

The Times

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page A7

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briefs

Johnson man killed in wreck

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

HAGER HILL — A Johnson County man died Thursday from injuries suffered in a car accident Wednesday morning near his home at Hager Hill.

Charles Spears, 80, was pronounced dead by the coroner's office at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, W.Va., shortly before 5 a.m. Thursday.

Spears was involved in a two-vehicle accident when he pulled into the path of a Toyota truck being driven by Don Hughes. Spears was turning onto U.S. 23 southbound at the junction of Route 1428 around 9:30 Wednesday morning when he was struck by Hughes, who was driving northbound on U.S. 23. Spears was flown to St. Mary's from the scene.

The accident is still under investigation by Trooper Jason Merlo.

Johnson man charged in child porn case

by JESSICA HALE
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A traffic stop by the Floyd County Sheriff's Department last month led officers to child pornography in the defendant's possession.

Brian K. Gilbert, 33, of

Staffordsville, was pulled over by police on University Drive in Prestonsburg in late February for a traffic violation, at which time officers discovered he was in possession of approximately two dozen photos of minors engaged in sexual acts. Also during their search, they discovered more photos stored on Gilbert's cell

phone, which they are speculating he may have used to distribute them.

Already on probation for similar charges in Floyd County and a student at Mayo Technical College in Paintsville, officials think that Gilbert may have also been using the college's computers for pornography purposes.

Gilbert was being held at the Floyd

County Detention center on a 90-day sentence stemming from traffic violations when the Floyd County Sheriff's Department officially served the warrant on Friday.

The complaint alleges, "The defendant committed the offense of distribu-

(See PORN, page three)

LEARNING TO LOVE BOOKS



Students in Mrs. Barrows' kindergarten class at Clark Elementary School enjoyed the Dr. Seuss book titled, "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," read aloud by Prestonsburg High School students on Friday.

photos by Jessica Hale

Students celebrate reading with the Cat in the Hat

by JESSICA HALE
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — For over 50 years, Dr. Seuss books have been a staple on children's bookshelves all around the world.

Their inspiration came from a report published in Life Magazine in 1954, which found that children were having trouble reading because their books were boring. Theodor Seuss Geisel, an author of cartoons and humorous articles for many years, took an assignment from his publisher to use these findings to create a book that children would both love and learn from.

That same publisher gave Geisel a list of 400 words he felt were important for young children to know and advised

(See READING, page three)



Dr. Seuss paid Clark Elementary students a visit on Friday in honor of Read Across America week. All of the children were truly delighted to see the fuzzy black cat who wears the funny hat that they often read about at school.

Conn pleads guilty to assault, kidnapping

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

WHITESBURG — Two Floyd County natives were in Letcher County court on Thursday to enter pleas in the 2003 death of a Knott County man.

Chad Conn pleaded guilty to kidnapping and assault charges and received a five-year sentence, which was suspended and will be probated for five years. Conn will avoid jail time but as part of the agreement has promised to testify against codefendant Billy Joe Johnson, who has a trial date set for Sept. 10.

Codefendant Susan C. Moore, 35, of Langley, was expected to plead on Thursday but her hearing was continued until April. She faces the same charges as Conn but has also been charged with tampering with physical evidence,

unlawful imprisonment and murder.

The body of 27-year-old Michael Slone was found on an abandoned strip mine road in Knott County on Aug. 4, 2003. The cause of death was later attributed to a gunshot wound to the head.

Conn's plea of guilty brings the total number of suspects admitting to participating in the shooting death of Slone to two, with one woman pleading guilty in November 2005. Moore is expected to plead guilty in April.

The pleas were entered in Letcher County before Judge Samuel T. Wright, who was designated to adjudicate the case in 2005 after both circuit court judges in Floyd County requested a special judge because they both knew

(See GUILTY, page three)

Woman gets 10 years for impersonating officer

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Teaberry woman was sentenced to 10 years in prison Friday after pleading guilty last month to impersonating a peace officer while robbing an elderly Floyd County man.

Evelyn Delynn Hall, 30, used a fake Operation UNITE badge twice in a four-day span in July 2006 to rob one man and nearly gain entrance into a second home. Hall was sentenced to five years in prison each for three counts of impersonating a peace officer and a 10-year sentence for sec-

ond-degree robbery, which will run concurrent with one another for a total of 10 years.

"It's an unusual case but also a very serious case," said Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner. "When you have an elderly man being handcuffed and traumatized the way he was, we felt it deserved a significant sentence."

Hall first used the badge, which was later identified as an honorary police badge believed to have been purchased online, on July 16 to persuade Herman Johnson to let her into his home.

(See SENTENCE, page three)

Two plead, two sentenced in jail drug case

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A mother and son were sentenced Friday for their roles in conspiring to introduce drugs into the Floyd County Detention Center last year.

Also in court Friday to enter guilty pleas were Robbie and Deborah Kennard, who both agreed to five-year

sentences. Deborah Kennard's sentence was probated for the full five years while Robbie Kennard will serve two years with the remaining three years probated.

Forty-six-year-old Velma Sparkman was the first to be sentenced in the case on Friday, receiving a five-year sentence that will be probated for a period of five years. Judge Danny P. Caudill gave her a stern warning after she was

sentenced, telling her that she had received a very advantageous result in the case considering that her actions put other people in jeopardy, and if she came before him again for violating her probation he would give her the maximum sentence allowed by law.

Sparkman was followed by her son Travis Banks, who received a six-year sentence which will run concurrent with time he is currently serving for a

previous arrest.

The investigation was originally opened by Prestonsburg police in May 2006 after Sparkman, of Auxier, was arrested while carrying a brown paper bag containing methadone and marijuana. Sparkman was arrested attempting to place the bag in an area outside of the jail where her son, Travis Banks,

(See DRUGS, page three)

3DAY FORECAST

Today
Partly cloudy
High: 38 • Low: 22

Tomorrow
Mostly sunny
High: 50 • Low: 25

Tuesday
Partly cloudy
High: 53 • Low: 34

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

Richard "Rick" Alan Branham, 47, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, February 23, at his residence. Funeral services were held Monday, February 26, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Jack Grable Dingus Jr., 48, of Oklahoma City, a native of McDowell, died Monday, February 12, after a courageous battle with cancer. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 15, under the direction of Barnes & Johnson Funeral Home.

Katie Fields, 59, of Conley Fork Road, Prestonsburg, died Sunday, February 25, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 1, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

Donald Ray Hackworth, 39, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, February 27, at his residence. He is survived by his

wife, Carolyn Slone Hackworth. Funeral services were held Friday, March 2, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Eunice Virginia Hall, 83, of Martin, died Monday, February 26, at the Riverview Health Care, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 1, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Sherrill Rodney Hicks, 63, of Lexington, formerly of Eastern, died Friday, February 23, at St. Joseph Hospice Care Center, Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Trilby Huff Hicks. Funeral services were Tuesday, February 27, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Bailey Johnson, 60, of Bevinville, died Monday, February 26, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Healthcare emergency room. Funeral services were held Friday, March 2, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Icy Lee Jones, 89, of Garrison, formerly of Wheelwright, died Sunday, February 25, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 1, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Jane Spears, 79, of Harold, died Tuesday, February 27, at her residence. Funeral services were held Friday, March 2, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Nadine Stephens, 73, of Banner, died Sunday, February 25, at the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 28, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Shelbiana, died Saturday, February 24, at Bulls Gap, Tenn. He is survived by his wife, Virginia L. Damron. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 27, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

LeLesia Denise Haynes, 52, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, February 28, at her residence. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 3, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

Samuel James (Jimmy) Henry Jr., 78, of Forest Hills, died Friday, Feb. 23, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Lola Staton Henry. Funeral services were held Monday, February 26, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

Corbett E. Hurt, 82, of Pikeville, died Saturday, February 24, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Nahdeen Scott. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 27, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

Harold H. James Jr., 36, of Huddy, died Friday, February 23, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Karen Sue Smith James. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 27, under the direction of the R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

Rissie Johnson, 87, of Long Fork, died Tuesday, February 27, at her home. Funeral services were held Friday, March 2, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

John B. Justice, 80, of Winchester, a Pike County native, died Friday, February 23, at the Clark Regional Medical Center, Winchester. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 27, under the direction of Scobee Funeral Home.

Bessie Gibson Justice, 86, of Robinson Creek, died Thursday, March 1, at Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, James Matt Justice. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 4,

under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home of Pikeville.

Janis Adean Marrs Justice, 65, of Hurley, Virginia, a Pike County native, died Tuesday, February 27, at the Holston Valley Medical Center, Kingsport, Tennessee. She is survived by her husband, Carl Lewis Justice. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 3, under the direction of Grundy Funeral Home.

Lawrence Hollis May, 82, of Columbus, Ohio, a native of Raccoon, died Wednesday, February 21, at his home. Funeral services were held Monday, February 26, under the direction of Schoedinger Hilltop Chapel.

Paul Jennings Miller, 68, of Steele, died Saturday, February 24, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 27, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Clarence Mullins, 77, of Dorton Creek Road, Jenkins, died Tuesday, February 27, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Ester Cable Mullins. Funeral services were held Friday, March 2, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

Anthony DeShanon Newman, 27, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, February 28, at his residence. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 3, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

Virgil Ray, 91, of Pikeville, died Thursday, February 22, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Emma Cline Ray. Funeral services were held Sunday,

February 25, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

Louis R. (McCoy) Spears, 70, a Pike County native, died Sunday, February 25, at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Fontana, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Ernestine Spears. Arrangements are under direction of Wiefels Mortuary and Cremation Services, Banning, California.

Freddie Stiltner, 61, of Phelps, died Wednesday, February 28, in the Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 3, under direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

Thomas Jackson "Jack" Webb, 62, of Allen, died Wednesday, February 28, in the Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin. He is survived by his wife Mary June. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 4, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Ernestine Hill, 79, of Van Lear, died Sunday, February 25, at Mountain Manor Nursing Home of Paintsville. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 27, under the direction of Phelps & Son Funeral Home.

Loretta Florence McKenzie, 54, of Paintsville, died Tuesday, February 20, at her residence. Funeral services were held Friday, February 23, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

(See OBITUARIES, page three)

Obituaries

Freddie Shepherd

Freddie Shepherd, age 37, of Langley, died Thursday, March 1, 2007, following an accident, on the job, at Delphia.

Born September 17, 1969, in McDowell, he was the son of Eleanor Marie Smith Shepherd of Huelysville, and the late Herman Shepherd. He was a dozer operator for C&R Construction in Delphia, and a volunteer fire fighter for the Maytown Fire Department.

He is survived by his wife, Recilla Slone Shepherd.

Other survivors include a daughter, Britta Deneene of Langley; a brother, Eric Lee Shepherd of Huelysville; his maternal grandmother, Mary Ann Castle Griffith of Mason, Michigan; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Clarence Smith; and his paternal grandparents, Henry and Nora Prater Shepherd.

Funeral services will be held Monday, March 5, at 1 p.m., at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Billy Hamilton and Tad Huff officiating.

Burial will be in the June Slone Family Cemetery at Bolen Branch at Garrett, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation is Saturday, at 3 p.m., at the funeral home.

www.nelsonfrazierfuneral-home.com (Paid obituary)

PIKE COUNTY

Hiney Reed Adkins, 72, of West Shelbiana Road, Pikeville, died Friday, February 23, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Hawkins Adkins. Funeral services were held Monday, February 26, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

Kenis Lloyd Damron, 73, of Dry Fork of Shelby,

Funeral services were held Friday, March 2, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

John B. Justice, 80, of Winchester, a Pike County native, died Friday, February 23, at the Clark Regional Medical Center, Winchester. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 27, under the direction of Scobee Funeral Home.

Bessie Gibson Justice, 86, of Robinson Creek, died Thursday, March 1, at Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, James Matt Justice. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 4,

Card of Thanks

The family of Dave Marsillett would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to the family and friends who helped comfort us during our time of sorrow. Thanks to all who sent flowers, cards, prayers, food, or who spoke a kind word.

A special thanks to Tom Moore Freewill Baptist Church, youth group, and singers. A special thanks to Preacher Clifford Austin, Rev. Jody Spencer; everyone at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home; and the Floyd County Sheriff's Department.

Thank You,
DAVE MARSILLET'S FAMILY

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Guilty

individuals involved with the case. The first conviction in the case occurred in November 2005 when 52-year-old Mitzie Johnson, of Martin, was sentenced to 12 years in prison after she pleaded guilty to first-degree assault and facilitation to

kidnapping. The final suspect in the case, 47-year-old Billy Joe Johnson, of Bevinsville, faces the most serious charges in the case in addition to insurance fraud charges filed against him in federal court. Johnson was in the Floyd

County Detention Center when he was indicted on charges of staging traffic accidents and filing false reports with insurance companies between 2001 and 2004. A grand jury also indicted Johnson of insurance fraud in January 2006.

Continued from p1

Drugs

would have access to it. After her arrest, an investigation was conducted by County Attorney Keith Bartley and Prestonsburg Police Officer George Tussey. The two listened to over 100 hours of phone calls originating from the detention center and determined that Banks and another inmate, 28-year-old Shawn Thacker, were responsible for the operation. The plot began when Thacker and Banks placed calls to their mothers and girlfriends telling them to call a third-party to obtain the drugs and then drop them off at a predetermined location behind

the old courthouse in Prestonsburg when they left the jail.

Further evidence found during the investigation included several letters written by Travis Banks to his girlfriend, Angela Banks, who pleaded guilty to charges in the case in January. The letters contained information similar to that recorded in phone conversations about his intent to sell the drugs in the jail.

Five of the eight individuals originally indicted in June 2006 in have now been sentenced. Shawn Thacker is scheduled to be sentenced March 16.

Continued from p1

Reading

him to cut it down to 250 words. Nine months later, Geisel, using 220 of those words published "The Cat in the Hat," which has received huge success over the years and is the basis of the character Dr. Seuss, which we all know and love today. A few years later, someone bet Geisel \$50 that he could

not write a book using only 50 words. The result was of this bet was the book "Green Eggs and Ham."

Schools across the country still use Dr. Seuss books as a tool for teaching children the basic reading skills they need. Random House and the National Education Association celebrate Dr.

Seuss's birthday each year on March 2, by urging schools to participate in the Read Across America event.

In our area, students from Prestonsburg High School visited Clark Elementary School on Friday to share with children many of the books published by Dr. Seuss. Each classroom enjoyed a story read

to them by the older students and each classroom held a drawing in which a child would receive one of the books.

The Read Across America's website says, "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."

Continued from p1

Sentence

Hall told Johnson that she worked for Operation UNITE and was sent to search his home for illegal prescription drugs.

Hall handcuffed Johnson's hands behind his back and spent an hour searching the home, eventually taking with her eight guns, \$360 and several prescription pill bottles.

As Hall left Johnson's house, she ran into his daughter on the front steps. The daughter was stopping by to visit and, after Hall explained to her why she was there, Johnson's daughter helped Hall load the items into her car. Hall instructed them to wait together inside until the local police

came to pick him up.

After several hours Johnson's daughter called the state police, who came and in turn had to call the local fire department to cut the handcuffs off of Johnson.

Hall was arrested July 19 after UNITE investigators received a phone tip that Hall had been telling people that she worked for the agency. The caller provided investigators with a picture of Hall, which Johnson confirmed was the woman who had robbed him.

Earlier that same day, Hall had tried to gain entrance into a second home by flashing the couple who answered the door with

her fake badge, but the couple spurned her efforts and contacted the state police. Investigators quickly descended on the home and were able to locate Hall within hours of the encounter, finding her car parked on a nearby street.

Hall was also sentenced to five years in prison on forgery charges stemming from a second case, also from July 2006, in which she used a friend's checkbook to cash fraudulent checks in Stanville. She received five years in prison each for five counts of forgery and 12 months for a theft charge, all of which will run concurrent to one another and concurrent with her other sentence.

Continued from p1

Obituaries

Danny Michael Meek, 24, of Staffordsville, died Saturday, February 24. He is survived by his wife, Ginger Marie Stanley Meek. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 28, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Ked Mollett Jr., of Tomahawk, died Wednesday, February 21, at King's

Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. He is survived by his wife, Marie Turner Mollett. Funeral services were held

Saturday, February 24, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Continued from p2

Harold Montgomery, 88, of West Van Lear, died Sunday, February 25, at his residence. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 28, under the direction of the Childers Funeral Home.

Billy Gene Rivers, 67, of Hager Hill, died Friday, February 23, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, in Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Spencer Rivers. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 25, under the direction of the Preston Funeral Home.

Creval Rowland, 82, of East Point, died Wednesday, February 28, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, in Paintsville. Funeral services were held Friday, March 2, under the direction of the Paintsville Funeral Home.

Ray V. Short, 85, of Fairborn, Ohio, a native of Meally, died Friday, February 23, at Miami Valley Hospital. Funeral services were held Monday, February 26, under the direction of the Belton-Stroup Funeral Home.

Alma Mae Stambaugh, 62, of Sitka, died Wednesday, February 21, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 24, under the direction of the Preston Funeral Home.

Merle Leroy Thomas, 75, died Friday, February 16, at Good Samaritan Hospital, Dayton, Ohio. Interment was Friday, February 23, in the Jackson Family Cemetery, Oil Springs, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Kristian Lashae Ward, infant, died Monday, February 26, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Graveside services were held Tuesday, February 27 at the Ramey Family Cemetery at Flat Gap, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

MARTIN COUNTY

Connie D. Coleman, 59, of Lovely, formerly of Pilgrim, died Friday, February 23, at King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 25, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Edward Fannin, 53, of Inez, died Saturday, February 24, at King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. He is survived by his wife, Billie Fairchild Fannin. Memorial services were held Friday, March 2, under the direction of



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— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

Protect yourself and others, too

How many times have you been forced to abruptly slam on your brakes while driving down the highway because some irresponsible, inconsiderate and blatantly not-so-intelligent person pulled out in front of you with seemingly no regard for their safety or yours?

Yes, it has happened to all of us probably more times than we can count. But what does this really say about the lives that we lead? Are we really that worried about getting that cappuccino before work, or making it to the post office before it closes, that we totally forget about our safety on the road and the safety of our fellow drivers?

That cappuccino could be the same reason why someone you know went to the hospital with a broken leg and a totaled car, or maybe even worse. Why are we in such a hurry and why do some have such disregard for other people's safety?

Across Kentucky in 2005, there were a total of 128,883 collisions, according to the state Transportation Cabinet. Yes, there are other factors besides carelessness that were a likely factor in a number of these, such as weather conditions and mechanical failures, but how many do you think were caused by the actions of someone just like the guy who cut you off this morning?

Oftentimes, it's difficult to pinpoint the cause of most car crashes, but more than likely, nearly every accident that occurs can be attributed to carelessness. Accidents are classified as "unintentional", but the lady who sped through the red light and t-boned another car was trying to put on lipstick in the rearview mirror. Surely, she didn't intend on injuring herself or the other person, but had she been paying attention to the road, the accident would have never happened.

Besides the effects bad drivers have on us and our families, their carelessness is the reason we pay high insurance rates in Kentucky. Insurance companies cannot afford to shell out the dough for every Tom, Dick and Harry that barely passed driver's education and turned out to be another accident waiting to happen. So, they are forced to jack up rates for everyone, including those of us who try to be good drivers.

So the next time your mother, sister, or whoever it may be tells you to drive safe, remember it's not only yourself you have to worry about. You have to worry about everyone else on the road, too.

— The Floyd County Times



The Times

Published Sunday, Wednesday and Friday each week

263 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
PRESTONSBURG, KENTUCKY 41653

Phone: (606) 886-8506
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USPS 202-700

Entered as second class matter, June 18, 1927, at the post office at Prestonsburg, Kentucky, under the act of March 3, 1879. Periodicals postage paid at Prestonsburg, Ky.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
In Floyd County: \$59.00
Outside Floyd County: \$76.00

Postmaster: Send change of address to:
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P.O. Box 390
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653

PUBLISHER
Joshua Byers

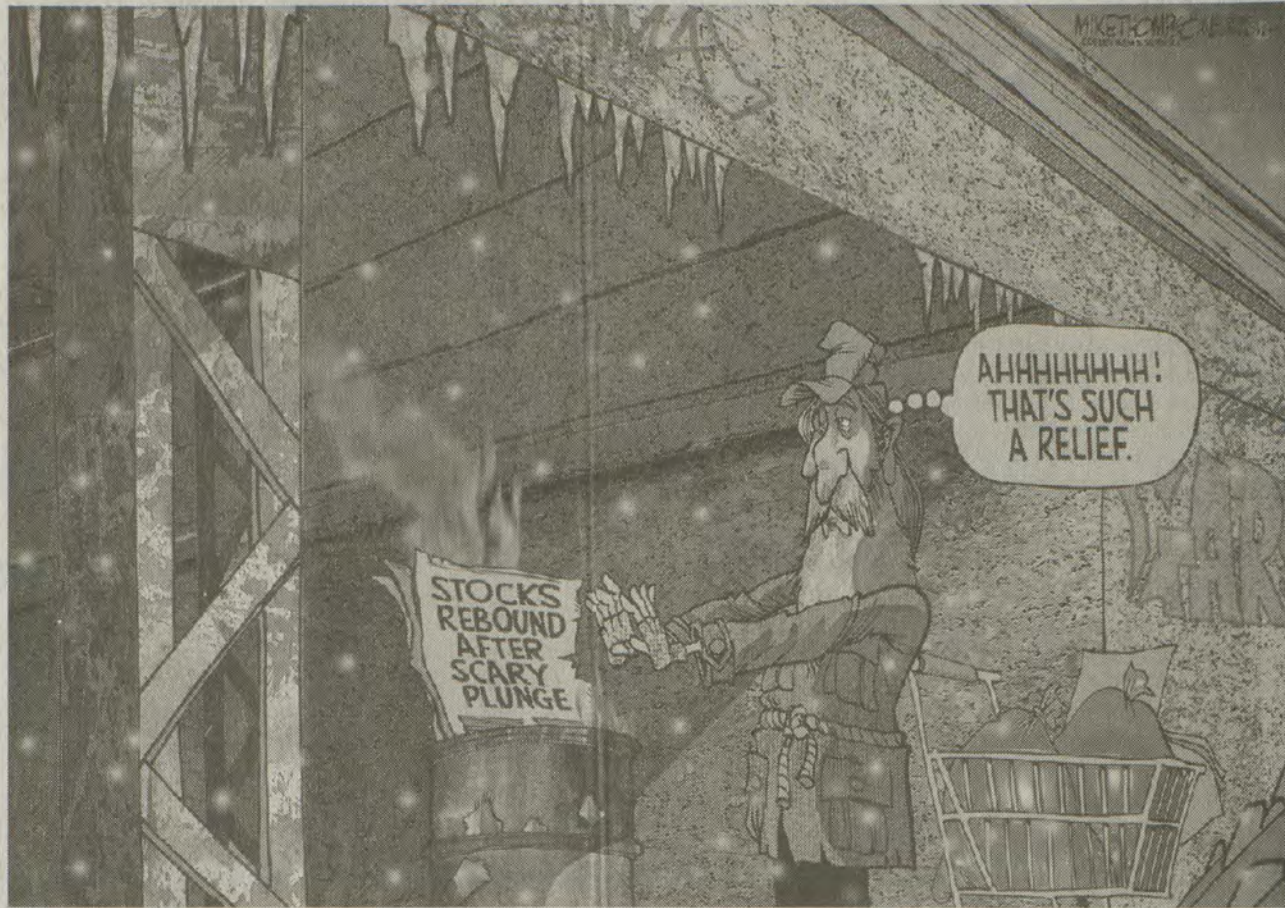
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Rich Lowry Column

The tragic courage of John McCain

A funny thing happened to convention-defying political courage, at least in the case of Sen. John McCain. It used to be that McCain's willingness to boldly follow his principles was considered the gold standard of selfless political principle. Now, the media portray the same boldness as primarily a drag on McCain's political ambition.

McCain is exhibiting just the sort of go-it-alone bravery the media pine for — at a time the media are uninterested in celebrating it, either because they consider the war lost or are obsessed with the primary-season horse race. He finally is getting the additional troops for Iraq that he has long advocated — at a time when it might be too late and when support for the war is collapsing. He is winning over the Republican establishment that once loathed him — at a time when the GOP brand is significantly degraded.

There is no justice in any of this. McCain began calling for more troops almost immediately after the invasion and criticized Defense Secretary Don Rumsfeld back when he was still a GOP icon. President

Bush has come to see the merit of McCain's view on the conduct of the war, but belatedly.

This has created the most tragic irony of all. After a long period of being distant from or hostile to President Bush, McCain is closer to him than ever, just as Bush is at his lowest ebb of public support. Bush sank McCain's presidential hopes in 2000 with his enmity; he might sink them in 2008 with his amity.

McCain's attitude has been that the political considerations don't matter. Whether he has been bucking an administration of his own party (originally) or public opinion (now), McCain has been standing like a stone wall for the proposition that the war must be won and that our effort must be commensurate with the high stakes.

The political world might yet turn in McCain's favor. He's losing support among independents and the press, but you can't win a Republican presidential nomination with just their support, as McCain learned in 2000.

One of McCain's likely primary opponents, former Massachusetts

Gov. Mitt Romney — who is nothing if not shrewd — issued a pro forma statement supporting the surge when it was first announced but has avoided getting too close to it. GOP opponents think that Republican-primary voters will look at McCain and see not the fresh "straight-talker" of 2000, but potentially another Bob Dole circa 1996 — a candidate who gets the nomination because it's his turn, about whom the GOP base is unenthusiastic and who will carry baggage not of his choosing (in Dole's case, the government shutdown; in McCain's, Bush's management of the war).

All that will be sorted out during the next year. In the meantime, as the windy Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel congratulates himself for his bravery in sponsoring a nonbinding resolution representing an anti-surge position supported by almost 70 percent of the public, and as poll-conscious Republicans flee from Bush, John McCain is steadfast, and the very picture of courageous political leadership.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



beyond the beltway

America ain't what it used to be

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

Last week they found a man in Hampton Bays, N.Y., sitting in front of his television set — dead. The television was still on. Further examination revealed he'd been dead a year.

Damn me for an insensitive cynic, but I think that goes a long way toward explaining the popularity of "American Idol." I'll bet that all over America, even as we speak, there are dead people sitting in front of their glowing television sets, with that little gizmo the ratings services use recording their preferences.

How else can you explain "American Idol"?

The man, who was 70, lived alone. His wife, police said, had died years ago but I know what she'd have said to police had she survived her husband: "I just thought it was an exceptionally long football season."

The part of the story I really loved, however, was the reaction of neighbors. They told police they'd noticed he hadn't been around recently but they assumed he'd gone to a nursing home or hospital.

"We never thought to check on him," one said. Is that a great New York story or what?

If you die alone in New York, the best chance of your body being discovered is if your home is burglar-

ized. When the Welcome Wagon lady in New York comes to greet a new arrival in the neighborhood, she says: "If your dog strays on our lawn we'll shoot him."

You think I'm exaggerating, don't you? Well, maybe a little, but just a little.

"The New York Times" has a feature called "Metropolitan Diary," in which readers send in small, telling vignettes of the city they've experienced or overheard. Here's one from a subway rider in midtown Manhattan.

There aren't many rules people observe in New York but one of them is this: When you're on a subway escalator, up or down, you stand to the right. The left lane is for people who want to rush to their destination.

On this occasion, however, the left side of a long escalator was being blocked by a man just standing there, refusing to move to the right.

The line behind him backed up for a while until a voice from the rear called out: "Hey, can you move?"

"No I can't," said the man, righteous irritation in his tone. "I have cancer of the blood, all right?"

The voice came back with: "And you didn't know that when you got on?"

That's the thing about New York. It's not only a tough town; it's a funny town. I much prefer the New York attitude to that of the surrounding states, which are populated, I'm afraid, by wimps and whiners.

Take the recent, giant killer snowstorm that immobilized a good share

of the country from the Midwest to the East Coast.

Particularly hard hit was central Pennsylvania, where accidents piled up traffic for miles on Interstate 78, stranding motorists for up to 20 hours. One of them complained to a reporter: "How could you operate a state like this? It's totally disgusting."

Now admittedly, he had a problem. He was on his way to Connecticut with his girlfriend and pregnant daughter. Being trapped in a car for 20 hours with that crew couldn't have been much fun. (I don't give that relationship with the girlfriend much chance, by the way.)

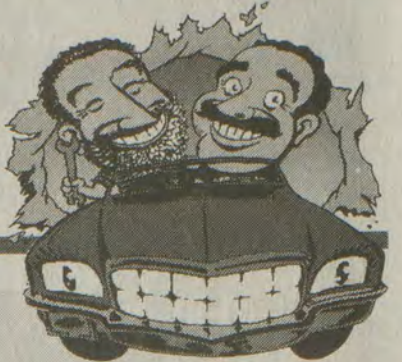
But blaming the state of Pennsylvania for it? Give me a break. When you're confronted by a 1,000-mile-long, end-of-the-world storm, it seems you could figure out it isn't a good idea to take your rolling Nativity scene into it. Get a room, for crying out loud.

We just aren't the country we used to be. When those settlers got stuck for weeks by a blizzard in the Donner Pass in 1847, did they complain? Did they blame the government? Did they fault Mickey D for not providing take-out? No, they ate each other. That's good old American initiative.

Sometimes I think good old American initiative is taking a nap.

□□□

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



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CAR TALK:

A question of ethics for Tom and Ray

see pg. A6

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This Town, That World

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

If these bombers flying across the skies here are doing as much damage to their target as they are to nerves and the sleep of some of our folks, Berea, Kentucky, should just about be in ruins by this time.

THE SORDID SIDE

We print in this edition a letter in which Ira E. Frazier, of Weeksbury, points to the cluttered-up condition of the countryside. Next week, we hope to print another from John P. Bentley of Langley, on the same subject. We appreciate the interest of both of these gentlemen. And unless the rest of us become interested and do something about it, perhaps we should stop asking tourists to come, see our beautiful mountains. Maybe we could attract as many, and be more honest, about it, with an invitation for them to "go slumming."

□□□

Any time we are little enough to feel big, let us recall that the favorite poem of a great President of the United States was "Oh, Why should the Spirit of Mortal Be Proud?"

THE TRUTH

The first big string of fish brought to Prestonsburg from Dewey Lake this year was displayed, Wednesday, by Lennie Moore and Bill Bunting. The former indicated he might have been a "good" fisherman and lied a little about the "catch," but his partner insisted the fish were taken during seining operations conducted there by the Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources.

□□□

Maybe my ear is a little duller than a year ago, but I do not detect the voice of last year's leader among those frogs that are dinning away again in the rill that runs across my backyard.

LOOKING BACKWARD

Twenty years ago, this week, death came to a man about whom I have often been tempted to write a piece, entitled, "The Most Unusual Character I Have Ever Known."

All life was a challenge to this man. Things and situations and people challenged him, as they do most of us; the difference was, he did not let the gauntlet lie, untouched. There is a term, "rugged individualist," which folks today might apply to him, but he was not a Wrong-Way Corrigan in the social structure. He would have made a first-class iconoclast, had he got off in that direction. His thinking had a great deal of originality, and he had an ensuring lack of concern about what others thought of his ideas, as long as he was convinced he was

(See ALLEN, page six)



photos by Kathy J. Prater

Chenzhao Vierheller, right, professor of biology at Big Sandy Community and Technical College, helped Prestonsburg High School student Morghan Slone extract her DNA from a test tube containing samples of cells taken from Morghan's mouth.

From my heart ... er, cheek, to yours PHS students study DNA sampling at BSCTC

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

Students from Prestonsburg High School had the unique opportunity, Friday morning, to learn about DNA collection sampling. Seniors and juniors from Georgeann Parsons' anatomy class traveled to the campus of Big Sandy Community and Technical College to participate in a lab session conducted by Drs. Tom and Chenzhao Vierheller, professors of biology at the college.

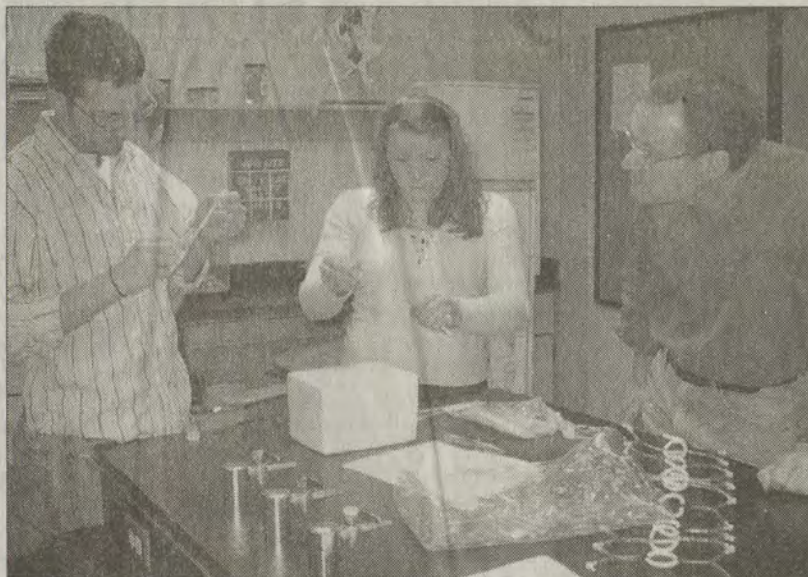
The students each collected a sample of their own DNA gleaned from their inner cheek cells that were then concentrated through a scientific process and then extracted and inserted into heart-shaped vials that the students could then wear as necklaces.

Pam Slone, a PHS senior planning on studying biology in college, said that the experiment was "really interesting" and that it made her even more interested in a career in science.

Parsons said that having the students visit the college campus to learn about DNA technology was made possible through a grant from the Kentucky Appalachian Higher Education Center (KY AHED), headquartered on the campus of Morehead State University.

The students will visit the campus on three more occasions to continue their study of DNA technology.

The exercises, according to Dr. Tom Vierheller, help the students to learn about the fields of biology, chemistry and forensics, among others. In addition, he also said, "It makes for a pretty good keepsake. On Valentine's Day, we had students exchanging their DNA with one another in these little vials," he said.



Dr. Tom Vierheller, right, BSCTC, watched as Prestonsburg High School students added enzymes to their DNA collection sample that would allow them to separate the DNA from the other components in their sample.



Emily Holbrook, a PHS junior, displays her DNA sample, collected neatly in a heart shaped vial that she can wear as a necklace.

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'End of the World'

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST

Evil aliens plot to destroy the earth while simultaneously planning to escape to their home world in this shocker from the people at Full Moon Entertainment.

Despite obvious budget limitations, this one offers up some great ideas, though they are hamstrung by hokey effects and less than adequate camera work.

The film starts off in high gear with a wicked sequence in which a priest (played by the always dependable Christopher Lee) enters a quiet diner in which the only staff person is absorbed in a game of pinball. The clergyman states in halting tones that someone must be stopped and that he must use the phone to call the authorities. The cook gives him money for the pay phone but the call never gets made as the phone appears to have picked this most inopportune time to suddenly explode.



Tom Doty
Times Columnist

More explosions rock the eatery and send the cook flying through a window, where he is promptly electrocuted by a neon sign. The priest stumbles back to his church and is met by a doppelganger and the scene fades to black.

Things then get extremely dull in a hurry as the film shifts focus to a scientist, Andrew Boran, who works at a facility for research. Boran spends a fair amount of his time hovering over several computers which are supposed to be monitoring interspace communications. He gets excited when he is finally able to decode a transmission from space that warns of an impending earthquake.

Boran gets even more excited when he is able to read more messages that are beamed into space from earth and indicate that extraterrestrials may be among us. He grabs his wife, Sylvia, and the pair get more excited than the Hardy Boys as they piece together where the communications emanated from.

They come up with two possible sites and visit the first, which turns out to be the church where Lee's character went in the opening scene. They write that site off (so much for science keeping an open mind) and head to the second area, where they are nabbed by soldiers who hustle them into a bunker. They find out that they have stumbled onto a military communications lab that is eavesdropping on the Soviet Space Program which accounts for the signals. Disheartened, they return to the church and decide that something isn't right there.

A quick search of the computers at Boran's lab reveals that a new message was sent into space describing Boran and his wife and the intrepid

(See LAGOON, page six)

Looking for the moon

by JENNIFER LAWLER

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL HEALTHY LIVING SERIES: STRESS"

"Moon, Mama," Jessica says, grabbing my arm and pointing at the window. She is obsessed with the moon. But until she was 5 years old, she didn't even know it existed. Before that, it was just the two of us and bright lights and hospital beds and a long and gradual awakening to awareness.

Once she discovered the moon and how it changes from one evening to the next, she fixated on it, demanding

to know how it waxes and wanes. She memorized the words: "crescent" and "half," gibbous" and "full." On her 7th birthday last July, the new moon had not yet risen. After she scanned the sky unsuccessfully, she asked with a sigh if I thought the dogs had eaten it.

I practice patience with her obsessions: rock collecting, the three songs we must sing in order before bed, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and her shrill rejection of the word "little." Patience when she was a newborn and nobody could explain why she was having seizures; patience when she

was 7 months old and the neurologist finally gave a name to the illness — tuberous sclerosis, a rare disease that causes tumors and seizure disorder, and in Jessica's case, malformed her brain; patience when the surgeons removed most of the left side of her brain, leaving me to cope with the wreckage of my dreams and a little girl who couldn't even hold her head up. I know a lot about patience, more than I would like to know.

Sometimes my patience runs out, like right now, as I try to fix dinner while she demands that I look at the moon. She always stands precisely where I need to be next. It's little-kid radar: how to best position herself where she cannot be ignored. In some regards, she is like every other child I

have known.

I've got a heavy pan in one hand and a colander in the other, and I'm keeping an eye on the stove because the burner is still lit, and it would be just like Jessica to stick her hand on it. It doesn't matter how many times I tell her not to touch the stove, she doesn't remember. Her mind is like this colander. How many times have I told her? Ten thousand times. But then try to get her to forget something, like the word "dammit," or the phrase "your

father is a pain in the ass."

"Moon, Mama!" Jessica says more urgently as I uncap the olive oil.

"Yes, the moon," I say absently. The phone rings. I toss the drained noodles back in the pan, add a slosh of olive oil, wipe my hands on my jeans and answer the phone.

It's Publisher's Clearing House, but I know I'm not a winner and hang up. The oil sizzles on the stove, and I catch the

(See SOUP, page six)



A question of ethics for Tom and Ray

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
OK guys, here is a somewhat hypothetical ethics question, and since you are the most ethical guys in the business, you get to answer it. Suppose that The Jalopy Garage (not the real name) diagnoses a problem dealing with excessive use of fuel (it could be anything, but this will work). Jalopy Garage then makes the repair, including parts and labor, and tells the customer it is guaranteed for 10 days. Nine days later, the customer comes in and states that the repair not only did not work, but it created a worse situation than existed BEFORE the repair — i.e., more wasted gas. Jalopy Garage, after inspection, agrees, and does the work again without charge. (Yeah, I know that might be hard to believe by itself.) HOWEVER, the customer wants to be reimbursed for the extra wasted fuel during the nine days, saying that the garage, by making the situation worse, is responsible for the difference in what would have been used and what actually was used. So ... it could be a gallon or 20 gallons — the question is, should the garage be responsible for the increased loss of fuel? Thanks a

lot — really. — Gene

RAY: Gene, you chiseling weasel! Hypothetical, my butt. I'm guessing you asked your mechanic to pay for the gas, and he threw you out, right?

TOM: As well he should have. Most warranties do not cover consequential damages. For instance, if your new car breaks down, and you miss a job interview and end up with a career at Hammertoes Fried Eel instead of Bank of America, the car company will fix your car for free, but it won't cover the difference in salary and perks for the rest of your life.

RAY: Or if you buy a cell phone, and it fails and you miss a call from your mail-order bride from Kamchatka, the company will replace the phone, but not the bride.

TOM: They're responsible for the work they do. And if they messed up the repair, they have to make it right. If it was clearly their fault and the car was disabled because of their mistake, many garages will cover the towing fee, too. But other than the direct mechanical results of their work, you're out of luck, Gene. So, unfortunately, the gas is on you. Sorry, man.

Air-conditioner efficiency

Dear Tom and Ray:

I was driving with my dad on a road trip to see my nephew graduate from boot camp at Paris Island. The air conditioning was on, and I was cold. I noticed that my dad had the air conditioner set on recirculate, and I suggested that he change it to the fresh-air setting. He and I got into a friendly discussion about this, but there is a steak dinner on the line for the correct answer. I heard that it is best to only use the recirculate or max AC for a short time to initially cool off the car, and then it should be switched to fresh air to keep the air inside from getting stale and polluted. My dad insists that it should stay on recirculate, as this is most efficient. My dad believes wholeheartedly in efficiency. I do, too, but I value health also. Who is right, and who has to give the other the steak dinner? — Susan

TOM: I have one recommendation for you, Susan. Do not — I repeat, do not — marry a man like dear old Dad.

RAY: Not that he's a bad guy. It's just that you don't want to be having these kinds of discussions for the rest of your days. You don't want to be sitting there freezing, while he says: "That's too bad. You have to freeze,

because it's more efficient!"

TOM: Air-conditioning decisions really should be made based on the comfort of the passengers. Neither recirculate nor fresh air is more efficient in terms of how much fuel they use. On most cars, the compressor does the same amount of work on both settings.

RAY: It's just that when you put it on recirculate, it recirculates the same cabin air (actually, it always lets in some fresh air). It takes the air it's already cooled down from inside the cabin and runs it through the evaporator again, making it even cooler. So in that sense, recirculate DOES cool the car more quickly.

TOM: On the fresh-air setting, the ventilation system brings in much more fresh, outside air, and cools that down. So it takes longer to cool the car that way. But, as you say, it does freshen the air, which might be important, especially if Daddy had one of Mom's bean-onion-garlic burritos for

lunch.

RAY: So, recirculate does cool the car more quickly, but once it's cool enough, there's no good reason to leave it on recirculate. You can switch it to fresh air or keep it on recirculate — whichever keeps you more comfortable.

TOM: So I'd say that, in terms of the bet, we should declare Daddy the winner, because, in recirculate mode, the air conditioner does cool the car more quickly — and we could interpret that to mean more efficiently. But we're also going to rule that he has to buy you a steak for making you sit there and freeze in the name of efficiency. So you should both enjoy your steaks. And during dinner, talk about something else.

□□□

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.



Odds & Ends

■ **BROOKVILLE, Pa.** — Jefferson County's jail warden got a little tired of inmates throwing food despite repeated warnings not to, so he fought back.

Warden David Riley recently started feeding misbehaving inmates a food loaf, made up of all the offerings at mealtime mixed together and formed into a loaf.

"We microwave the food loaf before it is served," Riley said. "It's really not that bad."

Jails across the country commonly serve food loaves as punishment for bad behavior. Some jails don't use the daily meal offerings, but instead use a recipe that includes ingredients like wheat bread, beans, other vegetables and cheeses in order to make sure the inmate's diet meets daily nutritional guidelines.

Five days after offering the unique concoction, Riley said all food throwing stopped at his jail.

"I had one inmate tell me, 'Well warden, you broke me,'" Riley said. "It has had the desired effect."

■ **FORT MYERS, Fla.** —

For about \$9 million, interested buyers can now pick up their own island.

The 9.3-acre island in the Caloosahatchee River is near Fort Myers and costs \$8.95 million.

Tom Cronin Sr. bought the island in 1997 and planned to build a resort on it, but sold the property for \$1.63 million to a Naples real estate company in 2004.

Frank D'Alessandro, of Gates D'Alessandro Woodyard LLC, said the island has approval for stores and restaurants. It also has approval for a hotel or about 80 condo units.

Gates D'Alessandro Woodyard LLC is part of the company that purchased the island in 2004.

■ **ABINGTON, Mass.** (AP) — A former town treasurer broke state ethics laws by approving \$13,000 in unemployment benefits for his defeated campaign rival, according to the state's Ethics Commission.

Paul Donlan, now the Scituate school department's business manager, unseated

Thomas Connolly as treasurer in a 2003 election, after which Connolly applied for unemployment benefits.

Donlan approved them, even though officials who lose re-election aren't eligible for benefits. The Ethics Commission also said Donlan violated ethics laws by securing benefits for a former friend, portraying Connolly and Donlan as close until Donlan ran for Connolly's seat.

For six months in 2003, Connolly received about \$530 in weekly unemployment benefits, for a total of about \$13,000.

Donlan's attorney, Robert W. Galvin, declined comment on the specific allegations, but called the allegations against his client "wholly unwarranted" and said Donlan will be vindicated.

"Through the hearing process, I think there will be a completely different version of events that have not been considered in any way shape or form," Galvin said.

Donlan, who declined to comment, served as treasurer in Abington until June 2005.

Calls to a listing for Connolly were not returned.

A public hearing will be scheduled in the case within 90 days. The Ethics Commission can impose civil penalties of up to \$2,000 per violation.

■ **MELBOURNE, Australia** — An Australian woman was sentenced Friday to nine months of community service work for smuggling protected fish from Asia in her dress.

Sharon Naismith, 45, was caught in June 2005 at the airport in the southern city of Melbourne after customs officers heard "flipping" noises coming from her clothes and conducted a search, Australian Customs said.

In a specially made apron under her dress, they found 15 plastic bags filled with water and fish: one rare Asian arowana that customs said was worth tens of thousands of dollars, and 14 catfish.

Naismith, who had arrived from Singapore, pleaded guilty to a charge of attempting to import regulated wildlife.

"Wildlife smuggling is a cruel practice, as many offenders ignore the health and well being of the animals," said Australian Customs senior officer Doug Nicoll. "Such animals can also be potential carriers of disease and harm the Australian fish industry."

Lagoon

duo realize that the church is up to something. Despite the obvious danger, the amateur sleuths decide to sneak into the church after dark with not so much as a hairpin and are, of course, subdued. In fact they are taken down by six middle-aged nuns.

Lee steps up and notes that he is actually an alien named Zindar. He then explains that all they want is to go home and that they need Boran's help.

They dispatch him back to his lab to get them a gizmo to effect their escape from earth. Boran doesn't have much of a choice in the matter as the aliens (who have routed disease, old age and hatred) are not above holding Sylvia captive. A despondent Boran is forced to break into his work place and steal the Muffin.

When he returns he finds out that the aliens were not entirely forthright with him and have instigated a space age weapon which has already begun destroying the planet. Lee casually mentions that Earth has become too toxic for the universe and an intergalactic committee has ruled that the planet must go. This leads to a great montage of earth-

quakes, tidal waves and volcanoes that appear to have been edited together from several other films with varying budgets.

Boran and wife decide to follow the aliens home since they have nothing to lose and the film closes with a shot of the earth exploding (a cheap effect that makes it look as if the world was just a hunk of plastic wrapped around a pound of pennies and a bit of confetti).

Alright, I gave away the ending, but it's not like the people at Full Moon hid their intentions with the title. This is another fast and cheap sci-fi effort that offers a few good ideas but is so clumsily executed that it falls apart upon closer examination. First off, it sure isn't fair that the Borans get to be the only survivors since they were duped into getting the rest of us killed.

Secondly, there are the aliens who claim to be beyond us and brag that we're so primitive because we haven't figured out cloning yet. It appears that they may have conquered war and disease, but they still behave like thugs and resort to blowing up witnesses and

using a hostage ploy to get Boran to cooperate.

Okay, so the plot holes are obvious here. At least you get to enjoy some screen veterans such as Lee, Lew Ayres and Dean Jagger. Ayres and Jagger phone in their performances, but Lee gives it the hard sell, which helps since the lead actor, Kirk Scott, is the cinematic equivalent of drying paint.

The special effects are pretty bad and it didn't help that this came out the summer after "Star Wars" set a higher bar for these films than this one could possibly aspire to. The film could also stand a little editing. There are way too many scenes of Boran driving his car. The director appears to be worried that we will forget who Boran is if they cut to him at a new location, so we are forced to watch him drive everywhere while always observing the posted speed limit.

For once, however, a film delivers on its title and that's saying something.

Best line: "That's really romantic, Andy. Ten standard minutes."

1977, rated PG.

Allen

right.

He built a house to suit himself and none other, and it was as generous in its rambling as was his nature. Others thought it should be more compact. It rambled, as he originally planned that it would. Others thought the ceiling should be lower — it went upwards of 10 feet from the floor, as planned. Sections of a pine tree for porch posts were an abomination to some, but they stood.

Other men could dehorn cattle, castrate bulls and stallions. He thought he could, and he did, without instruction or experienced assistance — did the work so swiftly the offended animal didn't have time to decide if the operation hurt. And, unlike others of the day, he hooted at the old almanac hanging on the wall and the signs of the zodiac by which his neighbors swore and planted and lived. Somehow, his methods worked, even if he did fly in the face of Providence by refusing to "go by the signs."

Sometimes he had inspirations that weren't exactly "inspired." There, for instance, was the time when he was operating a sawmill and hauling cross-ties to market over two miles of the most wretched road imaginable. Ten or 12 ties on a wagon was a big load, and the round trip during wintertime required half a day. But there was a stream nearby and it was full — why not use it? To think was to act. So he built a boat. He had no pattern, he had never built a boat before, but he did the job out of yellow poplar, calked the cracks with gunnysack and tar,

and turned out an 18-foot craft that could carry a considerable number of cross-ties downstream.

The only flaw in the grand scheme was, he failed to consider that the creek had some bends in it which were so sharp and short, the boat could not negotiate them. One of the oarsmen, fighting to keep the bow out of bank, got the end of a pole in his side and wound up with cracked ribs. So the maiden voyage of the good ship was her last.

Folks in those days preached, "Sink the plow to the beam." He argued against it. I know he had never read at that time the theory of shallow plowing of corn to avoid breaking up the root system, but he practiced it. He scoffed at the practice of "hilling" each stalk of corn, and others laughed at him. They went their way, and he his. They joined him later.

A minister of the gospel 50 years and more, he on occasion played the banjo, delighted in young people, even did not frown on the dancing of the day. He hated intoxicating liquors in a day when only one other minister in the county believed with him, and practiced the doctrine of total abstinence. Yet some of his best friends dabbled in whiskey — made it and/or sold it. Though Spartan in his denial of himself in some respects — he "used" neither tobacco, whiskey nor coffee — he had little regard for doctors' orders about his diet. When it was suggested by a doctor that a little "dram" might stimulate his failing heart, he stoutly replied, "I've made it this far

without the stuff — I'll go on out without it."

To teach his children he used walnut stain and some other ingredient to paint a blackboard on a bedroom wall. To teach them "better the next time," he brought the culprit to his knee, reduced him to tears without lifting his hand, then handed him a knife and sent him on his own particular Calvary-road to cut a switch for his own back.

The man had times of pre-science. When Pearl Harbor came, and Japan moved in on the side of Germany, there were the faint-hearted who feared the worst. But as confidently as if he were reading from his Bible, he declared: "That means the end of Japan."

With men, however, he had poor judgment. He trusted them all. He endorsed bank notes which the makers refused to pay, and he made notes of his own at the bank, to pay the same bank for what the other fellow owed. And still he came back for more. To every remonstrance against such instances of "poor business judgment," he stubbornly maintained that when he lost faith in human nature, he was ready to move on.

Much more could be written about this individual. One could tell of his love of the outdoors, of his ear for a favorite hound's bugling on a distant ridge, of his love for children, and his compassion for every human being.

But I may have already imposed upon the reader, since I am writing about my own father.

Soup

pan up, narrowly avoiding a collision with Jessica.

"What kind of moon, Mama?" Jessica persists.

"I don't know. I can't see the moon," I say, tossing the noodles into a bowl. I wonder what happened to my wooden spoon. It was here a minute ago. And what did Jessica do with the Parmesan cheese? Jessica was probably trying to be helpful, and took it out of the refrigerator while I was on the phone, which would mean it's ... where?

I look at the countertops cluttered with dishes but don't see the cheese. I do find the spoon on the floor, just exactly where you'd expect it to be. I toss it into the sink, then scabble through the drawers trying to find a substitute.

"What kind of moon, Mama?" Jessica raises her voice and plants herself in my path, thrusting her face toward mine. Sometimes she takes no prisoners.

"I don't know!" I say.

"Where's the cheese? Where'd you put the damned cheese?"

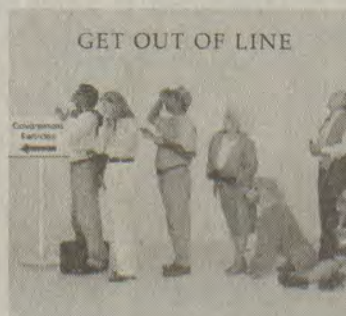
Her eyes fill with tears. Great. How hard can it be to make spaghetti without causing your kid to cry? How hard can that be? I am sure other mothers accomplish it all the time.

I kneel down and take Jessica's face in my hands.

"I'm sorry," I say. "I had a tough day today. And it's snowing again, and I'm tired, and I yelled when I shouldn't have."

The tears tremble for a moment.

"Can Mama have a big



Continued from p5

hug?" I ask, and I give her a big hug, and I say I love her and I'm sorry I yelled. I rock back on my heels and look into her big brown eyes. I want her to say it's OK, or that she's mad I yelled.

Instead, she looks up at me and says very seriously, "Moon is full."

Yes, indeed. Well, that's the main thing, I guess.

"The moon is full," I say, and ruffle my fingers through her short brown hair, and find the Parmesan cheese in the microwave, just where you'd expect it to be.

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FLOYD COUNTY Sports

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MSU cheerleaders recognized by General Assembly

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD – Morehead State University's coed and all-girl cheerleading squads were recognized by both houses of the Kentucky General Assembly Wednesday. Sen. Walter Blevins (D-Sandy Hook) was the groups' host in the Senate while Rep. Rocky Adkins (D-Sandy Hook) and Rep. John Will Stacy (D-West Liberty) entertained in the House.

Other MSU alumni in the 2007 session of the General Assembly, who took time to visit with the squads were Carolyn Belcher (D-Owingsville), Hubert Collins (D-Wittensville), Dr. Carl P. Rollins II (D-Midway) and Jimmy Higdon (D-Lebanon).

The squads won their 21st College National Cheerleading Championships, Jan. 12 -14, in

Orlando, Fla. In the 2007 competition, the coed squad won its sixth consecutive national title and 17th overall. The all-girl squad captured its sixth overall championship.

Tony Nash is the head cheerleading coach and spirit coordinator for the University. Ryan Alderman of Morehead is the trainer for both teams.

Members of the coed squad are: Joe Arkansas, Charlotte, N.C., junior; Brian Babcock, Sandpoint, Idaho, senior; Lynn Baggese, Sacramento, Calif., graduate student; Patrick Boyer, Simi Valley, Calif., junior; Jennifer Brennan, Louisville senior; Leah Cann, Independence freshman; Clay Clark, Stafford, Va., junior; David Clemmons, Westland, Mich.,



Both houses of the Kentucky General Assembly recognized the Morehead State University cheerleaders Wednesday.

(See MSU, page eight)

O'Reilly NARA BoB Series announces 2007 schedule

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON – During the annual Celebration of Champions late last month, the O'Reilly NARA Battle of the Bluegrass Series presented by Arizona Sport Shirts released its official 2007 schedule to the public. While the schedule is subject to change, the series strives to continue offering a full, confirmed schedule as it has done since its formation six years ago.

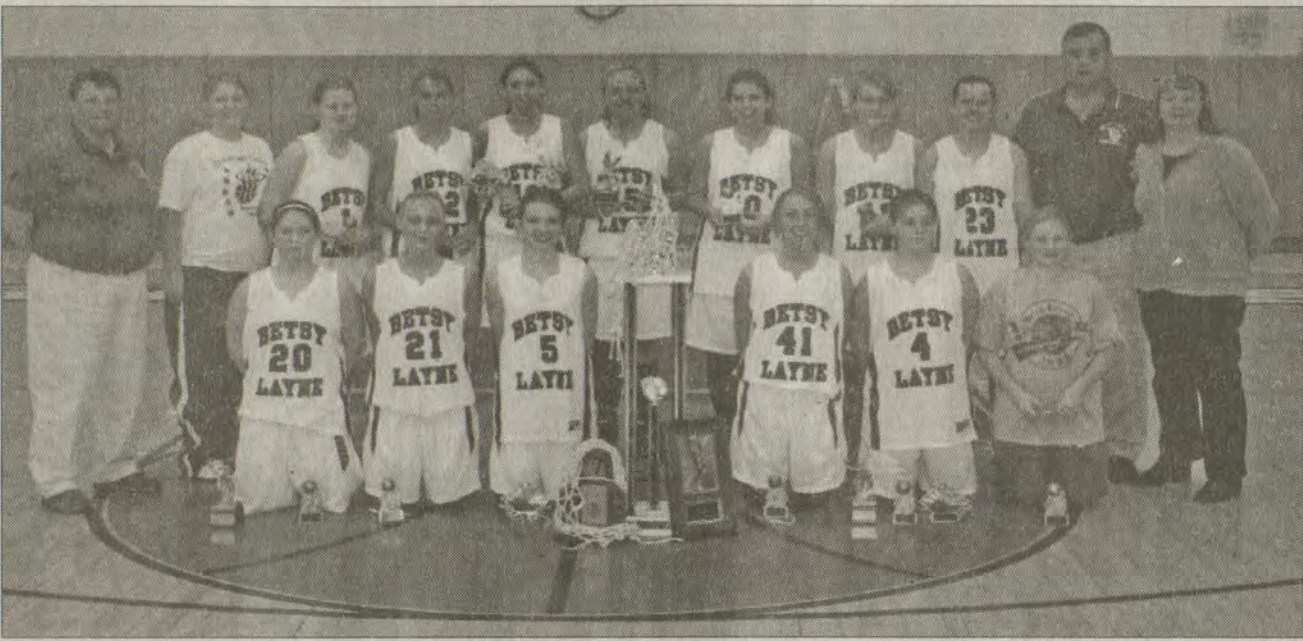
For the fourth year in row, the nation's most competitive regional racing series will begin the season at the King Family's Florence Speedway in Union. The Spring 50 Tune-Up on Friday, April 6 will pay \$3,000 to the winner while the follow night's Spring 50 will see the champion cashing a \$5,000 paycheck. After a weekend off, the series will make its first-ever visit to the Mason and Tawnya Fleetwood-promoted Twin Cities Raceway Park, located just outside of North Vernon, Ind., for a \$3,000 to win show on Friday, April 20. The next night, Saturday, April 21, the series will head back to promoter Tim Keithley's Brownstown Speedway for the 24th Annual Hoosier Dirt Classic, which will pay \$4,000-to-win this year. The BoB Series will wrap up the month of April with the 4th Annual Spring 40 at Larry Yantz's Ponderosa Speedway in Junction City, Friday, April 27, and then at The Ferrell's Bluegrass Speedway in Bardstown for the 10th Annual Spring Sizzler on Saturday, April 28 with each event paying \$3,000-to-win.

On Saturday, May 12, the O'Reilly NARA Battle of the Bluegrass Series presented by Arizona Sport Shirts will make its first appearance since 2004 on the high-banks of the Gary Hall-owned Tazewell Speedway. The Tazewell event will pay \$4,000 to the winner.

Following the return to Tazewell, fans and drivers alike

(See NARA, page eight)

DISTRICT CHAMPS



photos by Jamie Howell

Betsy Layne reclaimed the 58th District's number one spot Thursday night, defeating Prestonsburg for the championship. Below: Betsy Layne junior Kaitlin Lawson is pictured shooting over Prestonsburg's Linsey Fields.

Ladycats top Prestonsburg, take title in 58th

by **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS EDITOR

HI HAT – Despite facing a four-point halftime deficit, Betsy Layne managed to defeat the Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats in Thursday's 58th District championship game. Betsy Layne claimed the district championship, beating defending champ Prestonsburg 54-43 at South Floyd's Raider Arena.

Freshman Megan Hamilton paced Betsy Layne (18-10) with a game-high 17 points. Kaitlin Lawson scored 13 points and Krista Flanery added 10 for the Ladycats, giving Betsy Layne three double-digit scorers.

During the regular-season, senior-less Betsy Layne went 6-0 in Floyd County Conference games. The Ladycats trailed in some of the regular-season games, but still managed to prevail. Such was the case Thursday night as the Ladycats had a strong finish against district rival Prestonsburg.

Betsy Layne Coach Cassandra Akers wasn't the least bit disappointed in her team's play Thursday night. That includes the first half effort.

"I was happy at halftime," Akers confided. "When we got into the locker room, I pointed out that we had gotten off 40 shots in the first half and outrebounded Prestonsburg. We wanted an uptempo game and we were able to get that. We were able to come out of halftime, play well and go in front in the third quarter."

The two teams exited the first quarter deadlocked at 11-11. Prestonsburg held a 25-21 lead at halftime.

Betsy Layne outscored Prestonsburg 33-18 in the second half.

"Everyone played well for us, especially rebounding," Akers added.

Senior Amber Whitaker led Prestonsburg with 15 points. Junior Juilanne Frye added 12 points for the Lady Blackcats. Hannah Fitzpatrick and Elizabeth Chaffin each

had six points for Prestonsburg (10-18), a team headed back to the 15th Region Tournament for a second straight year. Sophomore Linsey Fields rounded out the Lady Blackcat scoring with four points.

Seven different Betsy Layne players provided scoring in the district title game. Taylor Hott and Amby Tackett each had five points for the Ladycats. Lindsey Martin

(See LADYCATS, page eight)



Two Wildcats named NABC All-District

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON – The University of Kentucky men's basketball team had two members selected to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-District teams as announced by the organization this past week.

Junior center Randolph Morris was selected a District 7 First Team performer while fellow junior Joe Crawford was named to the second team.

Morris ranks third in the SEC in field goal percentage (.577), seventh in rebounding (7.6 rpg) and eighth in scoring (15.3 ppg), leading the Wildcats in all three categories.

Crawford ranks third in the SEC in three-point percentage in league games (.436) and fifth in scoring in league games (16.2).

Morris and Crawford are two of 150 student-athletes, from 15 districts, that are now eligible for the NABC Division I All-America teams to be announced at the conclusion of the 2006-07 NCAA regular season.

Applications sought for KHSAA Board position

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Department of Education is seeking an individual to serve on the Kentucky High School Athletics Association (KHSAA) Board of Control to fill a vacant position.

The KHSAA is the Kentucky Board of Education's designee to manage statewide interscholastic athletic programs. The Board of Control supervises KHSAA, establishes staff salaries, sets goals for the association and has the authority to set rules and review proposed changes to the KHSAA constitution and bylaws.

The deadline for applications is March 23. All interested individuals are encouraged to submit a letter of interest, a resume and a minimum of two written letters of recommendation to the Kentucky Department of Education's KHSAA liaison.

(See KHSAA, page eight)



photos by Jamie Howell
DISTRICT HONORS: Allen Central's Sara Johnson (right) was named the Floyd County Conference Girls' Basketball Player of the Year during postgame ceremonies held Thursday at the end of the championship game. Betsy Layne Coach Cassandra Akers was named the Floyd County Conference Coach of the Year.

Prestonsburg (left) took first-place in the 58th District Tournament dance team competition.



MSU

graduate student; Tony Crump, San Marcos, Calif., sophomore; Molly DuChemin, West Alexandria, Ohio, junior; Emily Eversole, Morehead sophomore; Lauren Floyd, Parker, Colo., freshman; Kurt Gardner, Harvest, Ala., freshman; Brittany Kaczetow, Centereach, N.Y., sophomore; Kayley Kraft, San Antonio, Texas, freshman; Laurel Long,

Chillicothe, Ohio, senior; Kelly Owens, Goshen freshman; O'Shea Parker, Bowling Green junior; Mo Rodriguez, Escondido, Calif., junior; Kasie Sage, Simi Valley, Calif., sophomore; David Schuch, Mt. Pleasant, Mich., senior; and Kelsey Simpson, Lexington sophomore.

All-girl squad members are: Marta Alvarez, Culver City, Calif., sopho-

more; Brittany Brown, Sharpville, Pa., junior; Morgan Carroll, Fitchburg, Wis., senior; Stefani Cook, Sacramento, Calif., freshman; Crystal Courtney, Burke, Calif., sophomore; Nicole DiSalvo, Plainview, N.Y., freshman; Sara Folwell, Flowery Branch, Ga., freshman; Danielle Garone, N. Massapequa, N.Y., sophomore; Brittany Grimes, Somerset,

junior; Teresia High, Cambridge, Ohio, freshman; Marika Jones, East St. Louis, Ill., senior; Brandi Kratzer, Mt. Sterling junior; Amanda Lewis, Olive Hill junior; Chelsea Mauck, Crestview Hills freshman; Casey McCown, Cynthiana senior; Beth Millard, Kennewick, Wash., sophomore; Nikki Miller, Bonnyman junior; Kristin Nason, San Diego, Calif.,

sophomore; Kirby Ogden, Anderson, Ill., junior; Jennifer Orr, Johnson City, Tenn., senior; Tabby Price, Olive Hill freshman; Leslie Pulley, Post Falls, Idaho, sophomore; Kristi Randel, Orangevale, Calif., sophomore; Lindsey Rapp, Perkasi, Pa., sophomore; and Sara Wilson, Grand Junction, Colo., freshman.

■ Continued from p7

NARA

anxiously await the 2nd Annual Kentucky Speedweek. The Speedweek will once again be held from May 28-June 2, covering five races in six days. The 2nd Annual Kentucky Speedweek kicks off at the Bluegrass Speedway on Memorial Day, May 28. The following night, Tuesday, May 29, the series makes its first appearance of the year at the Richmond Raceway in Richmond. After a night off, the Speedweek returns to action on Thursday, May 31 at Harold Hardgrove's Lake Cumberland Speedway in Burnside. Then on Friday, June 1, the Speedweek will head to Ponderosa Speedway for the second appearance of the season, as each of the first four Speedweek events will pay \$3,000 to win. The exclamation point on the 2007 Kentucky Speedweek will fall on Saturday, June 2 with the 21st Annual Ralph Latham Memorial at Florence Speedway. The Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series will sanction the \$10,000-to-win show in front of the cameras of SPEED.

The nation's most exciting regional racing Series continues to roll through June with the \$3,000-to-

-win 6th Annual June Jam on Saturday, June 16 at the Bluegrass Speedway. The following weekend finds a return to the Hoosier State as the BoB Series ventures back to Twin Cities on Friday, June 22 for a \$3000 to win show and then Brownstown on Saturday, June 23 for the \$3000 to win 9th Annual Lee Fleetwood Memorial. Completing the month of June will be the Series' first stop of the season at the 201 Speedway in Sitka for a \$3000-to-win race. Historic 201 Speedway, a Johnson County racetrack, annually packs fans in for the BOB Series stops.

Moving into July, the O'Reilly NARA Battle of the Bluegrass Series presented by Arizona Sport Shirts will head back to Bluegrass Speedway for the 9th Annual Kentuckiana Klash paying \$5,000-to-win on Saturday, July 14. The following weekend, a doubleheader will find the series at Ponderosa Speedway for the \$3000-to-win 12th Annual Pete Abel Memorial on Friday, July 20 and then Lake Cumberland for a \$3000 to win show on Saturday, July 21. Wrapping up the month of July is one of the Series' biggest races, the 20th Annual "Butterball"

Wooldridge Memorial, paying \$5,000-to-win on Saturday, July 28.

In observance of several of dirt Late Model racing's crown jewels, the series will take a much-needed break throughout the month of August, with the \$5,000-to-win 5th Annual John Bradshaw Memorial at Ponderosa Speedway on Friday, Aug. 24 being the only scheduled date at this time.

The O'Reilly NARA Battle of the Bluegrass Series will complete its 2007 campaign in September. The first event of the final month will be a \$3,000-to-win show at the 201 Speedway on Saturday, Sept. 1. Following the race at 201 Speedway, the series will make its final stop of the year at the Richmond Raceway for the \$3,000-to-win Fall Championships on Saturday, Sept. 15. The 9th Annual Bluegrass 50 at Bluegrass Speedway will pay \$5,000-to-win and be held on Saturday, Sept. 22. The BoB Series will close out its 2007 season the same way it began, with a return visit to the Florence Speedway for the Fall 50, which will once again pay \$5,000-to-win.

■ Continued from p7

KHSAA

Materials should be sent to Michael D. Dailey, KHSAA Liaison, 17th Floor, 500 Mero St., Frankfort KY 40601. The Kentucky Board of Education will review nominations for the Kentucky High School Athletics Board of Control at-large position at its April 2007 meeting.

The Constitution of the Kentucky High School Athletics Association states that four at-large members of the Board of Control are to be appointed by the Kentucky

Board of Education. These members are to be at-large appointments recommended by the Commissioner of Education. These appointees shall not be employees of any member school or its central administration or the administration of the Kentucky Department of Education. At least one of these appointees shall be an African American, and one shall be a female. Terms of the at-large members are to be staggered so that one is appointed each year. Members of the Board of

Control shall serve four-year terms unless they are filling unexpired terms created by the death or resignation of a member, in which case the balance of the remaining term is the term in office. The term year for the Board of Control is July 1 through June 30. No member is eligible to serve more than two consecutive complete four-year terms, with no further limits as to lifetime eligibility.

■ Continued from p7

Ladycats

added three points and Faith Reynolds scored on a free throw for Betsy Layne.

Last season, Betsy Layne missed out on a trip to the regional tournament after a district tourney opening round setback. Betsy Layne ranks as one of the perennial 15th Region girls' basketball powers and will again have the opportunity to play for a regional championship.

Both Betsy Layne and Prestonsburg will begin play this week in the 15th Region Tournament at the East Kentucky Exposition Center. The regional tournament is scheduled to run Monday through Saturday.

58th District Tournament Championship Game at South Floyd

Betsy Layne 54, Prestonsburg 43
PRESTONSBURG (10-18) – Whitaker 15, Fields 4, Chaffin 6, Frye 12, Fitzpatrick 6.
BETSY LAYNE (18-10) – Martin 3, Hamilton 17, Hott 5, Reynolds 1, Flanery 10, Lawson 13, Tackett 5.
Prestonsburg.....11 14 7 11-43
Betsy Layne.....11 10 20 13-54

■ Continued from p7

Lackey among 6 UC cheerleaders honored

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

WILLIAMSBURG – University of the Cumberlands cheerleaders competed for the 2007 Mid-South Conference championship Thursday in Frankfort. The Cumberlands squad placed third behind Campbellsville University and Georgetown College. Six Cumberlands cheerleaders, one of whom is a Prestonsburg native, earned all-conference honors.

Prestonsburg native Michelle Lackey, Amanda Farris (Corbin) and Greg Foley (Stanford) earned a spot on the all-conference cheerleading squad.

Student-athletes, Jolina Miller (Adams, Tenn.), Amy Shemwell (Trenton) and Emily Sturgill (Pineville) were named to the academic all-conference squad.

Turnovers, poor shooting plague Lady Bears in loss

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT – Poor shooting and too many turnovers spelled doom for Pikeville College women's basketball team Friday afternoon as the Lady Bears to West Virginia University Institute of Technology 77-60 in the first round of the 2007 Mid-South Conference Tournament in the Frankfort Convention Center.

The win pushed Tech into the semifinals of the MSC Tournament Saturday afternoon against the University of the Cumberlands.

Pikeville's season ends at 8-23.

The Lady Bears committed 23 turnovers in the loss, 15 coming

before the half. That was compounded by shooting only 31.7 percent from the field, a deadly combination for a team trying to pull the upset of the No. 3 seed.

Pikeville led most of the first half, taking a 19-16 lead on a basket by freshman Heather Martin, but over the next five minutes, the Lady Bears scored only two points, and when LaChante Jacobs scored with 3:37 left, the Lady Golden Bears led 29-21.

Senior Tonya Amburgey led the Lady Bears with 12 points in her final game. She finished her career with 1,046 points, good for 15th on the school's all-time scoring list.

Martin, a freshman from Kite, had 11 points, seven rebounds, two assists and two steals in the loss.

West Virginia Tech (22-8), which had one win all of last season, had 14 players score, with only one in double figures. Takisha Basham, a junior from Roanoke, Va., had 14 points to go with six rebounds.

Rage Against Drugs Softball Tournament set for March 24-25

PRESTONSBURG – The First Annual Rage Against Drugs Softball Tournament will be held at Archer Park March 24-25. Entry fee for the tournament is \$150. The format for the tournament is double-elimination. There will be a three progressive home run limit and each team will hit its own 44 core/.375 compression softball. Rules for the tournament

will be ASA and approved equipment. Teams are urged to register early by contacting Prestonsburg Parks and Recreation Director David Baldrige via phone (606/886-6390, 606/791-3537) or email (david_baldrige@msn.com).

Teams can register early and receive information on the new softball complex opening soon in Prestonsburg.

Prizes will be a team trophy and 15 T-shirts for the first-place team, and a team trophy for the second- and third-place finishers.

The tournament will be sponsored by Prestonsburg Parks and Recreation, Floyd County UNITE coalition and Rage Softball.

Clarification made on Pikeville College baseball game last week

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE – The second game of the Saturday, Feb. 24 baseball doubleheader with Milligan College will be officially recorded as a 1-0 win for Pikeville College.

The game ended in the bottom of the sixth when a melee occurred between the teams. At the time, Pikeville led 3-1. However, Milligan scored to tie the game at 1-1 in the top of the sixth and Pikeville regained

the lead on a Ryan Bartolon two-run homer in the bottom of the inning.

The fracas occurred after the home run.

However, the rulebook interpretation is that when a game is halted in such a situation, the game is to revert back to the end of the last fully-completed inning, which was the fifth. At the end of the fifth, Pikeville led 1-0.

"It's very unfortunate that this had to happen," said Coach Don Ashby. "We truly regret it and will make every effort to insure it doesn't happen again."

All statistics from the sixth inning will be removed, including the Bartolon home run. As a result, winning pitcher Tony Preston (1-1) will get credit for a no-hitter, as both Milligan safeties came in the top of the sixth.

Kinzer in South Carolina for race

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ALLEN – Brandon Kinzer and his No. 18 Dirt Late Model race team are scheduled to be back in action today in South Carolina. The newly reconfigured Cherokee Speedway in Gaffney, S.C., will play host to its

annual 'March Madness' event. The O'Reilly Southern Allstars Series will sanction the \$10,000-to-win show at the track formerly known as the "Place Your Momma Warned You About." Kinzer finished 10th in last year's version of March Madness race. In his last race on Saturday, Feb. 17, Kinzer completed 49 green flag laps and claimed a 24th-place finish in a 360 OTC World of Outlaws Late Model Series race at Volusia Speedway Park.

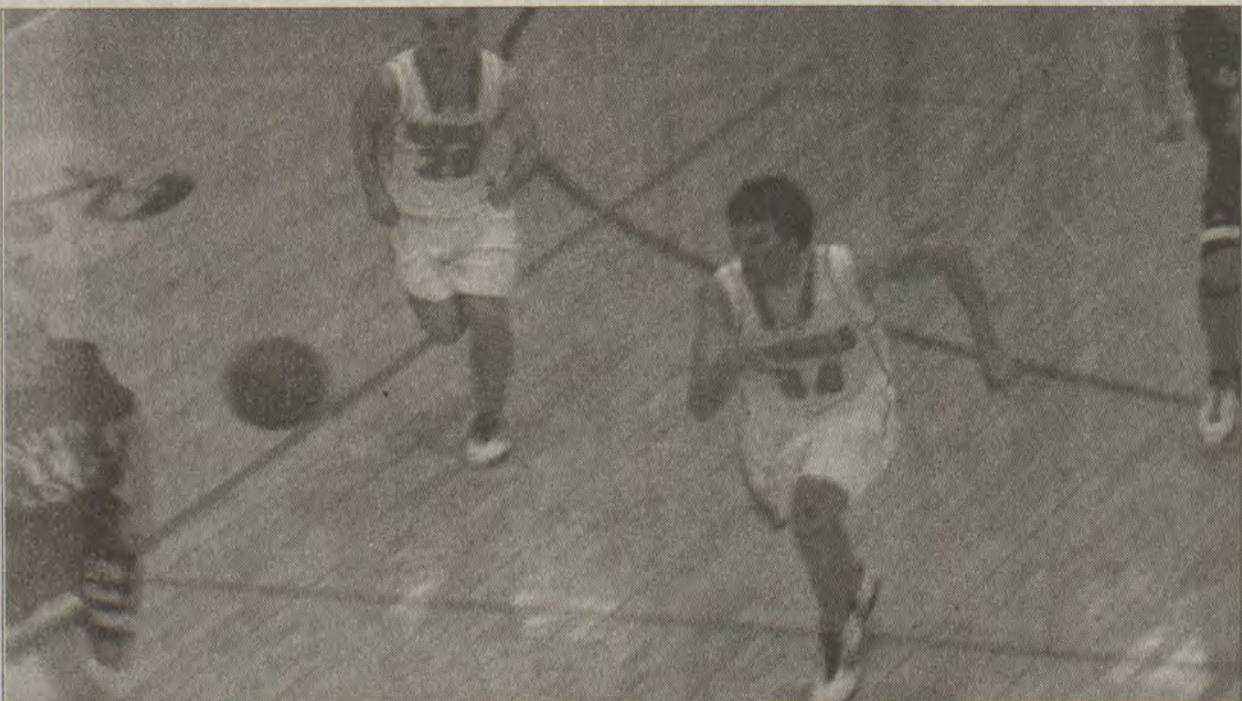


photo by Steve LeMaster

READY FOR THE REGION: Allen Central seniors Tyler Slone (20), Josh Martin (34) and the rest of the Runnin' Rebels are headed to the 15th Region Tournament.

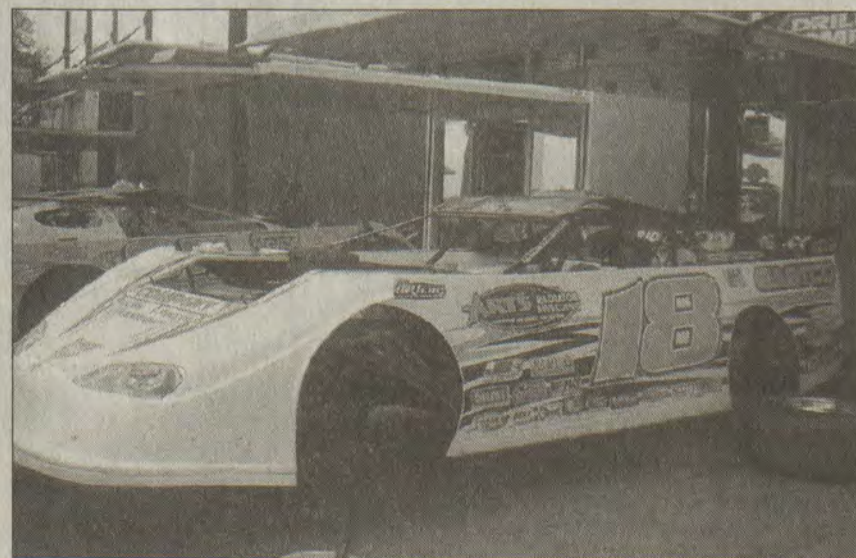


photo courtesy of Brandon Kinzer Motorsports

Brandon Kinzer and his race team are scheduled to return to action today in South Carolina.

Deer-free antler hunts can yield curios, trophies, insight

by STEVE VANTRESE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PADUCAH — These are days of antlerless deer and antlers-only hunting.

The time for taking the whitetails themselves is long past. Meanwhile, there is no official season for it, but the time is right for hunting only the antlers that buck deer have carried around since last summer.

Antlers are indeed a renewable resource. Bucks that are at least one year old sprout them in the spring, develop them over the summer, then use them for social status and fighting tools autumn into winter. Come late winter to early spring, the bony growth loosens on the pedicles of bucks' heads as their male hormones subside — and the antlers fall off.

Many bucks already have lost

their antlers and others will shed their headgear as March progresses. A few whitetails dispose of their antlers as early as December and, on the other extreme, some pack them into April.

Antlers are out there on the ground for the finding and taking — but why? Some people value them as curios or raw material for items such as knife handles. To some, antlers themselves are trophies, even without the bucks that grew them. For deer hunters, there is reconnaissance in finding antlers: It tells that the respective bucks that wore the headgear survived the previous hunting season and might be found — a year older and larger — in particular areas in the next season.

Antlers are among the fastest growing tissues in nature. A deer's "rack" grows from nothing to completion from late spring to late August

every year. Antlers are bone, not horn. Time becomes a factor in finding shed antlers because squirrels and other rodents will gnaw them for the mineral content in the bone.

Fallen antlers might be found wherever deer are found, and that injects the element of hunting into antler collecting.

Experienced bone pickers often focus on three types of areas — late winter food sources, where deer activity is most focused at this time of year; bedding areas, most often thickets or secondary growth areas of security for daytime loafing; and trails that channel traffic between food and shelter areas.

Hunters particularly may enjoy the late winter freedom to enter deer bedding areas, when spooking a deer won't affect their next hunting months from now. The search for

antlers can be combined with scouting to reveal what sort of deer sign lies in security areas they'd be reluctant to disturb just before or during the hunting period.

Some antler gatherers seem to put more confidence in searching trails than either feeding areas or bedding zones.

Both bedding and feeding locales can be large, raising the needle-in-a-haystack factor. Bedding areas, by their very nature, can be difficult places to search because thick cover may limit visibility.

Trails, on the other hand, are linear, meaning that it will be easier to cover and see where dropped antlers have fallen from bucks that used the common paths. Trails, meanwhile, are most defined and easily detected in late winter before the new growing season of spring.

The search for antlers can benefit hunters for deer in the flesh by revealing a clearer picture of popular deer trails hoof-hammered into the ground by late winter.

Higher-odds locations for antler hunting are places where deer are required to jump to continue their travels. Spots where trails or bottlenecked travel routes lead to and over fence jumps or small, but deep ditches may collect antlers more often than randomly.

A fence jump or sharp creek bank decline will force a deer to exert a little more force against its loosening antlers when it lands from a jump or catches itself from descending a steep bank. Additional force, perhaps a little whiplash, may induce antlers that are coming loose to let go right then and there.

Ultimate fighting, wrestling, boxing grapple for pay-per-view crown

by ADAM GOLDMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — In the tough business of putting on pay-per-view events, Ultimate Fighting Championship is no longer getting counted out.

The upstart company that specializes in mixed martial arts matched the once-dominant World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. in pay-per-view revenues during 2006 and surpassed boxing-titan HBO. The three companies make up the bulk of the pay-per-view business.

"It was a killer year," UFC president Dana White said.

UFC, a privately held company owned by Zuffa LLC, does not release financial results and White would not discuss them. But an industry executive familiar with the results said the company's 10 pay-per-view events generated more than \$200 million in customer retail revenue.

WWE said it had 16 events that generated approximately \$200 million in revenue and HBO had 11 events, reporting revenue of \$177 million.

Typically, the companies take home about half of those customer retail revenues with cable companies getting the rest. The cost of the fights vary. People paid \$39.95 to see UFC fighters pummel each other while WWE's brawls ranged between

\$34.95 to \$49.95. HBO's most expensive events cost \$49.95.

The performance marks a significant turnaround for the Las Vegas-based company — once maligned as nothing more than a money-losing venture that promoted brawlers in a cage. UFC fought back using a television show on Spike TV, getting more states to sanction the fights and drawing huge crowds to the live events.

The strategy has appeared to work in a big way, helping spur more PPV buys — sales of one event per household — thanks to the popularity of UFC fighters such as Tito Ortiz and Chuck Liddell. UFC has a major PPV fight Saturday in Columbus, Ohio, where heavyweight champ Tim Sylvia and Randy Couture will slug it out.

"UFC has reinvigorated the pay-per-view category," said Deana Myers, a senior analyst at Kagan Research LLC that tracks the industry.

To spark interest in pay-per-view events, WWE and UFC also air bouts on various networks. WWE's shows — "SmackDown," "RAW" and "Extreme Championship Wrestling" — have been the top rated shows on their respective networks. HBO helps promote its fighters on "Boxing After Dark."

One big difference between WWE and UFC is their audience. Thirty-nine percent of WWE's buys came from international viewers. UFC

doesn't have a slice of the international arena but intends to grab market share from WWE when it holds its first pay-per-view fight in Manchester, England on April 21. White noted UFC has initiatives in Canada, Mexico and England, where it recently opened an office in London.

Dave Meltzer, editor of the Wrestling Observer Newsletter, says competition between the WWE and UFC has heated up. He said WWE overexposed itself with too many events, hurting its bottom line. WWE's year-over-year buys were down 400,000 from 2005, according to the company. On the other hand, UFC's 5 million buys were a fivefold increase from 2005.

Media analyst Michael A. Kelman of Susquehanna Financial Group says the pay-per-view business will not be a major growth driver for WWE. But other WWE businesses such as video sales and its film division should bolster the company's future financial prospects.

Geoff Rochester, WWE's senior vice president of marketing, said pay-per-view buys comprised 25 percent of its diversified business.

Like Myers, Meltzer believes some of WWE's audience is gravitating to the UFC.

"It's a pay-per-view rivalry," Meltzer said. "I'm not saying it's huge

but it exists. Right now, UFC is definitely hot."

Meltzer added that WWE needs to find a new superstar like "The Rock," a crowd favorite who drew hordes of viewers.

"What UFC is doing that WWE and boxing haven't done as well is create new stars," he said.

HBO, for instance, has continued to rely on Oscar De la Hoya while a true heavyweight champion emerges, one with star power like Mike Tyson — who drew nearly 2 million buys twice in his heyday.

"The heavyweight champ of the world has always been the mythical strongest man in the planet. It's important for the sport," said Mark Taffet, HBO's senior vice president of sports operation and pay-per-view. HBO hopes a new champion will surface from heavyweight unification matches that could take place this year.

Rochester, of the WWE, said the company is incubating new stars.

"We have the next Rock in John Cena," he said, referring to one of WWE's most popular wrestlers.

UFC managed to grow despite the lack of a heavyweight star, but the company recently inked a deal with the burly Croatian Mirko "Cro Cop" Filipovic. He's fighting in Manchester in April. Most fans don't know Cro Cop but

he has glimmers of being the UFC's Mike Tyson.

"He's the most spectacular knockout artist of any weight," said Meltzer, the editor of the newsletter. "American fans love knockout artists."

Taffet said he isn't worried about UFC's rise. The two companies are negotiating over HBO possibly airing a UFC fight. However, there are questions about which company will produce the fight and who will call it — along with some hard feelings. One of HBO's most well-known ringside announcers is Jim Lampley, who has bashed the sport of mixed martial arts and the UFC.

Taffet said HBO is counting on strong business in 2007 when De La Hoya fights Floyd Mayweather on May 5 in Las Vegas. HBO hopes the match will take its place among the biggest pay-per-view-boxing events of all time — or at least break De La Hoya's 1999 record of 1.4 million buys fighting Felix Trinidad.

As for WWE, Rochester said it's not ready to concede the PPV title yet. While UFC had one good year, he said, WWE has generated more than \$2 billion in total PPV buys over a 22-year stretch.

In this smackdown, WWE has plenty of fight left in it.

"We are not worried about UFC," he said.

Cheerleaders, banquet take center stage on eve of tourney

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT — On the eve of the 2007 Mid-South Conference basketball tournament, hardware was handed out and the cheerleaders took center stage in the Frankfort Convention Complex.

Five Pikeville College student-athletes were named all-conference and 10 were announced as academic all-conference on Thursday night.

At the basketball banquet, two Bears and a Lady Bear were named to the all-conference team. Senior Tonya Amburgey represented the women's basketball team while senior Will Holloman and sophomore Bo Harris were honored among the men.

Amburgey, a native of Pinetop in Knott County, averaged 14.3 points and 4.5 rebounds per game this season. She shot 75 percent from the free throw line, was second on the team with 105 assists and led the team with 39 steals.

Entering the tournament, Amburgey has scored 1,034 points, which is good for 16th in school history.

Holloman, a Jacksonville native playing his only season at Pikeville College, led the Bears by averaging 18.8 points to go with 4.9 rebounds per game. He shot 40.9 percent from the arc and hit 70.2 percent from the line and handed out 4.6 assists per game.

Harris, a Winchester product, averaged 18.1 points and a team-high 9.3 rebounds per game this year. He shot 52.2 percent from the floor and 37.5 percent from the arc while steadily raising his free throw percentage to 67.1 percent entering the tournament. Harris also had 39 of Pikeville's 65 blocked shots this season and recorded 34 steals.

Also, two Pikeville College cheerleaders were named to the all-conference team. They were Miranda Dotson, a junior from Wise, Va., and Chelsea Fields, a junior from Feds Creek.

Four Pikeville cheerleaders were named Academic All-MSC. They were Shana Bevins, a junior from Pikeville majoring in middle school education; Fields, majoring in secondary education/English; Amanda Salyer, a junior

from Elkhorn City majoring in business administration/management; and Ashley West, a sophomore from Columbus, Ohio, who majors in business management.

Three Bears were among those selected academic all-conference. They are Jarrod Adkins, a senior from Greasy who majors in business management; Donnell Dobbins, a senior from Baltimore majoring in communication; Steve Sickler, a senior from Green Bay, Wis., majoring in business management; and Ben Valentine, a senior from Nelson, New Zealand, majoring in business management.

Three Lady Bears joined their male counterparts and the four cheerleaders on the academic all-conference team. They were Amburgey, who majors in communication with a minor in psychology; Tiffany Howard, a senior from Oil Springs majoring in criminal justice and sociology; and Jessica Lovell, a senior from Belfry majoring in psychology/human services.

In order to qualify for academic all-conference, a student-athlete must be at least a sophomore and maintain at

least a 3.5 grade-point average. For Lovell, it was her fourth time on the academic team; Amburgey, Howard and Valentine were honored for the third time; and Bevins, Fuller, Salyer and Sickler took their second honor.

In the cheerleading competition, Campbellsville came away the winner, with Georgetown second and Cumberland's third.

There was a tie for the honor of men's basketball player of the year. Campbellsville junior Zach Allender, who averaged 19.3 points and 8.6 rebounds, was joined by Georgetown's Brian Silverhorn, a senior averaging 15.4 points and 4.3 rebounds per game.

The women's player of the year was Lindsey Wilson junior Terran Duncan, who averaged 15.5 points and 5.6 rebounds for the regular-season champion.

The coaches of the year were Georgetown's Happy Osborne on the men's side and Lindsey Wilson's John B. Wethington.

The basketball tournament got underway Friday afternoon.



POSTSEASON PLAY: Piarist fell to Belfry in the opening round of the 60th District Tournament. The loss eliminated the Knights from the post-season.



SENIORS: Prestonsburg seniors Chayse Martin, Michael Hernandez, Mason Vance and Trevor Patton were honored when the Blackcats hosted Belfry in a regular-season finale.

photo by Jamie Howell

Brown, Green named All-OVC

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD — Morehead State University senior center LaKrisha Brown was named Second-Team All-OVC (Ohio Valley Conference) and freshman guard Amanda Green was named to the All-Newcomer Team as the league announced its 2006-2007 postseason awards Thursday.

Brown, who was also named preseason All-OVC this year, led the Eagles in scoring (11.6 ppg) and rebounding this year (7.8 rpg). She finished her two-year career with 740 points, 540 rebounds and 41 blocked shots, becoming just the fourth player in school history with more than 700 points, 500 rebounds and 40 blocks. Her 340 rebounds ranked as the 14th highest career

total at MSU. She also led the Eagles this year with 16 double figure scoring games and eight double-doubles.

Green came on strong in OVC games. Before a knee injury cut her season short on Jan. 27, she averaged 9.2 ppg and 3.3 apg, ranking second on the team with 67 assists. She posted eight double figure scoring games, including a career high 31 points in the Eagles' '91-88 double overtime win at Eastern Kentucky.

Joining Brown on the All-OVC Second-Team was Crystal Jones (Eastern Kentucky), Missy Whitney (Southeast Missouri), Amber Guffey (Murray State) and Jessica Huffman (Eastern Illinois). Joining Green on the All-Newcomer Team was: Huffman, Jones, Whitney and Jolie Efezokhae (Jacksonville State).

Murray State's Joi Scott was named OVC Player of the Year, while Huffman earned Freshman of the Year. Southeast Missouri mentor John Ishee was named Coach of the Year.

New technology brings fans closer to on-track action

by MIKE HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

What sports fan wouldn't love to listen to Peyton Manning in the huddle or talking strategy with his coaches on the sideline?

Or stand beside Joe Torre and his infielders and listen as the Yankees manager tells Mike Mussina how he wants to pitch to the guy at the plate?

Or see through the eyes of LeBron James as he soars toward the basket for a slam dunk?

None of those things is likely to happen anytime soon. But NASCAR fans are breaking through the wall between drivers and teams and the grandstands in unprecedented ways.

You want to ride along with Dale Earnhardt Jr. at Daytona from your couch? OK.

How about listening from your family room to Jeff Gordon talk with crew chief Steve Letart about what he wants done on the next pit stop? No problem.

You left your grandstand seat just long enough to get another beer and you missed "the Big One." Just watch the replay as many times as you want on your new handheld device.

Oh yeah. What position is your favorite driver in after that last pit stop? Heck, just check the live stats at your fingertips.

During last Sunday's Daytona 500, fans both at home and at the speedway were able to do all of the above, thanks to a new era of technology.

"It's a wonder of the times," said Jay Abraham, president and CEO of NASCAR Images, which boasts that it manages the most technologically advanced television compound in the

world. "Most of this wouldn't even have been possible just a few years ago."

All of the new technology is funneled through that compound, which is made up of trailers and trucks connected by more than 100,000 feet of fiber optic cable and sprouts a maze of antennas and microwave dishes.

Steve Stum is director of field operations for NASCAR Images and the man who oversees the TV compound, which has expanded in size by 2 1/2 times this year to accommodate all the new technology.

"It's three times the size of the compound at the Super Bowl," Stum said. "And we have two days to move it from Daytona to California and 48 hours to set it up for the next race — all the equipment, cables, everything."

"We have more RF (radio frequency) transmitters in our compound than there are in New York City," Stum said. "There are 17 or 18 production trucks, 23 work areas and about 600 workers. We feed everything through here, including NASCAR's timing and scoring and whatever television feeds there are."

And it's not just the fans who benefit. The new technology also allows NASCAR officials to view replays from up to 16 different camera angles.

"We even give them touch screens, so they can make images larger or see some part of the replay more clearly," Stum said. "Everybody benefits from all this new technology."

But fans benefit the most. Each of the new technologies has its own trailers or truck, designed specially to handle its specific needs. DirectTV built a truck with indi-

vidual, cubicle-sized production studios to accommodate its new NASCAR HotPass, five fully produced channels allowing fans to watch the race from the vantage point of a single driver and team.

The thing that makes HotPass unique is that each of its five channels has its own announcing team, director and producer and offers multiple camera angles, real-time stats and telemetry, and in-car audio.

The first two Cup races featured nine different drivers, with only Dale Earnhardt Jr. carried over from Daytona to California. The lineup for Las Vegas, on March 11, will include Kasey Kahne, Kurt Busch, Denny Hamlin, Dale Jarrett and Carl Edwards.

A spokesman for DirecTV said there is not yet any system in place to determine which driver is being watched the most each week.

Here's a rundown of some of the other services available these days:

— Sirius Satellite Radio has "Team Talk," 10 fully produced channels putting fans inside the helmet of one of 10 drivers for the whole race. It includes all radio communications between the driver and his team. When team members aren't on the radio, the live race broadcast audio comes up, allowing listeners to follow the race.

— At the track, Sprint Nextel has FanView, a state-of-the-art scanner offering live audio, video and real-time statistics.

— Fans can follow the race on their computers through NASCAR.com's TrackPass, which now has a 3-D offering and a "social networking" component.

— NASCAR.com To Go with

PitCommand is a mobile phone service that allow fans to listen to driver-crew conversations on their Sprint Nextel phones. It also provides real-time race data over the phone.

— TrackPass RaceView is a 3-D application on NASCAR.com that features animation similar to sports video games. Fans can watch race data displayed on a computer screen showing drivers' positions and movements to within a few inches. They can select one driver or switch among the full field, following them around the track while viewing driver data such as live position, speed and time behind leader, as well as listening to in-car audio feeds.

Three different race views are available for each driver, including Lead View, which shows the front of the driver's car, as well as the cars in pursuit; Flyover View, an aerial view from above; and Draft View, showing the car from behind and the field in front of the driver. Other features include pit road statistics, lap-by-lap editorial commentary and a fantasy game integration.

Mike Metz, a laptop technician from Chino, Calif., was at California Speedway last weekend after watching the Daytona 500 on DirecTV. Metz, wearing a Jeff Gordon No. 24 jacket, makes no secret of his racing allegiance, and that was why he had one complaint about the new technology.

"They didn't have Jeff available until after Jimmie (Johnson) crashed out," Metz said. "Then they switched over and that was cool."

So, will he try Hot Pass again next week at Las Vegas?

"There's different drivers and, from what I've heard, none that I

really follow," Metz said. "So I'll listen to the in-car radio for Jeff on NASCAR.com. That was pretty cool at the Daytona 500. You can hear the pit strategy and how the car is handling and stuff like that."

Father and son Worth Beacham Jr., from Greensboro, N.C., and Worth Beacham III, from Columbia, S.C., were also on hand at the Fontana, Calif., track after watching Hot Pass from home the previous week.

"I'm an Earnhardt fan," Beacham III said. "You could watch him in every turn and watch his speed, his RPMs, see everything from his point of view. You could tell everything about what he is doing, but you could still see what everybody else is doing, too, because of the Fox broadcast."

His father, who also follows Earnhardt, added, "I didn't really like the announcer they had on the Earnhardt broadcast. I thought they ought to have an Earnhardt fan. I mean, if it's the Earnhardt channel, they ought to have somebody who is going to get excited about Earnhardt. It might not have been as professional, but it might have held fans' interest more."

Kevin Harvick, who won the Daytona 500, was asked how he feels about people listening in on his race-day conversations and watching his every move on track.

"I guess I better watch my language more," he said, grinning. "But I think it's fantastic that our fans can get so close to the sport and see what it is we're trying to do. It just gives them a better understanding of how hard our guys work and how competitive this sport really is."

ON THE RISE: Watch for the "real" J.J. Yeley in 2007

by MIKE HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

For those folks who don't know J.J. Yeley very well, he has a message: "That wasn't really me out there on the racetrack last year."

Yeley, driving for Joe Gibbs Racing, spent his rookie season in 2006 racing in the large shadows cast by teammates Tony Stewart, a two-time NASCAR champion, and Denny Hamlin, who ran away with the rookie of the year title.

It wasn't just that Yeley's first full season in Nextel Cup concluded with only three top-10 finishes and his No. 18 Chevrolet a disappointing 29th in the final standings. It was the way the former U.S. Auto Club short-track champion drove throughout the season.

"I was just too passive," Yeley explained. "It was probably the worst racing season I have ever had in my career."

"I wanted to get the reputation of racing guys clean. That way, I get raced the same. But there's a point where that works and there's a point where you are going to get taken

advantage of and get shoved off the road."

While trying so hard to earn a good reputation, Yeley seemed to be involved in nearly every crash that took place anywhere around him last season. He not only tore up a lot of good JGR equipment, his reputation suffered.

"I know a lot of people suddenly thought I was a crasher," Yeley said. "I think I've always taken pretty good care of my equipment, but last year was just not me out there."

"Now that I have my rookie season out of the way, it's not going to happen. I don't care if it's a rookie or a veteran, a guy I grew up watching or had a lot of respect for, if he wants to go down there and not race me clean ... then he's going to see a different J.J. Yeley in 2007."

So far, so good. After starting the year with a solid 12th-place finish in the Daytona 500, Yeley added a 13th-place run at California Speedway and will go to the next Cup race, March 11 in Las

Vegas, eighth in the standings, 84 points behind series leader Mark Martin.

Teammate Stewart, whose feat of winning the USAC Triple Crown — the sprint, midget and Silver Crown titles in the same year — Yeley matched in 2003, eight years after Stewart, is pleased to see the 30-year-old racer get things turned around.

"I knew the talent was there," said Stewart, who crashed out at Daytona and is 21st in the points after finishing eighth at California. "J.J. came up through the same USAC racing I did, and you can't

fake talent in those cars. It's just a matter of making the transition and learning what you need to do in stock cars."

"It just takes some guys a little longer to get it done."

Yeley agreed, noting, "The longest transition was for me to get used to not overdriving the car and being more comfortable maybe riding

around when the car is ill-handling. You need to be able to communicate to the crew chief how far you needed to go with the changes."

It's his second year working with crew chief Steve Addington, but the makeup of the rest of the No. 18 crew is considerably different. Most of that first crew was inherited from Bobby Labonte, who left for Petty Enterprises after driving the No. 18 for years.

"A lot of those guys on the 18 had been around for a really long time, and I loved them as crew members," Yeley said. "But they were Bobby's guys because they'd been there so long."

He and Addington brought in some of the crewmen from Yeley's Busch team and shifted some others around, and now Yeley calls it "my team."

"It's a whole different feeling and atmosphere," Addington said. "There's no tension. Everybody loves J.J. and everybody just wants to have him succeed. If he succeeds, we all do."



JJ Yeley

Points leader Martin might have hard time scaling back

by JENNA FRYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Mark Martin spent the past two years waffling on his future in racing. Now that he's found the perfect situation, he really doesn't want to change his mind again.

But from his perch atop the Nextel Cup points standings, Martin knows sticking to the plan might be easier said than done.

"I'm very comfortable with what I've laid out, but I've learned never to say never," Martin said Monday. "I am the happiest man in racing right now with the best job in all of motorsports. That's where I am today."

What's at issue, though, is where Martin will be one month from now.

He's scheduled to spend March 23-25 in Lake City, Fla., racing late models with his son, Matt, and NASCAR newcomer Ricky Carmichael. That will be a world away from Bristol Motor Speedway, where the Nextel Cup Series is scheduled to roar on without Martin for the first time since Nov. 22, 1987 — a streak of 621 consecutive races.

Martin has been trying for two years to ease his way out from behind the wheel. But racing is all he's ever known, and for as hard as it is to picture a NASCAR without Martin, it's

even harder for him to imagine not having it in his life.

So he settled on a limited schedule with Ginn Racing of 23 races this season — just enough to keep his competitive juices flowing, and not so many as to run the 48-year-old ragged.

Only problem is, Martin is off to the best start of his 25-year career. He almost won the Daytona 500, losing at the line to Kevin Harvick in a controversial photo finish, and was fifth on Sunday at California Speedway to give him season-opening top-five finishes for the first time in his career. It's put Martin on top of the points standings for the first time since Sept. 22, 2002, and has forced him to examine if he's really ready to get out of the race car.

When he climbed from behind the wheel on Sunday, he was adamant that he will not be behind the wheel next month at Bristol.

That hadn't changed on Monday, but Martin was a lot less convincing. "I can, as of right now, say I am fine with things," Martin said. "I can't say how I will feel after Atlanta (on March 18). I know I don't want to run for the championship this year."

A four-time championship runner-up, Martin is considered the greatest driver to never win a title. He accept-

ed long ago that he'll never hoist the Cup, and refuses to spend the end of his career fruitlessly chasing one.

"I am at peace with the hardware part, the trophy part, I didn't earn one and now I don't want to chase one," he said. "I want to move on to the next chapter."

That's how he was able to leave Roush Racing after 19 seasons and an intensely close relationship with owner Jack Roush. It led him to Ginn, a reborn team under new ownership that was willing to give Martin all the flexibility in the world to get him inside the shop.

Bobby Ginn, a lifelong NASCAR fan, is new to the business but committed to doing it right. So he purchased a fledgling second-tier race team last summer, and as part of his five-year plan, Ginn set out to hire the best people he could find.

It led him to Martin, who signed on to do a whole lot more besides driving the flagship No. 01 Chevrolet on a part-time basis.

"We understood going in that we couldn't win the championship with Mark Martin because he was going to run a limited schedule," Ginn said. "That was fine because his value to me goes far beyond the race track. He's a mentor, he helps the crews, he helps our shop and our development program."

"His value to me is getting information from one of the all-time greats."

OK, but aren't you going to try to talk him into making a run at the championship?

"Absolutely not," Ginn said. "A deal is a deal. We will be fine with whatever Mark decides and we won't pressure him to do anything."

Ginn's gut feeling is that Martin will stick to the partial schedule. Others aren't so sure and Martin doesn't blame them for being skeptical.

"There will be lots of speculation of what may come," Martin said. "Matt Kenseth, who is so tight that he squeaks when he walks, he's bet someone \$200 that I'll run the full season."

Martin doesn't think he will, but admits that can change. And it has nothing to do with a championship.

It's all about winning right now, something he's come awfully close to doing twice so far this season. He was driving for the Wood Brothers and leading with five laps to go in Friday night's Truck Series race in California when he was bumped out of the way on a restart.

Martin didn't complain about it, though, and handled the defeat with the same dignity he used following the 500.

"The Wood Brothers, to see there stuff out front like it was in the '70s, that means something to me," Martin said. "That means more to me than a championship and is probably something only the gray haired fans can

appreciate."

As long as Martin can compete for wins, he will always have difficulty walking away. It's why Kenseth's bet isn't easy money and why Martin can't emphatically say he will not run the full schedule.

Ultimately, though, Martin knows that sitting out Bristol will be the best thing for him because one way or the other, he'll finally find out if he can live without racing.

"I think after that it will be fairly clear to me what my future holds," Martin said. "If it bothers me to not be in the race, that's one thing. If I am watching the race and glad I am not in it, then that's another."

"When the race is over, I think I will know a little bit more about how this will go for me."

2007 NASCAR Nextel Cup Driver Standings

1. Mark Martin, 335
2. Jeff Burton, 330
3. Jeff Gordon, 309
4. Kevin Harvick, 307
5. David Ragan, 270
6. Clint Bowyer, 264
7. Joe Nemechek, III, 259
8. J.J. Yeley, 251
9. Kyle Busch, 239
10. David Stremme, 236
11. David Gilliland, 235
12. Matt Kenseth, 232
13. Johnny Sauter, 224
14. Robby Gordon, 218
15. Jimmie Johnson, 216
16. Elliott Sadler, 216
17. Greg Biffle, 211
18. Denny Hamlin, 209
19. Kurt Busch, 196
20. Juan Pablo Montoya, 191

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FOR SALE
 2001 Suzuki Intruder VS 800, dark maroon in color. Loud pipes, runs and looks great. Call 606-285-3605.

FOR SALE
 1992 883 Harley Davidson Sportster, 2001 883 Harley Davidson Sportster Call 587-2263.

EMPLOYMENT

When responding

Job Listings

JOB OPENINGS

Heavy Equipment steam cleaning company needs employees. Must have valid drivers license and up to date surface mining papers. Mine emergency tech is a plus. Call Mon. thru Friday 9a-5p. 606-886-1759. If no answer leave message.

JOB OPENING

Survey Party Chiefs/Surveying Technicians/Instrument Operators. Nesbit Engineering, Inc. an Engineering consulting firm with a successful 31 Yr. track record providing mining, civil, surveying, environmental, and oil and gas consulting services throughout Kentucky. Offering an excellent salary and benefits package, we're currently looking to fill several field crew positions. Candidates should have high school diploma or equivalent; technical school degree or college experience helpful; working knowledge of plane geometry and trigonometry; physically capable of climbing hills and carrying equipment; Land Surveyor in Training (LSIT) or Professional Land Surveyor (LS) certification a plus; Party Chief candidates should have demonstrated experience managing survey crews; Survey Technicians should have experience operating survey related field instruments and assisting the Party Chief with survey related tasks. Apply online at www.neky.com pr apply in person at 834 South Lake Drive Suite 1 Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653.

JOB OPENING

Seeking F/T & P/T drivers for work in Shelby. Drug screen, clean MVR ad 7 years valid DL required. 1-800-471-2440. References required #26, EOE.

JOB OPENING

Prestonsburg Health Care is currently had the following positions open LPN, CNA, and RN. Call 886-2378.

JOB OPENING

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

JOB OPENING

Construction Superintendents needed for major building projects in Eastern Kentucky. Five years supervisory experience required. Send resume to Harbour, Inc. Construction Managers, P.O. Box 22444, Lexington, KY 40522.

JOB OPENING

CDL drivers and warehouse workers needed. Benefits available. Apply in person Mon-Fri 8-4:30. 478-9591.

JOB OPENINGS

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Call LeighAnn to find out more 886-8506

Mountain Christian Academy Position Available

Job Title: Dean
Employment: Twelve Months
Level: Primary Administrator
Supervised by: MCA's Board of Directors
Supervises: All Personnel

Position Summary:
 The dean serves as the professional educational leader of the institution. The dean administers the school according to the policies set by the board of directors. The dean works with the chair to enable the board to carry out its responsibilities.

Minimum Qualifications:
 Adheres to Christian Values.
 Masters Degree in Education or related field.
 Teaching experience.
 Administrative skills/experience
 Acceptance of the philosophy of MCA.
 Willingness to commit at least five years, according to the outcome of the annual evaluations.

Send Resumes to:
 Mountain Christian Academy
 Mr. Ronald G. Salisbury
 P.O. Box 1120
 Martin, KY 41649

Application Deadline:
 March 31, 2007

month, + \$300. deposit water included. Located near HRMC. 606-889-9717.

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LOTS FOR RENT
New MH park. Allen/Dwale area. Restrictions apply. paved streets, lighted area. All sizes. 606-377-2357.

FOR RENT
Nice 2 BR trailer for rent in Prestonsburg. Call 874-0875 or 226-3207.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE

(1) In accordance with 405 KAR 350.093, notice is hereby given that The Elk Horn Coal Company, LLC, 544 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, KY 41653, has applied for Phase II bond release, permit number 836-5450, which was last issued on 6/03/03. The permit covers an area of 26.45 acres, located 2.0 miles east of Drift, in Floyd County.

(2) The permit area is approximately 1.25 mile southeast from KY 122's junction with Simpson Martin Branch Road, and located 2.0 miles east of Beaver Creek. The latitude is 37°28'37". The longitude is 82°43'07".

(3) The bond now in effect for the permit is a Surety Bond for \$ 2 0 , 5 0 0 . Approximately 15% of the original bond amount of \$107,400 is included in the application for release.

(4) Reclamation work performed includes backfilling, grading and seeding, completed 11/18/04.

(5) Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Field Services, No. 2 Hudson Hollow, Frankfort, KY 40601, by April 9, 2007.

(6) A public Hearing on the application has been scheduled for April 10, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., at the Department for Natural Resources' Prestonsburg Regional Office,

3140 South Lake Drive, Suite No. 6, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. The hearing will be cancelled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by April 9, 2007.

NOTICE OF PERMIT CONFERENCE Pursuant to Application Number 836-8065 RN #4

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that a permit conference is scheduled for March 21, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Jenny Lodge, concerning the above application filed by Martin Coal Processing Corporation, P.O. Box 77, Ivel, Ky. 41642. The operation has applied for a renewal of a permit for a coal processing facility affecting 12.0 acres located 0.15 miles east of Hite in Floyd County. The proposed facility is approximately 0.67 miles Southeast from KY

122's junction with KY 80 and is located adjacent to the Left Fork of Beaver Creek. The latitude is 37 degrees 33 minutes 19 seconds. The longitude is 82 degrees 44 minutes 58 seconds.

The facility is located on the Harold and Martin U.S.G.S. 7 7 minute quadrangle maps. The surface area is owned by Martin Coal Processing Corporation and CSX/Chessie System. The renewal application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Ste. 6, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653-1410. Any person whose interest may be adversely affected by the issuance of the proposed permit may present information relevant to the permit, in oral or written form, at the time of the conference.

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