ran on this,'" Lasley said. "It makes it a little easier to change the good ol' boy tactics."

Kentucky has a history of governors that have run into

allegations of some sort of impropriety, said Don Dugi, a political science professor at Transylvania University in Lexington.

Other governors — aside from Patton and Fletcher — have had their share of problems, Dugi said.

Former Gov. Wallace Wilkinson after taking office allegedly got a state-regulated company, Kentucky Central Life Insurance Co., to buy a money-losing hotel from him at an inflated price. The insurance company later went bankrupt — Beshear helped in its dismantling. Wilkinson was sued by the state insurance commissioner over the matter, and he paid \$11 million to settle the case nearly a decade ago.

Wilkinson's nephew, who worked in his administration, went to prison in a bribery scandal.

And former Gov. Julian Carroll, who served from 1974-1979, left office under the cloud of a federal grand jury investigation. Carroll, who is now a state senator, was cleared of any wrongdoing but one member of his administration ended up serving prison time.

Kentucky is not alone among states with top executives getting into trouble in recent years.

Former Illinois Gov. George Ryan recently began

-serving a 6 1/2-year federal prison sentence. His successor, Democrat Rod Blagojevich, is facing misconduct allegations.

In Ohio, another of Kentucky's neighboring states, former Gov. Bob Taft pleaded no contest to ethics charges and was fined \$4,000 in 2005. And, former Connecticut Gov. John Rowland resigned from office in 2004 and later spent 10 months in prison after pleading guilty to corruption charges.

"The concern about clean government is fairly longstanding," Dugi said. "The question is, if it's so longstanding why haven't we achieved any good government after all this time — or at least some?"

Ernest Leet, a retired United Parcel Service employee from Mays Lick, believes that Beshear's age and maturity may help him live up to expectations. Still, he wasn't entirely optimistic.

"You never know when they get down to Frankfort and get in that environment," said Leet, a Democrat who voted for Beshear. "I've seen a lot of good people turn bad."

Beshear's not exactly gotten off to a bump-free start.

He has asked a state ethics panel to review three of his announced appointments. Beshear's choice to head the state Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, which regulates banks, is a

banker, and the husband of his nominee to head the state Personnel Cabinet works for a company that has a large contract with that agency. Beshear's choice as communications director owns a marketing firm whose clients are regulated or do business with the state.

Steve Robertson, chairman of the Kentucky Republican Party, said Beshear should have fully vetted his appointments before announcing them publicly. The close ties the appointees have with state government could be a sign of things to come, Robertson said.

"Just get ready. It's going to be the same old song and dance as it was 30 years ago," Robertson said. "It's all about who's on the inside and who do you know."

Beshear has stood by his appointments.

Once a candidate for U.S. Senate, Beshear says he has no further political aspirations beyond governor. That puts him in a "somewhat liberating position" because he can focus on doing the right thing and not what's politically expedient, Beshear said.

"It seems to me that this is basically his last political job," Dugi said. "And when it's someone's last political job, it may cause them to be a little more careful about how they conduct themselves."

Tax

tion passed by the fiscal court, the tax shall be \$1 for every \$1,000 of value as assessed for county taxes.

The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department presented to the fiscal court a petition of signatures in support of the resolution and a map outlining the service area of the department.

"It's about time, but I am very, very appreciative of it, and Doc Marshall," said Betty Cook, a two-year volunteer with SVFD.

The opposition to the resolution came from District 3 Magistrate Donnic Daniels, whose district the fire department serves, and District 4

Magistrate Ronnic Akers.

"I'm not against the fire tax, but it just absolutely scares me for some of the people up there, because so many we have are on fixed income," Daniels said. "I'm concerned about our district's income level, whether or not our citizens can shoulder a new tax, fire or not."

Another resolution that passed unanimously during the fiscal court session was a bond resolution for Highlands Regional Medical Center. According to the resolution the projects to be funded by the bond will consist of the construction of a new emergency department at Highlands

Regional Medical Center, as well as the acquisition and construction of new facilities in Prestonsburg and Paintsville.

Jack Blackwell, a spokesman for the hospital, explained that along with the two construction projects, the bond money would also be used to help recruit new doctors into the region.

The fiscal court also noted that the Floyd County Rescue Squad will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2008, and the squad will receive the prestigious National Service or Sacrifice for Response Award in honor of their many years of service.

Continued from p1

Appeal

said Rue Hairston, chair of WVNA Economic and General Welfare Commission.

According to officials with KNA/WVNA, the problems arose from a work schedule that ARH and the RNs agreed to implement in 2001. The incentive plan that was agreed to, which was called "36/40" and, according to officials, stipulated that nurses who agreed to work three 12-hour shifts, 36 hours, would be paid for 40 hours.

KNA officials said, "The plan improved nurse morale, enhanced patient care, and

proved to be effective in keeping RNs at ARH hospitals." The plan was so popular with nurses that it was continued in 2004.

However, according to court documents, on Nov. 8, 2005, ARH announced "that it was no longer financially feasible to offer the 36/40 system-wide and that it would return to the basic workday."

KNA soon after filed a grievance against ARH, in which it stated that the "2004 collective bargaining agreement (CBA) bound ARH to

offer 36/40 to all interested RNs in hospital units in which 36/40 was found to be operationally feasible."

On April 27, 2006, an arbitrator directed ARH to "reinstate the 36/40 schedule for all RNs who were on 36/40 at the time of its discontinuation" and also "make all those affected by the discontinuation of the 36/40 schedule whole for back pay, with interest."

At press time it was not known if ARH plans to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

Continued from p1

Senate

month.

Luallen, who won a fresh four-year term recently as state auditor, had emerged as the favorite of several prominent Kentucky and national Democrats to challenge McConnell. Democrats are hoping to carry over their momentum from last month's election, when Steve Beshear routed scandal-plagued Republican Gov. Ernie Fletcher.

But Luallen said in a statement Friday that "I have no plans to enter the race."

Luallen said in a later interview that she would have garnered strong state and national support, but the cancer survivor said that ultimately she had to decide "what's best for me and my family."

"I feel great, but I want to take care of myself," she said. "I want to keep a balance in my life. We just didn't believe it was the right decision for us to make right now."

McConnell, the Senate's top-ranking Republican, showed his campaign fundraising prowess by amassing more than \$9 million through September and had nearly \$7 million on hand at the time.

Recent polls have given mixed signals about McConnell's standing. A Lexington Herald-Leader/Action 36 Election Poll in the fall showed that 46 percent of respondents disapproved of McConnell's job performance and 45 percent approved. In September, The Courier-Journal's Bluegrass Poll found McConnell's approval rating was at 54 percent, while 28 percent disapproved and the rest had no opinion.

Horne said Friday he planned to make a final decision soon but added, "I am a likely candidate."

He said he put "some things on hold" while Luallen pondered the race. "But obviously I'm going to turn things up

again and start moving toward" a possible run, he said in a phone interview.

Horne spent 27 years in the Marines and Marine Reserve, including stints in the Persian Gulf War and the Iraq war. He has been an outspoken critic of President Bush's Iraq policy.

Riddle said that Owen, a wealthy businessman who lost in the 1998 Democratic Senate primary, was seriously renewing his look at next year's race.

Meanwhile, Fischer is lining up support and will announce his decision soon, an adviser said.

Stumbo formed an exploratory committee and said Friday he is starting to reach out to potential campaign contributors across the country. Stumbo commissioned a recent statewide poll which, he said, showed he would be in strong position in

a Democratic primary. But he said taking on McConnell would be an uphill fight.

"It's a challenge, and I've enjoyed political challenges," he said. "I think it's something that's doable. I think I can make a competitive race out of it with Senator McConnell."

Stumbo, a former longtime majority leader in the Kentucky House, said many people in his eastern Kentucky legislative district have urged him to run for his old seat. Stumbo said his first priority remains to evaluate the Senate race, and said he expects to make a decision by month's end.

Two lesser-known Democrats have joined the race — Louisville-area doctor Michael Cassaro and David L. Williams, a retired businessman from Glasgow who has been a perennial candidate.

Continued from p1

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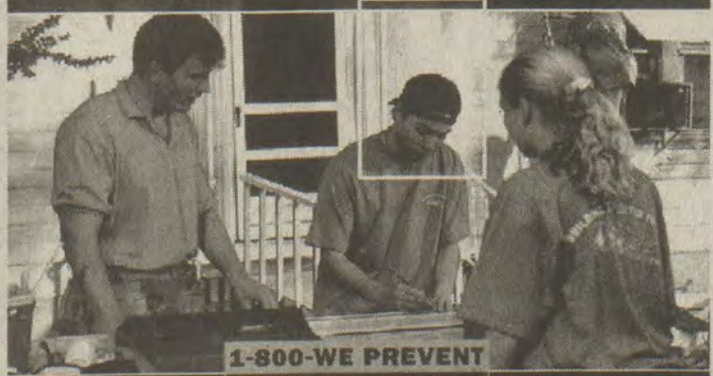
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expression

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

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

Nothing replaces a good book

Reading, we're often told, is fundamental to what it means to be educated, to succeed in society — in a real sense, to be civilized. But as Enquirer editorial writer Krista Ramsey warned in her column recently, Americans are "drifting away from reading in record numbers." We need to make a concerted effort to change those numbers.

Americans enjoy more leisure time than ever, but daily reading habits among adults and children alike are becoming more and more rare. As a result, reading proficiency levels have dropped, even among college-educated adults. This has troubling implications, particularly in our increasingly complex society, a representative democracy in which citizens should be expected to understand issues and express themselves clearly. The simplistic world of YouTube debates, while entertaining, will not suffice.

It will take a national focus — not only in schools, but in homes, where a child's lifelong love for reading is most often formed — to reverse this drift from reading.

As Ramsey notes, a recent National Endowment for the Arts study found that fewer than half of U.S. adults read even one book in a given year, and the average 15-year-old spends a pitiful seven minutes a day on "voluntary" reading. Meanwhile, we watch TV an average of 2-3 hours a day, and our supposed Internet literacy amounts to what reading expert calls superficial "scanning-searching."

There's a strong school of thought these days that reading alone does not define literacy, particularly in our era, with technology giving us the ability to glean information from many sources.

Some even believe that reading is an archaic, outmoded exercise, unnecessary in a "post-literate" culture with rich multimedia resources.

But many scientists who study brain development and the learning process believe there's something basic, almost primeval, about reading's relation to intellectual progress. The studies and surveys seem to prove it.

Reading helps develop and organize the brain. It encourages higher-order thinking. It helps people acquire the skills and vocabulary to communicate verbally. It helps develop the ability to concentrate, to analyze, to imagine, to create.

"The cold statistics confirm something that most readers know but have mostly been reluctant to declare as fact — books change lives for the better," says NEA chairman Dana Gioia.

Last week, Americans received even further evidence that declining ability to read is a real issue. The results of the latest Progress in International Reading Literacy test, released Wednesday, showed that U.S. fourth-graders have lost ground in reading skills compared with their peers around the world. While American kids who took the test scored about the same as in 2001, the last time the international test was conducted, they now rank 11th in reading ability — behind Canada, Hungary, Russia, Italy and other nations — down from fourth in 2001.

Schools, of course, bear some of the responsibility for America's failure to lead the way in literacy skills. But the real burden is at home, where many parents — who too often now have little commitment to active literacy themselves — fail to encourage an environment where reading, reflection and quiet concentration become habits — no, instincts.

Other media can add richness to our experience and texture to our learning. But Web browsing, video viewing and phone texting are no substitutes for quality time spent absorbing — and enjoying — a good book.

— The Kentucky Enquirer

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Rich Lowry Column

New York cowboy

Rudy Giuliani's downfall in the Republican primary fight has been much predicted, but little in evidence. He recently got the endorsement of the Christian conservative leader Pat Robertson and has stubbornly stayed atop national polls all year long.

His success has spawned theories about the changing nature of the Republican Party, and how social conservatives have "grown up" in their willingness to accept a pro-choice candidate. The key to Rudy's appeal, though, isn't his heterodoxy, but how the sensibility of his candidacy is in the Republican mainstream running from Ronald Reagan through George W. Bush.

Rather than a break with Bush, Giuliani represents stylistic continuity. The cross-dressing, nonchurch-going, pro-choice New Yorker has more in common with the brush-clearing, evangelical, pro-life West Texan than any of the other Republican candidates. He's an urban cowboy, who tamed New York City with his no-nonsense commitment to law and order.

As a top GOP operative says: "Reagan has provided the stylistic model for Republican leaders ever since he first ran: tough-talking, moral clarity, inspirational rather than tactical in rhetoric, someone who will stand up to dangerous for-

eign enemies. Bush fits in that model, and so does Rudy. This style and these attributes are as important, if not more important, than particular issue stands to many voters."

At this basic level, Giuliani tugs on Republican heartstrings. There is no substitute in politics for being liked, and Republicans simply like Rudy. Rather than the abrasive personality they were told to expect, voters have seen a candidate with the readiest toothy grin this side of Jimmy Carter or Teddy Roosevelt, and he's the only Republican who has consistently demonstrated a spontaneous sense of humor.

In the breadbasket of modern Republicanism, the South, Giuliani has been surprisingly strong. The South is as much a state of mind as a geographic location, and Giuliani, despite being an ethnic Northeasterner, exemplifies it. He taps into the South's anti-elitist, patriotic, pro-military attitudes more naturally than any candidate besides John McCain.

Giuliani is winning the leadership primary in the Republican race. An October Fox News poll asked

whether Giuliani is a "strong and decisive leader"; 65 percent said "yes," 20 percent "no" — the highest rating of any of the tested national figures. By refusing to check the box on every conservative issue, Giuliani

has reinforced the idea that he has exactly the attributes of strength and leadership that conservatives crave.

Giuliani still has major ideological — and personal — vulnerabilities. The question is

whether the liberal aspects of his record as mayor, together with his spectacularly rocky personal life, will overwhelm his instinctual appeal to Republican voters. We won't know until we see how he fares under what probably will be a barrage of negative ads in the stretch-run of the nomination fight.

Giuliani's best selling point in the primaries is that — whatever his media coverage says — he's not something new under the sun. He's an archetype that Republican voters know and love — the gun-slinging sheriff, just with a different ZIP code.

□□□

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The Rich Lowry column



beyond the Beltway

Middle East peace talks — the new fiasco

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEAMN MEDIA

Last week George W. Bush, who is — and this will make you laugh — President of the United States, finally involved himself in the Middle East Peace Process (or MEPP, as some of us call it).

After seven years of benign neglect, Mr. Bush met with delegations from 46 interested countries and organizations at the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

His intent, he said, was "to facilitate" a meeting of minds between Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

I have this to say about that: Can we stop him before it's too late?

George Bush knows diddly-squat about the Middle East and even less about peace. (Who but Bush would convene a peace conference at a military academy?)

He's got a track record here, folks, and it's not a good one. He invaded Afghanistan, which went pretty well ... until he turned away from the job of fighting al Qaeda in order to invade Iraq, which hasn't gone so well.

The MEPP is a minefield for even the most sophisticated players, honeycombed with traps, ambushes and dead-ends. MEPP people talk in code. If you say you're going to be "even-handed" in your dealings with Israelis and Palestinians, that means you're against Israel and probably an anti-Semite. Don't ask why, that's just the way it is.

That's way too complex for George Bush. Bush's idea of peace is to bomb a country until it surrenders. So far the bombing part is working out better than the surrender part.

I know what you're going to say, you people who read the "National Review" cover to cover:

Don't be so quick to dismiss our efforts in Iraq. The Surge seems to be working, just as George Bush said it would. Violence in Baghdad is down; fewer American troops are being killed and maimed.

OK, violence is down. What did you expect? You put a soldier with a gun on every corner and violence is going to go down. Markets will open; people will be more cheerful.

But less violence is no more than a pre-condition for the success of the Surge. Real success would be if the warring factions of the country used the hiatus in violence to achieve political accommodation. And that's not happening.

Who am I to make such a judgment?

Fair question. Admittedly, I am no expert on the Middle East. Never been there. Before the war, I didn't know the difference between a Sunni Muslim and Sonny Bono. In fact, if you gave me a blank map of the Middle East right now I couldn't fill in the names of the countries.

Yet, despite that handicap, I was right about this war from the beginning, which is more than a lot of Middle East experts can say.

I ran across an old column the other day, written just after Secretary

of State Colin Powell delivered his case for the war to the United Nations.

Powell convinced me that Saddam was a bad guy who meant us harm and was in violation of the U.N. sanctions imposed on him after the first Gulf war. He even convinced me (much to my embarrassment today) that Saddam was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. However, I wrote:

"What I doubt is the immediacy of the threat he presents to us and, most importantly, why war is the best way to meet that threat."

I went on to write:

"War is always a hideous thing and this one promises to be a particularly ugly one ... the world's television screens will be filled with images of dead and dying, many of them women and children, as well as scenes of wretched refugees streaming in hordes from American bombs. And each picture will be a recruiting poster for al Qaeda, the Muslim terrorist organization."

That's not a perfect forecast of the way things worked out, but it's in the ballpark. Closer than George Bush's experts came, anyway. That's why, maybe, you should listen to me when I say:

The Surge working? Bush involving himself in MEPP? Beware.

□□□

Don Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. Email him at dkaul1@verizon.net.

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Performance chips a good way to wear out engine

see pg. A6

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**This Town,
That World**

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

The frost is on the punkin-head, too.

□□□

It is a matter of record that most people who live through Christmas make it through the rest of the year.

WE USE "THE BIBLICAL SYSTEM"

Two typewriters in operation in this office have a total of 88 keys. And just this morning I learned that these 88 keys are operated by only three fingers, which may be a new low in the typewriting department. I use two fingers and Henry Scalf covers the keyboard with only one. I failed to learn the "touch system," and so employ all 10 digits, because my first typewriter was an Oliver with a far-from standard keyboard. Friend Scalf hasn't any such excuse, but he has a reasonably good reason for using the lone finger. "Why," he asks, work 10 fingers, when one will do the job?"

FIGURES TELL THE STORY

They're still counting ballots in the Presidential election, and a Republican has handed me this cryptic announcement:

- Kennedy 1
- Johnson 12
- Nixon 021
- Lodge 0212

To get the message, if any, you just pronounce the zeroes a la ought's an ought, and figger's a figger.

THE THREAT COMES A BIT LATE

When my good friend, "Snooks" Crutcher, editor of The Rowan County News, learned that the State Highway Department engineering office, proposed for Morehead, was going elsewhere, he blew his stack, even as yours truly would do if Floyd County were to be deprived of something—if it had something of the sort to lose.

Wrote Editor Crutcher in his newspaper last week:

"The writer of this column, and this newspaper, has perhaps spent thousands of dollars in telephone calls, expenses, etc., over the past four years on the Morehead Engineering Office promotion.

"Several readers have inquired what we intend to write now that it has been lost. And, like freedom, once gone it is difficult to regain.

"Well, you can read the page one factual story.

"Really, we are waiting until we see the whites of their eyes. And, we have a right fair idea that regardless of what we write, the voters of Rowan, and some other region counties, will wait until they can see that white ballot and a voting stencil in their hands.

(See ALLEN, page six)



Paula Williams Fairchild and daughter, Emilee, have faced life's challenges with courage. Through the struggles of divorce and illness, Paula remained steadfast in her dream to work in the field of criminal justice while pursuing a degree from Big Sandy Community and Technical College.

Emilee's Mom — Paula Fairchild

by KEN SLONE
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, BSCTC

Not every adult student at Big Sandy Community and Technical College can say she is the mother of a famous chef—destined to replace one of the most renowned chefs on the Food Network, but Paula Fairchild of Paintsville knows she will have free tickets to spare for her daughter Emilee's own Food Network show titled Chef Emilee. No one will remember that other Emeril guy once Emilee's show begins airing. Doc Gibbs and the Emeril Live band will not be needed, either. Emilee will be playing piano when she is not cooking.

Paula Williams Fairchild, Emilee's mom, graduated from Paintsville High in 1989. Married right out of high school at age 17, she put college on hold to support her husband in his career goals. He joined the military, and the couple moved to Virginia Beach where they lived for the next five and one half years. Upon their return to east Kentucky in 1994, Paula was employed at a local hospital where she moved up the ranks into a management position with a nice salary. Paula's lifelong dream was to work in the criminal justice field, but she put her own career aspirations on hold for the sake of her family and continued in her position for the next eight years. In 2002, Paula developed some unexpected health issues and underwent surgery. Later that year, she also went through separation and divorce and left her employment—all within a few months period of time. Even with her years of job experience, she knew it would be impossible to find work in the criminal justice field and at the same time be home with her daughter at night and receive good pay and benefits without a degree. She says, "I felt broken, disappointed, discouraged—everything I had worked for was gone, and I had nothing to show for it, and still I wasn't following my dream. I had to do something."

That "something" for Paula was making the drive to Big Sandy

Community and Technical College's Prestonsburg campus where she, a thirty-year-old newly divorced, single mom - without a job - felt scared and out of place. Her interest in criminal justice led her to the office of Mike Dixon who was busy on the phone but encouraged her to wait. There she stood—still healing from surgery, discouraged, disheartened, and hardly able to speak for crying and asked, "How do I get into this field the quickest way possible while providing a home for my child?" Mike knew nothing about Paula, but he listened compassionately as she described her desperate situation. He signed her up for classes right away and encouraged her to take that first step. He became her mentor, offering encouragement, as well as criticism, whenever necessary. Paula took twenty-one hours that semester and went on to graduate in May 2003 with high distinction with an Associate in Applied Science degree while working part-time with the US Probation Office in Pikeville. In July, after graduation, she obtained a full-time position with state government as Investigator I and has since been promoted to Investigator III. In August, 2003, she enrolled at Morehead State University pursuing a degree in Sociology/Criminology.

In 2004, Paula's daughter and future Emeril replacement, Emilee, was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, but Paula managed her daughter's care and needs, balancing them with her studies and completed her bachelor's degree in December, 2005. Paula is now working on her master of arts degree in criminal justice at the University of Cincinnati and will complete the degree this year. Emilee, like others with Type I diabetes, must take insulin daily to survive. For Emilee, this means undergoing four to five injections each day, a balanced food intake, exercise, and monitoring of her blood sugar by pricking her fingers ten times daily.

Paula and her daughter became spokespersons for juvenile diabetes almost immediately after her diagnosis. Everyone around Emilee

needed to be educated in order to care for her: teachers, classmates, day-care workers, athletic directors, etc. Paula said, "We want a cure! I'm supposed to get rid of monsters in my daughter's closets. Kiss boobooos, and here we were with something I couldn't fix. We had to do something."

Paula is most proud that Emilee was selected as Kentucky's delegate and JDRF ambassador this year. She represented Kentucky on Capitol Hill at Congressional meetings titled Children's Congress 2007. As Kentucky's delegate, she and Paula went to Washington DC for one week in order to meet with Congressmen and Senators to urge them to support funding for diabetes research and ultimately find a cure for this devastating disease. While there, Emilee spoke on behalf of all children with Type I diabetes.

Paula Williams Fairchild, Criminal Investigator III, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Justice Cabinet's Department of Public Advocacy and Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice courses for Big Sandy Community and Technical College, says she was very lucky to have a supporting mother, sister, and daughter. Having instructors like Mike Dixon and Shawn Roop who offer not only classroom instruction and textbook material but also real-life scenarios and experiences was a tremendous benefit. Additionally, having a community college close to home with a broad variety of degree options made all the difference. "There's no way I could have left home to pursue an education at that time," Paula said. Paula says she has made it to where she is today by the grace of God, a lot of will power and perseverance and most importantly, friends and family who have supported her and encouraged her. "Sometimes I had to take Emilee to class with me. I just kept on pressing on. Failure was not an option," she said. Emilee will, undoubtedly, inherit the same perseverance that she has witnessed in her mom. Look out Emeril. Your TV days are numbered.

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'Fury of the Wolfman'

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST

Dollar DVD month continues with this horror entry from the prolific Paul Naschy, who has played the Wolfman in more films than any other actor.

Naschy is not what you'd expect from a horror actor. He looks like a cross between John Belushi and wrestler Billy Graham. Don't be fooled, however, as this guy is a triple threat who also writes and directs films, which mostly feature him as various monsters, including Dracula, the Mummy, Frankenstein's monster and even the Hunchback.

This is not one of the strongest entries in his Wolfman cycle, though it does offer up a whole heaping of "What were they thinking?" moments which should please fans of monster movies and high camp cinema.

The film begins, funnily enough, with Naschy, here cast as Walter Daminsky, already bitten by a werewolf and suffering from nightmares. He is a college professor who has just returned home from a disastrous expedition to Tibet that saw the rest of his crew killed (don't you just hate it when all the good stuff happens before the movie starts?). His wife, Erica, isn't all that happy to see him, but Walter learns why when he receives a note informing him that his spouse is involved in a torrid affair with a student.

Walter returns to work where an old flame, Dr. Ellman, is very happy to see him and prattles on about her brain research giving her power over human minds. Walter confesses that he may be a werewolf and Ellman is nonplussed, stating she can use her latest invention to cure him. The breakthrough surgery involves something called "chemitrodes" which allow her to control the brain of a subject.

Meanwhile, Erica and her lover plot Walter's death by cutting the brakes on his sports car. In a fit of Wolfman pique, Walter slaughters his wife and then pounces on the boyfriend, who screams like a "Price is Right" contestant before getting ripped apart.

Afterwards, in human form, Walter crashes his vehicle on a mountain road and stumbles away before turning into a werewolf and tripping over some downed electrical wires which short him out.

A detective with a knack for pointing out the mundane gets the case and observes Walter's home and abandoned vehicle before dazzling us with his intellect by intoning, "If there is a killer there must be a victim. Our problem now is to find both."

Walter is later found and buried but Dr. Ellman is no slouch and uses two of her brain-controlled test subjects to

(See LAGOON, page six)



Tom Doty
Times Columnist

A teahouse drenched in sunlight

by JOEL A. CARILLET

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE TEA LOVER'S SOUL"

The entire teahouse was drenched in warm sunlight. Early morning shadows were cast about the room, falling off tables and climbing walls, making intricate patterns over people's faces. The room was full of Kurdish men who could not help but exude manliness. They read newspapers, fingered their mustaches and took long draws on their cigarettes. They also devoted some time to staring at me, a solitary Westerner writ-

ing his notes.

Between sips of tea, I stared back, my eyes squinting in the bright light and not at all inclined to blink. Perhaps I stared because, with a scraggly two-month-old beard sprouting from my face, I, too, was feeling manly. Or maybe I stared because here in southeastern Turkey, staring just seemed to be the thing to do. Whatever the reason, the room was thick with sunlight and stares.

After some minutes, I offered a slight nod. And in slow-motion unison, they nodded in return, not once breaking their piercing gazes. The

teahouse in which I sat was in Diyarbakir, a city situated on the banks of the Tigris River and home to hundreds of thousands of Kurds. But in three weeks I would leave all this behind and return to the United States, finally completing what had so far been a 13-month journey across Asia.

Along the way, I had grown accustomed to different foods and languages. I had grown accustomed to stares, to uncomfortable beds and to the unknown. I had grown accustomed to feeling rugged. But I had grown accustomed to something else

as well — something much more valuable than ruggedness, something that often left me humbled. You could call it the hospitality of locals toward a stranger.

The hospitality had come in a thousand ways. It had come, for example, in the form of a Chinese man offering me a cup of green tea as our train sped through the countryside at dawn. It had come in the form of a Malay university professor pouring me a cup of Cameron

Highlands tea in his apartment in Kuala Lumpur. It had come in the form of a fellow passenger in



Pakistan, handing me a cup of milk tea at a bus stop before even telling me his name. And now that I was in southeastern Turkey, exchanging a strong and silent gaze with Kurdish patrons of a teahouse, it was about to come to me again.

With my cup finished and my schedule demanding that I begin to leave the cozy confines of the teahouse, I

(See SOUP, page six)

Performance chips a good way to wear out your engine

by TOM and RAY
MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
I have a 2003 4Runner V-6 that easily pulled my boat. So I bought a bigger boat. I would like to buy one of those super-heavy-duty Dodge Ram Crew Cabs with an enormous diesel engine to pull the new boat, but my wife won't let me trade in our house so I can afford it. So, I found ads for "performance modules" that claim an 18 percent increase in torque in my 4Runner, for about a grand. I'm hoping you'll tell me that one of these things really will work, and more importantly, that it will ruin my engine after only 2,000 miles, so I'll have an iron-clad excuse to buy a new, overpriced monster truck. — Phillip

RAY: I think your plan will work, Phillip. I don't know if you can toast your '03 4Runner in only 2,000 miles, but it's worth a try.

TOM: All modern engines have something called an engine control unit, or ECU.

It's basically a computer that keeps track of data from various sensors all over the engine, and then crunches the numbers and determines how much fuel to send into the cylinders and when the spark plugs should fire. The ECU's goal is to provide the best balance of power, economy and clean exhaust.

RAY: What most performance chips do is they replace the database that the ECU uses to calculate fuel and spark settings. For example, instead of telling the ECU that for a given set of conditions, send in X amount of fuel, the database on the performance chip tells it to send in 2X and advance the timing so that the spark fires earlier. That's how it creates more performance.

TOM: But the guys who make performance chips aren't concerned about things like reliability, longevity, fuel economy or emissions.

RAY: Oh, and those chips automatically void your warranty, too.

TOM: So, if your goal is to

wear out the engine in your 4Runner, and do some damage to the environment in the process, I think this is an excellent plan, Phillip. Bon voyage!

Who's hardest on cars, anyway?

Dear Tom and Ray:
My dad was the kind of man who seemed to know about everything mechanical. Since he died, I miss being able to call and ask him some obscure question that he could answer; he really did seem to know everything. The other day, I realized that reading your column is the closest thing I've had to having my dad here for a resource. So, thanks for your humor and the information; although you're not old enough to be my dad, you're smart enough. My question: In your years of experience, who would you say is harder on a car — men or women? I know what my dad would say; what do you say? — Theresa

TOM: Well, first of all,

Theresa, we have to thank you for the lovely compliment.

RAY: Yeah. No one's told us we're "not old enough" for anything lately!

TOM: It's hard to answer this question without resorting to gross generalizations, Theresa. Which we're happy to do. So here goes:

RAY: Our theory is that men's relationships with cars are like women's relationships with men.

TOM: Look at the similarities. Is a man content to simply "have" a car? No. He has to be in constant communication with his vehicle so he always knows how it's feeling. He needs to know where he stands with the car. He likes to open the hood, look around, check the levels. He wants to know when something is wrong. He may even "sense" a problem before it's obvious. Then he'll want to "deal with it" right away, so it doesn't fester.

RAY: This essentially describes a woman's relationship with the man in her life, doesn't it?



that women are harder on cars than men, because they're not as aware of problems in their early stages, when they might be cheaper to fix.

RAY: But then you have to factor in the basic nature of men and women. Women, by their very nature, are gentler and less aggressive. That would suggest they're easier on cars.

TOM: While men are animals. We stomp on the gas, jam on the brakes, swerve between lanes and whack things when they don't work.

RAY: So who's harder on cars?

TOM: I don't know. But I know we just gave every man in America an opening to say, "You know, hon, if you paid half as much attention to your car as you do to our relationship, you'd never run it out of oil again."

RAY: And we've given every woman in America an opening to say, "You know, if you were half as sensitive to my needs as you are to your car's, I'd never have to ask you for anything again."

TOM: So, we've either solved the world's most pressing problems or started World War III.

RAY: And we've given every woman in America an opening to say, "You know, if you were half as sensitive to my needs as you are to your car's, I'd never have to ask you for anything again."

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SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

A million retirees can't be wrong

by KIMBERLY THOMPSON
SOCIAL SECURITY TECHNICAL
EXPERT IN PRESTONSBURG

Did you know that more than one million people have applied for Social Security retirement benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov.
Dewey Bales of West Chester, Ohio became the millionth person to successfully use Social Security's online services to apply for retirement benefits. Every day, more and more people make the choice to go online instead of standing in line to apply for benefits.
After all, one million retirees — and counting — can't be wrong.
According to a recent survey, Social Security's online

retirement benefit application once again ranked at the top of all Federal government websites in customer satisfaction. Social Security's "Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Costs" finished second, with several other Social Security online services making the top 10.
In addition to completing the retirement application, many business transactions with Social Security can be handled quickly and securely right over the Internet. If you just visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/online services you will find that you can file for retirement, disability and spouse's benefits; check the status of your benefit application; if you already

receive monthly benefits you can change your address and phone number sign-up for direct deposit of Social Security benefits; use benefit planners to plan for your financial future and then use the convenient benefit calculators to figure your monthly benefit amounts; find the Social Security office closest to your home; and request a replacement Medicare card.
Also, if you are just looking for Social Security information you can go online to find out almost anything you need to know about the Social Security program. Information is available on subjects ranging from how to get a Social Security number for a newborn to how to go back to work while

receiving disability benefits.
Remember, more than a million successful retirees have proven that you can't go wrong with Social Security's online retirement benefit application. Be part of the next million. Find out more by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov.
For more information about benefits and services call your local Social Security Office in Prestonsburg at (606) 886-8525. The office is located at 1897 Kentucky Route 321 in Prestonsburg, KY. Representatives are available to answer questions.
And remember, we have representatives available to give presentations and speeches about Social Security Programs. Contact the office for more information.

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Soup

drifted through the haze of a dozen men's cigarette smoke and stepped up to the counter to pay my tab. But the man

behind the counter smiled and shook his head, refusing to take my money. Someone else — one of the men with whom

I had exchanged stares, someone whom I would never know because he had already left — had paid the bill.

■ Continued from p5

Allen

"And, that applies to more coming elections than that for Governor."
"This newspaper will have no hesitation whatsoever leading a bolt, if the names on the ballot are people who have hurt this community...cost our town and county business, lowering its economic growth and progress...the loss of jobs

for our people.
"But, we have a fair idea that nobody will have to bolt their ticket in November...The electorate will take care of the matter in primary elections."
"Morehead and Rowan County have been dealt a blow they will not soon forget."
To all this we would add this comment:

In view of Rowan County's strong opposition to Bert Combs in two campaigns, and its vote against both the road and parks bond issue and the constitutional convention, the Morehead editor's threat is not unlike that of the man, who shoots a man down, then threatens his victim, with a dose of lead poisoning.

■ Continued from p5

Lagoon

dig Walter up. She then repairs to her castle, which is equipped with a laboratory, steel bars and a basement full of mind-controlled hippies who appear to be trying to recreate "Plato's Retreat" in her basement.
She revives Walter who promptly escapes and kills several villagers, which include a killing from a previous Naschy yarn that sported better make-up and gore effects. Meanwhile the dull cop teams up with a duller reporter and they eventually figure out that Ellman is (surprise, surprise) the daughter of an infamous mad scientist named Dr. Wolfstein. They then track Ellman, via property records, to her castle but if you think they will get there in time to do something other than stand around, then you've got another thing coming.

that Erica was controlled by Chemitrodes.
■ Walter's battle with zombified goons in armor.
■ The Wolfman's rampage through a sea of drugged out hippies.
■ The Wolfman's thrilling duel with a wolfwoman before he takes on Ellman for the final smackdown.
At least the viewer gets to see these things, but it's a shame that Naschy couldn't come up with anything better than this for his fifth outing as the Wolfman. Still this boasts

some creepy imagery and the requisite bad dubbing that rears the viewer to three different pronunciations of Daminsky's name, as well as an amusing series of scenes in which the actress voicing Dr. Ellman continually mangles the scientific jargon that turns Ellman into the first brain surgeon who couldn't pronounce hypothalamus if her life depended on it.
Best line: "This illness came from Tibet. Anything can happen there."
1971, rated R.

■ Continued from p5

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FLOYD COUNTY Sports

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■ Bengals • B3

Cincinnati Reds announce 2007 team awards

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CINCINNATI – As part of Friday night's Redsfest 2007 kickoff ceremonies at Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati Reds second baseman Brandon Phillips, pitcher Aaron Harang and first baseman Scott Hatteberg were honored for their performances during the 2007 season.

Phillips received the Ernie Lombardi Award as the club's Most Valuable Player. Harang was voted the Johnny Vander Meer Award as Most Outstanding Pitcher, and

Hatteberg won the Joe Nuxhall Good Guy Award for his upstanding relationship with the local media.

The awards are given annually by the Cincinnati chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. They will be presented tonight at 5:15 p.m. on the main stage at Redsfest by chapter chairman and Hall of Fame writer Hal McCoy of the Dayton Daily News.

In 2007, Phillips put together one of the best all-around seasons of any player in baseball. He received votes for the National

League's Silver Slugger, Gold Glove and Most Valuable Player awards after hitting .288 with 30 HR, 94 RBI and 32 stolen bases. He became only the second second baseman in Major League history to record at least 30 homers and 30 steals in a season and established franchise single-season records for a second baseman in home runs and total bases (315).

Among all Major League second basemen, Phillips ranked in the Top 3 in almost every statistical offensive category. Defensively, he led

all NL second basemen in fielding percentage, chances, assists and putouts.

Harang won the staff's top pitching award for the second time in three seasons. Last year he went 16-6 with a 3.73 ERA and two complete games in 34 starts, tying his career high for victories and establishing a new career mark in strikeouts (218). He led the staff in wins for the third straight year, in strikeouts for the fourth straight year and in complete games for the third straight year.

Harang ranked among the National League pitching

leaders in starts (22nd), innings pitched (231.2, 2nd), strikeouts (2nd), fewest walks per nine ip (2.0, 2nd), winning percentage (.727, 4th), complete games (4th), victories (15th) and strikeouts per nine ip (8.5, 7th). Since he was acquired from the Oakland Athletics at the 2003 trading deadline, Harang is the Reds' leader in most statistical categories, including starts (138), victories (57), innings pitched (884.2) and strikeouts (748).

Hatteberg hit a career-high .310 in 116 appear-

ances for the Reds.

Also Friday night, outfielder Jay Bruce received the Chief Bender Award as the organization's Minor League Player of the Year. For the season he hit .319 with 46 doubles, eight triples, 26 hr and 89 rbi at Class A Sarasota, Class AA Chattanooga and Class AAA Louisville.

Bruce previously was named Minor League Player of the Year by Baseball America and Sporting News. He will enter the 2008 season ranked as the organization's top prospect.

Hunters for the Hungry open

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT – Renewing a license plate at your local county court house isn't any fun. It involves paying a fairly expensive bill to just continue driving for another year legally. It isn't a new rod and reel or a portable hunting blind.

Since paying the license renewal fee already hurts, why not alleviate some of the pain by doing good. You can donate \$2 to Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry and provide protein-rich venison meals to the needy.

"We want to ask all hunters and outdoors enthusiasts in general to participate in this program," said Dr. Jon Gassett, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "The \$2 goes toward offsetting the processing costs of deer our hunters donate to Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry that provides nutritious meals for needy Kentuckians. It is a great program."

Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry recently surpassed 2 million meals provided to hungry Kentuckians. Deer hunters across the state donate one or more of the deer they harvest to the program. They work with deer processors across Kentucky to pay the costs of processing the donated deer. The venison is given to hunger relief organization Kentucky Harvest for distribution to homeless shelters and food banks.

"Kentucky Harvest is just a vehicle," said Stan Curtis, founder of Kentucky Harvest. "We have been able to deliver protein to the unfortunate and needy across Kentucky. Protein is a vital ingredient in living and the development of the young. In other hunger relief programs, most protein comes from peanut butter. But, we've been able to deliver protein-rich venison."

In the early stages of Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry, hunters had to donate the deer they harvested and also the processing cost of the deer. Now, the program has enough funding to offset the costs of processing the venison. "We've been with Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry for the better part of a decade, long before the donation program started," Curtis said. "It is very useful and effective. It allows hunters to do something big for something good. We are very proud of our association with Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. It is amazing what you can do when you don't care who gets the cred-



SHAG CAMPBELL TOURNAMENT: Allen Central (above) emerged as the top team in the Shag Campbell Tournament at Allen. The Rebels defeated Betsy Layne (below) for the tournament title. The tournament several Floyd County teams.

photos by Jamie Howell

BOYS' BASKETBALL



Legion still not back with UK, despite talk with Gillispie

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — Kentucky coach Billy Gillispie says he met with Alex Legion Thursday morning, but the freshman point guard hasn't rejoined the Wildcats — at least yet.

Legion asked for — and was granted — a release from the Kentucky basketball team earlier this week. Gillispie said Legion told

him he had changed his mind during their meeting Thursday, which the player requested.

"He wants to be back on the team," Gillispie said.

Gillispie, a first-year coach at Kentucky whose first recruit was Legion, declined to say why Legion hasn't been readmitted, but he didn't rule out the possibility.

"You never know what might happen in the future," Gillispie said.

Gillispie said the team needs to eliminate distractions as it prepares for a tough road game Saturday at Indiana. Legion hasn't practiced this week.

Joe Crawford, a senior guard who temporarily left the Wildcats during his freshman season, said he too had discussed the matter with Legion but didn't elaborate.

Lady Raiders upend host Jenkins

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

JENKINS – South Floyd set the tone early on and held on late Thursday night versus the host Jenkins Lady Cavaliers. The Lady Raiders outscored Jenkins in the first and final quarters en route to a 49-42 win.

Andrea Conn paced South Floyd with a team-best 12 points. Conn knocked down a trio of three-pointers for the Lady Raiders. She was one of three South Floyd players to reach double figures in the scoring column.

Chelsie Tuttle tossed in 11 points and Jessie Tackett added 10 for the Lady Raiders.

South Floyd outscored Jenkins 12-3 in the opening

quarter and owned a 22-15 lead at halftime.

"We didn't shoot the ball well, but it's good anytime you can go over into the 14th Region and win," said South Floyd Coach Tony Isaac.

The Lady Raiders are looking to advance out of the 58th District and into the 15th Region Tournament.

South Floyd hit seven field goals and seven three-pointers. The Lady Raiders were 14-for-26 from the free throw line.

Nicole Revis led Jenkins with a game-high 17 points. Revis was the only Lady Cavalier to reach double figures in the scoring column.

Emily Walker followed with eight points for the Lady Cavaliers. Heather Maggard tossed in seven points for host

Jenkins. Heather Bowling aided the Jenkins scoring effort with six points of her own.

Six different Jenkins players broke into the scoring column.

**SOUTH FLOYD 49,
JENKINS 42**

SOUTH FLOYD (3-2) – Conn 12, Hall 6, Tackett 10, Tuttle 11, Castle 3, Bailey 3, Dye 4.

JENKINS (1-2) – Maggard 7, Bowling 6, Revis 17, Walker 8, Corbett 1, Sexton 3.
S. Floyd...12 9 18 10-49
Jenkins..... 3 12 19 8-42



photo courtesy of Dusty Layne Photography/East Kentucky Miners
PIKEVILLE COLLEGE GRADUATE DANIEL PRICE made his debut with the East Kentucky Miners one week ago.

P'burg girls fall to Powell County

by JAMIE HOWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

STANTON – After opening the 2007-08 season with a win over Paintsville, Prestonsburg traveled to Powell County on Thursday evening with hopes of breaking a three-game losing skid. A 20-9 first quarter advantage for the Lady Pirates proved too much for Prestonsburg to overcome. Powell County prevailed 55-39.

The Lady Blackcats would outscore Powell County 16-13 in the second quarter, cutting the Lady Pirate lead at the half to 33-25.

Julianne Frye led Prestonsburg with 10 points on the night. A 12-5 advantage for Powell county in the third quarter pushed the lead to 45-30 after three. The Lady Pirates held a 10-9 advantage in the final stanza to post the 55-39 win.

Brittany Collins tossed in 8 points in the loss for Prestonsburg.

Hannah Fitzpatrick and Linsey Fields each finished with seven points and Rikki Hughes pitched in five points. Katie Petry rounded out the Prestonsburg scoring with two points.

Powell County improved to 2-0 with the win, while Prestonsburg fell to 1-4. The Lady Blackcats are playing without Alexis DeRossett, who is recovering from an injury. DeRossett hopes to return to the lineup in the coming weeks.

**POWELL COUNTY 55,
PRESTONSBURG 39**

PRESTONSBURG (1-4) – Collins 8, Frye 10, Hughes 5, Fields 7, Fitzpatrick 7, Petry 2.

POWELL COUNTY (2-0) – Jones 10, Barnett 9, McFarland 22, Lacy 6, Rogers 6, Roe 2.
Prestonsburg...9 16 5 9-39
Powell Co.....20 13 12 10-55

Crusaders KO Buckhorn in 14th

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIPPA PASSES – Senior guard Clark Stepp turned in a double-double effort of 26 points and 10 assists Thursday night as host June Buchanan battled back from a two-point halftime deficit and defeated Buckhorn 63-44 in a 14th Region matchup.

June Buchanan, one of the state's top high school boys' basketball teams, outscored Buckhorn 26-7 in the third quarter.

Tate Cox was June Buchanan's second-leading scorer, adding 15 points. Three different Crusaders accounted for a bulk of the June Buchanan scoring. Clint Stepp added 11 points for the defending 14th Region Champion.

Zach Gay led Buckhorn with 12 points. Gay was one of two Wildcats to reach double figures in the scoring department. Andy Blank added 10 points for visiting June Buchanan.

Seven different Buckhorn players provided scoring as the Wildcats faltered in the second half and eventually dropped the early regular-season contest.

June Buchanan outscored Buckhorn 13-11 in the fourth quarter.

Buckhorn was limited to just 18 points in the second half.

(See CRUSADERS, page two)

London course to host international golf tournament

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LONDON — The Crooked Creek Golf Community of London will play host to a Duramed FUTURES Tour tournament for the next three years. The inaugural Commonwealth Crooked Creek Classic will take place the week of August 8-10, 2008. The tournament will feature 144 of the best women professional golfers in the world who will compete for the \$100,000 tour-

namant purse. The Duramed FUTURES Tour, known as the road to the LPGA, was acquired by the LPGA Tour. The tour has nearly 300 alumnae on the LPGA Tour including such greats as two-time LPGA Player of the Year, Lorena Ochoa, reigning U.S. Women's Open Champion, Cristie Kerr, Hall of Fame members Karrie Webb, Dottie Pepper, Meg Mallon, and Julieta Granada, who won the 2006 ADT

Championship becoming the first woman golfer to win \$1 million for a single win. Players will not only be playing for the tournament trophy and bragging rights, but will be jockeying for one of the top five spots on the money list. The Tours top five players on the money list at the end of each season automatically move onto the LPGA Tour as exempt members. The next 10 receive automatic entry into the LPGA's Final

Qualifying Tournament. This event will be the fourth to last on the Duramed FUTURES Tour schedule. Four Kentucky players earned playing privileges on the Duramed FUTURES Tour for next year, Whitney Wade from Glasgow, Mandy Goins from Frankfort, Marci Turner from Tompkinsville, and Brittany Klein from Henderson. Crooked Creek has hosted the Kentucky State Amateur Championship in

1997, along with several Kentucky PGA events. The week of the tournament will feature several different activities including a pair of Pro-Ams. The professional tournament will begin on Friday morning. There will be a 36-hole cut to the low 70 players. The final round will be on Sunday. For more information, contact Bill Sergent, Director of Golf, Crooked Creek Golf Community;

606/877-1993 ext.1, 606/521-0501 cell. Email Sergent at :Bsergent@ucumberland.edu The 18-hole Crooked Creek course at the Crooked Creek Golf Club facility in London features 7,007 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 72. The course rating is 73.8 and it has a slope rating of 134. Designed by Brian M. Silva, ASGCA, the Crooked Creek golf course opened in 1993.

Elliott, Mahoney named CLASS award candidates

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — University of Kentucky senior center Sarah Elliott (McKee) and senior guard Samantha Mahoney (Detroit) have been selected as candidates for the 2007-08 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, given to the nation's top 30 senior male and female college basketball players who exemplify a total student-athlete. The award — presented annually to the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete of the Year in eight sports — focuses on the "Four C's" of classroom, character, community and competition. Lowe's, an official corporate partner of the NCAA will award the winners with trophies during the respective men's and women's NCAA Final Four

weekends. An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, the award was launched during the 2001-02 season to honor the attributes of college basketball seniors who remain committed to their university and pursue the many rewards that a senior season and complete college education brings. Elliott and Mahoney have both excelled on and off the court in their four seasons at Kentucky. Elliott, a 6-6 center, is No. 13 on UK's all-time scoring list with 1,262 points and is set to break the school record for blocks in a career this season. She currently averages 12.6 points and a team-high 7.3 rebounds per game. Despite battling Attention Deficit

Disorder (ADD) since the third grade, Elliott was named to the UK Dean's List in the spring of 2007 and is set to graduate this December with a degree in family and consumer science. She also is an active member of UK's "Cats That Care" community service program. Elliott has served as a guest visitor at local hospitals, helped organize a food drive to benefit God's Pantry and periodically donates her own hair to Locks of Love. This summer, she traveled to Colorado for the Athletics in Action prison outreach visit. Mahoney ranks No. 12 on the all-time scoring list with 1,291 points. She is UK's leading scorer, averaging an impressive 17.3 points per game, a mark that ranks fourth in the SEC. She has been an All-SEC

selection each of the past two seasons after being an SEC All-Freshman selection in 2004-05. Academically, Mahoney is a two-time SEC Academic Honor Roll (2006 and 2007) honoree and is on track to graduate in May with a double-major in finance and business accounting. In her spare time, she also is a member of the "Cats That Care" program. She has volunteered as a guest visitor at the Veteran's Hospital, helped organize a food drive to benefit God's Pantry and served as a mentor at Deep Springs Elementary. She also currently serves as UK Hoops' outreach representative. Now in its seventh year for basketball, the award has developed into the nation's premier tribute for college seniors.

Since originating with basketball, Lowe's has expanded the award to include a total of eight NCAA sports. Elliott and Mahoney were listed among the basketball candidates which includes a broad spectrum of universities and conferences across the country. On the women's side, 29 schools are represented with Kentucky boasting the only tandem set of candidates. While 16 conferences are included among the list of nominees, the Southeastern Conference landed five female candidates followed closely by the Missouri Valley Conference with four. From the list of 30 nominees for each gender, a national media committee will select 10 finalists for the

Lowe's Senior CLASS Award in January 2008. Those ten names will be placed on the official ballot for a nationwide vote during the NCAA Tournament in March. Fan balloting will be coupled with votes from coaches and media to determine the male and female recipients. The award was conceived by sportscaster Dick Enberg, who continues to serve as Honorary Chairman. It was inspired by the remarkable story of former Duke University basketball player Shane Battier, who could have been an NBA lottery pick but returned to college for his senior season and led the Blue Devils to the National Championship in 2001.

Crusaders

After claiming the win, June Buchanan improved to 3-1. Buckhorn dropped to 1-3 with the setback.

JUNE BUCHANAN 63, BUCKHORN 44
BUCKHORN (1-3) — Mullins 2, Blank 10, Deaton 2, Colwell 7, Gay 12, Hyden 3, Davis 8.
JUNE BUCHANAN (3-1)

— Cla. Stepp 26, Cox 15, Cl. Stepp 11, Short 7, Collins 4. Buckhorn.16 10 7 11-44 JB.....14 10 26 13-63

Lady Hawks hand Phelps first loss

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BUCKLEYS CREEK — Host Pike County Central won for the second time in as many games Thursday night and in the process dealt Phelps its first loss of the season. Pike County Central outscored Phelps in every quarter en route to a hard-fought 57-44 win. The Lady Hawks led 15-14 at the end of the opening quarter and 33-26 when the game entered halftime. Kayla Lowe paced Pike County Central with a game-

high 22 points. Lowe was the only Pike County Central player to reach double figures in the scoring column. Holly Harris was Pike County Central's second-leading scorer with nine points. Seven different players scored points in Pike County Central's second game of the season. Taylor Keene netted a team-best 15 points for Phelps. Kayla Johnson added 10 points for the Lady Hornets. Kaitlin Riley narrowly missed reaching double figures for the Lady Hornets, finishing with nine points. Hall contributed

eight points for J.R. VanHoose's team. Pike County Central outscored Phelps 14-9 in a pivotal third quarter. **PIKE CO. CENTRAL 57, PHELPS 44**
PHELPS (3-1) — Keene 15, Johnson 10, Riley 9, Hall 8, Wolford 2.
PIKE CO. CENTRAL (2-0) — Lowe 22, Harris 9, Slone 6, Coleman 6, Ratliff 5, Hamilton 5, Thompson 2. Phelps.....14 12 9 9-44 PCC.....15 18 14 10-57

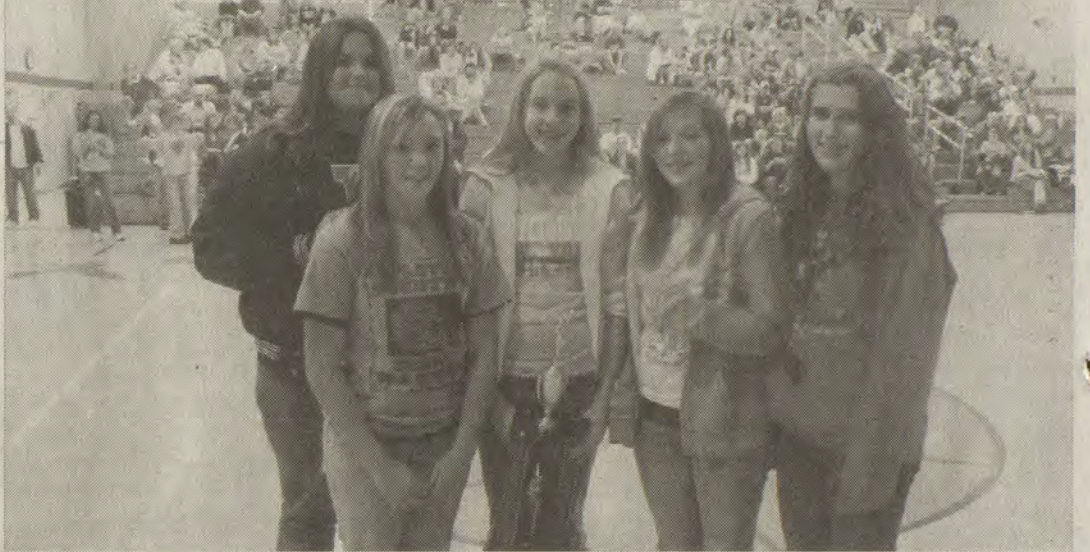
Jay Bruce named Reds' Minor League Player of the Year

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CINCINNATI — OF Jay Bruce has been named winner of the Sheldon "Chief" Bender Award as the Cincinnati Reds' Minor League Player of the Year for 2007. He will receive his award tonight at 5:15 p.m. at Duke Energy Center downtown during ceremonies on the main stage at Redsfest. RHP Johnny Cueto was named the organization's Minor League Pitcher of the Year and IF Adam Rosales the team's Minor League Hitter of the Year. Bruce, 20, will enter the 2008 season rated by Baseball America as the top prospect in the organization. In 2007 he also was named Minor League Player of the Year by both Baseball America and Sporting News after hitting .319 with 46 doubles, eight triples, 26 hr and 89 rbi at Class A Sarasota, Class AA Chattanooga and Class

AAA Louisville. He played for the U.S. team in Major League Baseball's prestigious All-Star Futures Game. Last season the Texas native led all Reds Minor Leaguers in homers, ranked among the organizational leaders in batting average (.2nd) and RBI (3rd) and ranked among all minor league players in extra-base hits (80, 2nd), total bases (306, 2nd), doubles (17th), hits (166, 10th) and slugging percentage (.587, 14th). Bruce finished the 2007 season ranked as the top prospect in the organization, International League and Florida State League. In Baseball America's post-season tools survey, he was rated the best hitter for average and best power hitter in the Reds' Minor League system. Bruce was selected by the Reds with the 12th overall pick in the first round of the June 2005 first-year

player draft. He was scouted and signed by the late Brian Wilson. Cueto, 21, won the organization's top Minor League pitching award for the second straight season. In 28 starts at three different levels he combined to go 12-9 with a 3.07 ERA and 170 strikeouts in 161.1 innings. Cueto led all Reds Minor Leaguers in ERA and strikeouts and ranked third in victories. Rosales, 24, last season was a Florida State League All-Star after hitting .294 with five HR, 48 RBI and nine steals at Class A Sarasota. He also hit .278 with 13 HR, 31 RBI and four stolen bases at Class AA Chattanooga. The organization's Minor League player of the year award is named after Sheldon "Chief" Bender, who spent 64 years in baseball. He spent his last 39 years in the game with the Reds in their scouting and player development departments.



THE ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL cheerleading took claimed the runner-up award in the Shag Campbell Tournament held at Allen earlier in the week.

Austin Peay edges Eagles, 67-63

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — Drake Reed scored 16 points to lead a balanced Austin Peay State University scoring attack and the Governors defeated Morehead State University, 67-63, Thursday (Dec. 6) evening at Dave Aaron Arena in Clarksville. APSU, now 4-4 overall and 2-0 in the Ohio Valley Conference, also got 11 points from Todd Babington and 10 points each from Fernandez Lockett and Kyle Duncan. Lockett pulled won a game-high eight rebounds. Morehead State, 2-5 overall and 0-1 in the OVC, was led

by Jamyron Steward who scored 16 points. Leon Buchanan added 13 points, and Maze Stallworth scored 11 points. Point guard Nikola Stojakovic handed out a game-high nine assists. "It was disappointing," said MSU Head Coach Donnie Tyndall, "because we had a chance to win tonight. A couple of failed block outs late, and they were able to capitalize. I thought Jamyron Steward was as aggressive as he had been all season. Nikola (Stojakovic) hit a couple of shots at key time. Cecil Brown hit a big shot late, and that was good to see."

Both teams hit 24-of-48 (50 percent) from the field. MSU made seven-of-21 from three-point range, Austin Peay five-of-17. The Eagles out-scored the Governors by two points from the field, but APSU hit 14-of-18 free throws to eight-of-11 for MSU. The Eagles won the rebound battle, 27-to-26. MSU committed 17 turnovers, Austin Peay had 14 miscues. The Governors led by four points, 34-to-30, at halftime. But, MSU came back to lead by as many as four points in the second half before Austin Peay rallied late to post the conference win.

Women's: Austin Peay 75, Morehead State 71 (OT)

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — Morehead State University senior guard Anitha Smith-Williams hit a game-tying three-pointer with less than one second in regulation to tie the game at 63, but host Austin Peay was too tough in the overtime period as the Eagles dropped a tough 75-71 overtime decision to the Lady Govies in the Dunn Center Thursday night. The OVC opener for both teams, the Eagles fell to 2-6 overall and 0-1 in the Ohio Valley Conference. APSU moved to 4-3 and 1-0 in the league. Morehead State trailed by 12 (62-50) with 2:49 left in regulation but a trio of three-pointers, including two by Smith-Williams and one by freshman Chynna Bozeman, and layups by Bozeman and senior Aston Perry brought the Eagles screaming back. The Eagles also held APSU without a field goal in the final 2:49. In the overtime period, however, the Lady Govies jumped on top

with the first basket and led by as many as seven before Smith-Williams hit another three-pointer at the final horn for the final four-point margin. Smith-Williams led the Eagles in scoring with a season high 18 points (all in the second half and overtime), including a 5-for-6 effort from beyond the arc. Sophomore Brittany Pittman recorded her third career double-double with 16 points and a career high 13 rebounds. Pittman was 10-of-12 from the free throw line, where MSU hit 16-of-21 as a team. She also added four blocks and now has 35 rejections in the first eight games. Bozeman contributed 14 points and added five rebounds and two steals. Tarah Combs drilled a trio of three-balls and tallied 12 points - her fifth double-digit scoring performance of the year. Perry pulled down 10 rebounds and added nine points. Ashlee McGee, APSU's point guard, had a double-

double with 13 points and a team high 12 rebounds. Freshman Alex Bivens led the Lady Govies in the scoring column with 17 points, while Ashley Herring had 15 and April Thomas put in 13 points. After finding themselves down by just three (27-24) at the half, MSU fell behind by as many as 14 on two occasions in the second half. A free three by Herring lifted the hosts to a 45-31 lead with 14:46 left, and another charity toss gave APSU a 49-35 lead with 10:37 left. MSU never cut it below eight the rest of the way until the final scoring flurry in the last 2:49. In fact, the Eagles were held without a field goal from the 8:24 mark until the 3:41 mark when Smith-Williams hit a jumper. For the game, the Eagles and Lady Govies both shot 36.5 percent (an identical 23-of-63). APSU did outrebounded the Eagles 48-37, but MSU came up with its season average of seven blocks. The Eagles hit nine three-pointers.

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MU basketball to host luncheon

TIMES STAFF REPORT

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — The Marshall University men's basketball program will host a luncheon at Pullman Plaza at 12 noon on Monday, Dec. 10.

The luncheon, open to all supporters of Thundering Herd basketball, is free for Center Court members, \$8 for Victory Club members and \$12 for other guests. Herd first-year head coach Donnie Jones will be on hand to address those in

attendance. The luncheons will become a weekly event every Monday beginning on Jan. 7 through the last Monday of the regular season on March 3.

Losing Rams face losing Bengals in a throwback game

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — The last time the Rams came to town, a title was at stake.

No, not that kind of title. The Rams and Bengals were winding up lost decades when they played at old Cinergy Field on Oct. 3, 1999. They had 99 losses apiece in the '90s, and the loser of that one would get the title of NFL's most forlorn franchise.

Cincinnati got the distinction. Then, the two teams went their ways.

Rising star Kurt Warner threw three touchdown passes to Az-Zahir Hakim in the Rams' 38-10 victory that became a springboard. St. Louis went on to win the Super Bowl that season under coach Dick Vermeil.

That wasn't all. The Rams made it back to the Super Bowl two seasons later, losing to New England. They made the playoffs five times in a six-year span, leaving those depressing '90s memories far behind.

The Bengals? They're stuck in a time warp.

They've had only one winning season since they

overtook St. Louis as the league's most miserable team, going 55-82 since that bad day at Cinergy Field.

"It's ancient history," Bengals offensive tackle Willie Anderson said.

Maybe. But it feels a little like old times as the teams reunite.

The Rams (3-9) and the Bengals (4-8) are once again mirror images in misery, trying to salvage a few wins at the end of a lost season — something they did a lot during the nasty '90s.

"People expect you to be a good team for whatever reason, and we're not right now and they're not," Bengals receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh said. "So it should be a good game because we'll be out there trying to win, both of us."

Of the two, the Rams have been a little better lately.

An offense that was expected to be one of the league's best was crippled by the loss of three linemen to season-ending injuries. Quarterback Marc Bulger missed time because of broken ribs, a sprained thumb and a concussion. Running back Steven Jackson has been limited by groin and

back injuries.

Even with their formidable receiving tandem of Isaac Bruce and Torry Holt, the Rams have scored fewer than 20 points in eight games. The only thing the injured players could do was watch, wince and wait to get better.

"Very difficult," said Jackson, who missed four games and much of another during the Rams' 0-8 start. "We all have different reasons in this locker room why it's so disappointing. But I was unable to play for four or five games there in the middle of the stretch, and I had to watch my team suffer. I couldn't go out there and help and at least put them in a position to win."

They've won three of their last four, an indication things have finally calmed down.

"They started off slow like we did," Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer said. "They have rattled off a couple of wins here, almost four in a row with kind of a nabber recently. They've gotten hot. It's a team that has strung together some of their best games of the year."

The Bengals have yet to string anything together.

They have yet to win back-to-back games, and with one more loss would be headed for their worst finish since 2002, the season before Marvin Lewis took over as head coach.

Injuries also have been a problem for the Bengals, leaving their offensive line in flux and decimating their group of linebackers. Running back Rudi Johnson is still returning to form from a hamstring injury.

With the Bengals, it goes much deeper, of course. Some of the built-in limitations from the '90s are still in place. There is no general manager. The Bengals have moved into a new stadium, but still lack a covered practice facility, forcing them to work out in the snow and bitter cold last week.

Lewis has come under fire for how things soured since the Bengals made the playoffs in 2005. They've lost 16 of their last 25 games despite a roster featuring Pro Bowl players on offense and top draft picks on defense.

Palmer leads one of the league's best passing games. A touchdown pass on Sunday would give him 100 in 58 career games. Only Dan Marino, Warner, Johnny

Unitas and Peyton Manning have reached it in fewer.

Houshmandzadeh leads the league with 88 catches and Chad Johnson is fourth with 78.

Sonchow, all those gaudy numbers add up to only four wins. And the players putting them up are starting to wonder if the Bengals will ever emerge from their long-standing rut, the one the Rams escaped the last time they came to town.

"If everybody stays here and we get our guys back and we can avoid injury, everybody here has a lot of years left in them," Houshmandzadeh said. "Years go by and you keep saying, 'Next year,' but at some point next year has to be now."

Children of Bengals' founder lose probate battle over team shares

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Two children of one of the founders of the Cincinnati Bengals have lost their four-year court battle over his estate, which includes about 30 percent of the shares in a team that Forbes estimated is worth \$912 million this year.

A Hamilton County Probate Court jury on Tuesday rejected their claims that Austin E. "Dutch" Knowlton's will was a forgery. They sued after Knowlton died in 2003, at age 93, and they discovered they were left out of his will, which was dated February 1996 and left the bulk of his estate to the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation.

Knowlton, who owned a construction company, founded the Bengals in 1967 with Paul Brown and other investors. Two of his three children, Peter Knowlton and P. Valerie Knowlton, challenged the will.

Peter Knowlton has since died, but his claim remains.

Information from: The Cincinnati Enquirer, <http://www.enquirer.com>

National touring series' 2008 test dates announced

TIMES STAFF REPORT

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The 2008 testing schedules for the Sprint Cup, Nationwide and Craftsman Truck series encompass nine different venues that will provide teams an opportunity to prepare for the various track layouts, surfaces and conditions that they will face over the course of the season. NASCAR determined the schedules based upon the input from each of the teams' crew chiefs.

Sprint Cup Series: The Cup Series testing sessions begin at Daytona with Preseason Thunder on Jan. 7-9 for approx-

imately half of the teams. Jan. 10 is the rain date, if necessary.

The following week, the remaining teams will test Jan. 14-16. Jan. 17 is the rain date.

Test sessions are scheduled for 9 a.m.-5 p.m., weather permitting, with an hour lunch break from noon until 1 p.m.

The remaining five tracks that will play host to test sessions for the Cup Series include:

Las Vegas — Jan. 28-29; California — Jan. 31- Feb. 1; Phoenix — March 3-4; Pocono — May 27-28; Charlotte — Sept. 23-24.

Nationwide Series: The Nationwide Series also kicks off its test schedule with Preseason

Thunder at Daytona. Approximately half of the teams are scheduled for Jan. 18-Jan. 20 and the remaining teams slated for Jan. 20-22.

The remaining test schedule for the Nationwide Series includes: Las Vegas — Jan. 30-31;

Richmond — March 24-25 (rain date March 26); Charlotte — May 12-13 (rain date May 14).

Craftsman Truck Series: The Truck Series also begins its testing during Preseason Thunder at Daytona on Jan. 11-13.

The remaining test schedule for the Truck Series: Atlanta — Jan. 22-23 (rain date Jan. 24);

Martinsville — March 12-13 (rain date March 14).

Preseason Thunder testing and Fan Fests set for Daytona: Testing dates for the 50th Daytona 500 on Feb. 17, 2008:

The first wave of Sprint Cup Series teams will test on Jan. 7-9. Jan. 10 will be a rain date.

The second group of Cup Series testing will be Jan. 14-16. Jan. 17 will be a rain date.

The Cup Series teams will be split into two groups based on owner points after the race weekend at Chicago.

Other testing dates for Preseason Thunder include Jan. 4-6, Rolex Sports Car Series, all teams; Jan. 11-13, Craftsman

Truck Series, all trucks; Jan. 18-

22, Nationwide Series, two different sessions.

NASCAR Preseason Thunder Fan Fest dates — Jan. 5: The Roar Before The Rolex 24; Jan. 8: Sprint Cup Fan Fest; Jan. 12: Craftsman Truck Fan Fest; Jan. 15: Sprint Cup Fan Fest; Jan. 19: Nationwide Series Fan Fest.

The Fan Fest events start at 5 p.m. ET but fans may enter the Sprint Fanzone beginning at 9 a.m. to watch testing.

Admissions for the Cup Fan Fest dates are \$15. Nationwide and Truck series admissions are \$10.

The Roar Before The Rolex

24 admission is also \$10.

Fans will be able to see teams as they prepare for Speedweeks with fan forums with many drivers as well as state-of-the-art amenities in the Sprint Fanzone. Also included in Fan Fests will be bands, show cars, pit stop demonstrations, displays, a silent auction and hot laps around Daytona (additional charge).

Fans can continue to watch all of the January testing sessions free from the Oldfield Grandstands located just outside of The Daytona 500 Experience.

For Preseason Thunder Fan Fest tickets, call 1-800-PIT-SHOP.

Pitino at 500 wins; halfway to what might have been

by WILL GRAVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Rick Pitino isn't much on nostalgia.

The game ball from his first win as a college head coach, a 75-71 win by Boston University over St. Peter's as a fresh-faced 26-year-old on Nov. 28, 1978? Missing. Ditto for most of the mementoes from Pitino's 30-year coaching career.

"I have no idea where most of them are, probably in storage somewhere," he said.

That doesn't bode well for the ball Pitino will be handed after claiming his 500th victory as a college head coach. He gets his first shot at joining the 500-win club Saturday when the 14th-ranked Cardinals host Dayton.

Reaching 500 wins is rarified air to be sure, but there's still a whiff of missed opportunity for the only coach in NCAA history to lead three different teams to the Final Four.

Pitino spent eight years coaching in the NBA during two stints with the New York Knicks and one with the Boston Celtics. If he'd been in the college ranks those years, adding the 23.5 wins per season he's averaged in 21 years as a college coach, he'd be on the cusp of 700 wins by now.

The number rises considerably if you bump the wins per year to 30.8 — what Kentucky averaged under Pitino in the five years before he bolted for the Celtics in 1997. It was a heady pace that could have put the 55-year-old on track to surpass 1,000 career victories.

Mention to Pitino that his sojourns in the NBA might have cost him a shot at becoming college basketball's winningest coach, and he admits there were things he sacrificed by leaving the comfort of the college game.

"From the standpoint of

missing out on some golden years at the college level, there's no doubt I did that," he said.

How golden? He's younger than almost all of the 16 active Division I coaches ahead of him in career wins, and none of them spent nearly a decade outside of the college game during their prime.

Ask if he ever wonders what would have happened if he'd been able to resist the lure of the NBA, and he admits there are times he looks back at the brash young coach who kept one eye on the court and the other looking for the next opportunity and wishes he would have relaxed and just enjoyed what was in front of him.

"I was so anxious to move on and prove myself both financially and personally for myself and my family," he said. "I look back and I look at mistakes I've made, and the one thing I preach to everybody is learn from the past, don't live in it. Plan for the future, but don't live in it."

"At Providence I was enjoying it. At Kentucky we had it rolling. I don't think there was a program any hotter at the time," added Pitino, who won the national title with the Wildcats in 1996 and lost to Arizona in the national championship game a year later. "I wonder how long we could have kept it going."

He'll never know. By '97 he had restored Kentucky's reputation. But having grown up in the Northeast watching the battles between the Knicks and the Celtics, Pitino couldn't resist the opportunity of trying to resurrect the NBA's most storied franchise.

"I thought that type of situation would be fun, it's what gets you going," he said.

It ended up not going anywhere. Pitino's collegiate success never fully translated to the pros, though he maintains the lessons learned with the Knicks

and the Celtics made him a better coach.

"It made me more mature, much more understanding of why you win and why you lose," Pitino said. "Although we lost and there were some rough times, I wouldn't trade the adversity."

Now he wouldn't trade the peace he's found at Louisville. Taking over a program that struggled in the last days of Denny Crum, Pitino needed just four years to get the Cardinals back to the Final Four. A new downtown arena will open in 2010 to replace outdated Freedom Hall, and he could have his best recruiting class yet enter the program next fall.

Son Richard joined the Cardinals as an assistant this year, as did former Kentucky star Walter McCarty. Nearly two dozen former assistants have gone on to become college coaches, and he revels in their accomplishments more than he reflects on his own.

Still, he's not ready to think about his legacy. Trim if a little pale from thousands of hours spent under a gym's fluorescent lights, he's as healthy as he's ever been. The medical problem that forced him to take a brief leave of absence in 2004 is a distant memory. Though he's traded hour-long runs on the treadmill for the elliptical machine to keep the pressure off his knees, he remains energetic and charismatic.

"As soon as I committed here, people would come up to me that I didn't even know and be like, 'You know he's crazy, right? You know he's going to get on you,'" said freshman guard Preston Knowles. "I had heard some stuff, but can it really be that bad? Then I first met him in the offseason and I was like 'Oh, this guy ain't that bad.'"

Then the season started and the coach who had been so

friendly during the recruiting process changed.

"Before practice we can be shooting around and laughing, and coach, as soon as he walks in, it's dead silence," Knowles said. "It's like eating lunch when the bully comes around and everybody stops and puts their heads down."

It's a story McCarty just laughs at. McCarty has been with Pitino through the highs at Kentucky and the lows with the Celtics. Now, as an assistant coach with the Cardinals, McCarty sees a more relaxed side of the coach he lived in fear of as a player.

"We can be in the car, and a song will come on and in two beats he's got it," McCarty said. "He's hip to a lot of stuff. He's created such a network during his lifetime, it's incredible. He's got so many other things on his plate other than basketball, he could probably do whatever he wants."

How much longer can he keep going? He's not sure. He'll turn 61 when his contract expires in 2013. Athletic director Tom Jurich said in the spring that he hopes to coax Pitino into at least one more extension.

Whatever happens, there will be life after basketball for a man who has collaborated on a handful of books, dreams of having one of his horses win the Kentucky Derby and is sought after as a motivational speaker.

Pitino won't put a timetable on it, but he knows he's closer to the end of his career than the beginning. Not that he's thinking about it. He spent too much time in his youth worrying about the next step. This time, it can wait.

"If we start talking about that, then it means I'm really winding it down," he said. "I have too much love for this game to wind down."



photos courtesy of Dusty Layne Photography/East Kentucky Miners
THE EAST KENTUCKY MINERS will return home to the East Kentucky Expo Center Monday night versus the Minot Skyrocks. East Kentucky guards Mike Crain (11) and Ed Horton (23) are pictured.



EKU baseball program to high school skills camp

TIMES STAFF REPORT

RICHMOND — Eastern Kentucky University head baseball coach Elvis Dominguez will host a high school baseball camp on January 26 at Turkey Hughes Field. A hitting camp will run from 9 a.m.-noon, followed by a pitching and catching camp from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. The cost is \$75 per camp. Participants must be in high school. Deadline to register is January 21.

The hitting portion of the camp will consist of instruction covering all points of hitting from the EKU coach-

ing staff, intense drill work, as well as live hitting stations. The pitching and catching portion will consist of instruction covering the various skills and mechanics of pitching, hands on teaching, as well as defensive work.

The camp will be instructed by Dominguez and assistant coaches John Corbin, Cory Whitby, and Ryan Kinder. Whitby will also serve as the camp coordinator.

For more information about the camp, contact Cory Whitby at 859-622-4996 or cory.whitby@eku.edu.

Reds acquire pitcher from Blue Jays

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Reds Friday acquired from the Toronto Blue Jays minor league RHP Justin James as the player to be named in Wednesday's trade that sent OF Buck Coats to Toronto.

James, 26, has spent all 5 of his professional seasons in the Blue Jays' system after he was selected in the fifth round of the June 2003 first-year player draft.

Last season, James combined to finish 3-5 with a 3.89 ERA and 2 saves in 43

appearances, including 5 starts, with Class AA New Hampshire and Class AAA Oklahoma City. Following the season, he pitched for Scottsdale in the prestigious Arizona Fall League.

Coats, 25, last season appeared in 127 games at

Class AAA Iowa and Louisville and in 20 games for the Reds. He was claimed off trade waivers from the Cubs on August 28. On November 28, Coats was designated for assignment when the Reds signed free agent RHP Francisco Cordero.

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Beauty shop for rent. Equipped with 3 stations and tanning bed. Would consider renting for

commercial use other than beauty shop. Rt. 122 1 mile South of Martin across from Garth Technical School. Must have references. 285-9112.

Commercial property 12 acres next to Walmart & McDonald's in Prestonsburg. 886-3023 after 5pm.

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

FARM FOR SALE Floyd county 75 acres more or less, rt. 1100 off US 23 East Point Upper Little Paint. Lum Derosett Branch. Call 606-325-4430 or 606-325-2809. Level- Sloping and timber. HUNTERS PARADISE!! Could be made into a subdivision.

Rentals

2br 1 bath house for rent at Martin. Lg yard \$350. mth. \$350 deposit. Call 789-3724 or 791 9331.

Apartment

1 Br Apt for rent. Hardwood floors, all new appliances furnished. Like new. Utilities included \$525 mth, \$250 deposit. NO PETS. Located between Prestonsburg and Paintsville. Call 606-791-6016.

1 Br Furnished apt for rent. 4 miles from martin on Rt 1210. Utilities included in rent.

\$450.mth Plus \$200 deposit. Call 285-3641.

Large Unicourt Apt for rent located at Stanville on US 23. 2br, 2 bath walk in closet. 1yr Lease. No pets. Please call 606-478-8100.

For Rent: Sm efficiency Apt. \$125. a week plus deposit. All utilities paid. Call 886-7918.

2br duplex for rent. Central heat and air. In excellent condition. 3 miles north of prestonsburg. Call 886-9007 or 889-9747.

3br apt for rent. 2 baths, parking for trucks. Will rent to contractors. Mt Parkway 6 miles from Prestonsburg.

Townhouse 2 BR 1 Bath w/d hookup 2 car garage \$575 per month plus utilities plus deposit. Call: 606-522-4122 or 606-477-2783

1Br furnished apartment located 3 miles from Prestonsburg. Call 358-9483 after 6:00 pm or 794-9484.

Apt. For rent: 1 and 2 BR apartments on Rt. 321 near Porter school. Central heat and air, washer and dryer hookup. \$375 per month plus references and deposit. Seniors welcomed! Call 789-5973.

2 Br 1/12 bath town house. NO PETS. In city limits. Call 886-8991.

QuikSilver Townhouse coming available Dec 1st. 3 Br 2 baths hardwood floors. No pets & no smokers.

\$850 mth. Call 285-9639 or 226 1925.

Furnished 1 bed room Apt. Central heat & air. Rent starting at \$375. month, + \$300. deposit water included. Located near HRMC. 606-889-9717.

Houses

House For Rent - 3 BR, at Allen, Ky. \$800.00 per month + security deposit. Call 794-0249

For rent: 2 br House at Martin. Available immediately. Call 791-8560 or 478-8139 after 7pm. \$500 month & \$500. deposit

Mobile Homes

3 BR 2 bath MH for rent with large deck.. Located at 315 Adams Cemetery Road. Call 791-8617 or 791-4471. \$450 per month.

2 Br Mobile Home for rent. W / dryer hookup. Minutes from Prestonsburg. \$375. month plus deposit. No pets Don't Ask. call 889-0036.

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 Learn to prepare taxes and earn great seasonal income. Will pay to train. Call 1-866-891-1950

FOR SALE
 Large Shop Building 9,000 sq. ft. under roof. 9 rollup doors, approx. 3.5 acres level land. Tractor/trailer accessible, 3-phase power to the building. Located 6 miles from Allen red light at Cow Creek. \$150,000. Call Jerry Bentley at 437-1656 or 433-3077

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park lots, Allen Dwale area, Floyd County. Restrictions apply. Paved Streets, lighted area, parking pads. All sizes call 606-377-2357

2 br furnished mobile home for rent. Just off Mt Parkway on old 114. Call 886-8724.

Nice 2 Br mobile home for rent in Prestonsburg. Call 874-0875 or 226-3207

LEGALS

NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE

Permit No. 836-0268 Increment Nos. 1 & 2 in accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Carbon Tech Fuels, Inc., Rt. 2, Box 445, Haysi, VA 24256, has applied for a Phase I bond release on Increment No. 1 & 2, on permit No. 836-0268, which was last issued on June 11th, 2007. The application covers an area of approximately 154.33 acres, located approximately 1.0 mile south of the community of Honaker in Floyd County, Kentucky. The permit area is approximately 0.40 mile southwest from the intersection of Ky. Rte. 2030's junction with Big Branch Road, and is located along the waters of Little Mud Creek. The latitude is 37d 31m 13s. The longitude is 82d 40m 37s. The bond now in effect for Increment No. 1 is

\$29,300; Increment No. 2 is \$2,500; of which 60% of the total for each increment listed is included in the application for release. Reclamation work performed includes: Grading, seeding, and mulching, and successful establishment of the post-mining land use, which was completed in April of 2002. Written comments, objections, or requests for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director of the Division of Field Services, No. 2 Hudson Hollow Complex, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, by January 16th, 2008. A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m., on January 17th, 2008, at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite No. 6, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. The hearing will be cancelled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by January 16th, 2008. This is the final advertisement of the application. All comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within 30 days of today's date.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 860-5306 Renewal

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Goose Creek Energy, Inc., P.O. Box 226, Eastern, Kentucky 41622, has applied for renewal of a permit for an underground coal mining and reclamation operation, located 2.0 miles north of Topmost, and is situated in both Knott and Floyd County. The proposed operation will disturb 12.1 surface areas, and will underlie 511.6 acres, and the total area within the permit boundary will be 523.7 acres.

The proposed operation is approximately 0.9 mile southeast from KY Route 7's junction with KY Route 809, and is located on the Right Fork of Beaver Creek.

The proposed operation is located on the Wayland and McDowell USGS 7 1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Roy and Priscilla Huff and Leonard and Christine Nickles. The operation will underlie

land owned by Ramson Slone, Roy and Priscilla Huff, W. J. Hall Estate, The Elk Horn Coal Company, LLC, E.V. Vance Estate, William P. Slone Estate, Larry and Patricia Vance, Debra Brigmon, and Rodney and Najuna Sue Moore.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources' 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, No. 2 Hudson Hollow Complex, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. This is the final advertisement of the application. All comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within 30 days of today's date.



Be A Disaster Relief Hero

Victims of the recent hurricane need help immediately. The American Red Cross is on the scene—providing shelter, food and counseling. But your help is urgently

needed. Your contribution will help the victims of the recent hurricane and thousands of other disasters across the country each year.

Make a financial contribution to the Disaster Relief Fund.

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Odds & Ends

■ **NEW ORLEANS** — What do you have with three of a kind and four of a kind? A full hospital.

Doctors at Ochsner Medical Center delivered triplet boys and quadruplet girls within 24 hours.

Pamela Kocke's boys made their appearance early Tuesday, while Alisha Murphy's girls began showing up about 12 hours later, according to a hospital news release. All were doing well Wednesday.

"The trips were natural," hospital spokeswoman Katherine Voss said. The odds of naturally born triplets are about one in 8,000.

Linus, Oliver and Miles Kocke were delivered at 33 weeks and two days, the average gestation time for triplets. Babies born after 37 weeks' gestation are considered full term.

The boys weigh from 4 pounds, 2-1/2 ounces to 4 pounds, 10 ounces. Doctors won't know whether any of them are identical until they get lab results from the babies' placentas, Voss said.

She said Murphy's girls, Molly, Elizabeth, Margaret and Carolyn, were conceived by in-vitro fertilization.

An ultrasound early during the pregnancy found that two of the girls are identical twins, indicating one of three fertilized eggs split after it was implanted, said Murphy's obstetrician, Dr. Sherri Longo. She didn't know which two are identical.

The girls were delivered at 32 weeks, weighing from 3 pounds, 6 ounces to 4 pounds, 3 ounces. The average gestation for quadruplets is 29-1/2 weeks.

All the infants will stay in the neonatal intensive care unit for a few weeks — standard for premature babies.

■ **BRIDGEPORT, Ohio** — A litterbug became a walking warning not to mess with Bridgeport — or its mayor.

Tommy LaShare and his girlfriend were caught emptying their ashtrays on the street in front of his house, police said. That landed LaShare in the court of Mayor John Callarik, who is waging a battle against litter in this eastern Ohio village of 2,200 people.

The mayor offered jail time, community service, \$1,000 in fines — or two eight-hour stints walking the streets wearing a hot pink sandwich board with the message "Cigarette Butts Are Litter." LaShare chose the sign.

"It won't make me stop smoking," LaShare said, laughing. "But I know one thing for sure, I'll never throw out cigarette butts again."

Callarik said plans to offer the punishment to others caught littering.

"We have people that clean the streets and that isn't an easy job," the mayor said. "It's made worse when an hour later, there is more trash on the streets."

■ **LONG BEACH, N.Y.** — Residents didn't want to have themselves a merry little Christmas tree. They wanted a big one.

When city officials planted a 7-foot-tall Christmas tree next to a 20-foot-tall menorah in the plaza in front of City Hall, some residents barked. They telephoned City Hall, wrote letters and testified at a public hearing that the tiny tree in the shadow of the huge Hanukkah symbol was an insult to Christians.

"What's up with the giant menorah and the Charlie Brown Christmas tree?" resident Rick Hoffman asked.

City Manager Edwin Eaton said he had looked far and wide — all the way to Canada — for a bigger tree but couldn't find one.

"This year is going to be kind of a 'bah, humbug,' Christmas," Eaton had said.

But on Wednesday the city of about 35,000 residents 25 miles southeast of midtown Manhattan found a tree to match the 20-foot menorah: a 20-foot blue spruce.

The old tree, a Bacheri spruce, was pruned of its lights, dug up, and taken to a

mall.

A lighting ceremony for the new tree is scheduled for Friday.

■ **YULEE, Fla.** — Stumped about what to give that special someone this Christmas? How about some rhino poop.

The International Rhino Foundation is auctioning on eBay four pieces of dung from the endangered species and will use the proceeds to fund conservation efforts.

The pieces come from four of the five types of rhino: white, black, Indian and Sumatran. The Javan rhino is so rare, a sample could not be collected.

Each piece is dried, mounted in a clear trophy case and marked with the type of rhino that produced it.

The auction ends Sunday. As of Thursday afternoon bidding had been light, with the top bid for Sumatran rhino poop standing at \$500. Black rhino poop was standing at \$255, Indian was at \$250 and white was at \$122.50.

The foundation, which is based at the White Oak Conservation Center, says only about 17,500 rhinos remain in the wild with another 1,200 living in captivity.

■ **GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.** — They thought it was a man hanging on for dear life. Instead, it was just a "Man Hanging Out."

The life-sized sculpture of Sigmund Freud hanging from atop the Trade Center Building prompted calls to the police and fire departments Tuesday.

WZZM-TV reports the artwork by Czech sculptor David Cerny is suspended by one hand from a pole, seven stories up. It also has appeared in Prague and London and was in Chicago over the summer.

The police and fire departments say they weren't informed of the statue's placement, but the owner of an art gallery said she has a permit for it.

The Cerny sculpture will be in Grand Rapids until spring.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — At least she was being honest.

Yuliya Kalinina, 24, spelled out exactly what she was looking for in a husband in her Internet ad:

"Green Card Marriage — Will pay \$300/month. Total \$15,000," the Russian national wrote in an ad placed on the Craigslist website. "This is strictly platonic business offer, sex not involved."

The ad caught the attention of the man who would eventually marry her on Feb. 17, 2006. But it also alerted agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Kalinina, from Russia, and her 30-year-old husband, Benjamin C. Adams, were arrested last week for what federal prosecutors allege was a sham marriage.

Robert Schoch, special agent in charge of ICE investigations in L.A., says it is the first criminal case he is aware of in which people allegedly used the Internet to engineer a sham marriage for a green card.

Attorney Dale Rubin, who is representing Kalinina, said she didn't know it was illegal to marry for a green card, which he said was evidenced by the blatant language in her ad.

Adams' attorney, public defender John Littrell, declined to comment to the Los Angeles Times.

■ **CHARLESTOWN, Ind.** — An inmate who escaped from a work-release crew by creating a distraction with an overflowing toilet has been recaptured, authorities said.

Police arrested Wayne Mitchell, 24, Thursday when he showed up at his father's house in Indianapolis driving a Chevrolet Camaro convertible authorities said he stole to make his getaway.

Mitchell was in the Clark County Jail for a probation-violation warrant, but had been working with a crew clearing roadside trash.

When the crew stopped at the Clark County Fraternal Order of Police lodge to eat

lunch Wednesday, Mitchell went into a restroom and clogged a toilet, causing it to overflow, police said. He then came out saying he needed some towels from the jail's van to sop up the mess.

"The toilet overflowed and the rest of the inmates were trying to clean it up," said Maj. Chuck Adams of the Clark County Sheriff's Department.

Instead of going to the van, Mitchell walked to nearby G&R Auto Sales, where an employee gave him the keys to a car he said he wanted to look over, police said. Police said he then stole a red 1995 Camaro.

Officers later found Mitchell's jail-issued clothes at the dealership, about 15 miles north of Louisville.

Mitchell has been returned to the jail in Clark County, Indianapolis authorities said Thursday night.

■ **NEW YORK** — Ian Culhane won \$10,000 for designing a 7-foot-tall toy roller coaster. Not bad for a 10-year-old.

"It's money for college," the aspiring engineer from Olympia, Wash., said Thursday about the savings bond.

Ian's creation was on display at the Toys R Us store in Times Square, where he accepted the prize from the president of K'NEX Brands, a building toy company in Hatfield, Pa.

The boy, who first started playing with building sets when he was 4, was one of thousands of children ages 6 to 12 who entered the annual contest.

Ian began the project last summer, using 6,000 plastic parts from his collection of 15,000 to assemble the roller

coaster, which runs through the body of a dragon.

Two months ago, his parents packed it up and shipped it off for the contest. Just recently, his parents told him he won.

"It was like, whoa! Huh? I didn't think I'd win, 'cause there were so many other good ones," he said.

A panel of judges comprised of K'NEX employees selected semifinalists based on the creativity, uniqueness and detail of the projects. It had to be made exclusively from K'NEX parts.

An online vote determined

10 winners and Joel Glickman, an inventor with the toy company, chose Ian as the grand prize winner. The nine others each won \$1,000 savings bonds.

In New York for the first time, Ian, his 14-year-old sister and their parents stayed at a hotel he called "pretty fancy for us. We always stay at a Motel 6."

While he was disappointed he couldn't spend any of the prize money, his father, a hydrogeologist, gave him \$100 to spend at a toy store.

What will he buy? More plastic building parts.

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Letters to Santa

Hurry! Hurry!

The Floyd County Times will be publishing Letters to Santa in our annual Season's Greeting Section on Friday, December 21st, 2007.

Letters will be accepted until Noon, Monday, December 17th, 2007.

SEND LETTERS TO:
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or drop your letter off at
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 263 S. Central Ave., Prestonsburg.

All letters need to be legible, have your full name, age, and address.