

The Times

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Council gives itself final say on committees

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Prestonsburg City Council voted 6-2 in favor of an ordinance Monday night which would give council members the final say of who will sit on newly formed or reinstated advisory committees.

The committees, which are being set up in an effort to assist Mayor Jerry Fannin with the city's day-to-day operations, will consist of a chairperson and three members, all of whom will be sitting members of the city council. Two nonvoting, non-council members will also serve on the committees, chosen by each committee chair, to offer additional outside voices from the community.

The vote was not reached without considerable discussion between council members, which at times during the 10 minutes devoted to the issue took on an indignant tone as council members aired grievances against one another for comments made during and outside of previous council meetings. Council member Donna Wells said

she took umbrage to Shag Branham's comments that she was a "rubber-stamper" when it came to issues brought before the council. Also brought up during the discussion period was a previous argument between Kelly Moore and Branham, with Moore offering proof that he did not call Branham a

(See COUNCIL, page 14)

P'BURG TOPS EAST RIDGE

— Page B1

Briefs

Teacher pay bill passes House

FRANKFORT — School districts that are having trouble paying teacher salary increases approved by the 2006 General Assembly would get some relief under a bill passed Friday by the Kentucky House.

House Bill 326, sponsored by House Appropriations and Revenue Committee Chairman Rep. Harry Moberly, D-Richmond, would take \$45 million to \$50 million in excess state per pupil funding called SEEK, or Support Education Excellence in Kentucky, and reallocate that money back to school districts to cover the raises. Moberly said a smaller than expected student population led to the excess funding, which is based on student average daily attendance.

The bill passed the House 98-0 and now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

The reallocation would give the districts — which are helping meet the state's goal to bring Kentucky's teachers salaries up to the average of the seven surrounding

(See BILL, page 10)

2 DAY FORECAST

Today

Morning showers

High: 52 • Low: 35

Tomorrow

Partly cloudy

High: 52 • Low: 24

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

Inside

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ANOTHER ROUNDUP



Floyd County Sheriff John K Blackburn is assisted in the arrest of Larry Music by Deputy Clayton Steele Monday morning. Music has been charged with two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, including oxycodone and hydrocodone.

photo by Alex Smith

Five arrested in roundup

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A look of surprise came over 56-year-old Larry Music's face Monday morning as a large tan Tahoe he was unfamiliar with pulled into his driveway. Music had just descended his front steps and was walking over his snow covered lawn toward a rusty black pickup

truck when the driver of the vehicle, Floyd County Sheriff John K Blackburn, stepped out and informed Music that he was there to arrest him for two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance. Within minutes Music was being processed and jailed at the Floyd County Detention Center just miles from his home in Prestonsburg. "That was good timing on

our part," said Blackburn. "Another few minutes and we may have missed him." Music was one of five suspected drug dealers arrested in Floyd County on Monday, a collaborative effort between the KBI and Floyd County Sheriff's Department. All five suspects sold or assisted in the sale of hydrocodone, Xanax,

(See ROUNDUP, page 14)



Dannie Bentley Heather Castle Stefan Jervis David Ousley

Drug charges forwarded to grand jury

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Two Floyd County men who live across the street from one another and were both arrested during a drug roundup Feb. 9 were in court for a preliminary hearing on Monday.

During the search of the home of Phillip Wilkerson, 28, a large amount of drugs and cash were found in multiple shoe boxes in a bedroom closet. Several pill bottles, bags of marijuana and a handgun were found, as well as cash divided into rolls of \$1, \$20 and \$50 bills.

Floyd County Sheriff's Deputy Kenneth Prater, who participated in the roundup, said the marijuana

found in Wilkerson's closet was packaged in several small plastic bags, which in his opinion proved the marijuana was being prepared for sale.

Across the street, the home of Jason Howard, 27, which was searched at the same time, contained large amounts of drug paraphernalia, including over 30 marijuana cigarette butts in ashtrays as well as several empty syringes. Also discovered were several unidentifiable pills and one which Howard said he has a prescription for.

Prater said he took photographs of the drugs and paraphernalia found at Howard's residence after Howard had been arrested.

(See CHARGES, page 10)

Improvements coming soon to mine communications

by TIM HUBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — There's growing evidence the underground coal mining industry is close to solving problems such as poor communications and the inability to track missing miners that hindered rescuers called to the January 2006 Sago Mine explosion and other accident sites.

Federal law doesn't require a solution until 2009. But West Virginia, the nation's top under-

ground coal producer, is requiring mines to submit detailed plans for wireless two-way communications and tracking systems capable of withstanding all but the most violent accidents by July 31.

As recently as December, the prospect of meeting that deadline looked so dim that members of the state's Mine Safety Technology Task Force, which crafted the regulation, doubted the technology would exist in

(See MINES, page 14)

'Happy House' holds party for clients

by JESSICA HALE
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Happy House is the name of a small adult daycare in Prestonsburg, given to it years ago by clients who said, "We're always happy here." Employees say they are always looking for a reason to party and this year's Valentine's Day celebration was a wonderful way for all of them to celebrate

with music, food and even some dancing from one particular outgoing client, whose smooth moves added tons of laughter to the festivities.

Employees at Happy House also invited Troy Burchett, a member of the Big Sandy Singers, who provided music at the celebration last week, utilizing his guitar-playing skills and

(See PARTY, page 10)



James Mitchell, a client at Happy House Adult Daycare in Prestonsburg, enjoyed some beautiful music by Troy Burchett, member of the Big Sandy Singers who entertained them during a Valentine's Day celebration.

photo by Jessica Hale

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Viewpoint

Amendment 1

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

Worth Repeating ...

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

— John Greenleaf Whittier

Guest View

Americans deserve real debate on war

The U.S. Senate is known as one of the world's most deliberative bodies, but last week it was anything but regarding President Bush's proposed troop surge in Iraq.

The crux of Senate Resolution 470, distilled from 1,700-plus carefully chosen words, was this: "The Senate disagrees with the 'plan' to augment our forces by 21,500, and urges the President instead to consider all options and alternatives for achieving the strategic goals set forth ..." The latter included denying a safe haven to terrorists, strengthening Iraq's unity government and training its forces.

The resolution wasn't binding. It was designed to measure the "sense of the Congress." Yet Senate Republicans, led by Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, blocked its consideration. Democrats and a few moderate Republicans cried foul. The focus - the function and future of U.S. armed forces in Iraq - was lost amid a debate about whether to hold a debate.

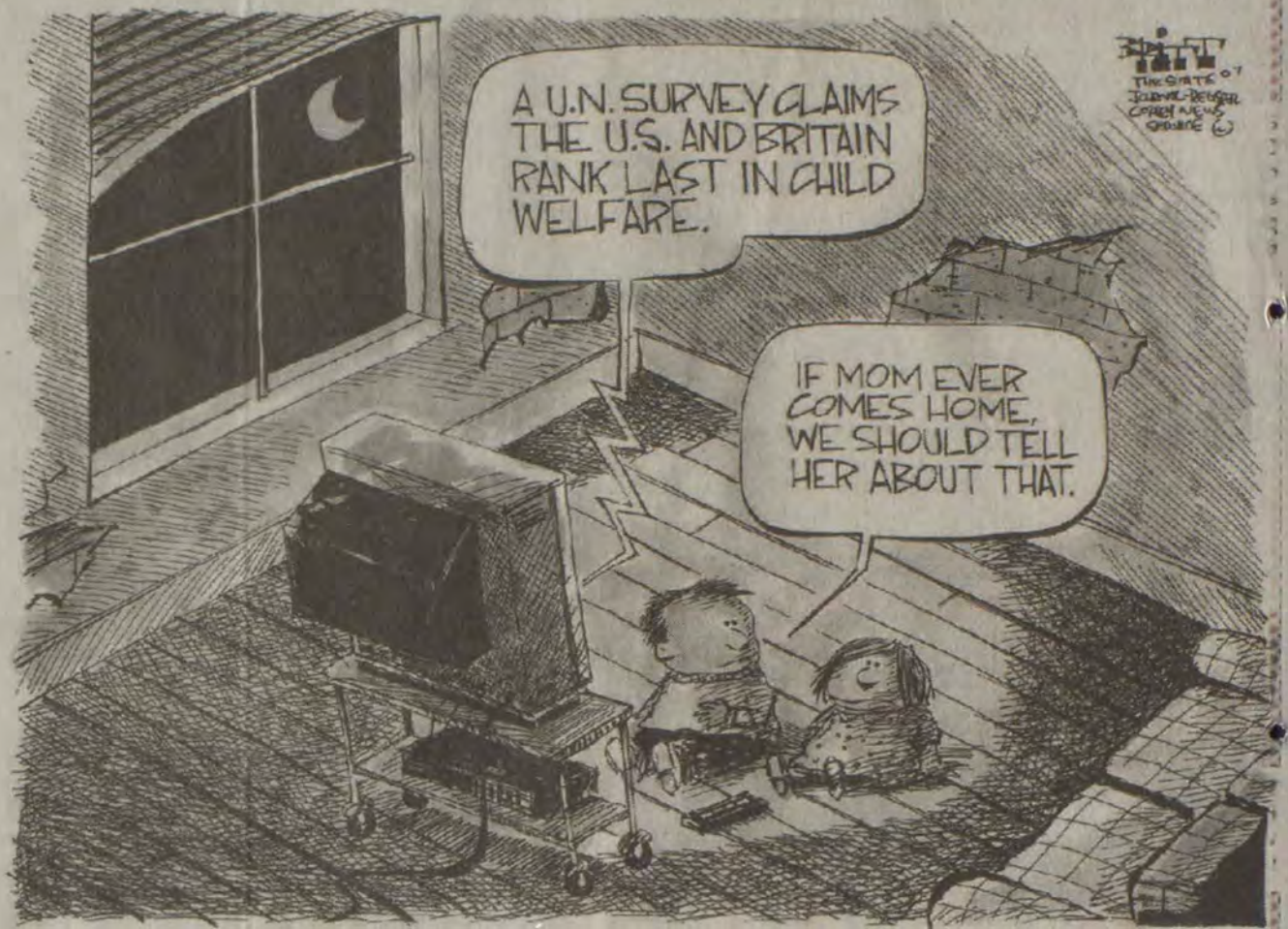
We don't doubt that S.470 also was designed by Democrats to put Republicans on the political spot regarding an unpopular war. Nonetheless, McConnell and other Republicans did themselves no political favors by opting out of a debate many Americans feel is overdue. It's ironic that the U.S. is trying to install democracy in Iraq while forgetting how it works here.

Likewise, it's fair to question the motives of majority Democrats who'd rather settle for symbolic measures than doing something real. This doesn't augur well for future, tougher, binding decisions - specifically on funding the war, where Congress really can flex its muscle; that's the vote McConnell says he wants. It used to be said in this country that politics stop at the water's edge, meaning that on foreign policy, our representatives put aside party and work together in the nation's best interest. We're not sure that's so anymore. This procedural gridlock puts our soldiers in a terrible spot, caught between a civil war in Iraq and a war of words in Washington, D.C. They deserve real direction, not gutless gamesmanship.

Now the matter of a sternly worded, nonbinding rebuke falls to the U.S. House. That chamber's resolution, which likely will receive a vote Friday, says, "Congress and the American people will continue to support and protect the members of the United States Armed Forces who are serving or who have served bravely and honorably in Iraq; and Congress disapproves of the decision President George W. Bush announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq."

It's still an attempt to have it both ways, to seek little more than political cover. The wording is unfair, because the resolution's dual focus puts potential "no" voters in a Catch-22: What, you don't back our troops? We'll take it as a given that all involved support our soldiers, and propose that the question be pared to the surge alone. Then Americans who send these people to Washington and the troops who do their dangerous bidding far from home should get the House debate they deserve and a thumbs up or down, not a Senate dodge.

— The Peoria (Ill.) Journal Star



Letters

Give miners clean air

Yesterday I read in one of the local newspapers that the Mine Safety and Health Administration has ordered coal mine operators to submit a plan within 30 days to allow the miners at least 48 hours of clean air (oxygen) with a contingency plan to have more if needed to rescue the miners if they are trapped and can't walk or crawl out of the mines. This order grew out of the new Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act that became law in June, according to this news report.

This proposal talks about 96 hours of air in a shelter, or drilled holes from the surface, or 48 hours with a contingency plan to supply additional air if needed. This is what I've been asking for since the Sago Mine accident in West Virginia. I have written more than 300 letters to legislators in both the state and federal government, the Kentucky and West Virginia governors and to the new media since the Sago Mine accident asking for this extra air so miners can breathe if trapped in the mines. This plan will save many lives in the future if it is actually implemented. It looks good on paper, but let's wait and see if it becomes a reality that actually gives our miners clean air to breathe if they are trapped in the working section of the mines and can't walk or crawl out.

Our coal miners work at a risky job, first of all to provide for their families. But let's not forget that the coal they mine provides electricity for our homes, schools, hospitals and nursing homes. Without coal, many of us would freeze in the winter. Our surgeons couldn't operate without electricity. A small child with a heart defect could not receive the heart surgery he or she needs without our coal miners supplying electricity.

Most of our new technology could not be possible without coal miners producing electricity. The cardiologist could not do a heart catheterization to diagnose serious complications, nor could he or she place a stent in the coronary artery without the electricity to operate the technology that's needed to see exactly where to place the stent.

Our coal miners are the ones that provide the coal to make the electricity required to operate this technology. I could not write this letter without coal. Our coal miners help provide the electricity to make weapons, tanks, ships and aircraft to protect our country and our freedoms. Coal miners provide electricity to our schools and universities to educate our children, doctors, nurses, attorneys, administrators, architects, artists, teachers, welders, mechanics, factory workers and all the rest.

As human beings, if we can't help to provide them with clean air to breathe if they are trapped in the mines, then it

deeply saddens me to say we have become something other than human beings.

I look forward to the day when this plan is actually implemented and our miners actually have this air to breathe if trapped. Then I can write a letter to our legislators in the U.S. Congress and thank them for passing this law, if in fact they voted for it.

Miners, I've talked to within the past week tell me they have two-and-one-half hours of air to breathe if trapped without clean air, and then they die.

Lannie Ray Varney

Taxes undermine energy needs

In his State of the Union address, President Bush repeated his support for reducing America's reliance on foreign oil and indicated his desire to work with Congress to find additional funding for the development of alternative fuels to help achieve this.

Sadly, Congress is busy trying to raise taxes on America's energy producers. The Pelosi-led House of Representatives has taken action to hike taxes on the deductions American oil producers can claim when drilling on federally-owned land, on profits made from gas and oil produced in the U.S. and on oil drilled in the Gulf of Mexico. These higher taxes would undermine America's energy, security and economic needs.

Pelosi and congressional allies should know that these higher taxes will raise energy prices for consumers and small businesses because they will increase the production costs of America's energy producers. This will encourage more energy to be imported from foreign nations as demand for American energy falls. Because foreigners who don't always support the U.S. will increase their market share, prices will become more volatile.

While Congress and the president are right to look for increased use of alternative energy sources like solar power, hydrogen and corn, America's energy needs are expected to grow 40 percent in the next 15 years. That means we will need all the energy we can find — oil and gas as well as alternative — to meet demand.

Let's hope president and Congress can work together to increase America's energy diversity and energy security. Higher taxes will have the opposite effect.

Bill Minor
Minor and Company
Louisville

The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

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The high price of gas

Bucks Branch woman feeling warmer with help from Big Sandy Area CAP

by D.L. DAVIS
BSACAP

Now that Old Man Winter has finally arrived, with his howling winds and bone-chilling temperatures, one Floyd County family relaxes in the comforting warmth of their home, and tries to forget the times when they thought they might freeze to death.

"It was so cold in here you could see your breath," explained 59-year-old Joyce Ousley. "The only time we were halfway warm was when we had the cook stove and the furnace on at the same time."

By Thanksgiving 2005, the home's furnace was not only on its last legs, it was becoming dangerous as well.

"We were afraid to run the furnace much because you could feel the wall around it getting hot, and we were scared. A lot of times we went to bed real early just so we could stay warm," recalled Ousley.

Ousley is no stranger to adversity, and is not one to give up easily. Years earlier, she returned to Bucks Branch to care for her ailing mother, father and four adult brothers that need special attention. That was 23 years ago, and her mother has long since passed on, and she buried her father and a brother within 30 days of one another. But, Ousley made a deathbed promise to her mother that she would remain in the home and care for her brothers. Of the four, only Ronald, 53, and Darrell, 55, are left, their two siblings having died years earlier, one from cancer, the other from heart disease.

Life since returning to Floyd County hasn't been easy for Ousley, dealing with a succession of four deaths, taking on the responsibilities of caretaker, and just trying to keep living. With limited income from meager disability payments, Ousley was desperate to help her family.

When she heard there might be a program that helped make homes safer and more energy efficient, Ousley picked up the phone to see what she could learn. After speaking with a service worker at the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP) office, Ousley made an application for the agency's Weatherization Program. Following the family's approval, an assessment crew visited the home to determine what could be done to help.

What they found was a disaster waiting to happen.

The crew determined the home needed a new heating unit, but none was available at the moment. In a desperate attempt to help reduce the risk of the furnace catching fire, staff took some used parts they had on hand to make temporary repairs. Everyone prayed that the efforts would tide the family through the remainder of winter when it was hoped a new unit would be available.

The crew returned later with a new heat pump to install. Their arrival could not have come at a better time: the old furnace had completely quit working just a few days earlier.

In addition to the heat pump, the BSACAP crew installed moisture barriers under flooring, replaced duct work, restored some insulation, and repaired crumbling sheet rock.

Ousley says the family's electric bill has been cut by more than half, down to an average of \$62 a month instead of the \$150 it used to be.

"This house is much, much warmer," declared Ousley. "Oh Lord-a-mercy! It's a won-



Joyce Ousley stands next to her new heating unit. The Bucks Branch woman was able to replace an old and dangerous furnace with assistance from Big Sandy Area Community Action Program.

derful thing to get that kind of help. I'm just trying to do my job for my family and keep a promise I made to my mother. It's made a world of difference."



Big Sandy College Educational Foundation honored Dr. Charles Arnett, center, for 19 years of dedication and years of service at their regular meeting on Feb. 8. Pictured presenting Arnett with a plaque are Dr. George D. Edwards, president of BSCTC, left, and Bob Bays, chairman of the BSCEF board.



Big Sandy College Educational Foundation, Inc. honored Frank Fitzpatrick for 19 years of dedication and years of service at their regular meeting on Feb. 8. He is shown receiving his plaque from Jean Dorton.



Big Sandy College Educational Foundation honored Dr. Lary Leslie, center, for 19 years of dedication and years of service at their regular meeting on Feb. 8. Pictured presenting Leslie with a plaque are Dr. George D. Edwards, president of BSCTC, left, and Bob Bays, chairman of the BSCEF board.

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Calendar

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

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

Free Body Recall classes

Free Body Recall Exercise Classes will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 9:30, at the Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 11 a.m. at the old R & S Building. Classes are offered by the Floyd County Health Department. Call the health department, 886-2788, for more information.

'Earn While You Learn'

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

Senior employment program

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

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

External Diploma Program

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

GED classes are also available.

Floyd County Extension Homemaker Club Meetings

Allen: 1st Monday, 11 a.m., at Christ United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Dixie: 3rd Thursday, 12:30 p.m., Dixie Community Room.

David: 1st Monday, 1 p.m., at St. Vincent's Mission.

Martin: 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m., Martin Church of Christ.

Maytown: 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., Maytown Learning Center.

Cliff: 3rd Tuesday, 12 p.m., Community Center.

Prestonsburg: 2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Extension Office.

South Prestonsburg: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Home of members (call 886-2668 for info.)

Left Beaver: 2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Osborne Elem. School Library.

Special interest groups: Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild: 1st/3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Extension Office.

Newbees Quilt Group: 4th Thursday, 6 p.m., Extension Office. (The Newbees do not meet during the months of January and February.)

Looking for a Support Group?

Floyd County Alzheimer's Support Group now meets at Riverview Manor.

FCHD Diabetes Support Group - Will meet on Feb. 5, from 5-6 p.m., and on Feb. 22, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held at the Floyd County Health Dept. and are free of charge. For more info., call Cheryl Younce at 886-2788, ext. 214.

Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group - Will meet Thursday, Feb. 1, at 5 p.m., at Dr. Ahmed's office, Weddington Plaza, Pikeville. Refreshments will be served. For more info., call 432-1072 and speak with Kim, Debra or Valerie. This support group is affiliated with the Alzheimer's Association.

Overeater's Anonymous - Meetings held each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., at the old Allen Baptist Church, located in Allen, just past red light. Call 889-9620 for more info.

US TOO! Prostate Cancer Survivors Support Group - For all men with prostate cancer and their families. Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m., at the Ramada Inn, Paintsville.

Community Weight Loss Support Group - Meets Thursday's at 6:30 p.m., at the Martin Community Center. For more info., call 377-6658. Those who have had gastric bypass surgery most especially welcome to attend. Meetings being offered as support to anyone needing extra support in dealing with weight loss.

Domestic Violence Hotline - 24-hour Crisis Line manned by Certified Domestic Violence counselors. Call 886-6025, or 1-800-649-6605. Remember, "Love Doesn't Have to Hurt."

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children - Free, confidential assistance for unplanned pregnancy concerns. Talk with someone who cares about you and your baby. Call 1-800-928-5242.

Disabled? - You may be eligible for grant money to assist in your daily living. For an application or more information, call 886-4326.

A.S.K. (Adoption Support for Kentucky) - Support group for all adoptive parents (public, private, international, and kinship care), foster parents and all others interested in adoption. To be held the first Monday of each month, at the Department for Community Based Services office, 1009 North Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, from 6-8 p.m. Childcare will not be provided. For more information, contact Dendra Slone, adoptive parent liaison, at 432-4110 or 422-7927, or email to:

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Continued from p3

doslone@eastky.net. PARENTS! - Contact the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. to find out about child care services in your area, the STARS for KIDS NOW licensing standards program, and how you can earn an income by staying home with your own children while caring for the children of others. Find out more by calling Cheryl Endicott at 886-1280, or 888-872-7227 (toll free).

East Kentucky S.T.A.R.S. Homeschoolers - Will hold monthly meetings at the Paintsville Recreation Center. For more information, call Trudy at 889-9333, or 297-5147. Everyone welcome.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Each Wednesday, from 7-8 p.m., in the Atrium Conference Room, 2nd floor, May Tower, Pikeville Methodist Hospital. For more info., contact Chris Cook at 606-433-1119 or christophercook@hotmail.com.

Judi's Place for Kids to hold open house, silent auction for expansion

PIKEVILLE — Judi's Place for Kids, the Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center, will host an open house and silent auction March 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. at its current location at 106 Williamson Street.

The silent auction is in partnership with the Pike County Artisan's Center, with all proceeds benefiting Judi's Place for Kids. The open house will showcase the Center's current unique facility, which is designed as a child-friendly location for a child victim of sexual or physical abuse to receive multiple services.

The proceeds from the auction will be used toward the purchase of a larger facility. Executive Director Laura Kretzer says, "A larger facility is an investment in our community to bring safety, healing, and justice to the most vulnerable of our citizens —

our children. This event will show concerned citizens that we are good stewards of our current location. We have just outgrown it. A new center will allow for increased treatment and prevention services and enhanced collaboration with the community."

The open house will also feature a new tree of life sculpture, which will display engraved leaves to represent those community members making a \$300 contribution toward the larger facility.

Since July 2006, the Center

has advocated on behalf of more than 120 child victims of sexual or severe physical abuse. Over 100 of these children received specialized interviewing services. More than 50 children received specialized comprehensive child sexual abuse medical examinations. The Center is the only location in Pike, Floyd, Johnson, Martin, and Magoffin counties for a child to receive these services. All services are provided at no cost to the victim or the victim's family.

American Heart Association www.americanheart.org

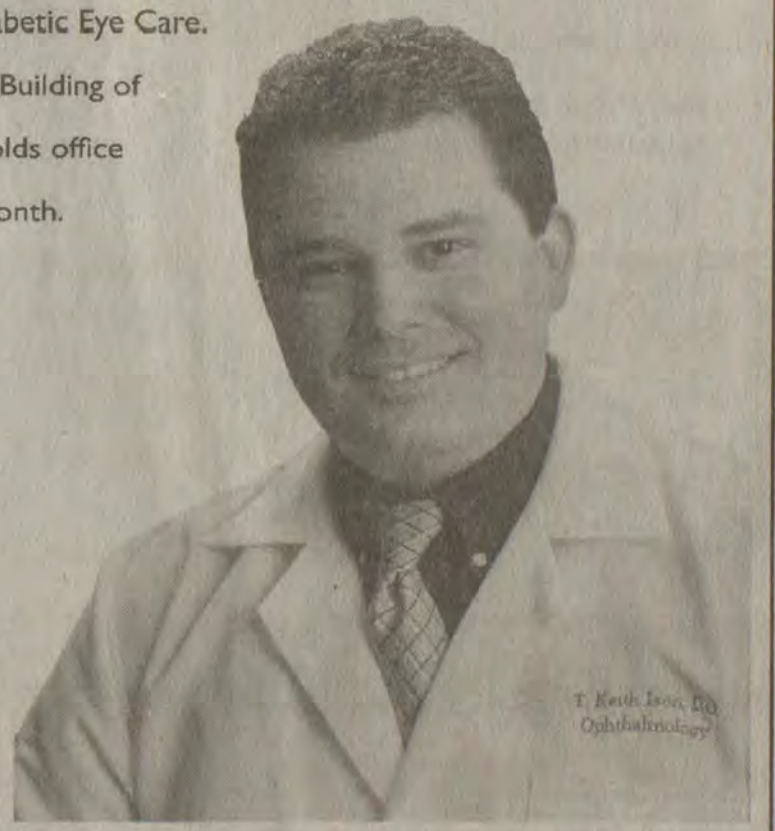
WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY

Dr. Keith Ison Ophthalmologist

Dr. Keith Ison, Ophthalmologist has joined the Highlands Eye Clinic, the practice of Dr. Charles Wheeler, Ophthalmologist. Dr. Ison is a native of Pikeville, a graduate of Pikeville College where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and a Minor in Chemistry. Dr. Ison received his Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency in Ophthalmology at Kettering Medical Center and Grandview Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Ison is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons, American Osteopathic Association, Christian Medical and Dental Society and Kentucky Medical Association.

Now Accepting New Patients!

Dr. Ison specializes in Cataract Surgery and Diabetic Eye Care. Located in the basement of the Medical Office Building of Highlands Regional Medical Center. Dr. Ison holds office hours the first and third Wednesday of each month. Call to schedule your appointment today!



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Pikeville Concert Association presents 'Renaissance Man' Wayland Pickard



The Pikeville Concert Association will present Wayland Pickard, award-winning instrumentalist, singer, entertainer, and humorist on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in Pikeville College's Booth Auditorium.

PIKEVILLE — The Pikeville Concert Association is pleased to present Wayland Pickard, award-winning instrumentalist, singer, entertainer, and humorist on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in Pikeville College's Booth Auditorium.

A true "Renaissance Man," Pickard is a piano recording artist, songwriter and composer, actor, author and filmmaker. This multi-talent from Hollywood has done it all and his unique versatility of combining comedy, music and celebrity impressions has made him a hit around the country.

Pickard is a television "Ace" award nominee and a Cine Golden Eagle Award winner. He has been described

by Jay Leno as a "sensational musician," and by comedienne Phyllis Diller as "the piano variety artist of the decade."

As a composer, Pickard has scored music for film and television. He has appeared on "The Tonight Show," HBO, at Carnegie Hall, and in such films as "Beethoven's 5th" and "The Great Santini." This witty and charming entertainer has been featured with symphony orchestras and at performing arts centers around the country. He's acted in numerous shows and also served as musical director for dozens of Broadway touring shows.

As a performer, Pickard has shared the stage with such notables as Lee Greenwood, Dionne Warwick, Larry Gatlin, Carol Lawrence, Pam Tillis, Bill Cosby, Andy Williams, Sandy Patty and

many other celebrities. He recently wrote an original musical comedy that will debut in Los Angeles this year. He's produced albums, award-winning commercials and even authored a best-selling book. From concert halls to corporate halls, Pickard's standing ovation shows have delighted audiences from coast to coast!

Tickets for the Feb. 22 performance will be available at the door. For more information, contact the Pikeville Concert Association at (606) 437-7878.

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Our Lady of the Way sees red



OLW saw red on Friday, Feb. 2, as employees dressed in celebration of "Go Red For Women!"

MARTIN — Employees at Our Lady of the Way Hospital (OLW) observed Go Red For Women Day on Friday, Feb. 2. Pictured here are a few of the many employees who wore red that day.

Go Red For Women is the American Heart Association's nationwide movement that celebrates the energy, passion and power women have to band together and wipe out heart disease. Thanks to the participation of millions of people across the country, the color red and the red dress have become linked with the ability all women have to improve their heart health and live stronger, longer lives.

Heart Disease is the No. 1 killer of American women — and of men. But the good news is that heart disease can largely be prevented. Go Red For Women empowers women with knowledge and tools so they can take positive action to reduce their risks of heart disease and stroke and protect their health.

"I am very pleased that we are celebrating Go Red for Women," said Dr. Olatunji, cardiologist and a member of

OLW's medical staff. "Women are just as vulnerable to heart disease as men. Events such as this will help build awareness about women and heart disease."

Schedule a go red health check today. Talk to your health care provider about factors that affect your risk of heart disease. Together, you can develop an effective heart disease prevention plan.

Dr. O. Olatunji is an associate of the Cumberland Clinic based in London. Dr. Olatunji is located at Seton Complex, second floor. You may reach him by calling 606.285.3690.

Visit goredforwomen.org for more information about your go red health check.

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Poll: Fletcher viewed unfavorably, but job-approval rising

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — Republican Gov. Ernie Fletcher is viewed unfavorably by nearly half of all voters as he seeks re-election while at the same time his job-approval rating is on the rise, according to a new poll.

Conducted Feb. 8-14 by The Courier-Journal, the Bluegrass Poll questioned 801 adult Kentuckians about the job Fletcher is doing and 723 registered voters about how they view the candidates. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for the full sample and 3.6 points for the sub sample of registered voters.

On the Republican side, Fletcher enjoys almost universal name recognition, reaching 93 percent among respondents. Challenger and former U.S. Rep. Anne Northup of Louisville is closest to Fletcher in name recognition, with 64 percent of voters saying they have heard of her. Meanwhile, the third candidate in the Republican race, Paducah businessman Billy Harper, was last among the GOP candidates in name recognition, even after spending more than \$2.5 million over the last year. Forty-nine percent of all voters said they had read or heard something about him. Of those voters, 29 percent said they had favorable impressions of him; 23 percent said they view him unfavorably.

Fletcher's job-approval rating has bounced back 9 percentage points since a September 2005 poll, when he bottomed out at 38 percent.

The latest poll found that 47 percent of those surveyed approve of the job he is doing.

But 49 percent of registered voters who recognized his name have an unfavorable opinion of him. Thirty percent said they view him favorably.

In the Democratic primary field, former Lt. Govs. Steve Henry and Steve Beshear lead in name recognition. But large numbers of voters say they don't know much about the seven candidates.

Mark Riddle, a Democratic political consultant who is not working for any candidate in the race, said Fletcher's numbers show that he is vulnerable in the Republican primary but that he can still win. He said that while Democrat Henry appears to have a slight edge, there is no clear front-runner.

"This is a wide-open race... It seems to me every one of these candidates has a lot of work to do in a short period of time," he said.

Marty Ryall, Fletcher's campaign manager, said the results

are good news for Fletcher because, despite his low ratings, voters increasingly believe that he has done a good job.

"It's still very early in the process, and Gov. Fletcher has really only begun to tell his story to the voters," Ryall said. "He's giving his vision for the future, and his opponent is not presenting that."

Cindy McReynolds, a 41-year-old special-education teacher in Allen County and a registered Republican, said she has an unfavorable opinion of Fletcher — not because of the merit hiring scandal his administration has been embroiled in but because of his education policy.

"He mandated that we (teachers) get raises but he didn't give the school boards any money to do it," she said. "Now I might lose my job because of it."

McReynolds is a poll respondent who agreed to a follow-up interview.

Fletcher and 14 other named people were indicted as part of an investigation into alleged violations of the state's merit hiring law. A grand jury charged that the administration made hiring and promotion decisions based on politics. Fletcher issued a blanket pardon for anyone who had been or might be charged in the investigation, except for himself.

The charges against him were dropped as part of an agreement with Attorney General Greg Stumbo, a Democrat and lieutenant governor candidate on Bruce Lunsford's ticket.

While Fletcher's name recognition was at 90 percent or above in all parts of the state, Northup was best known in Louisville and surrounding counties, at 96 percent. She also had high name recognition — 73 percent — in the Bluegrass region around Lexington.

But the poll found that fewer voters had heard of her in eastern, northern and western Kentucky. In eastern Kentucky, only a third of voters knew who she was.

The poll found that 45 percent of those voters view Northup favorably and 26 percent view her unfavorably. The rest were undecided.

Mike Clingaman, Northup's campaign manager, said the poll results reinforce what Northup has said all along: Fletcher can't win in November.

"For a Republican to win a general election (in Kentucky), you have to have support of all the Republicans and a large chunk of the Democrats," he said. "These numbers make him unelectable."

On the Democratic side,

Henry appears to be the early front-runner, with 59 percent of voters saying they are familiar with him, and 46 percent of those saying they had a favorable impression of him.

Despite unfavorable publicity after being sued by the federal government for alleged fraudulent billing on Medicare and Medicaid claims — a case Henry settled in 2003 with a payment of \$162,000 — his unfavorable rating was just 21 percent.

Beshear had nearly as much name recognition as Henry, with 58 percent saying they had heard of the former lieutenant governor, attorney general and U.S. Senate candidate.

But fewer than half the voters knew enough about him to form an impression.

According to the poll, Henry and Beshear were the only Democratic candidates who were known by more than half of registered voters.

Perennial candidate Gatewood Galbraith, a

Lexington attorney who at times in his political life has favored legalized marijuana, was third in name recognition, with 44 percent of voters saying they had heard of him.

But 61 percent of this group said they had an unfavorable impression of Galbraith, who has moderated his position on marijuana and now says he favors legalizing only medicinal marijuana.

House Speaker Jody Richards was next among the Democrats, with 41 percent name recognition. Of those who knew him, 37 percent had favorable opinions, while 20 percent viewed him unfavorably. Richards finished second in the Democratic primary for governor four years ago and is the longest-serving House speaker in state history.

Although 39 percent of voters said they know who Lunsford is, few have a favorable view of him.

The poll found that among those voters, 17 percent had a

favorable impression and 28 percent had an unfavorable one.

Lunsford has been criticized because he created a business that went bankrupt and cost people millions of dollars. He also ran for governor in 2003 and quit days before the primary. After the primary, he endorsed Fletcher instead of fellow Democrat Ben Chandler in the general election.

Of the major Democratic candidates, state Treasurer Jonathan Miller is last in name recognition; just 27 percent of voters said they know who he is.

Carol Andrews, a spokeswoman for Miller, said Miller's low name recognition doesn't surprise the campaign.

"We didn't expect our name to be up there with the good ol' boys who've been around for some time," she said. "Gubernatorial elections are not decided by name ID. If they were, Britney Spears would be governor."

Only 12 percent of voters said they have heard of Wallins demolition contractor Otis Hensley, the seventh candidate in the Democratic field.

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Highlands Regional Medical Center is proud to welcome Dr. Mark Veronneau, Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist to our community. Dr. Veronneau earned his medical degree from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, completed an internship at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, OH and a fellowship in advanced Rhinology and Facial Plastic Surgery at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, IL. Dr. Veronneau is certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery and is a member of the American Osteopathic Association. Dr. Veronneau's Office is located in the old Social Security office at 5322 KY Rt. 321 Prestonsburg.



Dr. Mark Veronneau
5322 KY Rt. 321
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Instead of repealing runoff election, lawmakers may fund it

by JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Instead of eliminating the possibility of a runoff election after the May gubernatorial primary, the state might help local governments pay for the extra costs, a House lawmaker said.

A proposal that would have eliminated the run-off was temporarily shelved Tuesday by a House elections panel.

Now, lawmakers are considering a plan to keep the current law, which calls for a runoff 35 days after the May 22 primary if a single candi-

date does not get at least 40 percent of the vote. Under the plan, lawmakers would give local county governments the money to pay for administering a runoff, Rep. Rick Nelson, D-Middlesboro, the bill's sponsor said.

There are seven Democrats and three Republicans seeking the gubernatorial nomination from their parties.

Secretary of State Trey Grayson said the estimated cost of a runoff would be about \$7 million, and that would be shouldered primarily by county governments across the state.

Attention:

Floyd County Residents

The Floyd County PRIDE Committee will be meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

At the Floyd County Annex Building 2nd Floor Conference Room Located at 313 Westminster Street behind the old Floyd County Courthouse

If you have any questions, please call Marie Martin-Holbrook, Floyd County PRIDE Coordinator at 606-886-9193.

PO # 49258

Merit system changes pass House muster

FRANKFORT — A bill that would give more job protection to state employees and curb potential abuses of the state's merit system passed the House of Representatives Wednesday by a vote of 97-0.

House Bill 62, sponsored by Rep. Mike Cherry, D-Princeton, titled the Public Employee Protection Act

includes several provisions affecting employees of the state merit system, which is designed to base all hiring decisions on an applicant's qualifications. The legislation would:

- Require the Personnel Cabinet to set up alternative dispute resolution procedures for merit employees, including

peer review and mediation.

- Hold members of the state Personnel Board to stricter standards, including a requirement that they disclose any conflict of interest related to their seat on the board to other board members. The number of board members would be expanded from seven to nine, with classified

employees filling four of those seats.

- Require former non-merit employees, such as political appointees, who become merit system employees to serve a probationary period of one year unless they once served in the merit system or have been separated from their non-merit jobs for at least six months. This is to prevent what many call "burrowing"—or the seeking of merit jobs by non-merit employees who would otherwise be at risk of losing state employment.

- Permit merit employees and officers to hold nonpartisan elected office if the duties of the office don't interfere or conflict with their state job.

- Require the Personnel

Cabinet to study the feasibility of background and reference checks on all Executive Branch applicants for merit jobs, and report on the study to state lawmakers by this November.

Rep. Derrick Graham, D-Frankfort, who is a cosponsor of the bill, said the legislation

would let state employees do their jobs without "any fear of reprisal."

"The Public Employee Protection Act will create the high standards that 21st Century government needs," said Graham.

The measure now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Booster seat bill passes House

FRANKFORT — Young children who are too large for infant car seats but too small to ride in regular car seats would have to ride in booster seats under a bill passed by the Kentucky House Wednesday.

House Bill 53, sponsored by Rep. Tom Burch, D-Louisville, would require that any child under 8 years old and between 40 and 57 inches tall be secured in a booster seat while riding in a motor vehicle. The penalty for drivers who violate the provision would be a prepayable fine of \$50, but no court costs.

HB 53 passed the House 89-9 and now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

The legislation, which resembles three previous bills passed by the House, will protect Kentucky's youngsters in case they are involved in motor vehicle crashes, said Burch.

"I have three booster seats in my car that I use all the time for my grandchildren," said Burch. "It's something that doesn't cost a lot, if they cost anything."

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death of children age 1 and older in Kentucky, he added.

Rep. Mike Harmon, R-Junction City, proposed an amendment to the bill that would have nullified the \$50 fine for violators who prove within 30 days that they have had a booster seat installed or that they are below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. The latter would be provided with a booster seat at no

charge.

The amendment, which failed on a vote of 36-59, would also have required all fines for booster seat violations go into a fund to buy

seats for low-income families.

"Even though booster seats are not that expensive, I consider (this) a tax on the poor," said Harmon. Burch said the amendment was not necessary.

The children of LIZZIE SPEARS would like to invite family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate her 80th birthday with a
SURPRISE PARTY,
Saturday, Feb. 24, 2007,
from 2:00 p.m.-5 p.m.,
at the Little Salem Regular Baptist Church lunchroom, on Prater Creek.
For directions or info, call Teresa, 874-0348, or Lana, 478-5859.

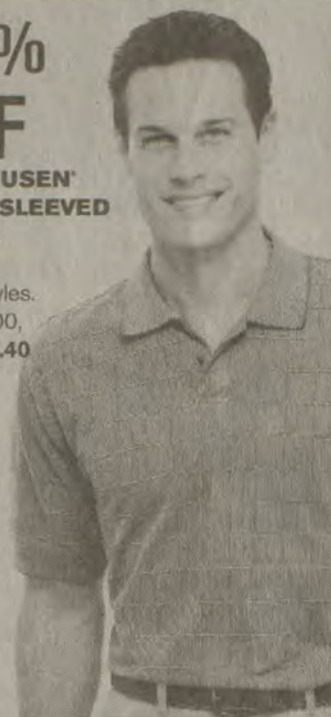


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From left to right, Freddie Goble, Keith Caudill, Kentucky Arts Council Executive Director Lori Meadows and Representative Collins.

MAC receives check from Turner, Collins

FRANKFORT — Arts leaders from across the state came to Frankfort on February 13 to celebrate Arts Day and meet with their legislators. During this time, Senator Johnny Ray Turner and Representative Hubert Collins presented a check to Director Keith Caudill and Assistant Director Freddie Goble of the

Mountain Arts Center for its FY2007 General Operating Support Grant. The Mountain Arts Center was awarded \$48,482 by the Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet. "Mountain Arts Center is a great asset to our community and to Kentucky," said Representative Collins. "Any

money for Mountain Arts Center is always welcome, and I always welcome money to Eastern Kentucky." "Mountain Arts Center is one of the finest facilities in the state. Keith Caudill and Billy Jean Osborne are to be applauded for their fine work," said Senator Turner.

Bill

states by 2010 — some needed relief, said Moberly. "The differential between the SEEK appropriation we made (in 2006) and the amount it takes to give the salary increase does not give them (the districts) the cushion

they usually have," he said. Schools could also use the money to meet their retirement obligations, said Moberly. Teachers who work in career and technical education would also get some relief under HB 326, which would

allocate \$1 million in excess SEEK dollars to raise their salaries both this year and next. The teachers would have the option of receiving a state employee salary increase or teacher pay increase under the bill.

Continued from p1



From left to right, Senator Turner, Kentucky Arts Council Board Member Retha Tarter, Keith Caudill, Kentucky Arts Council Executive Director Lori Meadows and Freddie Goble.

Party

his singing voice, which is obviously fueled by his love and passion for music. All of the daycare's clients especially loved Burchett's renditions of some well-known Elvis Presley songs as well as some of his very own gospel cre-

ations. Happy House was designed to delay nursing home placement for individuals over the age of 21 who need extra care and supervision. According to the staff, their clients love the time they spend there and it's a

good way for their regular caregivers at home to get a break for themselves.

The program employs four certified nurse aids, two registered nurses, and one licensed practical nurse. Staff who work at Happy House say that many people don't know about their program and they have a lot to offer to those in need. The program provides personal care and physical rehabilitation, and they also were instrumental in starting an Alzheimer's support group in Prestonsburg. Happy House staff says there are programs which assist in the cost of care for many clients. Anyone interested in applying for adult care may call Dana or Traci at 886-0265 for more information.

Continued from p1

Charges

Prater said he interviewed Howard and took a statement, in which he told Prater that everything found in the house belonged to him.

Both cases were referred to a Floyd County grand jury. Howard's bond was reduced to \$10,000 cash or 10 percent, with strict restrictions placed on him if he were to post bond. Bond reduction for Wilkerson was denied because he has been charged with multiple felonies. Two others who were arrested during the drug raid, Ezra

Allen, 51, and Jessica Howard, 27, were arraigned Tuesday morning. Allen, who rented the house which Jason Howard was staying in, faces one count of felony drug possession, possession of drug paraphernalia and trafficking in marijuana. He was released from jail last week after posting a \$20,000 bond. Jessica Howard posted a \$5,000 bond last week and has been charged with felony trafficking in a controlled substance.

Continued from p1

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Do you enjoy the flavor of steak hot off the backyard grill — even when the seasons change? If so, you're not alone. According to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, 60 percent of grill owners cook out all year long, even during the winter months.

"More Americans want to grill year-round," said Kent Harrison, spokesperson for AngusPride premium beef. "They know grilling gives beef a great flavor, and they want to savor that distinctive taste at mealtime."

Pete Geoghegan, corporate chef with AngusPride premium beef, said winter grilling doesn't require much modification from your summer grilling routine. He recommends a couple of variations — and a jacket.

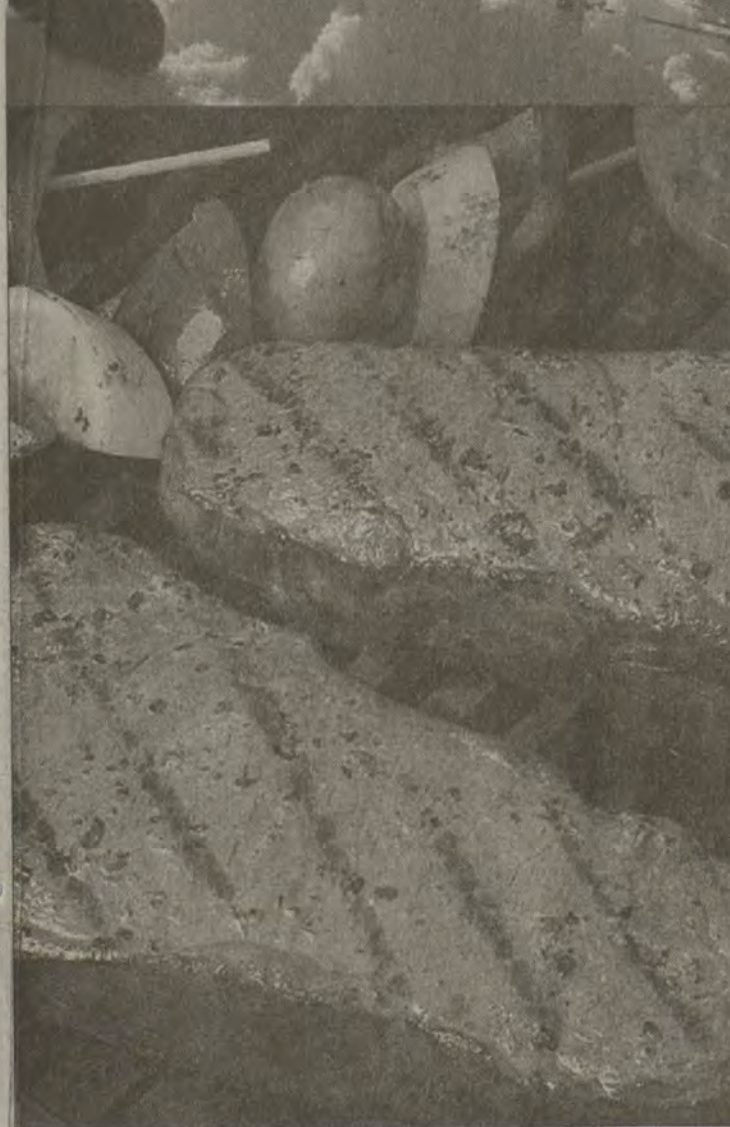
"If you're using a rub on your meat, throw in a little more 'heat' by adding some dried, spicy chili peppers to your seasoning blend to spice things up," he said. "And don't forget the side dishes with roasted root vegetables — carrots, parsnips, turnips or potatoes — that are plentiful in winter. Wrap them up in aluminum foil with just a little butter, salt and pepper, and cook them along with your steaks. You'll have a complete meal."

To get in and out of the cold quickly, Geoghegan recommends dishes that require minimal grilling. A recipe like AngusPride Rib Eye Steaks With Shoestring Fries has a cooking time of 8 to 12 minutes. If you just don't want to brave the elements but still crave steak, try AngusPride Herb Mustard Steak, which can easily be prepared indoors on the stove.

The one thing most cooking enthusiasts agree on is that great outdoor grilling, any time of the year, begins with high-quality meat.

"When choosing premium beef, look for cuts that have a rich, red color, firm texture and robust marbling," Geoghegan said.

For information on beef shopping and more recipe and meat ideas, visit www.angusquiz.com.



Five Winter Grilling Safety Tips

You can still cook outside during wintertime, but keep safety in mind before you fire up the grill. Leslie Wheeler, spokesperson for the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, offers some basic safety guidelines for homeowners to follow when grilling outside during the winter months. Consider these tips:

1. Allow a minimum of 10 feet of space between the grill and your home.
2. Inspect gas lines, burners and the interior lid of your grill, and remove any debris.
3. Don't allow oil and fat to build up inside your grill; the accumulation could cause a flare-up the next time you cook.
4. Make sure your grill cools completely before it's covered and stored away.
5. Never leave your grill unattended.

Herb Mustard Steaks

Servings: 4

- 2 to 4 AngusPride Top Sirloin Steaks

Herb Mustard

- 2 large cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 teaspoons water
- 2 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard
- 1 teaspoon dried basil leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves

In glass measure, combine garlic and water; microwave 30 seconds on high. Stir in remaining mustard

ingredients; spread onto both sides of steaks.

On the grill: Place steaks on grill over medium heat. Season steaks with salt, as desired. Cook 13 to 16 minutes (for 3/4-inch-thick steaks) or 17 to 21 minutes (for 1-inch-thick steaks) until internal temperature reaches 160°F.

In the oven: Place steaks on broiler pan, and place pan in the lower portion of the oven. Broil steaks on high, turning once, until they reach an internal temperature of 160°F.

Serve steaks with roasted vegetables and rice pilaf.

Recipe and photo courtesy of National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Rib Eye Steaks With Shoestring Fries

Marinate time: 10 to 20 minutes

Servings: 4

- 1 1/2 pounds AngusPride rib eye steaks
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup sherry vinegar
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Shoestring Fries

Cooking spray

- 2 medium potatoes (about 1 1/2 pounds), cut into shoestrings
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Pepper, to taste

Preheat grill to medium-high heat.

For steaks, whisk together oil, vinegar, garlic and Worcestershire sauce in large glass dish. Place steaks in dish; turn to coat with marinade. Let steaks marinate 10 to 20 minutes, turning once.

Meanwhile, preheat oven to 425°F. Coat two baking sheets with cooking spray.

For fries, toss together potatoes, oil and salt in bowl. Arrange potatoes in single layer on baking sheets. Bake until

potatoes are crisp and edges turn golden brown, 18 to 20 minutes.

Grill steaks to desired doneness, 8 to 12 minutes for medium-rare to medium doneness. Serve shoestring fries on top of steaks.

Cooking Tip: Using a mandolin to slice potatoes is quick and easy. You can prepare the fries up to four hours ahead; to prevent browning, place shoestring fries in bowl of cold water in refrigerator until ready to use, then pat them dry with paper towels.

Perini Ranch Steak Rub

Servings: 4

Makes: 1/2 cup

- AngusPride steak
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch or flour
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 4 tablespoons coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 4 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon granulated beef stock base

Mix seasoning ingredients together.

Either sprinkle or rub into meat.

Recipe courtesy of Perini Ranch, Buffalo Gap, Texas.

Mines

time. On Friday, however, a pair of small mine equipment suppliers surprised the state Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training by submitting a jointly designed plan for approval months ahead of schedule. Ona-based Marco North America Inc. and Beckley-based Hughes Supply Co. say their system meets the state's requirements — a boast

backed by a required confirmation letter from a licensed engineer. Another manufacturer, Elkins-based Hannah Engineering, is putting the final touches on its plan, which features an underground cellular phone system capable of calling not only supervisors on the surface but also numbers hundreds of miles away. And some of the nation's largest mine operators say

they're close to ordering radio-based communications systems. State mine safety chief Ron Wooten says he's certain the industry will be ready by summer. "There's been considerable progress," he said. Randy Harris, Wooten's engineering consultant, says Friday's early submission was a surprise. He expects four or five more within the next few months.

Most of the planned systems will be based on what's called leaky feeder technology that links hand-held radios through cables stretched through strategic areas of mines and boosted with antennas. "It's a proven technology," Harris said. "It's just never been used in the manner that we're talking about having it used." The gear also is tough, if installed carefully and thoroughly. Harris says a system installed at International Coal

Group's Sycamore Mine No. 2 in Harrison County proved that. Scott Depot-based ICG closed Sycamore because of continual rock falls and other problems, but the communications system worked even after a cable took a direct hit from a sport-utility vehicle-sized rock, he said. "You had reduced signal strength, but you could still talk on the radio," Harris said. "A leaky feeder system with some forethought will most likely survive all but the most catastrophic accidents."

components made primarily in the U.S., making availability and service easier, Hughes said. "You're looking at two small, West Virginia companies here and really the only foreign-made products here will be the Kenwood radios." They've also got customers. ICG and Richmond, Va.-based Massey Energy Co., the nation's fourth largest coal producer based on revenue, have placed orders. Besides selling equipment, Hughes walks customers through the process of designing systems that meet the state's requirements. "Let us submit a plan before you actually buy a system," Hughes said. While he and Murray are reluctant to talk specific prices because mines vary so widely, they say systems will cost in the \$100,000 range for most mines.

Hannah Engineering owner Dewayne Hannah says his system, which will be submitted soon for state approval, uses much more advanced communications technology, akin to cellular telephones. Hannah is also nearly ready to seek approval from the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration to allow the equipment in coal mines, he said. MSHA certifies certain types of mining equipment as intrinsically safe — meaning they won't cause methane gas explosions — but doesn't require vendors to prove their gear works. West Virginia, on the other hand, is requiring vendors to demonstrate the equipment provides two-way communications and continual tracking of miners underground.

One recent demonstration by Hannah included telephone calls patched through to regular phone lines in West Virginia, Alabama and Pennsylvania. "We have phones that work," said Hannah. "We have shown that the technology indeed works."

Council

derogatory term in a phone call to one of Branham's secretaries. After council member B.D. Nunnery requested that the discussion get back to the business at hand, Mayor Fannin said he introduced the ordinance originally in an effort to give the council a greater opportunity to work together in the decision-making process, but that the power to have the final say in who sits on certain boards has rested in his hands in the past. Council member Gorman Collins said he did not believe the issue at hand should be a divisive one, while Branham said without amending the ordinance to give council members the final say, the council would not be able to help the city in the ways it should. "I don't see Congress going out and asking President Bush to say 'How do you want to set them up?'" Branham said. After the ordinance was amended, the animosity dissipated and the remainder of the meeting centered on leasing, building bids and an Equine Center contract at Stone Crest Golf Course. The first motion

before the board focused on small changes in the course's lease, including dissolution of a mandatory \$100 cleanup fee for groups who hold parties at the course, and a call for an end to a mandatory rule making the operation of a beverage cart be in operation every day, which is not exceptionally profitable throughout the week. The motion was passed by a 7-1 vote, paving the way for the golf course to contract with a grill operator in time for the course's season opening, tentatively set for April 1. Bids for the Stone Crest baseball fields were brought up, but discussion on the topic was tabled because Fannin said the council's hands are tied until the county fiscal court takes up the matter at its March meeting. The meeting ended after a unanimous vote to have city attorney Jim Webb draft and send a letter to all parties involved in a proposed Stone Crest Equine Center, declaring a previously agreed upon contract null and void due to the fact that no funds pledged by those involved have been received.

Roundup

oxycodone and methadone to undercover agents. "I don't know why after we've arrested hundreds of people for these crimes that people would risk it and continue to sell drugs," Blackburn said. The arrests on Monday raised the number of people suspected drug dealers charged with drug-trafficking in Floyd County in the last two weeks to eight (three were charged Feb. 9, all five were on Monday). Blackburn said the attorney general's office has been instrumental in helping stem the flow of illegal drugs throughout the county and state by providing local law enforcement officials with the tools needed to better investigate drug dealers. "Anytime you get a drug dealer off the street it makes the county safer," Blackburn said. Also arrested and charged with one count of trafficking in a controlled substance were Dannie Bentley, 54, of Prestonsburg, Stefan Jervis,

45, of Prestonsburg, and Heather Castle, 21, of Eastern. Music faces two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, while David Paul Ousley, 41, of Paintsville, was charged with one count of trafficking in a controlled substance and one count of trafficking in a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school. The drug trafficking charges are Class D felonies, punishable by one to five years in prison. "Thanks to the teamwork between the sheriff's office and our agents, five more drug dealers are off the streets," said Attorney General Greg Stumbo. "If these suspects weren't selling drugs to KBI agents or the Floyd County sheriff's deputies, they would have been selling to our neighbors and children."

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Alice Daniel

Another close one gets away from Lady Bears

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE - In a year where it seems he can't get a break, another one went the wrong way for Pikeville College Lady Bear coach Bill Watson.

Trailing 69-67 with three seconds left, senior Tonya Amburgey missed the front end of two free throws, then, trying to

miss the second saw it bounce high off the rim and fall through to make it a one-point game but give Campbellsville the ball back, where they made two free throws to make the final score 71-68 Saturday afternoon.

Pikeville got a 22-foot three-point shot by sophomore Alice Daniel, but it was blocked by senior Megan Overton to pre-

serve the win.

For Campbellsville, it sent the Lady Tigers to 14-13 overall and 3-5 in the Mid-South Conference in the final season of play for Coach Donna Wise.

Pikeville, meanwhile, fell to 8-20 overall and winless in eight league games, losing 20 games for only the second time in school history.

Early on it appeared Campbellsville would run away from its host, jumping out to a 24-5 lead after back-to-back threes by Overton and Julie Brown with 10:54 left in the first half.

Pikeville rallied, however, with sophomore Alice Daniel leading the way. The

(See **LADY BEARS**, page two)

Leslie holds off P'burg

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HYDEN - Prestonsburg was unable to put together its third straight win on Friday night. The injury-plagued Lady Blackcats, however, managed to make one of the 14th Region's top girls' basketball teams work hard for a win. Host Leslie County turned back Prestonsburg, beating the Lady Blackcats 55-49.

"It was the best we've played since the injuries," Prestonsburg Coach Jack Pack commented. "I was pleased with the way we played."

Prestonsburg nearly matched Leslie County point for point in the first eight minutes. Leslie

(See **LESLIE**, page two)



photo by Jamie Howell

Prestonsburg senior Chayse Martin looked to go up strong with an attempt in Friday night's game against East Ridge.

Pirates upend Allen Central

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

EASTERN - Allen Central had its six-game winning streak snapped Friday night when Belfry visited J.E. Campbell Arena for a late regular-season matchup. The Pirates outscored Allen Central in each of the last three quarters and pulled away to win 70-57.

The win was Belfry's sixth consecutive. The Pirates haven't lost since falling to Phelps on

(See **REBELS**, page two)

Lady Rebs struggle, fall to Greenup

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

GREENUP - Six-foot-one senior center Sara Sexton scored a game-high 21 points and teammate Cari Berry added 16 as Greenup County turned back Allen Central on Friday night. The Lady Musketeers rolled to a 68-22 win over the Lady Rebels.

Greenup County blanked Allen Central in the opening quarter, outscoring the Lady Rebels 13-0. The Lady

(See **LADY REBS**, page two)

Vance leads P'burg over East Ridge

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG - It didn't take the Prestonsburg Blackcats long to shake off a Floyd County Conference/58th District loss to the Allen Central Rebels. Prestonsburg returned to the win column on Friday night - one night after falling to Allen Central - with a 70-62 win over the East Ridge Warriors.

After Prestonsburg and East Ridge exited the first quarter of Friday night's game tied at 11-11, the Blackcats went on to lead at the end of all of the other rest stops.

Senior Mason Vance led a very balanced Prestonsburg scoring effort with a team-high 17 points.

"Mason came in and gave us a big lift," said Prestonsburg Coach Jackie

Day Crisp. "It was a good win for us."

Jordan Hall added 10 points for Prestonsburg. Four different Blackcats posted double-digit scoring totals. Chayse Martin tossed in 12 points and Trevor Patton netted 10 for host Prestonsburg.

The Blackcats led 30-24 at the half.

The win was Prestonsburg's 10th of the season. The Blackcats improved to 10-13 with the victory.

Bobby Hughes scored seven points, Nathaniel Stephens had six and Taylor Clark added five for the Blackcats.

Prestonsburg opened the second half in solid fashion, outscoring East Ridge 18-14 in the third quarter.

Jordan Mullins led East Ridge

(See **BLACKCATS**, page two)

PRESTONSBURG BLACKCATS BUSY FINAL WEEK OF REGULAR-SEASON

Tuesday:
at Paintsville
(score unavailable)

Wednesday:
at Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday:
Hazard, 7:30 p.m.

Friday:
Belfry, 7:30 p.m.

Valley routs Raiders

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HI HAT - Shelby Valley remained undefeated in the 15th Region following Friday night's road game at South Floyd's Raider Arena. The Wildcats held host South Floyd to just nine points in the first half and defeated the Raiders 70-31.

Ashley Hatfield paced Shelby Valley with a game-high 16 points. Three of Hatfield's teammates joined him in double figures. Logan Bryant and Jonah Justice each had 12 points for the

(See **RAIDERS**, page three)



HONORED: The University of Kentucky football team was honored by the Kentucky Senate and Kentucky House of Representatives on Friday at the state capitol in Frankfort. State Senator Johnny Ray Turner, a Floyd Countian, is pictured on the far left.

Lady Eagles claim top seed in KIAC

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE - The 2007 Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Tournament pairings were set Sunday night. All games for the tournament will be held Feb. 22-24 at HOOPS in Jeffersonton. The winner of the tournament will get an automatic bid to the 32-team NAIA Division II Women's Basketball National Championship Tournament in Sioux City, Iowa, March 7-

13. Alice Lloyd (15-11, 9-1 in the KIAC) clinched the top seed over IU-Southeast (20-7, 9-2). In a tiebreaker, Asbury (12-13, 2-9) won over Midway (10-20, 2-9) after a coin flip for fifth and sixth places.

The Alice Lloyd Lady Eagles, under the guidance of head coach David Adams, made a great turnaround following a challenging 2005-06 campaign.

Quarterfinal play will take place on Thursday. Second seeded IU Southeast faces up

against seventh-seeded St. Louis College of Pharmacy (4-18, 0-6) at 4 p.m. Third-seeded Berea (19-7, 7-3) will take on sixth-seeded Midway at 6 p.m. For the nightcap, fourth-seeded Spalding (7-22, 6-5) will face fifth seeded Asbury at 8 p.m.

The tournament semifinals on Friday will match the IU Southeast/STLCOP winner against Berea/Midway winner at 6 p.m. Alice Lloyd will play the Spalding/Asbury winner at 8 p.m. The championship game is set for Saturday night at 8 p.m.

Harvick wins Daytona 500

by JENNA FRYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — So focused was Mark Martin on hard-charging Kevin Harvick, he had no inkling of the chaos unfolding behind him.

With less than a mile to go in the Daytona 500, Kyle Busch's car was spinning. Clint Bowyer's was upside down and on fire. Five other cars bumped and banged, careening into one another in a smoke-filled mass of twisted metal.

With the checkered flag in sight, Martin simply came up short — a mere length of a car hood — in a wild, wreck-filled finish.

Harvick beat the sentimental favorite to win NASCAR's premier race Sunday, six years to the day after Dale Earnhardt was killed on the final lap. Just days after his death, it was Harvick who was hired to replace him, and he rewarded Richard Childress with the car owner's second Daytona 500 victory — Earnhardt won the other in 1998.

"This had to be the wildest Daytona 500 I've ever watched," Childress said. "I kept my eyes shut there for a little while it was so wild."

It took several moments for NASCAR to declare the winner, finally giving it to Harvick and spoiling what would have been the biggest victory of the 48-year-old Martin's career.

"I really wanted to win that thing," Martin said. "They were going to have to pry it out of my fingers, man."

Harvick did just that, never letting off the gas as he charged from 29th to first in 22 laps.

"My go-kart experience over the winter paid off, because I didn't let off the floor and we just kept hitting things and the wall and bouncing off everything," Harvick said. "But man, this is the Daytona 500. Can you believe it?"

After a cheating scandal nearly ruined the Great American Race, it was just the finish NASCAR needed to put racing back in the spotlight.

Five teams were busted for breaking the rules during Speedweeks — including two-time winner Michael Waltrip, who broke the NASCAR code by tampering with his fuel before qualifying and humiliated Toyota in its Nextel Cup debut.

The scandal put the sport in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons, and NASCAR ratcheted up its penalty process to prevent its biggest race from turning into a joke.

Finishes like this one might fix everything.

"Anytime there's a good race on the racetrack, it helps mend things," Harvick said. "But I think it's still going to take a little bit to get over some of the issues that happened."

For at least one night, the talk will be of the victory Martin had in his sight and the way Harvick yanked it from him.

Martin, making his 23rd attempt at a 500 win, could see the checkered flag when Harvick barreled along the outside of him. Just as Harvick pushed into the lead, Busch wiggled behind them and bumped into Matt Kenseth to start a melee.

Kenseth was spinning and Greg Biffle was, too. Bowyer flipped onto his roof and through the grass, flames shooting through the windshield.

But Harvick and Martin continued to race side by side, waiting for NASCAR to call for a caution. When it finally came, Harvick and Martin were at the finish line, and Harvick was just barely ahead. The winning margin was .123 seconds, and NASCAR had to review the tape just to be sure who was going to Victory Lane.

Harvick never doubted the outcome.

"I got so excited at the end of the race, and I knew we had won," he said. "I just didn't realize how excited I was, and I punched the dang mirror out of the car. Just overexcited, I guess. Knocked the mirror right out."

Martin finished second, followed by Jeff Burton, Harvick's teammate, and Mike Wallace, who raced his way

into the 500. Fifth place was rookie David Ragan, the kid who replaced Martin when he left Roush Racing this winter after 19 seasons.

Martin left the powerhouse Roush team because he wanted to ease his way into retirement, and he got the opportunity to do it with a partial schedule at Ginn Racing — a second-tier team bought last year by a Florida land developer trying to satisfy his love of NASCAR.

The decision was questioned by those who wondered if Bobby Ginn could give the ultra-competitive Martin cars capable of winning.

Boy, did he ever. "I haven't even seen the finish. It is what it is," Martin said. "We were inches or feet or whatever. We were short. It was so close, but it was second. I let it slip away, slip through my fingers, and I'm fine with that. I am very proud of what this team did for me this weekend."

Martin led 26 laps and was out front when a five-car accident brought racing to a standstill with five laps to go. It made for an agonizing 11 minutes, 39 seconds for Martin, who sat idly in his car trying to plot his strategy during the stoppage.

When racing resumed with two laps to go, Martin seemingly needed only to hold off Busch in a sprint to the finish. He weaved high and then low to block Busch's attempts, which may have briefly distracted him from Harvick.

Before the frantic finish, the race was shaping up to be a fight between Tony Stewart and Kurt Busch, who combined to lead 130 of the 200

laps. But they wrecked each other while leading the race with 48 laps to go.

Stewart was leading coming out of the fourth turn when his Chevrolet wiggled just a bit. Busch, closing fast, couldn't avoid running into Stewart's bumper, and both cars careened into the outside wall.

Busch, who led 95 laps in his bid to give car owner Roger Penske his first Daytona 500 win, was heartbroken.

"We both got taken out of the Daytona 500 on my mistake," he said from inside his car. "I made the first mistake. I apologize to (Stewart), but I know that doesn't mean anything now."

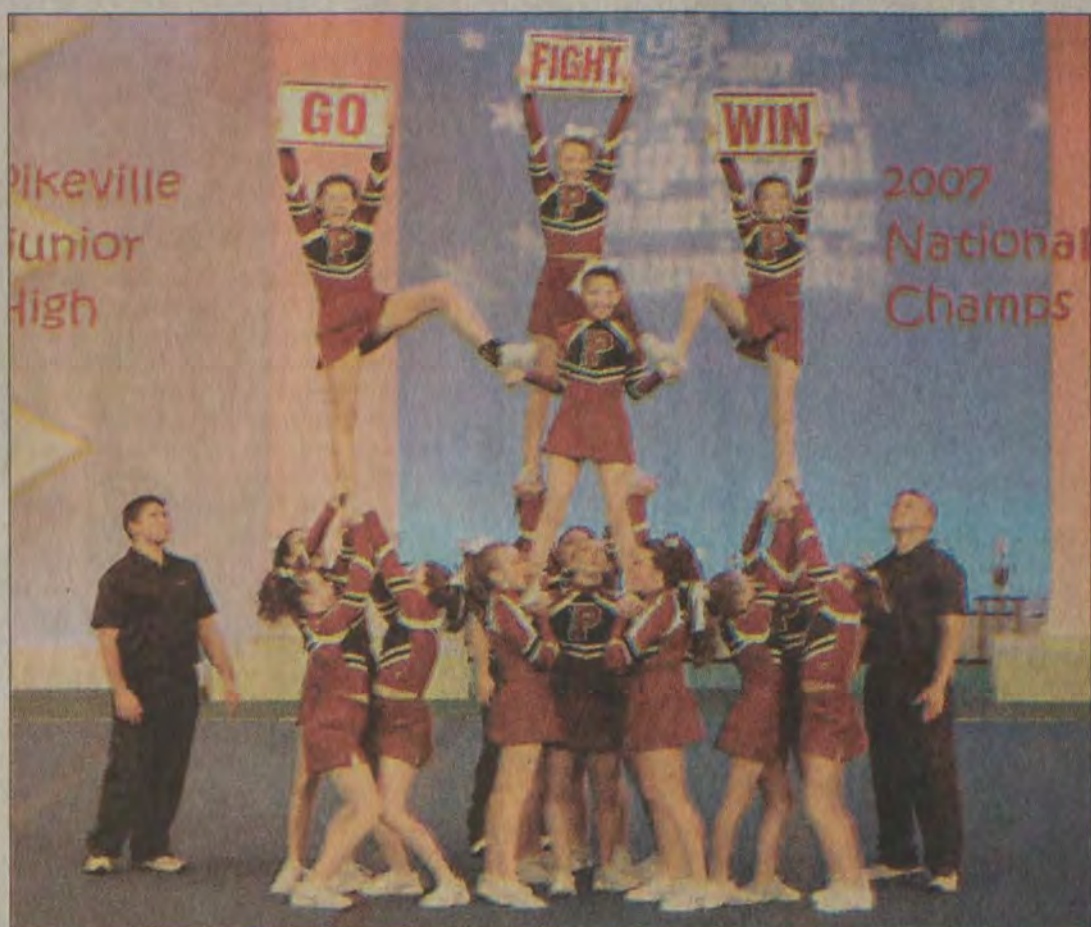
Stewart, who led early but dropped to the back of the field after a pit road miscue, led 35 laps and just had surged back to the front when he wrecked.

It dropped Stewart to 0-for-9 in Daytona 500s, a streak he was determined to snap when he reported to Speedweeks intent on adding the race to his impressive resume. After winning the Budweiser Shootout exhibition race and a qualifying event Thursday, Stewart had established himself as the favorite and said he'd trade all 11 of his Daytona victories to just win the 500 once.

It appeared to be his race to lose, and he knew it — saying on pit road before the start "this is the best chance I've ever had, the best car I've ever had."

He was surprisingly calm and collected after wrecking.

"It just wasn't meant to be today," he said with a smile. "I'm still disappointed, but we've got a lot to be proud of. We had an awesome Speedweeks."



CHAMPIONS: The Pikeville Junior High cheerleading squad is pictured during its 2 1/2 minute routine at the UCA Nationals in Orlando, Fla. The squad won the national championship in the Small Junior High Division. The 16-member competition squad includes three Floyd Countians Kathleen Smith, Hannah Harris, and Randa McGuire, all of whom are students at Pikeville Junior High.



The Prestonsburg High School Varsity Cheerleaders held their annual Basketball Youth Cheer Clinic Saturday. The Prestonsburg High cheerleading squad recently captured a 15th Region championship and will cheer at the state competition this upcoming Saturday in Richmond at ECU's McBrayer Arena.

photo by Jamie Howell

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PC baseball team opens season with snowy tie

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — If Don Ashby coaches Pikeville College baseball for 50 years, it's highly doubtful he'll ever forget his very first game.

Mother Nature's interference caused the Ashby era of Pikeville College Baseball to get started with a 7-7 tie against the University of Rio Grande after 10 innings at Davis Park Saturday afternoon.

The bitter cold did not seem to bother the Bears early on, as Rio's Nate Chau uncorked a wild pitch, scoring senior Adam Collins (Paintsville) with the game's first run in the bottom of the second.

After Rio answered with a run in the top of the third, the Bears responded in force. With two men out and a runner on first, sophomore Ryan Bartolon (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio)

drilled an offspeed pitch into the alley in left-center, scoring junior John Williamson (Canada) with the go-ahead run.

Next up was sophomore Obed Quiles (Naranjito, Puerto Rico), who hit a roller to third. Rio's Kyle Moore came up with it and made an off-balanced throw to first which scooted into right field, scoring Bartolon. With Quiles on second and still two down, sophomore catcher Josh Adams (Pikeville) fought off an 0-2 pitch for a single, scoring Quiles and making it a 4-1 Bears lead.

But as the snow started to fall on Davis Park and the temperature began to plummet, the Bears' bats also went cold. Rio quickly tied the game in the top of the fourth, taking advantage of an error by Adams and chasing Bears starter Jordan Compton (Bee, Va.). The Redmen

would add another run in the sixth, and two more in the seventh, pushing their lead to 7-4.

The Bears were down to their final three outs, as freshman Nathan Free (Kingsport, Tenn.) opened the inning with a bullet that found the glove of shortstop Kenta Sato for the first out. But the Bears would soon get a break of their own, as back-to-back walks, sandwiched between a wild pitch, put runners on the corners with one down.

Another wild pitch allowed Williamson to score, making it a 7-5 ballgame. Two batters later, Adams again came through with a double into the gap, scoring Bartolon and Quiles and tying the game at seven apiece.

Rio went to the pen and, after a walk a fielder's choice to load the bases, got a big strikeout from lefty

reliever Brandon Russell, sending the game into extra innings.

As the game continued into extra frames, the snow continued to pound the field. In the bottom of the 10th, with the game still nodded at 7-7, the Bears appeared to finally send the chilled fans home happy, as they put runners on the corners with two men out.

But Russell managed to strikeout Williamson, ending the threat, and ultimately ending the game, which was called a tie on account of the ever-increasing snowfall.

"It would have been nice to get both games in," said Ashby. "But I still think this was good for us. We haven't been in cold weather much, and I think we competed, regardless of the cold and snow.

"Sure, there were things we needed to work on, but we're happy with

the effort today, especially from our pitchers, even if it goes in the books as a tie."

The bullpen had a strong showing for the Bears, giving up three earned runs and only five hits, while striking out five and walking two over 6-1/3 innings.

The Bears' offense was led by Adams, who drove in three of the squad's seven runs. Collins also collected two hits, and Quiles, Bartolon, and Williamson all scored a pair of runs in the effort.

Rio got 6-1/3 out of starter Nate Chau, who gave up six earned runs and five hits, while striking out four and walking five. Reliever Brandon Russell went 3-2/3 scoreless, giving up only three hits.

Sato and Cody Lawhorn both had a pair of hits for the Redmen.

No. 25 Alabama 72, No. 20 Kentucky 61

by JOHN ZENOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — No. 25 Alabama built a big lead and then watched it shrink — a familiar story of late for the Crimson Tide.

This time they tightened up the defense, kept hitting shots and fought off several rallies by No. 20 Kentucky on Saturday for a 72-61 win, handing the Wildcats' their third straight loss.

"We all knew it was a must-win," said the Tide's Richard Hendrix, who had 16 points and nine rebounds. "When they came out and gave us their best shot, we were able to bounce back. We stayed poised and knocked down our shots.

"I think we all feel we're playing our best basketball of late, it's just unfortunate we lost our last two games."

The Tide (19-7, 6-6 Southeastern Conference) never trailed and scored the game's final seven points to avoid blowing a second-half lead for the third straight game.

Quiet for much of the game, Joe Crawford nearly brought Kentucky (18-8, 7-5) back from an 11-point deficit in the final 4:37. He scored 10 of 11 points for the Wildcats, including a 3-pointer that cut Alabama's lead to 65-61 with 1:12 left.

Ronald Steele then hit two free throws and a weird play hurt Kentucky. Ramel Bradley lofted a shot that went in, but the basket was waved off after teammate Randolph Morris accidentally tapped it back out.

"I just hit it inadvertently," Morris said. "I didn't even know that call was possible."

Brandon Hollinger hit two more free throws with 38 seconds left to put the game away.

Alabama had squandered an 18-point first-half lead before losing at No. 1 Florida on Wednesday night and had a similar letdown against Mississippi, but held firm this time.

Steele finished with 15 points and seven assists, and went 3-for-4 from 3-point range in one of his better games this season. Mykal Riley added 12 points.

Crawford had 15 of his 17 points in the second half for the Wildcats, who scored a season-low 22 in the first half. Morris added 15 points and Bradley 12.

Freshman Justin Tubbs had nine points as the Tide's Mark Gottfried inserted a three-guard lineup for long stretches, effectively dealing with Kentucky's full-court pressure.

For the most part, the Tide contained Bradley, Crawford and the rest of Kentucky's outside shooters. The Wildcats

were just 5-of-22 from 3-point range.

That made it hard for Kentucky to complete several comeback attempts.

"We're just not playing the way we should right now," Bradley said. "It's the same pattern, we fall behind and try to come back. Today was even worse."

"We've lost three in a row. It's devastating. We're way, way better than this."

The Wildcats twice cut a 13-point deficit down to two in the second half, the last on Jodie Meeks' basket and free throw to make it 48-46 with 7:28 left.

The Tide scored the next nine points, capped by two big plays from Hendrix. He

grabbed a loose ball around the basket for a dunk and then drove for a reverse layup for the 11-point cushion.

"I thought in the second half we really defended better, and that's something we haven't been doing really well at times this year," Gottfried said.

Kentucky's Tubby Smith pulled forward Bobby Perry from the starting lineup for the first time this season. Sheray Thomas made his third start, but was held scoreless.

The Wildcats also had 17 turnovers, 10 on Alabama steals.

"Turnovers and everything else hurt us in this game," Smith said. "We're trying find a way to win some of these

games. We have a tendency to dig ourselves a hole and then we battle our way back and don't play with the intelligence that we need to play with in clutch situations."

Morris wasn't pleased with his effort or focus. He had seven rebounds and four blocked shots, but committed eight turnovers.

"Obviously it wasn't my day," he said. "I wasn't executing and I wasn't into the game mentally. Turnovers, not being aggressive, just playing lackadaisical."

Alabama is hoping the win will keep the team's season-long presence in the Top 25 intact.

The Wildcats trailed 30-22 at halftime, which represented

a comeback from a horrible start.

Kentucky's only field goal of the first 9:55 was a break-away dunk by Ramon Harris. The Wildcats got few open looks at the basket in a 1-for-9 shooting start to fall behind 15-2.

Bradley hit a 3-pointer and another long jumper in the final 2 minutes for his only points of the half. Alabama didn't make a basket over the final 4 minutes.

But again, the Wildcats were left frustrated by their performance and tired of offering excuses.

"We know we're better, but talk is cheap," Morris said. "You can't just say it and then keep playing the way we are."

Eagles edge Berea 59-56

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIPPA PASSES — Rodney Mitchell scored a game-high 16 points and Shawn Newsome added 15 as host Alice Lloyd put together a 59-56 win over Berea Saturday at Grady Nutt Athletic Center.

William Dillard came in off of the bench and added 10 points for Alice Lloyd. Corey Hairston and Preston Simon each had 10 points for the Eagles. Simon is in his second season with Alice Lloyd following a successful prep career at Betsy Layne High School.

The Eagles won, despite being outrebounded 42-20.

Alice Lloyd clung to a 27-26 lead at halftime. The Eagles forced Berea into committing 17 turnovers. The Eagles only had nine turnovers in the late regular-season matchup.

Thomas Klimas led Berea with a double-double of 15 points and 12 rebounds.



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FLOYD COUNTY
Lifestyles

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KIM'S KORNER

Is Rehab really the new Fab?

By: Kim Little Frasure

With the likes of Brittany Spears, Lindsay Lohan, and the continuing investigation into Anna Nicole Smith aka Vicki Marshall's death one has to wonder what on earth are these celebrities thinking?

With every flick of the remote, Anna Nicole's mysterious death is



Kim Little Frasure

either the top leading story-line or soon thereafter. The past few weeks we've watched as Lindsay Lohan has walked in and out of rehab like a shopping center, and now reports are flashing

Brittany Spears entered a rehab only to check out the very next day.

Then she shaves her head bald and heads to the nearest tattoo parlor for a dainty wrist tattoo of lips and another on her hip?

Have the paparazzi driven these ladies to pure loss of mind or is checking into rehab becoming the new fad? It was good enough for Miss USA Tara Conner after all, to totally disrespect the rules and regulations that go along with holding such a coveted title that has promoted goal oriented women whom strive to improve the lives of others for the past 50 years.

(See **KORNER**, page eight)

POISON OAK

Looking through Papaw's glasses

by Clyde Pack

A month or so ago I read an essay about the grandson of an old gentleman who had recently passed away. When the boy's father was going



Clyde Pack

through the old man's belongings, he asked the boy if there was anything that had belonged to the grandfather, the boy would like to keep as a final remembrance.

"Yes," the boy answered, "I'd like to have Papaw's glasses."

As the father complied with the boy's request, curiosity got the best of him and he asked, "Why on earth would a young boy like you want a pair of old glasses?" "Well," the boy answered, "I want to see the world like Papaw saw it."

The essay ended there, but the sentiment seems to have plastered itself to the walls of my memory, and every once in a while it pops into my mind when I think of my own grandfather, Liss Baldrige.

My dad's father died when dad was 14 years old, so I never knew him. But Papaw Baldrige, who was Mom's dad, and whose full name was Ulysses Simpson Grant Baldrige (his neighbors down on Hammond Creek called him "Uncle Liss") died in 1963. Although before reading that essay I had never thought of him in that light before, perhaps it wouldn't have been such a bad idea if I had viewed my journey into adulthood as he would have seen it.

One thing he had that I certainly need to work on, was his optimism. The old cliché, "If someone gives you

(See **OAK**, page seven)



The old three-room schoolhouse at Melvin, Old Glory, and students and teachers from years past.



Some early Floyd Countians taking a rest by the water pump at the old Melvin grade school.

The Little School At Melvin

By Ralph Hall

I woke up at 7 a.m. today. It is the first day of school and I am in the second grade. I am seven years old. Today the little school is going to be filled with both laughter and crying. I love school and can't wait to get there, because the teacher may read us a poem, or a story from one of the "Little House" books written by Laura Ingles. I am counting the minutes until I hear mother call, "Ralph it's time to go to school."

Finally, mother did say, "Ralph, it's time to head up the tracks for school," so I picked up my writing tablet and pencil from the kitchen table and headed out the door. "School takes up at 8:15, and as slow as you are I don't want you to be late." It was only 7:45, but Mother knew I liked to take my time. She was a-talking about how I liked to stop to talk with everyone I ran into on the way there.

As I left my yard, that lazy old hound dog, "Sooner," took off up the tracks right behind me. I kept saying, "Go home, you stupid old hound dog," but he just kept right on behind me. Just acted like he didn't understand a word I was saying, so I picked me up some rocks and whizzed me one of them rocks straight at him. Well, then he just went off the tracks and laid in the weeds. I guess that's what he wanted to do, anyway, because that's what he was best at - laying around.

I thought about my mother and little Muttt back at home. Muttt was about 4 years old and I loved him so much I couldn't stand for the wind to blow on him! After all, he was my brother. As I walked up the tracks with nothing better to do, I started counting the ties that ran from my house to the railroad crossing that would take me over into the school yard. I had counted them many times before, and knew that there were 213 ties from my house to the crossing, but it wouldn't hurt me to count them again, I figured. When I got up to Uncle Johnny's mill, I could see the flag, Old Glory, as she flew high on the pole in the schoolhouse bottom. When the school came into full view, it was the windows that I noticed first. For I knew if I got bored before the school day was over, or if I got to day dreaming about home and wondering what we would have for supper, or what little Muttt or old dog Sooner were doing, I would want to go look out them windows.

Well, I got to the schoolhouse at about 8:00 a.m., a few minutes early, but that was okay because all of us kids just stood around in the

schoolyard talking and what-not until one of the teachers came out and rang the bell for what seemed like forever. Then teachers would come out on the steps and ring that bell like they really meant it. I guess they wanted the "ten o'clock scholars" to know that school was starting up and they'd better be hurrying! I knew where the second grade classroom was so I hurried on down there. When I walked into the room, I saw that my Aunt Mellie was going to be my teacher for the year. The smile on my face showed all my teeth, I am sure. Aunt Mellie said, "Welcome to the second grade, children. My name is Mrs. Hall. You all take a seat." We all sat down real fast and then Mrs. Hall said, "We're going to skip singing this morning and find out you who all of you all are."

"Little girl in the first seat, stand up and tell us your name and where you live, please," Aunt Mellie said. The little girl stood right up and said, "My name is Ann, and I live over there across the dirt road in the white house." When it came my turn to tell who I was, I stood up and said, "My name is Ralph Hall and I am going to write poems* when I grow up."

Aunt Mellie, or uh, "Mrs. Hall," answered, "Ralph just give your name and where you live today."

When class got started, my cousin John D. looked over at me and said, "You can't write no poem, Ralph. Why you can't write nothing at all."

"Can too," I cried. "You just wait and see!"

"You two boys be quiet! It's time to get to work," Mrs. Hall said, and so we hushed for the time being. The first class was always reading, after we got our new books. "Ann, you read first," our teacher said. Ann opened her book to the first page and began to read. She read: "See Ben run, see Alice run." I was so happy because a new school year had started and we were in reading class again! I thought to myself, "That old John D., he will see when my turn comes that I can read and write, too!"

When it came my turn to read, I read right up. After each one of us twelve kids in the class had read page one in the book, Mrs. Hall said, "Now children, take out your tablets and pencils for writing class." So I reached into my desk and took out the brand new tablet and pencil that Daddy had sharpened for me before he went off to work over at Weeksbury in the coal camp this morning. Mother had warned me when I was leaving home later that morning

to "not fall on that sharp pencil." "Now," I heard our teacher saying, "you all print what you read on page one." So, I began to print "See Ben run. See Alice run." "I'll show John D.," I thought, "he will see that I can write, after all."

I guess I talked too much, though, because Mrs. Hall was always saying, "Ralph stay in your seat and be quiet for awhile." Every time she would ask a question, I would pop up my hand and say, "Let me answer it, teacher!" I had an answer for everything. Only trouble was, as a rule my answers were wrong.

At school, too much talk gets one in trouble so I stayed in trouble most of the time and got many old-fashion spankings, which actually helped me a lot. It was a hot September day and the sun became very intense at about 1:30 in the afternoon and all of us kids started hollering that we wanted a drink of water. Mrs. Hall said, "Okay, make yourselves a cup and we will go to the hand pump." So we all made us a cup from a sheet of our tablet paper and took off to the pump. As I told you in an earlier story, I drank a lot of ink when I was a kid from making those little paper cups from my tablet paper! The water cooled us down some so we could concentrate a while longer. If fans had been invented at that time, they hadn't made it to our school or to my little house as of yet.

School was about learning so if one of us kids were asked, "What did you learn in school today?" If we said "nothing," our parents would say, "That's why you have to go back tomorrow." Well, the hotter it got, the more I thought about a fishing pole and swimming hole as the days went on. The last class of each day was math, I didn't care what "2 + 2" was, so I started drawing them little stick people with big O's for heads. I never could tell which one of them stick people was Daddy, Mother, Muttt, or for that matter, me. So, I put my mind on ponies and all of the other animals I would have to feed when I got home after school. After what seemed liked 200 years, Mrs. Hall walked out into the schoolyard and rang that bell again. She said, "Don't run children! And be careful as you go down them steps!" No one seemed to pay much attention for we all took off at a run to the door. Two little girls fell on the schoolhouse steps, or were pushed, maybe. When we made it to the schoolyard, we started running in every direction toward all the different

(See **MELVIN**, page seven)

CRITTER CORNER

Become a volunteer at your local animal shelter

Many Americans are attempting to answer President George W. Bush's call to volunteer as a part of a "new culture of responsibility." One of the best places to volunteer may be right near you: an animal shelter or animal protection organization.

Whether you walk dogs at your shelter, stuff envelopes for an educational mailing or assist with a fund-raising event, you can make a difference in the lives of animals. When you give animals the gift of your time, you'll get back as much as you give, maybe even more.

To learn about volunteer opportunities with your local animal organizations, check the Yellow Pages in your area under the headings "animal shelter," "humane society," and "animal control." Contact each

group directly to learn about volunteer needs and opportunities.

Here are just a few of the benefits of volunteering:

- Becoming a part of the solution. You'll join a network of hundreds of thousands of people working to make the world safe and more humane for all living creatures. You'll also make the jobs of everyone working for animals a little easier by lending a hand and spreading the message of responsible pet ownership.
- Get warm fuzzies. You'll never find a more grateful and accepting comrade than an animal you have comforted. Who can't use another loyal support in life?
- Keep good company. You'll make lots of new friends and not just the four-legged kind. Working side by side with people who share similar interests can forge lifelong friendships.
- Meet the new you. You'll discover skills you never knew you had, and you

(See **CRITTER**, page seven)



This beautiful baby, Anna Dallia, belongs to Tish and Michele of Webster County, WV. Dallia is the typical spoiled baby of the family. She loves to play and explore and be the boss of the house. She loves her two big sisters, Puff and Boo, and wants to do everything that they do. Dallia is blessed to have been found by the road and given to such a loving family who gladly welcomed her into their home.

Yesterdays

dust from the mid-west specked the atmosphere here, last week, Floyd County residents were reminded of televised scenes of the scorched, cracked earth of other states...Prestonsburg residents will be paying 20 cents per thousand cubic feet more for natural gas, burned after today, the City Utility Commission announced Monday...Secondary roads are in "terrible" condition, members of the fiscal court were told at their meeting here, Monday morning, and they moved to allocate gravel for each of the county's four magisterial districts...The Water Gap-Bull Creek Water District was presented, last week, by the Prestonsburg office of the Farmers Home Administration, a letter setting the conditions that the district must meet to assure federal funding in the amount of \$571,000 for construction of a water distribution system in its area...KY 292, in Martin County, has suffered a battering by the weather, nobody has done anything to repair it, and, as a result, it was blocked for more than an hour, Monday, by protesting coal truckers and their friends...Without waiting to see if its location will be chosen by the five counties of the Big Sandy Area Development District for a regional airport, Pike County is ready to begin work on the site at Cowpen...There died: Virgil Smallwood, 69, of Bevinville, February 23, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Ballard Thompson, 71, of Martin, February 27, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Lealie Blair, 60, of Martin, February 20, at a hospital in Willard, O.; Sally H. Smith, 68, of Wheelwright, February 26, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital; Burlie Shepherd, 78, formerly of Hueysville, February 24, at a nursing home in Kendallville, Ind.; Sue Allen Crowder, 66, of Mayfield, February 15, at a hospital in Wichita, Falls, Tex.; Sadie Moore Hall, 59, of Bevinville, March 1, at her home.

Forty Years Ago (March 2, 1967)

As of Wednesday morning, the beginning of a new month, Floyd County, had 464 men in the Work Experience & Training (Happy Pappy) program, but it is fairly certain this number will be reduced by April 1, because of a cut in federal funds...The political pot, slow to heat this year, began simmering within the week, as new candidates entered the primary campaign; a move was reported to be afoot to remove one major candidate; and yet another moved into this county, in preparation for the primary battle...The Betsy Layne High School gym was destroyed by fire, last Thursday afternoon, within an hour after school had recessed for the day, and the high school structure itself was damaged...The newly-organized Floyd County Masonic Officers' Association at its meeting, Sunday afternoon, elected officers to serve for a one-year term...The 58th district basketball tournament got off to a four-night stand, here, Wednesday night, with a near-capacity crowd on hand for the first round...Married: Miss Ruie Berniece Horton, of Grayson, and Mr. Emery Gayle Colvin, of Prestonsburg, Feb. 10, at the Irene Cole Memorial Baptist Church, here...There died: Elder William Sherman Gilliam, 78, of Bypro, Friday, at a Louisville hospital; Michael Anthony Boyd, 15, of Allen, Sunday, at a Frankfort hospital; Bill Bailey Moore, 61, of Harold, Friday, at the Williamson (W.Va.) Appalachian Regional Hospital; Burlie Beckham Hunter, 63, former Martin barber, last Wednesday, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin; Roy David Souleyrette, 55, of Wheelwright, last Wednesday, in a slatefall in an Island Creek mine at Buckingham; W. H. Sexton, 64, formerly of Wayland, Feb. 11, at his

home in Arcadia, California.

Fifty Years Ago (March 6, 1957)

The Floyd County Health Department and assisting agencies, here, during the recent flood emergency, have administered 35,000 typhoid shots, according to M. V. Clarke, county health administrator...Floyd County schools lost, in the recent flood, 10,809 textbooks, valued at \$13,986.17. V.O. Turner, county superintendent of schools, said this week...Three flood debris dump sites to serve this county, are now being used by the Civil Defense, it was announced, Tuesday, by M. V. Clarke, health administrator...Red Cross disaster headquarters for Floyd County, announced, with the closing of applications on March 4, that 956 families have applied for Red Cross assistance...The Prestonsburg City Council enacted an ordinance at its Monday evening meeting, increasing garbage collection fees. Fees for collection from residences will be increased from 50 cents to \$1.00 a month...Grady Wallace, of Mare Creek, and former Betsy Layne High School net star, this week became the first basketball player from this area, to be named an all-American...Married: Miss Florence Billiter, of Martin, and Mr. John F. Anderson, of McDowell, Feb. 16, at the home of the bride's brother, in Allen; Miss Phyllis Deen Martin, of Hi Hat, and Mr. Donald Gene Moore, of Orkney, Dec. 27, at the bride's home...Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Billy D. Hale, of Prestonsburg, a daughter, Cynthia Elizabeth, Feb. 15...There died: James Horn, 88, last Wednesday, at his home at Brainard; Bee Hayes, 81, of Maytown, last Thursday, at the home of a sister; Melvin Carroll, 71, recently at home at Alphoretta; Raymond Ousley, 50, of Willard, O., formerly of this coun-

ty, Sunday, at Toledo, O.; Lewis Bentley, 56, formerly of Floyd County, Tuesday, of last week, at a Huntington hospital; Mrs. Lillie Smith Rainey, 66, of Wheelwright, Wednesday, at the Methodist Hospital, Pikeville.

Monday, at the Stumbo Memorial Hospital, Lackey; Mrs. Eula M. Stanley Conley, 26, at home at Garrett, Tuesday night; Sam Kimanska, 42, last Thursday, at his home in Martin; Arthur Lee, 10-day-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Kingsley, of Osborn, at the Gearheart Hospital, Martin, Friday.

Sixty Years Ago (February 27, 1947)

The Princess Elkhorn Coal Company's No. 1 mine, at David, is strikebound for the second week, with approximately 280 men idle since Monday of last week...Crushed by a "trip" of empty cars which ran wild into his "room" of the Inland Steel Company mine at Wheelwright, last Saturday night, George McCarty, 49-year-old miner, was instantly killed...Semi-finals of the VFW basketball tournament, now in progress here, will be played tonight (Thursday), with Garrett meeting Pikeville, and Prestonsburg engaging Betsy Layne...William R. Calliham Jr., of Prestonsburg, has been named chairman of the 1947 Red Cross fund drive...Four Prestonsburg firms burglarized, Tuesday night, were: Cooley's Service Station, the Pure Oil Service Station, at the corner of Broadway and Richmond, the Cooley Motor Company, and the newsstand of F. D. Ward...Married: Miss Sadie Pitts and Mr. Columbus Shepherd, of David, Saturday, here; Miss Betty Castle and Mr. Arnold Triplett, of David, Jan. 25, at Paintsville; Miss Myrtle Lewis and Mr. Clarence W. Clark, of Mare Creek, Feb. 10...Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Joe A. Spradlin, of Prestonsburg, a son—Joe Spradlin Jr.—Feb. 15, at the Prestonsburg General Hospital; to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ousley, of Maytown, a son—Gary Randall; to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Morrow, of Betsy Layne, a son—Gary Eugene, Feb. 8, at the Methodist Hospital, Pikeville...There died: Mrs. Nelle Davis Wicker, 82, of Lackey,

Seventy Years Ago (February 26, 1937)

The highway department, this week, is surveying the Mayo Trail, from Paintsville to Louisa, in preparing to give the 26-mile stretch a high-type surface, in accordance with Federal Bureau of Roads specifications...Following the dynamiting of a tractor, February 17, a result of the dispute between teamsters and the field officials of the Inland Gas Corporation, the company has abandoned further construction of a 12-mile Lackey-to-Hindman pipeline, pending an investigation by federal authorities...A ten-ton suspension bridge, to be built at Banner, is now being advertised for bids by the Floyd Fiscal Court...Residents from all sections of eastern Kentucky, and northern Virginia, will meet at Pikeville, Saturday, to form an organization to push the proposed game preserve and park, at the Breaks of the Big Sandy, in Kentucky and Virginia...The purchase of the Eagle Bus Line by the Sparks Bros. Bus Company, of Prestonsburg, was announced here, this week...Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Howard, of Prestonsburg, a son—Donald Lee—February 18; to Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Neeley, of Prestonsburg, a son—Carlos Edward—February 7...There died: Solomon Perry, 18, of West Prestonsburg, at the Stumbo Memorial Hospital, February 18.

Oak

Continued from p5

lemons, make lemonade," could have been his motto. I didn't spend a great deal of time with him when I was growing up, but I can't ever recall seeing him in a bad mood. Regardless of the adversity he faced, he always had a sparkle in his steel-blue eyes, and although most of his life he was what some would have called "dirt poor," he seemed to always see his cup as half full, instead of half empty. Papaw Baldridge did indeed wear glasses—at least to read by—and if

some relative of mine somewhere still has them, I hope they're looking at life as he did. Wouldn't it be a wonderful legacy if my own grandson would some day aspire to look at his life, as I have looked at mine? It's an humbling thought, but if little Owen William Pack could someday remember me, as I remember Papaw Baldridge, I would forever be drinking from my saucer, for my cup would runneth over.

Critter

Continued from p5

may be surprised at what you're capable of achieving. Gain a new career. You'll learn things that may lead you to the career or career change of your dreams. Employers and college admissions officers look favorably on time spent in volunteer service.

Enjoy a wagging tail, a purr, and a smile. Didn't someone once say that the best things in life are free? For more information on animal organizations, visit www.hsus.org (The Humane Society of the United States).

Melvin

Continued from p5

hollers. We took off for Hen Pen, Muddy Gut, and Tackett Holler and down the tracks for Melvin, and Abner Mountain. Some of the kids ran down the dirt road, kicking up dust as they ran. I made my way down them tracks as fast as my feet would carry me toward our little home, Mother, Mutt and old Sooner. I wanted to see mutt so I could tell him about the "Little House on Plum Creek" story that Mrs. Hall had read to us that day. It was from the Laura Ingles books, just like I had hoped for. I thought Mutt would understand it because we lived in a little house, too, but on Beaver Creek. When I came into the house I said, "Hey, Mutt! Where are you, anyway?" Mutt answered back, "In here with Mommy in the kitchen!" I ran into the kitchen and said,

"Hey, Mutt, let me tell you about this little house on Plum Creek!" All he said was, "Ralph, Mommy cooked chicken and apple pie!" Mutt didn't care how many plums there were over there on Plum Creek, he had apple pie on Beaver Creek on his mind! Before I could say another word, Mother said, "I just don't want to hear it, Ralph." I guess the only person who cared about Laura Ingells' stories at my house was me. After I filled my belly with chicken and apple pie, Mother said, "You boys rest for awhile now. Then, in a little bit, Ralph, you go feed the ponies and the cow and Mutt, you feed the chickens and the ducks." Same thing I had done every afternoon of my life. But, as I was feeding the ponies and cows I still



From left to right: Sandi Brooks, Ginger Thacker, and Debbie Hunt of Special Occasions.

Floyd County Chamber Of Commerce welcomes new member: Special Occasions

In February of 2006, three women successfully nurtured a dream into a reality when they opened the doors of their own specialty shop, Special Occasions. For many years, Debbie Hunt, Ginger Thacker, and Sandi Brooks had been using their talents and skills to aid friends and family in planning, organizing, and hosting weddings, birthdays, bridal and baby showers, and anniversaries; however, it was not until each one of them had to plan weddings for their own children did they realize how stressful and time consuming planning a wedding can be for the families of the bride and groom. The main goal of the three has been to help relieve the stress of planning special occasions for all of their clients. At Special Occasions, customers are truly "special." Hard work, devotion, and dedication to the value of customer service are three things in which the staff at Special Occasions prides themselves. They have found a passion and zeal by which they channel their creativity, experience, and skill to

provide the most memorable occasion for brides and grooms, moms and dads to be, happy couples on their anniversaries, and smiling children on their birthdays. However, Debbie, Ginger, and Sandi do not feel as though they have accomplished their dream alone. They give God all the credit for helping them in their business ventures thus far. The three have all been members of Boldman Freewill Baptist Church for most of their lives. They find comfort in the support of their church family and are grateful to have such a warm and friendly church home. All three women agree that their parents have been positive role models by providing them with strong Christian foundations, good work ethics, and the belief in the sanctity of their marriage vows. Debbie, Ginger, and Sandi have all taken these values and applied them to their own lives. Debbie is the wife of evangelist, Jack Hunt. Jack is a sales representative employed by Brandeis Machinery. They recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. They have two daughters Charity and Cara and two granddaughters Emily and Allison. Ginger has been married to her husband, Danny, for 27 years. Danny is a deacon at Boldman Freewill Baptist and an Electrician employed by Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. Ginger also holds a position as a kindergarten aide at Mullins Elementary School. Ginger and Danny's family consists of their two daughters Bethany and Amber, and Bethany's husband, Jared

Arnett. Sandi has been married to her husband, Mike, for 27 years. Mike, who was the owner of Brook's Pharmacy for 17 years, is now employed by Rite Aid and Garry's Pharmacy. Their family consists of their two sons Barrett and Brandt and Barrett's wife Natalie. Special Occasions offers the most diverse rental items along with planning and coordinating services for every occasion from birthdays and graduation parties, to weddings, showers and anniversaries, retirement parties, corporate functions, grand openings, holiday parties, family reunions, and proms. The very heart of Special Occasions beats to assure you that your occasion runs smoothly and allows you to savor every moment of your special day. If you need advice or assistance their skilled professionals can guide you in planning your occasion from start to finish. Special Occasions inventory and services includes, but is not limited to, rental items for all occasions, catering services, home décor, bridal registry, themed and solid colored party supplies, and fresh or artificial floral arrangements. In its first year of business, Special Occasions successfully orchestrated 192 occasions. Debbie, Ginger, and Sandi would like to thank all of their family, close friends, loyal customers, and clients for their support in their first year of business.

Advertisement for Girl Scouts Wilderness Road Council cookies. Text: "It's time for America's Cookies". Includes Girl Scouts logo and contact info: 800-475-2621 www.gswrc.org.

HRMC New Arrivals



- Dec. 4, 2006 A daughter, Courtney Nicole Osborne, to Anthony and Samantha Osborne, of Prestonsburg.
- Jan. 21, 2007 A son, Vincent Travis Bowling, to Elizabeth & Elmer Bowling, of Jackson
- Jan. 21, 2007 A daughter, Madison MacKenzie Little, to Jamie & Ronnie Little, of Partridge
- Jan. 21, 2007 A daughter, Jade Aedamair Josephine Collins, to Hollie Ann Lafferty, of Prestonsburg
- Jan. 21, 2007 A son, Timothy Ray Nolan Brown, to Monica & Kevin Brown, of Langley
- Jan. 23, 2007 A daughter, Destany Rushay Newsome, to Sasha Marie Mills, of Inez
- Jan. 23, 2007 A daughter, Taylor Danielle Sword, to Rita & Roy Sword, of Jackson
- Jan. 23, 2007 A son, Anthony Scott Maynard, to Mary & Scott Maynard, of Paintsville
- Jan. 24, 2007 A son, Talon Alexander Brown, to Sarah & Carl Brown, of Prestonsburg
- Jan. 24, 2007 A son, Michael William Swope, to Stacey Lynn Stovall, of Prestonburg
- Jan. 24, 2007 A daughter, Shayna Thomasia JoLynn Carroll, to Kelly & Thomas Carroll, of Grethel
- Jan. 25, 2007 A daughter, Katie MacKenzie Turner, to Rebecca & Dennis Turner, of Jackson
- Jan. 25, 2007 A daughter, Selena Hope Newsome, to Kimberly & Larry Newsome Jr., of Hi Hat
- Jan. 25, 2007 A daughter, Abigail Lashay Ratliff, to Leslie & Paul Ratliff, of Flatgap
- Jan. 26, 2007 A daughter, Harley Madison Burchett, to Tristina & James Burchett, of Prestonsburg
- Jan. 26, 2007 A son, Christopher Devon Adams, to Regina Mae Adams, of Hazard
- Jan. 26, 2007 A son, Devin Lee Maynard, to Edna & Herbert Maynard, of Inez
- Jan. 26, 2007 A son, Nathaniel Gregory Barnett, to Kristal & Parnell Barnett, of Hager Hill
- Jan. 26, 2007 A son, Steven Anthony Gevedon, to Lisa Ladale Haney, of Cannel City
- Jan. 29, 2007 A daughter, Rileigh Paige Ramey, to Melinda Hunt, of Riceville
- Jan. 30, 2006 A son, Breland James Tackett, to Rebecca & James Tackett, of Teaberry
- Jan. 31, 2007 A son, Camron Keith Sherington, to Salena Waller, of Martin
- Jan. 31, 2007 A son, Chad Michael Wesley Gibson, to Robin & Chad Gibson, of Pinetop
- Feb. 1, 2007 A son, Peyton Dale Blair, to Shirley & Larry Blair II, of Bulan
- Feb. 2, 2007 A daughter, Ciara Michelle Meade, to Wendy & Scotty Meade, of Wittensville
- Feb. 2, 2007 A daughter, Cassidy Lea Bryant, to Kelly & Duran Bryant, of Kite
- Feb. 2, 2007 A daughter, Ciara Rachelle Henley, to Ashley & Charles Henley, of Van Lear
- Feb. 2, 2007 A daughter, Brooklyn Karissa Stacy, to Delana & William Stacy, of Deboard
- Feb. 4, 2007 A son, Kain Alexander Clark, to Chasity & John Clark, of Prestonsburg
- Feb. 4, 2007 A son, Kain Alexander Clark, to Chasity & John Clark, of Prestonsburg
- Feb. 4, 2007 A son, Randy Jack Pollard, to Vanessa & Estill Pollard, of Hazard
- Feb. 4, 2007 A daughter, KaSandra Dawn Thompson, to Sandy Newsome, of Prestonsburg
- Feb. 4, 2007 A son, Camron Lee Collins, to Karen & Jeffrey Collins, of Chavies
- Feb. 5, 2007 A son, Matthew Glenn Thomas Emmons, to Sarah Ann Baldridge, of Shelbiana
- Feb. 5, 2007 A daughter, Katie Elizabeth Carty, to Tara & Joshua Carty, of Salyersville
- Feb. 5, 2007 A daughter, McKenzie Ann Scaff, to Laura & Brian Scaff, of West Liberty
- Feb. 6, 2007 A daughter, Emileigh Grace Sturgill, to Kelly Nicole Whitaker, of Martin
- Feb. 6, 2007 A daughter, Alexis Ryan Taylor, to Hope McKenzie, of Salyersville
- Feb. 6, 2007 A daughter, Ilana Faye Estep, to Connie & Steven Estep, of Prestonsburg
- Feb. 7, 2007 A son, Marshall Landon Dodge, to Rebecca Renee & Rodney Gene Dodge Jr., of East Point
- Feb. 7, 2007 A daughter, Mea Grace Puckett, to Rebecca & Jim Puckett, of Salyersville
- Feb. 7, 2007 A daughter, Carlie LaShea Meade, to Pamela Jean & Carl Meade, of McDowell
- Feb. 7, 2007 A son Barrett Ryan Sturgill, to Amanda & Barry Sturgill, of Beaver
- Feb. 7, 2007 A son, Trey Alexander Moore, to Samantha Glasser, of Dwale
- Feb. 7, 2007 A son, Conner James Gibson, to Belinda & James Gibson, of Pippa Passes
- Feb. 8, 2007 A son, Landon Jarrett Barker, to Tabitha Wagner, of Prestonsburg



Jeff Crowe, Scenic Byways Director, presents a \$15,500 check from the America's Byways program and Tour Southern and Eastern Kentucky to the Country Music Highway Redbud Festival producer Ken Carriere, of Goodyme Productions. The money will go toward producing the US 23 Highway Highlights music event. The tickets for this event are currently on sale through the Mountain Arts Center box office. For ticket information, please call 1-888- MAC ARTS or locally, at 886-2623

US 23 Highway Highlights to take place Sat., April 14 at MAC

One of the most exciting concerts ever produced in this region, US 23 Highway Highlights, will take place on Saturday, April 14 at the Mountain Arts Center.

Some of the most talented performers from all along the Country Music Highway will assemble to perform in one spectacular event. America's Byway Program and TOUR Southern & Eastern Kentucky have secured funding to assist with the implementation of this event,

with producer, Ken Carriere of Goodyme Productions. The US23 Highway Highlights will be the official Red Bud Festival Event for the Country Music Highway. It is anticipated that this event will take place every year in April on the Saturday before the Hillbilly Days Festival will begin in Pikeville.

Some of the entertainers scheduled to perform this coming April include Kori Caudill, The Big Sandy Singers, Stephen

Salyers, Paul Pace, Tony Ramey, Jerica Blair, The Carriere Family, Ron Vanover, Laura Ford Hall, Sean Caudill, Brittany Carter, Brittany Hamilton, Alison Lovely, Jeff Branham, Bronson Bush, and more. The emcee for the evening will be Fred Goble aka "Munroe," the Kentucky Opry Comedian, with the Kentucky Opry Band providing their phenomenal musicianship as the back-up band!



HCTC New Horizon staff finalists

Hazard Community & Technical College has chosen the two finalists for the staff New Horizon award of excellence. Shown above are Amanda Spencer, of Beattyville (left), and Michelle Griffie, of Cornettsville. The two were nominated because of their dedication to student learning and success and for their professionalism.



Debbie Justice

OLWH January Employee of the Month

Our Lady of the Way Hospital is pleased to announce that Debbie Justice, a member of the Housekeeping Team, has been named Employee of the Month for January, 2007. Debbie began with OLWH in 2001. She is the proud mother of three children, Kevin, Melissa and Amanda. Debbie lives at Cliff with her husband Jerry and family. She enjoys spending time with her family, especially her three year old granddaughter Macy, who calls her "Granny." Congratulations, Debbie!



Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning joins Floyd County Chamber Of Commerce

Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning, locally owned and operated by Larry and Danita Stumbo of McDowell, recently joined the Floyd County Chamber Of Commerce. Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning offers many services including the cleaning of carpet, upholstery, and tile.

Heaven's Best Carpet franchise has been offering quality work at affordable prices since 1983. Heaven's Best Dry-In-One-Hour carpet cleaning removes soil and stains from all carpets. Heaven's Best can give new life to your furniture by using their cleaning solution and powerful cleaning system, giving your furniture a beautiful new look. Cleaning of offices and businesses is also something Floyd County's own Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning can do.

All of Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning professionals are bonded and insured for their customers' protection. Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning is located in McDowell, KY and can be reached by calling (606) 377-2378. For estimates and other information please visit Heaven's Best on the World Wide Web at www.heavensbest.com

Korner

Continued from p5

Breaking boundaries and standing proud on what a woman is to be in the 21st Century, something that this pageant has promoted for years has taken on an entire new meaning. What will transpire from upcoming title holders in the years ahead will be something else.

As for Anna Nicole, who on earth is going to be her five month old baby daughter Dannielynn's father?

The quirky long-time attorney/friend/companion Howard Stern, or the good looking photographer/ex-boyfriend Larry Birkhead, or Zsa Zsa

Gabor's crazy old geezer of a husband Prince Frederick Von-what's his name?

Few things are sure in the lives of all these women. All have been in the limelight, all have suffered love and loss, all have partaken their own share of drugs and alcohol and all remain, for now, headline news.

How sad, to have fame and fortune and get consumed by the ugly cruel evils that lurk with drugs and alcohol instead of the brains to use their wealth for the good.

Til Next Week,
May God Bless...