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briefs

Independent deadline approaching

Candidates seeking public office as an independent or political group candidate for a partisan office must file their Statement-of-Candidacy form with the Secretary of State by Monday, April 2, 2007 in order to be placed on the ballot for the November 6th general election. The Statement-of-Candidacy form for independent candidates is required by KRS 118.365(5) which was enacted by the 2003 General Assembly.

"This is only the third election, and the first for statewide constitutional offices, in which independent candidates have been required to file a Statement-of-Candidacy form," said Secretary of State Trey Grayson. "Candidates are encouraged to contact our office to receive the necessary paperwork in order to be eligible for candidacy or if they have any questions."

There is no filing fee for the filing of the Statement of Candidacy, but the failure of candidates required to file the Statement of Candidacy shall result in the rejection of any nominating petition submitted to the appropriate filing official by the August 14, 2007 deadline for attaining ballot access in the November 6, 2007 general election.

In order to help candidates seeking political office, the Office of the Secretary of State previously developed a ballot access procedural manual titled: Declaring Your Candidacy. This publication provides Kentuckians with a quick guide to filing for political office.

Judge, mayors to give state of county

by JESSICA HALE
 STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Floyd County Chamber of Commerce will be holding its first ever State of the County Address on Tuesday at the

Mountain Arts Center.

According to the Chamber Executive Director Mandy Stumbo, the Economic Development Committee had been discussing the possibility of such an event for a while and decided that it would be a good chance to allow

for more community involvement.

A breakfast will take place at 8 a.m. followed by the State of the County Address at 8:30. Keynote speakers will include Floyd County Judge Executive R.D. Marshall and each of the city mayors within the county.

The address will be much like a panel discussion and audience participation will be encouraged.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce in Prestonsburg.

CLEARING THE AIR



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Jean Rosenberg, consultant, Floyd County Health Department, conducted a community forum in regard to the encouragement of smoke-free public spaces at the Floyd County Extension Service office this past Thursday evening. "Kick Butts Day" will be recognized nationally on Wednesday, March 28. The FCHD is asking Floyd County restaurants to go smoke-free for the day and to participate with them in the promotion of tobacco prevention policies.

Fletcher signs bill to make coal mines safer

by ROGER ALFORD
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Coal mines would get increased scrutiny from state inspectors under legislation signed into law Friday by Gov. Ernie Fletcher.

The law, intended to make coal miners safer in their underground workplaces, stalled twice in the legislative process, only to be revived after coalfield widows came to Frankfort to lobby for its passage.

State Rep. Brent Yonts, who sponsored the measure, said he had "signifi-

cant doubts" about it passing the House and Senate, let alone being signed by the governor.

"This bill is a moral victory for the working person," Yonts said. "I think the issue received so much attention from the public and the press that light was focused on the need for it."

The new law will require inspectors from the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing to double their visits to underground coal mines from three to a minimum of six per year. Two of

(See SAFETY, page three)

Minimum wage hike gets governor's OK

by ROGER ALFORD
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Kim Elam was pleased with the news that she'll be getting a pay hike along with more than 100,000 other low-wage workers in Kentucky.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher signed a measure into law on Thursday that will raise the minimum wage by more than \$2 an hour over the next two years.

"I think it's great, because, what it is right now, you can't live on with just one job," the Frankfort cashier said.

Kentucky's move to increase the minimum wage was applauded by advocates who had urged lawmakers and the gover-

nor to take the action.

"It's great for the working poor of Kentucky," said the Rev. Patrick Delahanty, a member of the Raise the Wage Coalition that had lobbied for the hike.

House and Senate lawmakers approved the increase earlier this month.

The minimum wage will increase from \$5.15 an hour to \$5.85 when the law takes effect three months after lawmakers adjourn, which is scheduled for next week. In July 2008, it would increase to \$6.55 an hour, and on July 1, 2009, it would rise to \$7.25 an hour.

Kentucky's minimum wage increase came at a time when Congress is pon-

(See WAGES, page three)

School system seeking input on new student tobacco policy

by JESSICA HALE
 STAFF WRITER

A recommendation regarding tobacco use proposed by a local broad based committee aims to gain feedback from parents of students who attend public school in Floyd County.

On March 20, the Floyd County Board of Education released a document which outlines the recommended policy along with a letter to parents asking for their input.

The letter explains that the policy recommendation was

originally directed towards students, employees and anyone on or in school district property or vehicles, but the committee later decided that students were the most important group of the three, therefore this is the group they are focusing their review efforts on.

The proposed policy stipulates, "Students shall not be permitted to use or possess any tobacco product, lighters and matches on property operated by the Board, inside Board owned vehicles, on the way to and from school, or during school sponsored trips and activities".

The policy goes on to say, "Students who violate these standards shall be subject to penalties set forth in the local code of acceptable behavior and discipline".

Disciplinary actions which would be taken against any student who violates the policy could include but are not limited to, tobacco cessation classes with parental involvement, five hours of school service, and

(See POLICY, page three)

\$1.4 million going to safer water

by JESSICA HALE
 STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Eastern Kentucky will soon be getting \$1.4 million in PRIDE funds to advance the organization's environmental infrastructure improvement program.

This particular batch of funds will go to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and will focus wastewater treatment.

(See WATER, page three)



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Patsy Ryan, executive director, Floyd County Housing Authority, left, and Crystal Howard, program coordinator, right, congratulate Floyd County resident Ronald Hall on his graduation from the Family Self-Sufficiency program. The Family Self-Sufficiency program rewards participants for earned income by placing a matching percentage of all income earned through employment into an escrow account in the participant's name. Once all program requirements are completed, a check for the amount of money accumulated in the account is given to the participant to help assist with the elimination of debt or the purchase of a new home. Currently, 32 Floyd County families are participating in the program; four participants have already purchased new homes for their families through their participation. To learn more about the Family Self-Sufficiency program, contact Crystal Howard, at the Floyd County Housing Authority, at 285-3833, ext. 15.

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inside

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

■ Michael Ray Adkins, 40, of Ivel, died Thursday, March 22, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services will be held Sunday, March 25, at 2 p.m., under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Carolyn Sue Gibson, 65, of Weeksbury, died Thursday, March 15, at the Prestonsburg Health Care Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, March 18, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Maxie Mae James, 87, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, March 18, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 21, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Cassandra Tuggle Jones, age 65, of Prestonsburg, formerly of Williamsburg, died Monday, March 19, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 24, under the direction of Ellison's Funeral Home, in Williamsburg.

■ Martha Keathley, 85, of Betsy Layne, died Saturday, March 17, at her home. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 20, under direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Robert Lee, 90, of Harold, died Tuesday, March 20, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ozetta Lee. Funeral services were held Friday, March 23, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Bobby J. Lemaster, 68, of Grethel, died Tuesday, March 20, at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Coleman Lemaster. Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 24, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Malinda Lou Marcum, 57, of McDowell, died Tuesday, March 20, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Cecil Marcum. Funeral services were held Friday, March 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Ralph Moore, 91, of Hi Hat, died Tuesday, March 20, at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Nova Isaac Moore. Funeral services were conducted Friday, March 23,

under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Gordon Victor Moore, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, March 19, at home. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 22, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Glinda Johnson Ousley Myers, 57, of Ashley, Indiana, a native of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, March 20, at Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. She is survived by her husband, John R. Myers. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 24, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Phyllis Jean Pitts, 68, of Martin, died Tuesday, March 20, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, E. J. Pitts. Funeral services were held Friday, March 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Johnnie Thornsby, 91, of Auxier, died Friday, March 16, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Ada Cole Thornsby. Funeral services were held Monday, March 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ C. V. Waters Sr., 90, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, March 20, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Friday, March 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

PIKE COUNTY

■ Arley R. Barber Jr., 69, of Ashcamp, died Wednesday, March 14, at Mountain View Health Care Center. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Fowler Barber. Funeral services were held Monday, March 19, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Ernest G. Bentley, 70, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, March 14, in Huntington, W.Va. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 17, under the direction of Carty Funeral Home of Neon.

■ Linda Gail West Chapman, 56, of Hardy, died Saturday, March 17, at the home of her daughter. She is survived by her husband, Danny Chapman. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 21, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home of Belfry.

■ Wesley Blake Childers, 70, of Hazel Green, formerly of Pike County, died Thursday, March 15, at UK Medical

Center, Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice Romans Childers. Funeral services were held Sunday, March 18, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Barney E. Coleman, 70, of Marrowbone Creek, died Tuesday, March 20, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Barbara A. Coleman. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 24, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home of Pikeville.

■ Joe Cook, 89, of McRoberts, died Saturday, March 17, at the Whitesburg Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Polly Cook. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 20, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Paige Necole Dennis, 16, of McCarr, died Friday, March 16, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital, the result of injuries suffered in an automobile accident. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 20, under direction of Hatfield Funeral Chapel of Toler.

■ Ruby Jane Scarberry Estep, 79, of Hurley, Virginia, a native of Paw Paw, died Thursday, March 15, at Johnson City Medical Center, Johnson City, Tennessee. Funeral services were held Monday, March 19, under the direction of Grundy Funeral Home.

■ Arvil Estep, 77, of Dorton, died Thursday, March 22, at Whitesburg Appalachian Regional Hospital. Services are under the direction of Lucas and Son Funeral Home.

■ Ola Faye "Charlene" Ferguson, 71, of Wurtland, a Pike County native, died Wednesday, March 21, at her residence. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 24, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home, in Paintsville.

■ Patty Ward Hamilton, 64, of Cleveland, Tenn., formerly of Elkhorn City, died Saturday, March 10, at Norton Healthcare Pavilion, Louisville. Funeral services were private. Arrangements were under direction of Maraman Billings Funeral Home of Louisville.

■ Helema Bartley Hopkins, 66, of Bowling Fork, died Saturday, March 17, at Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Everal Howard Hopkins. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 20, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Deanna Justice, 62, of Huddy, died Sunday, March 18, at Cabell-Huntington Hospital, Huntington, West Virginia. She is survived by her husband, Denny Ray Justice. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 22, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Gertrude Stratton Lowe, 81, of Lower Johns Creek, died Monday, March 19, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 21, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ John "Arvil" May, 74, of

Buffalo Grove, Ill., a native of Pike County, died Tuesday, March 20, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, LaVerne Adkins May. Funeral services will be held Monday, March 26, at 1 p.m., under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home, Elkhorn City.

■ Tommy Walter Norman, 50, of Pikeville, died Saturday, March 17. Funeral were held Thursday, March 22, under the direction of Pikeville Funeral Home.

■ Ruby Damron Prater, 85, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, March 20, at Mountain View Health Care Center, Elkhorn City. Funeral services were held Friday, March 23, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ Navaeh Grace Robinette, daughter of John Wesley Robinette, of Pikeville, and Rebecca Joy Chapman of Biggs, was stillborn, Wednesday, March 14, at Cabell-Huntington Hospital, Huntington, W.Va. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Sunday, March 18, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ Bobby "Oil Barrel" Stiltner, 63, of Phyllis, died Friday, March 16, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Avonelle Newsome Stiltner. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 20, under the direction of Community Funeral Home of Zebulon.

■ Jessie Mae Thompson Thacker, 73, of Woodway Community, Va., a native of Pikeville, died Thursday, March 15, at her home. Funeral services were held Sunday, March 18, under the direction of Province Funeral Home of Pennington Gap.

■ Gladys E. Wright, 85, of The Three Mile Community, died Wednesday, March 21, at her home. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 24, under the direction of Polly & Craft Funeral Home.

JOHNSON COUNTY

■ Timothy W. "Tim" Blair, 40, of Leander, died Thursday, March 15, at Leander. Funeral services were held Sunday,

March 18, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Clyde E. Blevins, 88, died Wednesday, January 3, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center in Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Anne Dixon Blevins. A graveside service was held on Saturday, January 13, at Highlands Memorial Park, in Staffordsville, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Sarah Francis Cantrell, 99, of Keaton, died Thursday, March 15, at Three Rivers Medical Center, in Louisa. Funeral services were held Sunday, March 18, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

■ Paul Douglas Daniels, 41, of Richmond, a Johnson County native, died Thursday, March 15, at the U.K. Medical Center, in Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Daniels. Funeral services were held Sunday, March 18, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

■ Earl Haney, 81, a Johnson County native, died Sunday, March 18, in Clark Regional Medical Center in Winchester. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 22, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Nim Sturgill Jr., 68, of Paintsville, died Thursday, March 22, in University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Thelma Lee Staniford Sturgill. Funeral ser-

VICES will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at First Baptist Church. Preston Funeral Home in Paintsville is in charge of arrangements.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

■ Grayson Arnold "Woody" Wood, 80, of Ironton, a Lawrence County native, died Saturday, March 17, in King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Page Wood. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 22, under the direction of Phillips Funeral Home in Ironton.

MARTIN COUNTY

■ Tony Monroe Dials, 62, of Inez, died Wednesday, March 14, at Cabell Huntington Hospital, in Huntington, West Virginia. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 17, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Ronald T. Haney II, 34, of Inez, died Wednesday, March 14, at Louisa. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, March 18, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

■ Shelvie Jean Warrix, 66, of Salyersville, died Saturday, March 17, at the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, March 20, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

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Obituaries

Michael Ray Adkins

Michael Ray Adkins, 40, of Ivel, died Thursday, March 22, 2007, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg.

Born January 12, 1967, in Pikeville, he was the son of Bobby and Linda Hall Adkins of Ivel. He was self-employed in advertising; and attended the Mare Creek Church of Christ.

He is survived by his fiancée, Judy Bentley of Stanville.

Survivors, in addition to his parents and his fiancée, include a brother, Brad Allen Adkins of Ivel; four sisters: Sheila Anne Stacy (David) of West Liberty, and Bobbi Lynne Salyer, Angela Maynard (Douglas), and

Kimberly Dunn (Junior), all of Ivel; two sons: Sean Wesley Bentley and Michael Douglas Bentley, both of Stanville; two nieces: Courtney Nicole Maynard and Megan Nicole Branham; a nephew, Coey Austin Maynard; and a step-nephew, David E. Stacy.

He was preceded in death by a son, Jessie Adkins.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, March 25, at 2 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Harold Stacy, Farris Lawson and Shawn Jervis officiating.

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

Visitation is at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

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Minister's Moment: Someone with skin

by FATHER BOB DAMRON
ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

someone with skin on. Jesus understands this, as He makes so clear in the Bible. "I'm not a ghost," He says to His friends. "I'm very real; I'm here. You can count on me. So don't be afraid. I'll always be here for you, closer to you than your breath, closer than your heartbeat. I'll always be here, even when it's very dark."

Jesus' words comforted His disciples and calmed their fears, and that's good. But it isn't enough as far as Jesus is concerned. Jesus wanted more for them and wants more for each of us — a lot more than just peace and quiet.

Jesus wants to transform, to change us into new people, who see the world, who see life in a new way (His way) — and respond to it in a new way. Jesus wants to transform us into people who understand what it means to be entrusted with wonderful gifts of the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants to transform us all into people who understand that our great-

est joy — our lasting joy — is to build a loving relationship with God and with each other — to be a people of compassion, love, forgiveness and mercy. Jesus wants to help us see that the cost of being and transformed into Himself — and being transformers (helping others become Christ-like) — is always high, but the cost of staying mired in ourselves and stuck in our fears is higher still. For that choice leaves us with little or nothing of the only joys that truly warm the heart and enliven the spirit.

Our being transformed into the likeness of Christ is God's hope and desire for us, God's will for us. And this hope of God for each of us will happen and continue to happen for each of us, if we trust in God's presence, which is closer than our breath, if we draw strength from His love, which is closer than our heartbeat.

In the Bible, Jesus tells His disciples to be His witnesses to all nations, beginning in

Jerusalem. Witnessing, to Jesus, is more than telling people about the life of this traveling rabbi who lived 2,000 years ago. Anyone can do that. Witnessing, to Jesus, is more than testifying that Jesus is risen. Witnessing, to Jesus, is testifying that by our lives that the power of the risen Jesus has touched us and transformed us in the most remarkable ways imaginable. Witnessing, to Jesus, is letting Jesus speak through us, in our words, in our actions, to other people. Each of us is to be a living witness to the resurrection of Jesus.

The most powerful force in the world is not missiles and bombs, but someone touched and transformed (changed) by the power of the risen Christ. That is the greatest power on earth — a life changed by Christ can change the hearts and the lives of others, and in that process, change the history of this nation, of all nations, of this world.

And so, witnessing, to Jesus, is not necessarily getting on a soapbox on the street corner, nor appearing on the radio and TV, but testifying by our lives that the power of the risen Jesus has touched us and changed our lives. The risen Christ has made the world of difference in my life and in our lives. It is letting Jesus speak through us to other people.

No matter how beautifully expressed, abstract ideas rarely move people. But let a person come forward, a living person, capable of speaking to the heart; let truth flow from that person's life; let Christ speak through that person's words; let love be that person's gift to others — then people will listen, lives are changed, and the dawn of better days will brighten our skies.

Let each of us be a physical presence of the risen Lord; may each of us be Jesus with skin.

Therefore, I invite each and every one to the Holy Week

Services presented by the Prestonsburg Ministerial Association during the week of April 2 to April 6. Come and listen to various ministers of God, as they share their love of Christ:

■ Monday, April 2 — Bob Damron, St. Martha Catholic Church

■ Tuesday, April 3 — Tommy Reed, Fitzpatrick Baptist Church

■ Wednesday, April 4 — Vicki Poole, First Presbyterian

■ Thursday, April 5 — Steve Williams, First Church of God

■ Friday, April 6 — John Baker, Seventh-Day Adventist Church

The services will begin at 12 noon and last until 12:30 p.m., followed by lunch until 1 p.m. the services will take place at Prestonsburg First Baptist Church, Irene Cole Memorial. Please come and celebrate Holy Week with your Christian sisters and brothers.

Safety

the annual inspections must focus on electrical work inside mines.

The law also requires at least one member of every underground crew to have a detector to monitor for the explosive gas methane. Miners working alone also would have a detector.

Tony Oppgard, an attorney for the Appalachian Citizens Law Center in Prestonsburg, said Kentucky now has perhaps the strongest mine safety law in the nation.

"There are several provisions in the bill that no other states have and that exceed the

requirements of the federal mine safety law," said Oppgard, who represents coal miners and the families of deceased miners in court cases.

Among the provisions peculiar to Kentucky, Oppgard said, is a requirement to have two emergency medical technicians on duty on every shift and a requirement for mine operators to give state regulators 48 hours notice before doing so-called "retreat mining." In that mining process, coal is removed from the very pillars that hold up the overhead layers of rock.

The notice gives state regu-

lators time to visit the mine to ensure that all the miners are thoroughly trained in the proper way to do the work.

Claudia Cole, a Harlan County woman who lost her husband in a cave-in at a mine where retreat mining was being done, said the new law will save lives. She said she's pleased Fletcher signed it into law.

"These miners deserve it," she said.

Among other provisions, ventilation fans that force air through the underground tunnels must stay on at all times. And coal operators are

required to keep a vehicle near working crews to get injured miners to the surface quickly.

The law follows one of the deadliest years in recent history for Kentucky coal miners. In all, 16 miners were killed in 2006, five in a methane gas explosion in Harlan County in May.

"This bill may not achieve the ultimate goal of preventing

all injuries and future deaths," Yonts said. "But it will go a long way toward satisfying the governmental obligation of safety in the workplace."

The law authorizes the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing to hire up to 15 additional mine safety analysts to perform inspections, to mentor miners on safety and to appoint liaisons to keep miners' fami-

lies informed during accident investigations.

Fletcher said the new law was the result of a bipartisan effort.

"I want to commend not only the General Assembly for its work, but also the efforts of the families of mine accident victims who were instrumental in the passage of the bill," Fletcher said.

Wages

considering a similar move.

If the federal minimum hourly wage is increased in excess of Kentucky's minimum hourly wage, the legislation provides that Kentucky's minimum hourly wage will increase simultaneously by the same amount.

Fletcher, who is running for re-election this year, had not said whether he would sign the

measure into law, causing some advocates to speculate that he might even veto the measure, Delahanty said.

Delahanty said the minimum wage increase still isn't adequate to raise the lowest paid workers out of poverty.

"It's not enough," he said. "Though it's not politically possible, the ideal wage would be a living wage, somewhere between \$12 and \$15 an hour.

Even if you go to \$7.25 an hour, you're still going to have people living below the poverty level. But it's a lot better than \$5.15. It's a good start."

Elam, who now makes \$6.35 an hour, agreed. But she said at the rate of inflation, the increase will not mean much in two years.

"I think it needs to be more, and they need to make it quickly," she said.

Water

"With this funding, our ongoing campaign to eliminate straight pipes and failing septic systems and provide more of our citizens with safe, sanitary wastewater treatment services can continue," U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers said. "The Corps of Engineers has been a valued partner throughout the 10-year history of PRIDE and I am pleased to see this relationship continue."

Through grants such as this one, PRIDE has invested \$116 million to provide sanitary wastewater treatment service to more than 27,000 homes in the region.

"This funding is just one more step in our mission to restore our waterways to their pristine beauty," Rogers said. "We're working hard to put a new face on the region, and we plan to share it with tourists from all over."

Policy

even court action.

Currently, the student handbook says that certain behavior violations shall be handled with informal or in-school disciplinary measures and some may even result in suspension or expulsion from school. Tobacco use or possession is listed as one of these behaviors.

The letters are currently being mailed out to the home addresses of all parents whose students are enrolled in the Floyd County School system. The letter asks parents and guardians whether or not they would like to share their input on this policy. The board asks that responses be returned to school principals no later than March 30.

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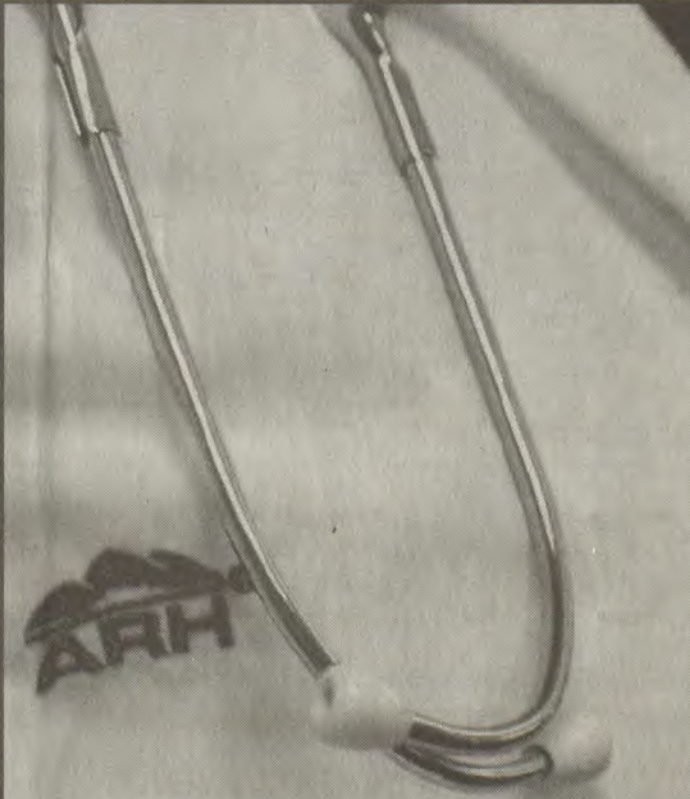
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expression

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

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

Incentives, please

For years, the U.S. government has done strikingly little clear thinking about organ donation and how to encourage it. Transplant surgery has become routine, but few healthy organs are available. Yet this deadly supply problem is considered a taboo public policy issue, primarily because of fears that giving incentives to people to donate organs will spawn a ghoulish black market and prompt the destitute to risk their health to pay the rent. Fortunately, we're finally seeing some progress. The House of Representatives recently approved a measure that legalizes paired kidney donations. Many people with failing kidneys have family members or friends willing to donate a kidney, but their organs are a bad match because of conflicting blood or tissue type. Setting up a kidney exchange program — in which willing donors can be paired up with suitable recipients in a reciprocal arrangement — is a highly promising approach that could significantly reduce the 4,000 or so Americans who die each year waiting on a new kidney.

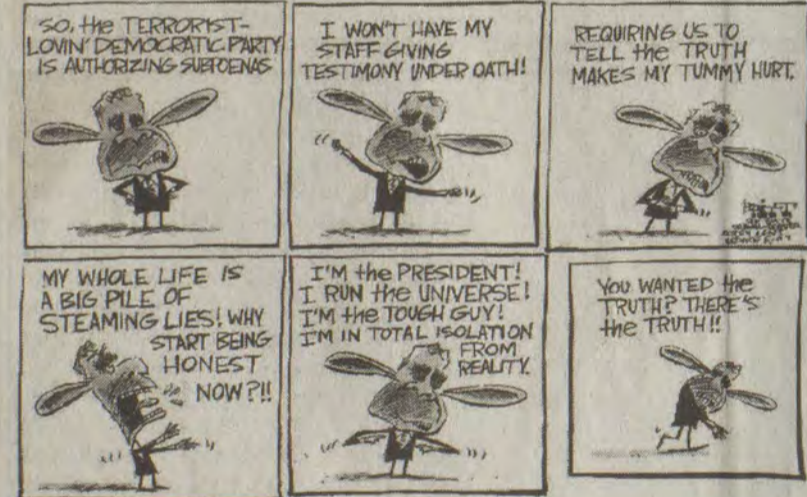
Unfortunately, such deals have been interpreted as running afoul of the flat federal ban on people benefiting from donating an organ. This is crazy, so we're heartened that the Senate seems strongly inclined to pass the House bill and promote this clever approach. In anticipation of that day, a database of California residents with failing kidneys and willing but incompatible donors should be established right away.

Still, this is only a very modest start. The U.S. kidney waiting list has more than doubled in the past decade — there are more than 15,000 on California's list alone — and this trend is sure to continue in coming years as baby boomers age. Other organ waiting lists are also long, thanks to a widespread reluctance by Americans to agree to donate their organs upon death.

It's time to address these problems with basic incentives. Their power has been documented in, of all places, Iran. Under a 19-year-old government program, individuals who can safely donate a kidney are paid up to \$4,000 and provided with after-surgery care and health insurance. Since 1999, Iran has been the only nation on Earth without a kidney-transplant waiting list.

Without going to such a crude arrangement, it is easy to see how the United States could achieve similar results. Why not give a substantial tax credit or prefunded health savings accounts to individuals who can — without endangering their own well-being — donate a kidney? Why not give individuals who agree to organ donation upon death an estate-tax credit or contributions to their children's or grandchildren's educational savings accounts? Relying on altruism hasn't worked. It's time we started giving people a more compelling reason to help their fellow man.

— The San Diego Union-Tribune



—Rich Lowry Column

How faith moved a nation

How does a society vanquish a social ill that is deeply ingrained, that benefits the economy and that directly harms only the utterly powerless?

That is the question addressed by the new movie "Amazing Grace," and the companion book of the same name by author Eric Metaxas. They tell the story of William Wilberforce, the British parliamentarian whose decades-long fight against the slave trade finally resulted in its abolition in 1807. This year is the bicentennial of what was, to use contemporary argot, one of history's most successful "faith-based initiatives."

Wilberforce was a committed Christian, whose faith informed his opposition to slavery and steered him against the reverses that inevitably attended his against-the-odds battle. His model is a useful corrective in the current debate concerning the proper role of faith in American public life. Defenders of faith's importance tend to get squeezed on one side by secularists railing against imagined offenses to liberty and the Constitution and on the other by the buffoonish antics of Christian leaders like Pat Robertson.

Abolitionists confronted a forbidding landscape, as Metaxas makes

clear in his spirited, moving account of Wilberforce's life: "Slavery was as accepted as birth and marriage and death, was so woven into the tapestry of human history that you could barely see its threads, much less pull them out. Everywhere on the globe, for 5,000 years, the idea of human civilization without slavery was unimaginable."

Abolition was, strictly speaking, impractical. According to Adam Hochschild's history of abolition, "Bury the Chains," Britain was a country "where profits from West Indian plantations gave a large boost to the economy, where customs duties on slave-grown sugar were an important source of government revenue, and where ... the trade itself had increased to almost unparalleled levels, bringing prosperity to key ports, including London itself."

How to overcome all this? The abolitionists called on the British people to live up to their professed faith. If they believed that all men were created in the image of God, how could they sanction treating some of them as chattel? They pushed the public's nose down into

the facts of what happened on the slave ships, countering the propaganda about slaves enjoying their journey. They mobilized public opinion

in an unprecedented way, producing petitions signed by hundreds of thousands of people.

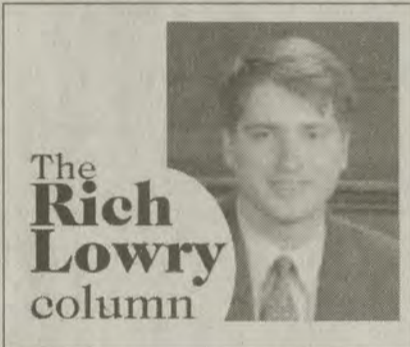
And they were persistent. In 1796, a vote to abolish the trade lost by an agonizing four votes. It wasn't

for another decade that the abolitionists won.

Such reformers can be humorless busybodies. ("Well, Henry, what shall we abolish next?" Wilberforce asked his earnest cousin Henry Thornton after the victory against the slave trade. Thornton, missing the lighthearted nature of the comment, replied, "The lottery, I think.")

They also can be farsighted advocates for change that, once it occurs, we all accept as inevitable and right. The abolition of the slave trade was such a change, championed 200 years ago by people who, thankfully, realized the importance of faith in public life.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



The Rich Lowry column

— beyond the beltway

GOP candidates even worse than the Dems

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

That Chuck Hagel, he's a caution. The Nebraska Republican called a press conference in Omaha the other day and there was a sense of portent in the room.

Fifteen television stations were on hand to record the event, as well as political reporters from all over the map. They smelled a presidential announcement in the air. Then he got up and said:

"I'm here today to announce that my family and I will make a decision on my political future later this year."

"Wow!" I said to myself, thinking like a political reporter, "A decision this year and not next. Stop the presses and break out the big type. I'll bet those television guys are glad they schlepped all the way out there to hear that." No that's not really what I said, not even to myself. It was more like "That's it? The whole thing? You couldn't have sent an e-mail?"

We've grown used to the strange ways of Democrats in presidential contests, but this year the Republicans are outstranging them. While Hagel was announcing his decision to make a decision, someday, Newt Gingrich, the former Republican Speaker of the House, was hinting at his readiness to assume the duties of office by confessing he'd had an extra-marital affair while the Monica Lewinsky-Bill Clinton scandal was raging,

thereby sewing up the adultery vote.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, nine-term Texas Rep. Ron Paul, a Republican libertarian, was announcing that he too would seek the nomination and, to prove his seriousness, had already raised \$50,000 for his campaign.

Former Tennessee senator and current "Law and Order" actor Fred Thompson recently indicated a certain willingness to run, but said he'd "wait and see" before making a decision.

Then there's Sam Brownback of Kansas who is going around the country, accosting strangers, saying: "I'm Senator Sam Brownback, and I'm running for president," an approach that risks inspiring the response: "Of what?"

Have I mentioned Mike Huckabee of Arkansas? I won't.

The reason for this flurry of unusual activity (Republicans generally take the next guy in line as their nominee) is that the current field of Republican front-runners has more flaws than a cheap engagement ring.

On the family values front, one leading candidate has had three wives, one has had two and one has had one. Guess which is the Mormon. As a matter of fact the Mormon, Mitt Romney, is the candidate most Republican on all the litmus test issues — abortion, gay rights, stem cell research. The only problem is that a few years ago when he was governor of Massachusetts, he was wrong on all of those same issues.

In other words, in the Massachusetts style made famous by John Kerry, Romney was for those

things before he was against them. (Do you think it could be something in the water up there?)

Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, is much admired for the stalwart way he responded to the crisis of 9/11, but from a Republican perspective he is wrong on the big issues, even gun control. When this is pointed out to him, he waves dismissively and points out that he's

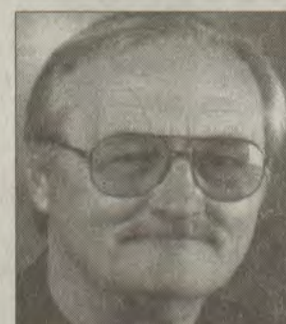
Republican where it counts most. He's for the war, against taxes.

Arizona Sen. John McCain seems conservative enough on key issues, but...he is the master of "but" politics. He favors putting more troops into Iraq, but has offered blistering criticisms of the conduct of the war. He voted against President Bush's tax cuts but now wants to make them permanent. He's against the role of special interest money in elections, but has refused federal funding for his own campaign so he can raise money from — you guessed it — special interests. He's also called his beleaguered president's record on global warming "terrible."

What's a poor Republican voter to do? Lucky for them they're running against a Democratic Party whose handbook on firing squad etiquette begins: "First you form a circle."

It's going to be a long election year.

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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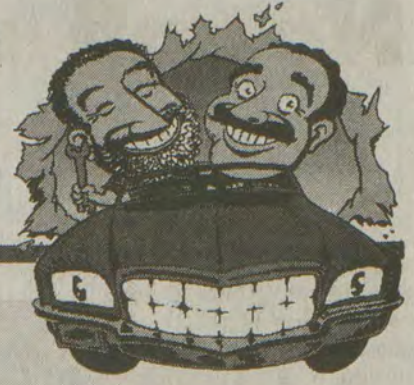
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CAR TALK:

Not all transmission repairs break the bank

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.

ONLY PARTLY SORE

Somebody has made away with Judge Hill's hat—right out of the Floyd circuit courtroom. True, whoever took the judicial fedora left his own, but that didn't help any. The hat left behind is at least two sizes too large for Judge's head. We suggest: who ever made the mistake, come on back, swap hats, all will be forgiven. Judge isn't sore—but the tops of the ears are.

13 YEARS LATER

While we're making a lost-and-found department of this column, let us tell you about Mrs. Judith Archer's experience. In 1949 she lost a red billfold, worried about it a bit, then forgot the whole matter last week when she received a small parcel in the mail. It was the long-missing billfold, with all its contents—identification papers, two \$1 bills, a silver dollar, a good-luck charm and a few pieces of change.

There was no identification of the finder; only, the envelope containing the purse was postmarked Prestonsburg. Mrs. Archer has been wondering how-come, but I think I know the answer. Somebody whose method (?) of handling little details, and whose memory for same approximates mine, found that billfold, stuck it back in a drawer with the intention of returning it tomorrow, forgot it for 13 years, and finally "ran across it" again, by accident. And didn't trust himself or herself any longer to remember to return it later.

□□□

This in the mail, commenting on last week's item about the drunk who may or may not have been mixed up about his directions.

"The drunk may have been brilliantly right—perhaps the 'So-and-So's' brains were in his belly!"

HE WROTE THE BOOK

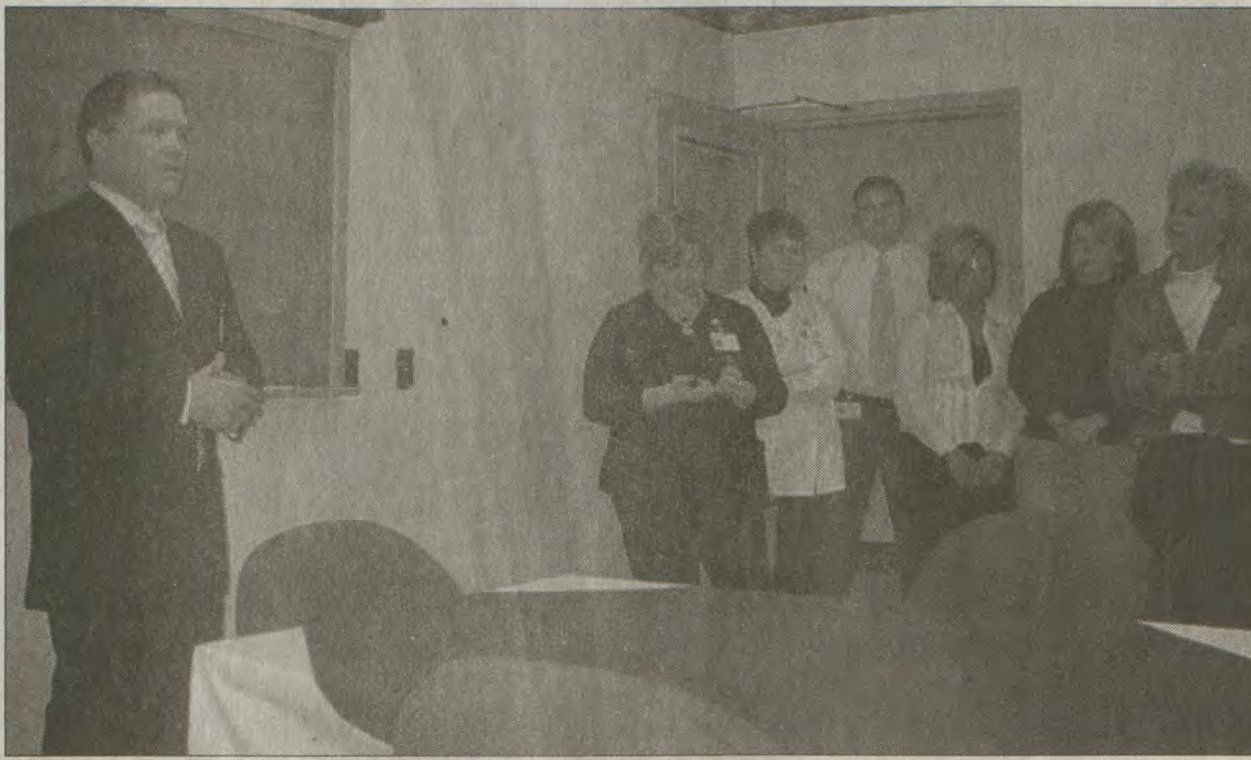
A fellow, who, to make conversation, remarked he was put out because he wasn't invited to appear in the cast of "The Follies of '62" was reminded that he's the guy who has been playing the follies, ever since he was old enough. In that Follies cast, from year to year, he sometimes carried a spear or a gun for somebody, sometimes a torch, once in a great while had to be carried.

□□□

The following, written by Anne O'Hara McCormick, and handed me by a friend, belongs to my Wish-I-Had-Written-That Department:

"We live in one house, but not in one time. The primeval tom-tom

(See ALLEN, page sevem)



Russ Barker, CCEO, McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital, welcomed community members and business leaders to a "Business After Hours" event held Thursday afternoon at the hospital. Business After Hours events are held in conjunction with the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce.

photos by Kathy J. Prater

McDowell ARH hosts Chamber 'Business After Hours'

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

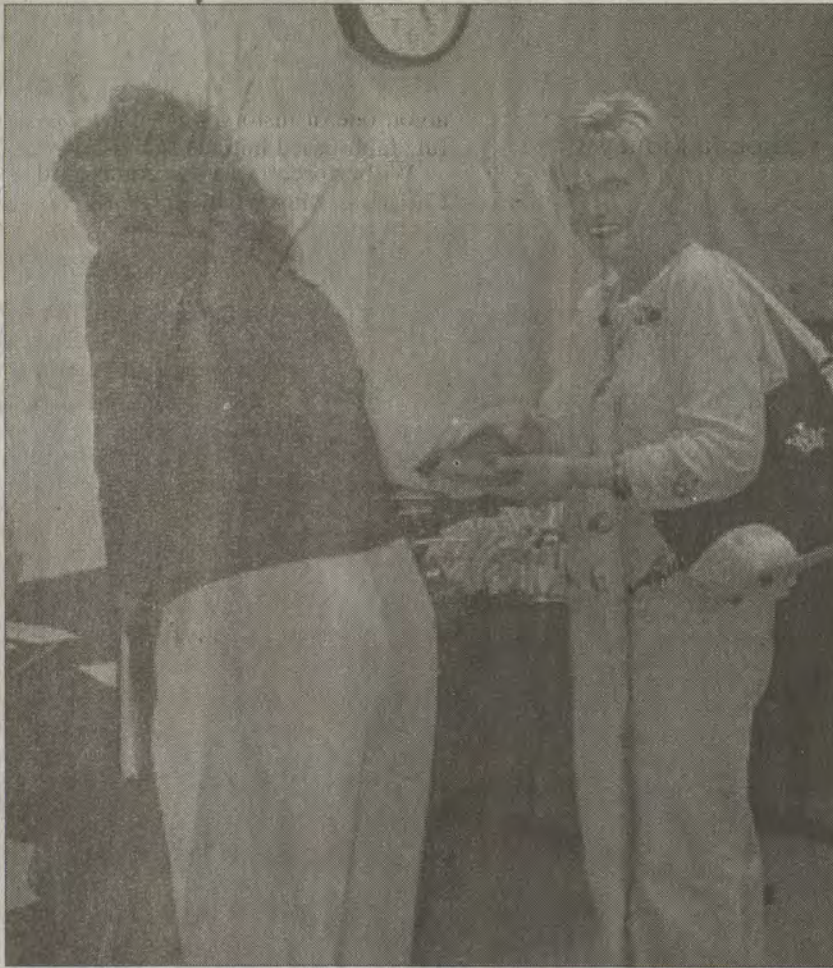
Russ Barker, CCEO, McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital, welcomed community leaders to a "Business After Hours" event, co-sponsored in conjunction with the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce and held Thursday afternoon at the hospital.

Referring to the hospital as "an economic engine for McDowell," Barker, a Hazard native, praised the facility for its quick emergency care response, generous outpouring to local charities, and current plans to implement a new program focused directly on senior care in the coming months.

"We're eager to get the word out that there is a little facility here that would love to take care of you and your family members," Barker said.

Visitors to McDowell ARH are welcomed and encouraged by hospital staff and Barker said that many of those employed are natives of the area, helping to create a welcoming and homey atmosphere for its patients.

The Business After Hours event was catered by Special Occasions, of Pikeville. Refreshments and door prizes were enjoyed by all those in attendance.



Beth Mullins, Mary Kay cosmetics, helped herself to some of the refreshments offered during the after-hours networking event.



With the help of local caterers Special Occasions, a festive atmosphere, enjoyed by all, was created for the special event.

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'Don't Open Till Christmas'

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST

Slay bells ring off the hook in this mid-1980s slasher mystery which pits a Scotland Yard detective against a psychopath targeting street corner Santas.

The action begins in a very dark alley where a guy in a Santa hat has brought his favorite girl for a romantic romp in the back seat of his battered sedan. The pair are spied by the camera (acting as the killer) which walks over for a close up and is undeterred when the man yells, "Clear off."



Tom Doty
Times Columnist

After an uninspired shot of the psycho dispatching the pair, we cut to a disco. There a young couple (Kate and Cliff) are helping Kate's dad into a Santa suit. Dad then steps out to entertain the unimpressed crowd and is quickly dispatched by a spear chucked through his (egg?) noggin.

The film then cuts to Scotland Yard, which finds the befuddled Inspector Harris discussing the killings with his top sergeant, Powell. The pair seems more worried about the bad press coming their way and envision a headline that reads, "Only three more killing days till Christmas."

That same day a present arrives for Harris bearing the legend, "Don't Open Till Christmas." Like a good detective he decides to observe proper protocol and wait till the 25th to open this gift, despite the fact that it has clue practically written all over it.

The film wanders around for a bit of window-shopping until finally deciding to focus on Kate and Cliff. She appears somewhat sad about her dad but Cliff turns out to have missed out on any sensitivity training and talks her into visiting a photographer friend who wants to shoot her in a Santa outfit. When Kate storms out in a teary huff, Cliff cements his reputation as an insensitive mook by staying behind and putting some moves on one of his buddy's models. He later seals his reputation as the guy least likely to ever have another date by abandoning the model when two police spot him checking out her ample talents under streetlights. The model is almost killed by the film's stalker but he runs off when the police get near.

Next there are several scenes of Santas getting whacked which include a choice bit wherein two undercover cops don Santa suits, which unfortunately appear to rob them of their skills and see both done in by the masked killer. Several other Santa slaughters follow, which include a gruesome castration set in a public restroom.

Eventually the police round up two witnesses who aren't very helpful. Each remarks that they only remember that the man wore a mask and had twinkling eyes but neither can give a height, weight or clothing analysis. Scotland Yard steps in and takes

(See LAGOON, page sevem)

Night school

by KATHY CAWTHON
"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE BREAST
CANCER SURVIVOR'S SOUL"

Without a doubt, the nights were the worst.

During the daytime, family and friends visited and chatted. Others called to talk on the phone. My mother rented movies, and we watched them together. My teenage sons went through the typical trials and tribulations of that phase of life, and its

inherent daily drama kept my thoughts occupied. Visits to the oncology clinic or the radiation therapy center at the hospital provided opportunities to visit with other patients and cheerful nurses and technicians. And the daylight somehow made everything OK. It was easier to laugh in the daytime, and it was easier to believe I would get well. I didn't feel so alone when the sun was up.

But when night fell, everything changed. The nightmares of child-

hood could not compete with the horrors of those nights when survival seemed only a very slim possibility. With everyone in our household sound asleep and not a sound to be heard anywhere, I would bolt upright in my bed, heart pounding, envisioning things I feared would come to pass. I would start to tremble all over, pull the blankets tighter around me and lie there shivering and sobbing for what seemed like hours.

Then I heard someone refer to those times as "God's night classes." She said that God often awakens us in the middle of the night during difficult times for the simple reason that it

is quiet and there is nothing to distract us from communicating with him. With all around us dark and silent, we can talk to him, and we can listen to what he has to tell us.

I began to look at those nightly wake-up calls as God's night classes. When I began to shake all over and the tears came, I begged him to pull me close, to comfort me and calm my fears. I told him

where it hurt and what I was afraid of. And, yes, I prayed for a cure.

But mostly I just prayed for courage to get through one more treatment, one more surgery, one more day of living with cancer.

After a few of these "night classes," the trembling and the tears stopped. If I awoke during the night, I said: "Hello, God. I'm here." Invariably, he said, "So am I."



Not all transmission repairs break the bank

by TOM and RAY
MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
My 1998 Subaru Outback with an automatic transmission has started not going into second gear — sometimes. It started five days ago. I have driven only short trips of a mile or two during that time. About a third of the time when I start moving again from stop signs or traffic lights, the engine sounds like it's straining, and it won't go into second gear. I have to manually shift into second, which it then does. Afterward, I shift into drive. This situation worries me, especially because we are supposed to drive across the country, New York to Oregon,

in a few weeks. Any idea what it is? — Suzanne
TOM: Well, Suzanne, you're probably reading this in a transmission-repair shop somewhere in the Midwest. Sorry about that.
RAY: Actually, it might be relatively inexpensive to fix — as transmission repairs go. Since you can manually shift the car into second gear by using the gear selector, that tells me the transmission itself is probably OK. But your automatic transmission is "electronically controlled," and it's those electronic controls that are causing the problem.
TOM: You didn't mention whether the "AT Oil Temp" light on your dashboard is

flashing. It should be. That means that the transmission's computer has stored a fault code, which can be read by a mechanic.
RAY: This car has something called an "inhibitor switch," which tells the transmission's computer what gear you've selected. If the setting for drive is not working for any reason, the computer will default to first gear. It sounds like that's what's happening to your car.
TOM: So have a mechanic put a scanner on your car and check for fault codes. I suspect it's the inhibitor switch. And believe it or not, Suzanne, when it comes to transmission repairs, this is extremely good news! Enjoy the rest of your trip.

in danger of falling behind and losing her home. About a year ago, she purchased a new Chevrolet Cobalt, and she's paying \$378 per month on a 4-year loan, or approximately 26 percent of her income per month. We would like to help her lower her car payments. Our thought is to get rid of the Cobalt to cut her losses, and get into a new or used car at a significantly lower purchase price and lower monthly payments. What car would you recommend, either new or used, at \$12,000 or less for someone in her position? We are looking for value, low maintenance and long life. Thank you for any advice and suggestions you might have. — Steve
TOM: Well, if she's in a situation where she's in danger of losing her house, I don't think she should own a new car. A house appreciates as an asset and will be much more important to her financial future than a car, which loses value every single day.
RAY: So we agree with you — she should sell the Cobalt. Hopefully she can get more for it in a private sale than she owes on her loan.



stem to stern before you buy it. This is crucial, Steve, so don't skip that step.
TOM: If you need the name of a good mechanic, go to the Mechanics Files on our Web site, www.cartalk.com, where our readers and radio listeners have recommended mechanics they personally use and trust.
RAY: Because your friend will be buying an older car, it's important that she know that vehicles of this era won't be maintenance-free. In fact, she should put aside some money every month for the inevitable repairs an older car will need. But even when you combine the purchase price with the repairs, you won't come close to the cost of financing a new car.
TOM: And then, if her economic situation improves in the next few years, she can always trade up to a newer or nicer car. Heck, maybe she'll be able to buy her Cobalt back. Wish her luck for us.

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.

Allen

Continued from p5

beats while the atom ticks. Russia is straddling the centuries, in victory pounding backward to Peter the Great, and racing to overtake Henry Ford and Henry Kaiser before she has caught up with Thomas Jefferson.
The clocks of Europe and the clocks of Asia are turning forward. And there are places where time stands still, because the night does not lift, and there is no tomorrow."

Leagues, and does not know half the words to "The Star Spangled Banner."
An American will get mad at his wife for not running their home with the efficiency of a hotel, and then he will get mad at the hotel for not operating like a home. He will fall out with his wife over her cooking, and then go on a fishing trip and swallow half-fried potatoes, burnt fish, and gritty creek water coffee made in a rusty bucket, and think it is good.

An American will work hard on a farm, so he can move into town where he can make money so he can move back to the farm. He will spend half a day looking for vitamin pills to make him live longer—then drive 90 miles an hour on slick pavement, to make up for the lost time.

But we're still pretty nice folks. Calling a person "a real American" is the best compliment we can pay him. Most of the world is itching for what we have—but they won't have it until they start scratching for it the way we did.

DESCRIPTION OF AN AMERICAN

What is an American? Many things, some of which are mentioned in the following, which has been going the rounds:

He whips the enemy nations and then gives them the shirt off his back. He yells for speed laws that will stop fast driving, and then won't buy a car if it doesn't go 100 miles an hour. He gripes about the high prices of things he has to buy, but gripes still more about the low prices of things he has to sell. He knows the lineup of every baseball team in the American and National

Lagoon

Continued from p5

Harris off the case but Sgt. Powell proves no better a detective and stumbles through crime scenes without leaving a forwarding number, which sees the only person who has solved the crimes dead before he can turn up at her flat.

The Santa slayer is eventually revealed, but it takes a female hostage to do him in. She then has to call the police since they didn't even know she was missing. The ending is a kicker and involves Harris finally opening that present and getting just what he deserves.

This one is an okay time-killer and a real treat for gore fans. The problems here are most likely twofold and involve lead actor Edmund Purdom and writer Derek Ford. Purdom directed most of the film but quit before the production was finished, which probably allows for some continuity problems such as the fact that the film opens three days before Christmas though what follows are at least four more days before one character notes that it's Christmas Day.

The real flaws here, though, are all Ford's, who penned the Ho-Ho-Hum screenplay. Ford doesn't seem to grasp the essentials of crafting a murder mystery, though he had quite a career writing and directing soft core sex comedies with titles like "What's Up Nurse," "Sexploze" and "Keep It Up Jack." It's obvious that he is more comfortable with the film's sleazier elements, which are plentiful, with most of the action taking place at Piccadilly Circus' famed porno palaces.

That said there is plentiful gore for 1980s aficionados and at least 14 jolly old fellows get deep-sixed in the 86 minutes that this eats up. The slayings also feature a dab of creativity, with every manner of weapon employed save for a Yule log. All that and you get a killer ending which abruptly ends this tale and doesn't even try to hint that you'll be bothered with a sequel.

Best line: "What possible reason could I have for going around killing Santas?"
1984, rated R.

New cars don't make sense when money is an issue

Dear Tom and Ray:
My wife and I are helping a friend who would be considered a member of the working poor. Like many, she is struggling to make ends meet, and we are trying to help advise her about her finances to hopefully help her get her head above water. Currently, she is

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2007 Great Easter Egg Hunt

CLUE #7

You won't find me north, east or west. Looking south would be the best.

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FLOYD COUNTY Sports

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Many fans thought it was time for a change at UK

by STEVE LeMASTER SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG - Less than a month ago, The Times asked the following question on its website: Should Kentucky retain Tubby Smith as coach of the Wildcats? Three options - Keep him, Fire him and One more year - were available to voters.

Some three weeks later, Smith opted to leave instead of taking the chance of being fired or being forced to let go some of his coaching staff. Smith was

announced at the new Minnesota men's basketball coach Friday afternoon during a press conference held in Minneapolis. He takes over a Minnesota team that posted a 9-22 record this past season.

During his tenure at the University of Kentucky, Smith made several area stops. He was a regular when the Big Blue Caravan visited StoneCrest Golf Course.

One of the area residents who became acquainted with Smith was WQHY (Q95 FM) General Manager Gorman Collins. WQHY carries Kentucky basketball and football games and coaches shows.

"Tubby is a great guy and he's a good

coach," Collins commented Friday morning. "His biggest problem has been recruiting. In Kentucky, unless you win all of the time, it isn't good enough."

Collins, who has made the trek to the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament several times, touched on the pleasure and the pain of being at the helm of the Kentucky hoops program.

"The benefits of being at Kentucky are tremendous," Collins added. "Tubby (Smith) coached well at times. He won some big games because of his coaching, then there were other times when games were lost. He represented the program well, but it was probably time for him to move on."

See CHANGE, page eight

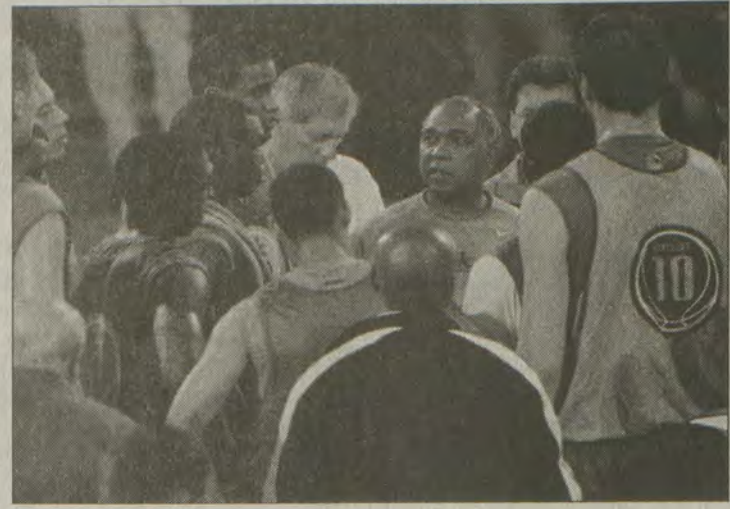


photo courtesy of UK Athletics

According to many, recruiting was at the center of Tubby Smith's inability to claim a second national title at the University of Kentucky.

Elliott County eliminates Shelby Valley

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON - Jonathan Ferguson scored a game-high 28 points Thursday night as 16th Region champion Elliott County defeated 15th Region winner Shelby Valley 68-55 in the first round of the Sweet 16 boys' state basketball tournament.

Elliott County hit 32-of-44 free throws in the opening round game. Ferguson was Elliott County's leading free throw shooter, hitting 16-of-18 charity shots. One of state's top underclassmen, Ferguson hit two three-pointers for the victorious Lions (25-6).

Jacob Bryant paced Shelby Valley with 18 points. Bryant hit nine-of-12 shots from the floor in the state tournament game.

Shelby Valley, a winner of Pikeville in the 15th Region Tournament championship game, jumped out in front early on and led 18-10 at the end of the open-

(See ELLIOTT, page eight)

Warren Central KO's Crusaders

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON - June Buchanan's storybook season came to an end Thursday night in the final opening round game of the Sweet 16 boys' state basketball tournament. The champion out of the 14th Region, June Buchanan couldn't keep up with tournament-tested Warren Central. Monie Hudson pushed in 24 points in the second half and had a game-high 18 points for the Dragons as Warren Central prevailed 71-53.

Joe Hood also had 18 points for 4th Region champion Warren Central (29-4). With the win, Elliott County moved on to a quarterfinal game Friday night against Elliott County.

Three different Warren Central players reached double figures in the scoring column. Nick Britt tossed in 16 points and Aaron Rhodes scored 10 for the Dragons.

In its first state tournament appearance, 14th Region champion June Buchanan (26-7) nearly

(See CRUSADERS, page eight)

WHO WILL IT BE?

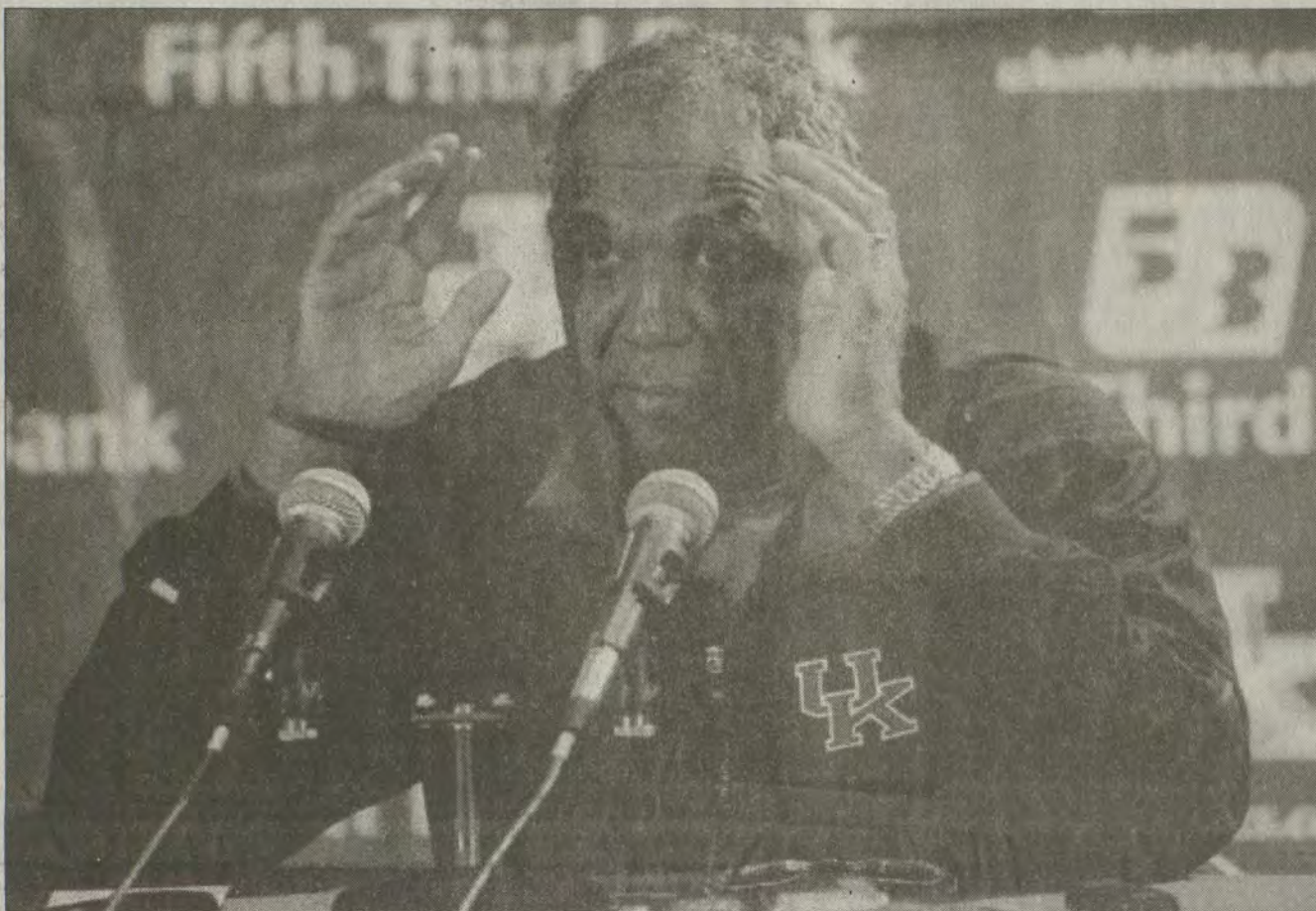


photo courtesy of UK Athletics

OUT OF WILDCAT COUNTRY - Tubby Smith, pictured taking a question during a regular-season press conference, made the choice to move on to Minnesota. The search is on for a new Kentucky head coach.

Big names already being thrown around for UK job

by STEVE LeMASTER SPORTS EDITOR

LEXINGTON - Kentucky Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart is busy looking for the next coach to lead the Wildcat men's basketball program. Following Tubby Smith's abrupt departure, many names have surfaced as Kentucky looks to lock down its next head coach.

Here's a closer look at some of the coaches being mentioned as Kentucky looks to fill one of college basketball's most prolific coaching positions.

Rick Barnes, Texas - Barnes is in his 20th season as a head coach. The Hickory, N.C. native, has been a winner every place he's been. He is in his ninth season at the University of Texas. Barnes has guided Texas to a school-best seven straight 20-win seasons.

Billy Donovan, Florida - The Rick Pitino-schooled Donovan, a former Kentucky assistant, remains at the helm of defending national champion



Billy Donovan

Rick Pitino

John Calipari

Tom Izzo

Florida. Donovan played for Pitino at Providence before he coached alongside him. Donovan has coached Florida to three SEC titles. The former Kentucky assistant has coached Florida in a pair of National Title Games (2000 and

2006). John Calipari, Memphis - Calipari has turned out consistent winning teams at both of his stops as a head coach - Massachusetts and Memphis. Calipari is currently sixth for most wins in NCAA history through 14 seasons. Memphis edged Texas A&M 65-64 Thursday night in the NCAA South Regional. The Tigers exited the tournament game 33-3.

Tom Crean, Marquette - Crean recently wrapped up his eighth season at the helm of the Marquette program. A former assistant coach at Michigan State, Western Kentucky and Pittsburgh, Crean guided Marquette into the 2003 Final Four. Crean-coached Marquette teams have averaged 20 wins each of the last eight seasons.

Billy Gillispie, Texas A&M - Texas A&M ended the 2006-07 season 27-7 under Gillispie, a coach who has made the Aggie hoops program into a

(See UK, page eight)

UVA-Wise sweeps Pikeville

TIMES STAFF REPORT

WISE, Va. - A three-run seventh in the opener and five extra base hits in the second game gave UVA-Wise a softball sweep of Pikeville College, 3-2 and 9-1 in six innings, Wednesday afternoon.

Shelley Newton, Tori Flint, Hannah Ellis and Amber Quillen produced three hits apiece in the two games. Newton had a double and two RBIs, Flint lined a double in the first game and belted a two-run homer in the second. Ellis had an RBI single in game one and two-run double in the second. Quillen hit three singles with two runs batted in.

The Lady Cavs improved to 10-13 after the day's action. Christine Cantone had a two-run triple and one single. Sarah Frazier sliced two singles and Melanie Sutherland had the final hit. Lauren Snead fanned five while allowing four hits and two runs for the first game win. Amanda Wheeler Sims scattered three hits and one run and also struck out five for the second contest mound win.

After three scoreless innings, Allen Central High School graduate Terri Mullins singled before Krista Kouns belted a two-run homer to left field in the fourth inning, giving Pikeville a 2-0 lead.

The game remained 2-0 visitors until the bottom of the seventh. Newton singled and advanced to third on a Flint double. Quillen followed with a single up the middle to score both runners to tie the game, 2-2. Amber Smith pinch ran for Quillen and advanced to third on a Lady Bears' fielding error in right field on Cantone's hit. Sutherland walked before Ellis singled to right for the game-winning run and UVA-Wise 3-2 win.

The Lady Bears scored first in the second game as well. Heather Robbins singled in Melinda Ratliff to start the game with a run. The lead would be short lived as Lawson walked, was sacrificed to second and scored on Newton's double. Flint followed with a two-run homer to

(See UVA-WISE, page eight)

HS baseball, softball seasons set to start

by STEVE LeMASTER SPORTS EDITOR

High school baseball and fast-pitch softball teams across the state will begin play in the 2007 season today. Locally, two Allen Central teams are looking to defend 58th District titles. The Allen Central Rebels are defending 58th District champs. Behind a very talented senior class that included Brock Kidd, Justin Jacobs, Tyler Turner and Nick Music, among others, Allen Central defeated Prestonsburg for the district baseball title last season. In fast-pitch softball, Allen Central is also home to the defending district champion. The Lady Rebels won a district cham-

ampionship behind the strong pitching of senior Alanna Cline. Both Allen Central teams had several players to replace after graduation took away talented performers.

Sheldon Clark is the defending 15th Region baseball champion. The Cardinals clipped 57th District rival Paintsville in last season's regional title game. Shelby Valley is the defending 15th Region softball champion.

A rundown of some of Monday's area season-openers for each sport follows.

BASEBALL: Allen Central vs. Phelps; Belfry vs. Tug Valley, W.Va.; Cordia-Hazard; Cumberland-Leslie County; East Carter-Raceland; Fairview-West Carter; Johnson Central-

Prestonsburg; June Buchanan-Jenkins; Lee County-Riverside Christian; Paintsville-Betsy Layne; Perry County Central-South Floyd; Pikeville-Matewan, W.Va.; Shelby Valley-Letcher County Central; Sheldon Clark-Morgan County.

SOFTBALL: Allen Central-Sheldon Clark; Cordia-Owsley County; Greenup County-East Carter; Johnson Central-Prestonsburg; Leslie County-Jenkins; Letcher County Central-June Buchanan; Magoffin County-Pike County Central; Phelps-Burch, W.Va.; Pikeville-Belfry; Russell-Lawrence County; Russell-Fairland, Ohio; South Floyd-Knott County Central; Wolfe County-Lee County.



SIDELINED: Following a devastating knee injury she suffered during basketball season, Prestonsburg senior Meaghan Slone will miss the upcoming softball season. Prestonsburg will look to find a new pitcher.

file photo

Change

■ Continued from p7

Smith's recruiting woes over the last four to five years of his 10-year tenure at Kentucky led to a lot of ridicule.

Floyd County Schools Assistant Superintendent Pete Grigsby played for legendary Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp and has been around for every Wildcat mentor since.

"Kentucky basketball is so tradi-

tion-rich," said Grigsby. "The program is expected to contend for a national championship each season. It'll be important for (UK AD) Mitch Barnhart and the rest of the administration to get out and get the best possible replacement."

Kentucky finished the 2006-07 season 22-12.

UVA-Wise

■ Continued from p7

left center off the scoreboard for a 3-1 home lead.

The Lady Cavs added a pair of runs in the fourth when Ellis doubled in Flint, who singled, and Bobbi Mihelarakis lofted a sac fly for a 5-1 tally.

In the fifth, Cantone tripled in Quillen, who singled, and later scored

on Ellis' third hit of the day. Lawson started the sixth with a deep homer to right center before Newton singled in Frazier, who singled, two batters later to complete the eight-run rule 9-1 win.

Pikeville took a 6-10 record out of the doubleheader.

Elliott

■ Continued from p7

ing quarter. Elliott County caught fire offensively in the second quarter. The Lions went on to lead 29-26 at halftime.

Elliott County, under the direction of veteran head coach Rick Mays, led 41-34 at the conclusion of the third quarter. The Lions controlled the entire fourth quarter.

Ethan Faulkner added a double-

double effort of 12 points and 11 rebounds for Elliott County. Jonah Justice was Shelby Valley's second-leading scorer, adding 12 points in the opening round matchup.

Mays is making his first trip to the Sweet 16 - as a coach or player. He is in his 26th season as Elliott County head coach.

Crusaders

■ Continued from p7

matched Warren Central in the first half. The Crusaders went ahead in the first eight minutes led 15-12 at the end of the first quarter. Warren Central took a slim 32-31 lead into halftime.

June Buchanan struggled offensively throughout the second half. Warren Central, however, played its best basketball over the last 16 min-

utes. Junior Clark Stepp paced June Buchanan (26-7) with 18 points. Tate Cox, Stepp's running mate in the Crusader backcourt, flipped in 12 points. June Buchanan bigman Garrison Collins pulled down 10 rebounds, but was held to just four points.

UK

■ Continued from p7

perennial Big 12 title contender.

Tom Izzo, Michigan State - Izzo recently concluded his 12th season as head coach of the Michigan State Spartans. Izzo's run at Michigan State includes one NCAA National Championship, four Final Four appearances, four National Coach of the Year awards and a Big Ten-best 10 straight NCAA Tournament appearances.

Bruce Pearl, Tennessee - Pearl came to Tennessee from Wisconsin-Milwaukee and made believers of the Big Orange Nation.

If Pearl trades his Tennessee Orange for Kentucky Blue, could he bring Chris Lofton, one of the state's favorite native sons back with him?

Ohio State edged Tennessee 85-84 Thursday night in the NCAA South Regional. Vols finished the campaign 24-11.

FORMER CATS

Rick Pitino, Louisville - Could history repeat itself? One year after

Pitino bolted the Bluegrass for Boston and the Celtics, Kentucky won its first national title under Smith. A Pitino move back to Lexington isn't totally out of the question. Stranger things have happened.

Travis Ford, Massachusetts - Campbellsville. Eastern Kentucky. Massachusetts. Kentucky? Ford's coaching path has already included gigs at an NAIA school, an Ohio Valley Conference member and his latest stop in the Atlantic 10. He got the backing of Pitino when he took over the Minutemen.

John Pelphey, South Alabama - Pelphey, a Paintsville native, just wrapped up his second straight 20-win season at the University of South Alabama. The former University of Kentucky standout remains one of the top players in Wildcat history. Pelphey doesn't have the coaching experience of any of the other candidates on this list, but cut his coaching teeth under the watchful eye of Donovan.

Bengals coach would welcome NFL discipline changes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI - Cincinnati Bengals coach Marvin Lewis, his team plagued last year by off-field problems, would welcome tougher NFL discipline.

Commissioner Roger Goodell could announce initiatives next week that will allow him to impose quicker and stronger discipline to players. Lewis said players should know that they face tough punishment from the league for bad behavior.

"I think that's the thing that coaches and people are looking (for) from the league," said Lewis, who had nine players arrested in less than a year. "Commissioner Goodell said he hopes that is something he can get through. I think the one thing that everybody knows is that when you take away the stage - which we've done here when we've had a guy have a problem and those indiscretions occur on my time - then they've lost the chance to play on that particular Sunday."

Goodell could begin imposing discipline earlier than in the past, when the NFL has waited for legal steps to

be finished before imposing fines and/or suspensions.

Lewis, who talked with reporters Thursday, benched wide receiver Chris Henry and cornerback Deltha O'Neal one game each last season after alcohol-related cases.

"I think that is something we would like coming even a little stronger coming from the league," Lewis said. "I think the biggest thing everybody is looking for is that on the way in, you let guys know this is the way it's going to be and if you cross this line this is what's going to happen."

Henry has been arrested four times since December 2005. After the first two of his court cases were settled, the NFL suspended him for two games for violating its conduct and substance abuse policies.

He settled the final case in January by pleading guilty to letting minors drink in a hotel room he rented. He could be suspended again by the league for that conviction.

The NFL also suspended linebacker Odell Thurman for last season. He had received a four-game suspension for skipping a drug test. The punishment was extended to a full season after he was accused of drunken driving.

Thurman is eligible to apply for reinstatement. He pleaded no contest last month to drunken driving, and received a 90-day jail sentence that was put on hold while he gets treatment for alcohol abuse. The sentence could be shortened at a hearing on June 5.

Griffey's future as unclear as his answers

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARASOTA, Fla. - Ken Griffey Jr. didn't want to talk about his move to right field on Thursday, insisting it's no big deal. His reluctance to discuss it suggested something entirely different.

Manager Jerry Narron also dodged the subject of his outfielder-on-the-move. Best to leave that subject alone for now.

They won't be able to avoid it for much longer.

The biggest mystery in the Cincinnati Reds' camp isn't getting any clearer with opening day little more than a week away. Griffey was out of the lineup again Thursday - he has yet to appear in a game this spring - and was still trying to avoid discussing one of the most significant changes in his career.

Narron has decided to switch the center fielder to right when he's ready to play. The 37-year-old outfielder has spent his whole career in center, winning 10 Gold Gloves.

Griffey is going along with the decision, but emphasized on Thursday that it's not his idea.

"It doesn't really matter how I felt about it," he said. "That's really not important. I'm going there and I've got to make the best of it."

His feelings about moving to right field could evolve into a long-term issue. For now, the overriding question is when he's going to get there.

Griffey broke his left hand while wrestling with his children in December. The hand was expected to be fully healed by the time spring training started, but is still bothering him when he takes batting practice.

How much? He won't say. "When I feel I can go out there, I'll go out there," he said.

Asked to provide a better idea of how close he is to playing, Griffey said, "Do I want to expand on it? No."

The vague, evasive answers aren't unusual for Griffey. He'll talk expansively about anything except baseball or himself. When he's hurt, he'll do just about anything to avoid talking, period.

On Thursday, he saw a few reporters edging toward his locker and made a point to have some fun with his teammates and coaches, trying to keep himself busy until the clubhouse closed to reporters.

He spotted former Reds outfielder George Foster - a special instructor in camp - walking through the clubhouse in old, weather-beaten shoes and turned the moment into another way of buying time. He rummaged through five of the nine boxes of size-11 shoes in his locker, picked out two pairs gave them to Foster.

"Can't have you looking like that," Griffey said.

Footwear was a fine subject for conversation. Not right field or the hand.

"Not too much you're going to

get out of me," he said.

The Reds are wondering how much they're going to get out of him the rest of spring training. Earlier this week, Narron has said he'd like for Griffey to start playing this week. He was less specific on the subject Thursday.

"Are you asking me if there's a deadline or whatever?" Narron said. "Not really."

Narron noted that if a player has to start the season on the disabled list, the move can be made retroactive to the last week of spring training if the player doesn't appear in an exhibition with the major league team during that time.

Griffey missed nearly a month early last season because of inflammation behind his right knee, and sat out 22 of the last 24 games after dislocating a toe. He has been on the disabled list eight times since the Reds got him in a trade with Seattle before the 2000 season.

In the offseason, the Reds approached Griffey about moving to right field, allowing the faster Ryan Freel to play center. Griffey hasn't played right field since Aug. 4, 2004, two days after he came off the disabled list from a torn right hamstring. While making a sliding catch in that game, Griffey tore the hamstring from the bone.

Now, he's going back there, whether he'll talk about it or not.

"You guys are making more of a big deal out of it than it is," Griffey said.

Reds 8, Yankees 7

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARASOTA, Fla. - Bobby Abreu played outfield for the first time in spring training and hit a three-run homer Thursday during the New York Yankees' 8-7 loss to the Cincinnati Reds.

The game was briefly delayed in the bottom of the fifth inning when a swarm of bees crossed the infield, sending Yankees fielders scurrying for foul territory to avoid getting stung.

"I've never seen that before," third baseman Alex Rodriguez said. "I was actually pretty scared. It was thick."

No one got stung, and the rest of the game was played without insect problems.

Abreu strained a muscle in his right side last month and didn't get into a game until Wednesday, when he was the designated hitter in a 2-0 victory over the Phillies. Abreu went 0-for-3 in his spring debut.

He hit a first-pitch fastball from Kyle Lohse over the right-field wall

on Thursday, his only hit in three at-bats as the right fielder. Manager Joe Torre plans to keep playing him in the outfield in preparation for opening day.

"I feel a lot better," Abreu said. "I made pretty good contact on that. Right now, I'm just more worried about the reaction on balls inside."

The Yankees got an up-and-down outing from right-hander Carl Pavano, who gave up eight hits and two walks in only 4 1-3 innings. A pair of double-play grounders limited the damage to two runs.

"Definitely an improvement from my last start," said Pavano, who needed 48 pitches to get through three innings that time. "I think the first inning, I kept the ball on the ground for the most part."

Pavano also has been limited this spring. His left instep was bruised by a line drive during batting practice early in spring training, and he missed one start to be with his girlfriend, who had a medical condition.

Rodriguez and Josh Phelps also hit solo homers for the Yankees, who led 7-3 before the minor leaguers got into the game. Edwin Encarnacion won it for the Reds with a tie-breaking double in the bottom of the ninth off T.J. Beam.

Lohse, the Reds' No. 4 starter, has been struggling to get his fastball to go where he wants. He gave up six runs in five innings, throwing

92 pitches.

"You just see what you need to work on," Lohse said. "The curveball was really good. The change-up was good. The slider - I didn't throw it a whole lot, but it was there when I needed it. I've just got to work on that fastball and the location, keeping it down."

Phelps led off the seventh inning with a homer off Dustin Hermanson, the first run that the reliever has given up in four appearances. Hermanson is a candidate for the closer's job.

Notes: Yankees LHP Andy Pettitte said his back still is bothering him, so he hasn't resumed throwing. "I feel a lot better," Pettitte said. "I just want to take care of it and get it right." Pettitte developed back spasms while working out on Monday, forcing him to miss a start. Torre thinks he'll be ready for the season if he can make one more start. "I'd say one more start (is enough)," Torre said. "Again, we don't think that's going to be a problem." ... RHP Chien-Ming Wang gave up five hits and three runs in six innings of a Triple-A game. ... The crowd of 7,587 was the sixth-largest during the Reds' 10 years in Sarasota. ... Reds 1B Javier Valentin left the game after the fourth inning because he strained his left hamstring while running the bases.

Big Green Dinner sold out

TIMES STAFF REPORT

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. - A full house of Thundering Herd fans will be present for Billy Donovan's return to Henderson Center on April 4 at the 29th Annual Big Green Banquet presented by Pepsi.

RJ Gimbl, executive director of the Big Green Scholarship

Foundation, announced today that the Pepsi-sponsored event is officially sold out and that more than 400 people will be on hand to greet the former Marshall University head basketball coach who led the Florida Gators to the 2006 NCAA Final Four championship.

"We are privileged to have a person of Donovan's stature and we are thankful that our fans have responded, not only to hear Coach Donovan, but to show their support for our student-athletes."

Gimbl also praised the banquet's

corporate sponsors, especially Pepsi. "This will be the seventh straight year Pepsi has been our title sponsor," said Gimbl. "We can't say and thank local Pepsi General Manager Mark George enough for all the support his company provides for our student-athletes."

The Big Green is currently mailing out tickets to the corporate table sponsors and individuals who have made reservations. To contact the Big Green office, call 304/696-4661.



LADY RAIDER SOFTBALL: Weather permitting, the South Floyd High School softball team will open the 2007 season at home Monday against Knott County Central.

file photo

SF SOFTBALL UPCOMING GAMES

March 26 - Knott County Central

March 28 at Perry County Central

March 29 Pike County Central

THE AFTERMATH: Smith's departure leaves Wildcats in flux

by WILL GRAVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — A decade toiling under the glare of one of college basketball's most exacting spotlights was enough for Tubby Smith.

Now, Kentucky must find a way to restore the program's luster while replacing a highly respected coach who grew tired of the high expectations and ever-present grumblings.

Smith left for Minnesota on Thursday, despite a 263-83 record in 10 seasons that included a national title.

Athletic director Mitch Barnhart's short list could include some of college basketball's biggest names, including Michigan State's Tom Izzo, Florida's Billy Donovan and Texas A&M's Billy Gillispie.

college basketball's most demanding jobs must work quickly to retain the nucleus of a team that went 22-12 and lost to Kansas in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Center Randolph Morris led the team with 16.1 points and 7.8 rebounds this season, playing with a consistency he lacked his first two seasons. But Morris might not stick around.

After the Kansas loss, Morris said he planned to return for his senior season, but he didn't rule out leaving the Wildcats. Morris already has flirted with the NBA draft before.

He and the rest of Kentucky's players were not available for comment Thursday.

Smith's departure also leaves the school's incoming freshman class up in the air. Kentucky has heavily recruited highly touted forward

Patrick Patterson, a teammate of O.J. Mayo's in Huntington, W. Va., and guard Jai Lucas of Houston, son of former NBA player and coach John Lucas. The two dynamic players would give the team a much-needed athletic boost. Neither player has committed to a school and might look elsewhere now that Smith is gone.

Barnhart said the coaching search will be "exhaustive, comprehensive and focused."

Some of that focus could fall on Donovan, who broke into coaching as an assistant coach for then-Kentucky coach Rick Pitino from 1989-1994 before leaving to coach Marshall.

Donovan's Florida team plays Butler on Friday in the NCAA's round of 16, and he had no immediate comment. Florida athletic direc-

tor Jeremy Foley called any speculation about Donovan and Kentucky "highly inappropriate."

"Billy's trying to coach his team," Foley said. "He's trying to win a national championship, and we're trying to beat Butler."

Pitino, now the coach at Louisville, could not be reached for comment. He recently praised Smith's efforts for dealing with the pressure that comes with coaching the Wildcats.

Messages left for Izzo were not returned. Gillispie, coaching the Aggies against Memphis in the round of 16 on Thursday night, was not available for comment.

The ideal candidate will require a high tolerance for the scrutiny that comes with being the leader of the self-dubbed "Big Blue Nation." For years Smith seemed immune to the

criticism, saying it was simply part of the job.

"There's a lot of pressure to win there (Kentucky)," said former Kentucky forward Chuck Hayes. "Maybe it was the best situation for him and his wife and his family. Maybe him and the AD had different outlooks on the season. Maybe it's just best for him."

What's best for the Wildcats will be bringing in a coach who can win right away. Kentucky hasn't been to the Final Four since Smith led the school to its seventh national title in 1998, Kentucky's longest drought between national semifinal appearances since the NCAA tournament began.

AP Sports Writers Nancy Armour in Chicago and Chris Duncan in Houston contributed to this report.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL: Kentucky falls to Wisconsin in WNIT

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

MADISON, Wisc. — Wisconsin outrebounded Kentucky 54-35 and held a 28-10 advantage in second-chance points to end the Wildcats' season with a 67-61 win on Thursday in the third round of the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

Kentucky, making its third consecutive postseason appearance, finishes its year at 20-14. The Wildcats have now posted back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time since the 1989-90 and 1990-91 campaigns. It marked the 10th time in program history that UK has eclipsed the 20-win plateau. Wisconsin (21-12) advances to the WNIT Quarterfinals where it will face Virginia today in Madison, Wisc. The Cavaliers defeated South Florida 73-71 on Thursday.

"I was pleased with the way we didn't drop our heads and kept chipping away," UK Coach Mickie DeMoss said. "We just gave away too many offensive rebounds. I've never seen a game that has boiled down to just one stat, but we gave up 25 offensive rebounds and that was the differ-

ence in the game. But to give up that many offensive rebounds and still be in the game says a lot about our defense."

Kentucky allowed 25 offensive rebounds and the Badgers shot 78.8 percent (26-of-33) from the free-throw line. The Wildcats held Wisconsin to 30.6 percent shooting (19-of-62), while the Cats shot 81 percent (17-of-21) from the charity stripe.

"We've been to three postseason tournaments in three years, which is a record," DeMoss said. "We had another 20-win season and that gives us back-to-back 20-win seasons. I really believe our program is certainly moving in the right direction. We have a good recruiting class coming in next year that our fans will enjoy watching."

Junior guard Samantha Mahoney (Detroit) led the Wildcats in scoring with 13 points, while sophomore point guard Carly Ormerod (Louisville) and junior center Sarah Elliott (McKee) finished with 11 and

10 points, respectively.

Senior forward/center Jennifer Humphrey (Memphis, Tenn.) led the

Wildcats on the boards with 10 rebounds and also tied a career high with four blocks. Humphrey finishes her UK career as one of the most prolific rebounders in school history. She concludes her career with 964 career boards, which ranks second on UK's all-time rebounding list. Humphrey became just the second Wildcat in school history to surpass the 900-rebound mark.

Seniors Nastassia Alcius (Lexington) and Jenny Pfeiffer (North Vernon, Ind.) also finish their UK careers. Pfeiffer was known as one of the school's most deadly three-point shooters, finishing with 162 career threes, good for third on the Cats' all-time list and also concluding her career with an 86.0 percent (247-of-287) mark from the free-throw line, which ranks first all-time in school history. Alcius was known for her heady defense and her ability to

provide a spark off the bench.

"Jennifer Humphrey, Jenny Pfeiffer and Nastassia Alcius have certainly meant a lot to this program," DeMoss said. "They stayed for their fifth year. They all had graduated and could have easily moved on. We will miss them and thank them for what they have given to this program."

Wisconsin, which led for the majority of the game, trailed 55-54 with 3:01 remaining before going on a 7-0 run to expand its lead to 62-55 with 1:03 left in the game. Kentucky got as close as five, 64-59, with 49 seconds remaining, but was unable to close the gap.

The Badgers were led by Jolene Anderson's game-high 22 points, while Janese Banks finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds.

The two teams traded leads for the early part of the first half before the Badgers used a 5-0 run to expand a 12-11 advantage to a 17-11 lead with 9:16 remaining in the opening period. With the Wildcats trailing 20-14, Humphrey and Mahoney hit back-to-back baskets to bring UK within two, 20-18, with 5:32 left until intermis-

sion. Behind 29-22 at the 2:42 mark of the opening period, Kentucky scored the final six points of the first half, including four from junior guard/forward Chante' Bowman (Detroit), who finished with eight points, to go into the locker room down 29-28.

Wisconsin registered the first five points of the second half, capped off by a three-pointer from Anderson at the 18:06 mark, to extend its advantage to 34-28. A basket by Bowman and a pair of free throws by freshman Amani Franklin (Decatur, Ga.) brought the Cats within two, 38-36, before the Badgers knocked down three consecutive charity shots to go back up by five, 41-36.

Watkins then drove in for a lay-up and Ormerod hit two free throws to bring Kentucky as close as one, 41-40, with 9:30 left in the game. With the Wildcats down 50-45, Ormerod and Mahoney connected on back-to-back hoops to bring UK within 50-49 with 5:44 remaining. The two teams traded leads late in the game, before Wisconsin went on its late 7-0 run.

NO. 1 BUCKEYES ADVANCE: Ohio State 85, Tennessee 84

by JAIME ARON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — For a No. 1 seed that hasn't lost since mid-January and boasts one of the most ferocious players in the country, the Ohio State Buckeyes sure seem to like doing things the hard way.

Having pulled off a narrow escape in the second round, the Buckeyes opened their regional semifinal by spotting Tennessee 20 points before halftime. Adding to their degree of difficulty, Greg Oden already had three fouls.

Sufficiently challenged at that point, Ohio State battled back, tying it midway through the second half, then pulling out an 85-84 victory when Oden shook off one of the worst games of his career and swatted away the potential winner for the Volunteers as time expired Thursday night.

"It's hard to think why we don't come out in the first 20 minutes playing like we did the last 20," said Mike

Conley, who scored 17 points, including a free throw with 6.5 seconds left that proved to be the difference. "I'm hoping we can learn a lot from this and start off the first four minutes like we ended the game. That definitely would get us out of the situation that we were in tonight."

Conley might as well have said "again" instead of "tonight" considering how their previous win unfolded: A missed free throw by Xavier in the closing seconds gave the Buckeyes a chance to tie it with a 3-pointer and Ron Lewis came through with a tough one, then Conley led the way in overtime.

"In this tournament, the two most important words are 'survive' and 'advance,'" Ohio State coach Thad Matta said. "We've been very, very fortunate the last couple of games to do those things."

Despite only nine points and a season-low three rebounds from Oden, the Buckeyes (33-3) won their 20th straight game, keeping alive their

longest run in the tournament since reaching the Final Four in 1999. They headed into a Saturday matchup against second-seeded Memphis, a 65-64 winner over Texas A&M earlier Thursday.

The Volunteers (24-11) came in confident they could beat Ohio State after losing by only two in Columbus, Ohio, earlier this year when Oden had the first breakout game of his career.

This time, they forced the big guy into one of his worst games, yet still lost by one.

"We played about as well in the first half, I think, as we can play," Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl said. "We're terribly disappointed. We've proven we can beat some of the best teams in the country. We've also proven we can come close to beating some of the best teams in the country."

Lewis scored 18 of his 25 points in the second half. What might have got him going was simply looking at the Vols when they came out for the sec-

ond half. "Their body language was like they already had the game won," Lewis said.

Actually, Tennessee still had a chance to pull it out at the end. Conley missed a second free throw with 6.5 seconds left, which meant any basket would've won it for the Volunteers.

Ramar Smith grabbed the rebound and, instead of calling a time out, went all the way to the rim with Conley defending him. Tennessee's Wayne Chism was supposed to draw Oden away but he didn't, and the 7-foot, 270-pound center got over in time to swat away the final shot as time expired.

Oden landed with his biggest smile of the night, while Smith planted himself facedown in front of the Tennessee bench, knowing what a great opportunity his team had blown. "I tried to draw a foul," Smith said, "but they came over and made a good play."

The 7-foot, 270-pound Oden

matched his fewest points in the last 15 games. However, foul-drooft, though, aided by quick substitutions in the final few minutes. After the game, Oden needed stitches in his chin because of a collision during the second half.

"It was part of the game plan to get him in foul trouble," Vols forward Dane Bradshaw said. "We just really didn't do a good job from the get-go (in the second half)."

Chris Lofton, the SEC player of the year, scored 24 points to lead Tennessee. He was 6-of-13 on 3-pointers, including one that tied it at 82 only seconds after Lewis had put Ohio State ahead with a 3 of his own.

Smith scored 15 points and JaJuan Smith added 14 points and eight rebounds. Ryan Childress scored 12, hitting 4-of-5 behind the arc.

"We never got overconfident," Vols forward Dane Bradshaw said. "Just, defensively, we didn't have that sense of urgency. That's what makes it worse."

Young Cardinals eager to move on after tournament disappointment

by WILL GRAVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Rick Pitino didn't try to wipe away Edgar Sosa's tears.

Instead, the Louisville coach asked his freshman point guard and the rest of the Cardinals to remember the pain of Louisville's tough second-round loss to Texas A&M in the NCAA Tournament and use it as motivation for next year, when the resurgent Cardinals could be one of the Big East's big boys.

"I want them to be disappointed," Pitino said. "I want them to be down. I want them to feel it."

The last time Pitino felt a locker room so devastated by a loss was 1995, when he was coaching at Kentucky. The Wildcats lost to North Carolina in the regional final that year. Twelve months later they won the NCAA title.

While Pitino allows the Cardinals are still miles away from being ready to compete for a national championship, you can't fault his optimism considering how far the Cardinals came this season.

"I couldn't be any prouder of these guys with as tough a season as they've had," Pitino said.

It's a season that included major injuries to key players, the evolving soap opera surrounding talented freshman center Derrick Character and an unexpected rally halfway through the year that vaulted Louisville back into the polls and into second-place in the Big East.

Not bad for a team that appeared lost in early January after a lackluster nonconference season and a dispiriting loss at Notre Dame on Jan. 3 that left Pitino angry and the players searching for answers.

Yet a funny thing happened on the way to the NIT. Center David Padgett got healthy. Sosa and forward Terrence Williams started sharing the basketball. The Cardinals continued to defend even as the team's shooting percentage continued to drop, and with Character finally on board after several suspensions for various reasons, Louisville broke through, winning 12 of its final 15 regular-season games.

The run ended with an NCAA tournament berth and a rout of Stanford in the first round before things fell apart in the final 30 seconds against the Aggies. Louisville finished 24-10 and was close to a spot in the round of 16 until a defensive breakdown and a tough shot by Sosa allowed Texas A&M to survive.

"I want these guys to remember what they have to do mentally," Pitino said. "They played a great game physically. We just did not play

a very good game mentally."

A year of experience should help. Outside of guard Brandon Jenkins, the entire core returns next season, including Character, who said he would "definitely" be back.

"I'm just going to keep on working hard to try to keep my weight down," Character said. "I need to learn how to play more positions than just center."

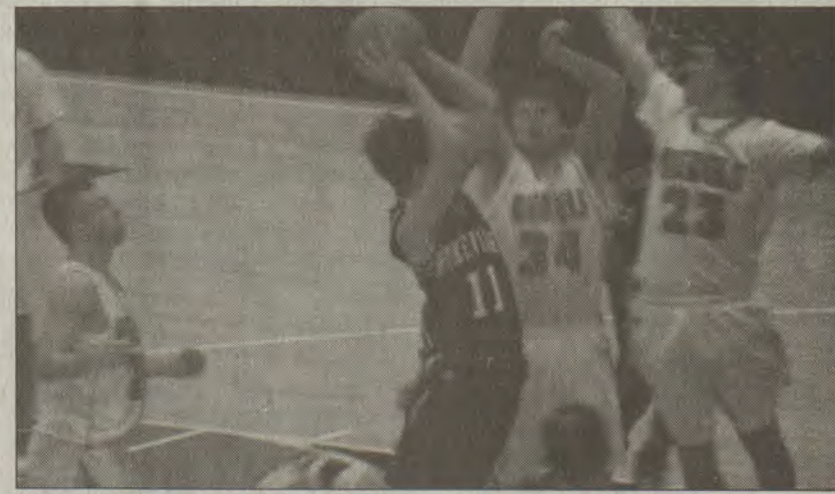
He might have to if he wants to get more playing time. Pitino hinted he'd consider playing Padgett and Character together next season if Character becomes a more versatile defender. Moving Character to power forward could give the Cardinals two of the better traditional post players in the country.

Throw in the continued maturity of Sosa and Williams, the shotmaking of guard Jerry Smith and a healthy Juan Palacios, and the Cardinals would have a core similar to the one that carried them to the Final Four two years ago.

That idea was little consolation to Sosa, who cried after throwing in a career-high 31 points against the Aggies.

Comfort came in an embrace with Texas A&M star Acie Law IV after the game. The two hugged near center court, with Law, a senior, urging Sosa to keep at it.

"He told me I was a great player and that I should work hard this summer," Sosa said. "It always hurts when you know you could have gone farther."



Another basketball season wrapped up Saturday night inside Lexington's Rupp Arena. The Allen Central boys and Prestonsburg girls' basketball teams were two of the four Floyd County teams to make it into this year's 15th Region Tournament.

Left: Prestonsburg's Rikki Hughes is pictured defending against Pike County Central's Haley Ratliff. Above: Allen Central's Josh Martin and Josh Prater are pictured contesting a Pikeville shot.

photos by Steve LeMaster and Jamie Howell

Car of Tomorrow is here today

by JENNA FRYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tomorrow is finally here in NASCAR, which begins the most radical on-track experiment in the sport's history this weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway.

The Car of Tomorrow, a NASCAR-developed vehicle that spent seven years in development, will make its long-awaited debut at one of the most rough-and-tumble tracks in NASCAR.

Some like it, others loathe it. Either way, it's not going away any time soon.

Designed to improve safety, reduce team costs and improve competition, the COT will race today at Bristol in the first of 16 events this season. It's scheduled to be phased in by 2009, but NASCAR officials are hoping teams fall so in love with the car that they'll ask to use it full time next season.

Right now, opinion is split.

Two-time champion Tony Stewart has blasted the car, and used his national radio show to call it a "basket of junk that drives like an old green Oldsmobile station wagon with the wood panel trim on the sides."

But teammate Denny Hamlin isn't as aware of the difference.

"It really doesn't drive that much different, to tell you the truth," he said. "Once I belt in and get buckled, I am in a car."

NASCAR has heard the comments and criticism, and isn't surprised by any of it.

"It's just part of the competitive nature," said Robin Pemberton, NASCAR's competition director. "There are certain people who complain about every rule and regulation, every procedure, even the way the qualifying draw goes. In the 27 years I've been here, there's always some-

one who complains about something."

That won't likely change after Bristol, a track that produces exciting — but crash-filled — racing. It makes the .533-mile bullring a quizzical choice for the COT debut because no matter what version stock-car is on the track, it's destined to bump and bang its way around its tiny confines.

"It's a bumpy, rough track and when you finish 500 laps there, you feel like you've been in the ring with Mike Tyson — the young, bad-ass Mike Tyson," said Dale Earnhardt Jr. "The track is so rough, it will beat you up even when you're running alone, like a hammer to your organs. But you throw in 42 other cars, and it's like a cage match."

"You can't go anywhere or make a move without running into something or someone."

So regardless of what happens on Sunday, no one will be able to get an accurate read on the COT. And that should carry over into Martinsville Speedway next week, leaving Phoenix next month as the first real test for the COT.

"On the short tracks, you will probably not see any change," Pemberton said. "I'm pretty sure this weekend we'll see great racing at Bristol like you always do. It won't be until you get to Phoenix, Darlington and Dover, that's where you can start to draw some comparison."

Brandon Thomas, who helped develop the COT prototype while at Joe Gibbs Racing, believes NASCAR was smart to roll out the car at Bristol and Martinsville.

"The first two races we're going to run are very, very low on the aerodynamic supremacy scale," said Thomas, crew chief for Tony Raines. "By rolling it out at the places they've decided to, you're going to see a minimal amount of impact when a crash happens and a splitter gets ripped off. You're looking at doing a significant

amount of damage to your car, but not really affecting the way it's going to drive."

That means the only initial changes fans might even notice on the COT are aesthetic — particularly with the adjustable rear wing and front splitter.

The flat splitter is located under the nose of the car and can be adjusted to change the front downforce. The rear wing, which replaces the spoiler and looks like what you'd see on a street car, can be altered to effect aerodynamics.

Because both pieces are adjustable, NASCAR said teams will no longer have to build track-specific race cars because the COT can be tinkered with to go straight from a short track to a superspeedway.

The new car also makes several advancements in safety, with a larger driver's compartment, center-located seat and energy absorbing materials through the gut of the vehicle.

"The most important thing about the Car of Tomorrow is it is safer," said 6-foot-5 Michael Waltrip. "I feel more comfortable sitting in one since it has more room."

NASCAR predicts the racing will be better with the COT, and it should equalize the field a good bit.

A handful of super teams have emerged over the last decade, as three car owners have combined to win the last six titles. It's left everyone else struggling to keep up, and the COT might give the mid-levels a fighting chance.

"When you're a smaller organization, a lot of time you're chasing what the bigger teams are doing," said Petty Enterprises vice president Robbie Loomis. "They're able to react and respond to things quicker... where in a smaller team, seems like you're always one step behind whatever the latest, greatest thing is."

"Now (NASCAR has) drawn a little bit tighter box around a lot of areas."

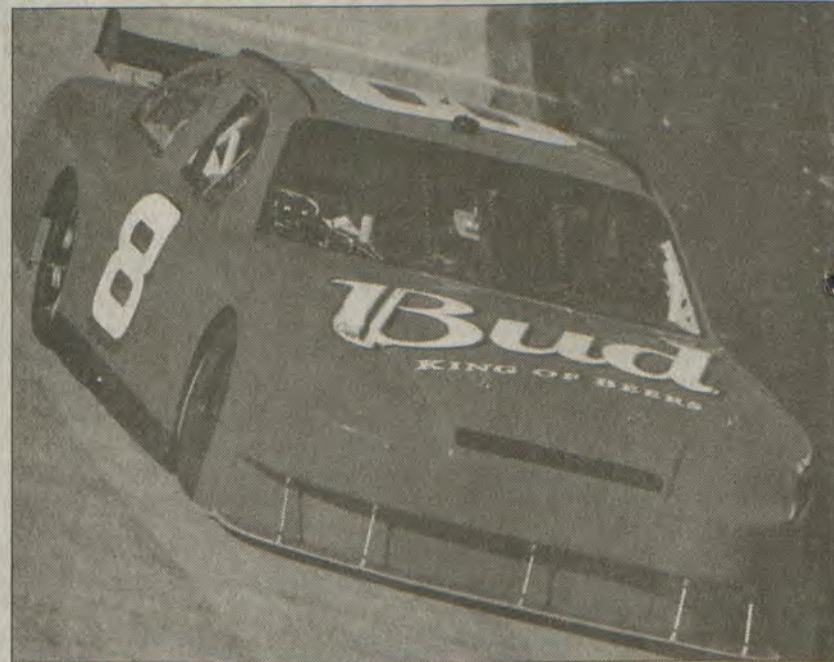


photo courtesy of Bristol Motor Speedway

LONG-AWAITED DEBUT: The Car of Tomorrow will make its debut at Bristol Motor Speedway today. The cars have already turned some practice laps at the Tennessee track.

Martin's streak of 621 consecutive starts to end

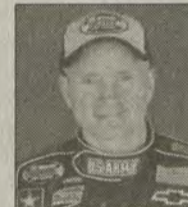
TIMES STAFF REPORT

BRISTOL, Tenn. —

Mark Martin, the driver standings leader for the past four weeks, will step aside the next two races and let newcomer Regan Smith (No. 01 U.S. Army Chevrolet) take the driver's seat for Ginn Racing. As a result, Martin's streak of 621 consecutive starts in the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series — the longest active streak and the fifth-longest all-time — will come to an end.

When Martin announced last October that he would leave Roush Fenway Racing after 19 years, he made it known he would race a partial schedule in 2007, serving as a mentor for Smith. Owner of 35 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victories, Martin is a four-time series runner-up. After a thrilling second-place finish at the Daytona 500 in February, Martin took over the standings lead the following week at California and has been out front ever since.

"I feel good," said Martin, after his 10th-place finish at Atlanta last



Mark Martin

Sunday. "It's really cool and kind of a story book ending to go out leading the points like this. It's the way to do it and I'm just so proud of this team to finally get the recognition they deserve. I am looking forward to next weekend."

There have been several instances of the standings leader not starting the next race — most involving a driver who led after winning the season's first race and not competing in the second. The most recent was in 1983 when Cale Yarborough won the Daytona 500, but didn't run the next week at Richmond. The last time it happened

this deep into the season was in 1971, when Richard Petty was the leader going into the next-to-the-last race of the year at Macon, Ga. Petty and several other drivers high in the points boycotted the race due to a dispute with a promoter over appearance money. Despite missing the race, Petty still won the championship by 364 points over James Hylton.

With Martin's streak set to be snapped this week, here are the top six current drivers in consecutive starts:

1. Mark Martin — 621
2. Jeff Gordon — 477
3. Bobby Labonte — 476
4. Dale Jarrett — 419
5. Jeff Burton — 380
6. Tony Stewart — 288

With title in pocket, Jimmie Johnson finds another gear

by MIKE HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other than a couple of incidents at Talladega in 2005, where he was blamed for starting two big crashes, Jimmie Johnson's reputation as a gentleman driver has been pretty much unblemished.

He's certainly won his share of races — 25 of them — and most have come with a dominant car, finesse or strategy.

But finally winning a NASCAR Nextel Cup championship after coming close in three of his first five seasons in the premier stock car series apparently has given Johnson yet another gear he can reach for.

Last Sunday, he overwhelmed the rest of the field in the first two-thirds of the Cup race at Atlanta Motor Speedway, several times building leads of more than 6 seconds — a quarter of the 1.5-mile oval. But several caution flags slowed the race, and Johnson found himself coming off pit road in third during the last set of stops by the leaders.

Ahead of him were two other former Cup champions, Matt Kenseth in second and Tony Stewart leading.

Kenseth kept getting super-fast pit stops from his No. 17 Roush Fenway Racing crew that put him out front for a while. But he couldn't stay there.

Stewart, on the other hand, looked just as strong as Johnson at times, particularly at the end of the race. He charged to the front of the field after a bad pit stop knocked him from fourth to 13th just before the halfway point in

the 325-lap race, and wound up leading 121 laps to Johnson's 135.

The final restart came 11 laps from the end and it took Johnson just three trips around the fast Atlanta oval to move past Kenseth into second.

Stewart, a two-time Cup champion, is one of those guys who represents the racing cliché: You can catch him, but passing him is another thing.

Johnson's No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports machine got to the back bumper of Stewart's No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing entry on lap 320. He drew alongside Stewart twice on lap 321 before slipping back. Finally, on lap 322, Johnson made an inside move and shot past.

There's no give-up in Stewart, who may be the hardest racer in NASCAR since the late Dale Earnhardt. He drove to the outside, right along the wall and tried to squeeze back past Johnson, but the reigning champion shut the door, sliding just inches up the banking.

Stewart's car scraped the wall and he fell back, watching from second place as Johnson pulled away to win by half a straightaway.

"Jimmie has always had the talent, now he's got the confidence, too," said Chad Knaus, the crew chief who has been with Johnson since 2002, his first full season in Cup. "He's not afraid to stick his nose in there in a tough spot, especially if a win is on the line."

Stewart wasn't too thrilled with Johnson for pinching him into the wall. But Stewart appeared to be nowhere near as angry as he would have been if a lesser driver had cost

him a win.

"He had a faster car and he's probably going to get around us anyway," Stewart said, shrugging. "But I'd like to have seen him give me room to race him for it."

Johnson began the season on a down note by crashing out in 39th at Daytona. That also ended his string of 104 consecutive races in the top 10 in the season points, dating to the fourth race of 2004.

But he came back to finish third the next week at California, won two weeks later at Las Vegas and, with his win in Atlanta, has now moved to fourth in the season points.

"Jimmie and I and the team were all very proud of that streak of being in the top 10 in points for so long," Knaus said. "Maybe this will get us started on another long streak."

Johnson looked happy, but very weary, at the end of last Sunday's race.

"It's so much fun racing with the best in the business, and Tony Stewart is certainly that. He's a rock star," he said. "The guy had so much speed and was so hooked up, I was shocked I could hang with him. Then I started racing with him."

"At the end, I can't say that I've driven a race car that hard before. It really was challenging in my own head to drive that hard to chase Tony down and get by him. That was just a great, great race."

It also might have been the start of a new on-track image for Johnson: tough guy, doing whatever it takes to get the job done.

Goody's to honor legend Petty at legendary M'ville

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Richard Petty, lifetime spokesperson for Goody's Headache Powders, has been named grand marshal for the Goody's Cool Orange 500 Nextel Cup race on April 1 at Martinsville Speedway. Petty will be honored throughout the race weekend as Goody's celebrates 30 years in motorsports and Martinsville Speedway marks its 60th year.

"We are privileged to have Richard as our grand marshal as we return to Martinsville for the Goody's Cool Orange 500. Richard has played a pivotal role in defining the sport of NASCAR and made racing history at Martinsville, so it's fitting that Richard should be the grand marshal," said Darren Singer, Goody's vice president of marketing.

On Friday evening of race weekend, Petty will be honored at a Goody's 30th Anniversary celebration hosted on the grounds of the

Martinsville Speedway. Guests will include NASCAR legends, Cup drivers, team owners and other friends from within the motorsports industry. Petty will also handle the traditional grand marshal duties including saying "Gentlemen, Start Your Engines" to start the Goody's Cool Orange 500.

"To be the grand marshal at Martinsville and continue to be a part of Goody's rich racing history is truly an honor," Petty said. "Goody's will always be the favorite pain reliever of race fans just as it has been for 30 years. I am a lifetime Goody's user and look forward to a big weekend at one of my favorite tracks — Martinsville Speedway."

Petty is NASCAR's all-time record holder with 200 career wins and seven championships. At Martinsville, Petty is the track's all-time wins leader with 15 victories spanning from 1960 to 1979.

"Richard Petty and Goody's are woven into the history of Martinsville Speedway. It's truly like the three of us... Richard, Goody's and the speedway... are one big family," said Martinsville Speedway president Clay Campbell. "We are honored that we can be a part of the celebration honoring Richard and Goody's."

In its 30 years in the sport, Goody's has sponsored races at Daytona International Speedway, Bristol Motor Speedway, North Carolina Speedway and Martinsville Speedway. From 1983-2000, Goody's sponsored the Goody's 500, the Cup race at Martinsville. In 2006, Goody's returned to Martinsville as the race title sponsor of the Busch Series Goody's 250, won by Kevin Harvick.

In 2007, Goody's returns as a Cup sponsor at Martinsville with the running of the Cool Orange 500, the first race in a new three-year sponsorship. The race's name recognizes Goody's revolutionary new flavor — Cool Orange. The first flavored powder pain reliever on the market, Goody's Cool Orange provides the same fast pain relief as the original Goody's with a new, fresh orange flavor, in a new convenient stick packs that were specially designed for race fans. Race fans attending the Goody's Cool Orange 500 will have the opportunity to sample the new flavor at the popular Goody's Fast Relief Zone exhibit trackside at Martinsville Speedway.

To order tickets to the Goody's Cool Orange 500, call 877-RACE-TIX (722-3849) or log on to martinsvillespeedway.com.

NASCAR Nextel Cup Driver Standings

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mark Martin, 629 | 11. David Stremme, 463 |
| 2. Jeff Gordon, 621 | 12. J.J. Yeley, 462 |
| 3. Jeff Burton, 618 | 13. Elliott Sadler, 456 |
| 4. Jimmie Johnson, 601 | 14. Kyle Busch, 449 |
| 5. Matt Kenseth, 567 | 15. Juan Pablo Montoya, 443 |
| 6. Tony Stewart, 507 | 16. Robby Gordon, 433 |
| 7. Kevin Harvick, 482 | 17. Bobby Labonte, 428 |
| 8. Denny Hamlin, 480 | 18. Ryan Newman, 422 |
| 9. Clint Bowyer, 479 | 19. Joe Nemechek, III, 420 |
| 10. Carl Edwards, 471 | 20. Kurt Busch, 416 |

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Innovation eliminates watering headaches — and backaches

PHOTO: JIMMY HARRIS

It's more than a little frustrating. You envisioned a relaxing evening watering your garden, checking on plants and enjoying the warm weather. Instead, you've been wrestling with the hose for 10 minutes and finally have it in place only to discover that you have dirt from the hose on your hands and clothes and now a kink is prohibiting the water flow, resulting in a slow drip. Once you resolve the issue, instead of relaxing, you find yourself dreading winding the hose back up when you finish watering. Sound familiar?

"Rewinding the hose is one of those things that people just hate to do," says Ken Bevilard, vice president of North American Business for Hydro-Industries.

They hate it so much, in fact, that many homeowners develop counter-productive coping strategies to avoid dealing with the hose. Either they leave the hose lying in the lawn creating those tell-tale ugly yellow snake-like paths on the turf where grass dies out or they forego recommended watering practices altogether. A summer-fine of this neglect will eventually cause your lawn and garden to die out altogether, costing you thousands in lawn and garden renovation and replacement.

These aggravations have had ergonomics experts searching for solutions. The result: products that are designed to eliminate the hassle of watering, while making gardening what you want it to be — easier and enjoyable. Products like the No-Crank Hose Reel, which will rewind your water hose with the flip of a lever, accomplish that. Instead of using muscle-power to wind up the hose, No-Crank uses water pressure to power a three-piston engine that automates the hose retraction, eliminating the stress and frustration associated with manual hose rewinding.

Don't confuse the new automated hose reels with the you-crank reels of the past. With these, there is absolutely no cranking involved, and no trying to ensure that the hose rolls up evenly by manually pushing each row in place on the reel. Depending on your needs, there are several No-Crank models available with different features, including a swivel base that lets you easily pull the hose in any direction; an auto-sort guide that ensures the hose rewinds perfectly and evenly every time; a tow-and-go handle and a built-in wheel that lets you move the reel from the front to the back of the house or wherever you need to water; and reels that hold up to 150 feet of hose to allow for maximum reach.

To find these automated reels and other time and labor saving products, visit www.no-crank.com.

Making Gardening Good Again



Don't send money down the drain Water smart to save money

Most homeowners over-water their yards, unwittingly wasting money every time they turn on the hose. Adopting water-savvy habits not only helps reduce this waste, it saves money while promoting a healthier lawn and landscape. According to the Irrigation Association, you should follow these tips to ensure that you're lawn is getting the most out of your watering schedule.

Water it right

Watering at the right time of day, when the sun is low, the winds are calm and temperatures are cool, will save a lot of water — as much as 30 percent — by reducing evaporative losses. The best time to water is late afternoon, evening and just before sunrise.

- **Saturate the root zones.** Roots are generally within the top 6 inches of soil. Water roots, then let the soil dry. Watering too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus.
- **Don't water too long.** Water each zone several times for short periods rather than in one long session. This reduces run-off.
- **Take careful aim.** Be sure sprinklers are not watering driveways, sidewalks, patios or buildings. That's all water down the drain.

Plan right and plant right to save water

Conserving water doesn't have to involve a lot of trenching and plumbing. These tips can be implemented as part of your normal landscaping and gardening routine.

- **Aerate your lawn and around trees** at least once a year to ensure good water penetration. Turn and cultivate soil, adding compost, or fertilizer, when planting.
- **Mulch well around plants, bushes and trees.** Using 2 to 4 inches of mulch reduces evaporation, moderates soil temperatures, improves water penetration and helps to control weeds that compete for water.
- **Landscape to suit your lot.** Evaluate your yard conditions (sun, shade, dry and damp areas) and purchase turf or plant species that have low water requirements and are well suited to the area of the yard where they will be planted.
- **Hydro-zone your yard.** Group landscape plants with similar moisture needs in the same area. Separate them from turf areas, which have different water requirements.
- **Plant in spring or fall** when less water is needed to establish new

plants. Smaller plants require less water to become established.

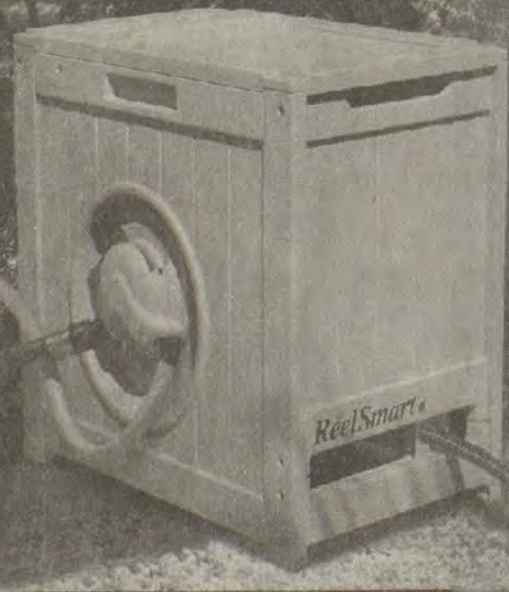
- **Create functional turf areas,** for example, in play areas. Avoid using turf where it's difficult to irrigate properly, such as on steep slopes. Good alternatives for hard-to-irrigate areas include ground covers, perimeter plants and mulch.
- **Plant shade trees** to lower the air and soil temperatures. This will reduce soil moisture loss.
- **Maintain your yard** by mowing, weeding, pruning and irrigating as needed. A well-maintained yard requires less water.

Upgrade your watering tools

The key to sticking with any irrigation program is to make it as efficient as possible. This means not only using the amount of water you need, but also streamlining the whole irrigation process. If you love caring for your lawn and garden but hate the hassle of prepping watering equipment and wrestling with the hose, consider using an automated hose reel, such as the No-Crank hose reel (www.no-crank.com) that rewinds the hose with the flip of a lever. It not only keeps you and your yard cleaner, but can also help keep you on track with irrigation.



A new generation of hose reels takes the work out of watering, encouraging you to stick to your watering regimen. This hose reel by No-Crank will rewind your hose with the flip of a lever.



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 3 days only **\$16**

5 Easy ways to place your ad:

1. **Call:** (606) 886-8506, LeighAnn Williams
2. **Fax:** (606) 886-3603
3. **E-mail:** classifieds@floydcountytimes.com
4. **Stop by:** 263 S. Central Avenue, Prestonsburg
5. **Mail:** P.O. 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653

Our hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

DEADLINES:
 Wednesday's paper @ Mon., noon
 Friday's paper @ Wed., 5 p.m.
 Sunday's paper @ Thurs., 5 p.m.

Visa - MC - Discover
 Check

The Best Way To Write An Ad:

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

NAME _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 PHONE #: _____

Write your ad here:

(approximately
 18 letters
 per line)

CREDIT CARD: _____

Our CLASSIFIEDS Will WORK For You!!!

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

AUTOMOTIVE

Boat

FOR SALE
 Ranger Boat 390V, 200 H.P. Johnson, new 80lb. Minn Kota. Livewells, rod box, storage boxes, tandem trailer, with brakes, cover, hot foot, on board battery charger. 1989 model, great shape. Asking \$10,000. 889-0039.

Wheels/Misc

HICKS AUTO SALES
David Road
 March Special!!
 '99 Grand Caravan \$2,495
 '02 Ranger 4 cylinder 5 speed, \$4,295
 2001 Ford Tarus SES 80,000 miles. \$4,495, Moonroof.
 92 Pathfinder, automatic, \$2,295
 2001 Impala 75,000 miles LS \$5,395. 97 Camry, Moon roof, 4 cylinder. \$2,195.
 '97 S-10 Automatic, 4.3. \$2,195.
 886-2842
 886-3451.

FOR SALE OR TRADE
 82 Volkswagon Rabbit Convertible. 874-2421 or 259-1844.

FOR SALE
 Kawasaki KDX Replica. 2007 brand new, great starter bike. \$375 call 330-701-8719.

FOR SALE
 Submergible deep well Meyer pumps. Half 3 quarter and 1 horse power. Call 358-2000.

EMPLOYMENT

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

Job Listings

JOB OPENING
 Experienced, loan officer. Minimum of 2 years experience necessary. Please send resume to: Bank of Hindman Attn: Valery Bartley, PO Box 786, Hindman, KY. 41822.

JOB OPENING

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

Help wanted! \$40,000-\$60,000 yearly! Demo, insurance, 401k, paid vacations. Great opportunity. Must submit to drug testing and background screening. Call 789-5301, ask for Jenny.

JOB OPENING

Are you 55+, low income, need extra income? Apply for the SCSEP older workers program today! (Breathitt, Knott, Leslie, Perry, Letcher, Pike & Floyd counties) For an application call the Kentucky River Area Development District at 606-436-3158.

JOB OPENING

Management position with local shoe store. Exciting career opportunity. Retail experience preferred. Competitive benefits package. Apply at SHOE SHOW, 370 Village Dr. Prestonsburg. EOE M/F

JOB OPENING

Truck dispatcher located at Betsy Lane. Good pay, retirement, insurance plan, paid vacations. Must have 1 year experience. 478-9501. Ask for Chris.

JOB OPENING

Experienced tower climber/ Radio installer needed. Must have valid drivers license. Eastern KY location. Benefits package. Please call (606)-886-3181. For more information, or fax a copy of your resume to (606)-886-8335. Please do not call unless you have experience in these fields.

JOB OPENING

Security guards needed for the Pike county and Floyd County area. Please apply at S.W.A.T. Security at 805-633-3798, sign on bonus.

JOB OPENING

Tired of cold calling? Want to be independent and have preset appointments? We offer very competitive life and health products. Call 606-780-7167.

JOB OPENING

Otter Creek Correctional Center is currently accepting applications for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner and Family Practitioner. Must be licensed in the state of KY. Interested applicants may apply in person at 327 Correctional Road, Wheelwright, KY 41669, online at www.correction-scrcorp.com or you may fax your resume to 606-452-9703. Otter Creek Correctional Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

JOB OPENING

Contract Highwall Mining LLC - (Frankie Justice - Greg Henzman) is now accepting applications for a certified electrician, foreman and other mining positions in Knott and Floyd County. Full time positions available. Excellent pay and benefits including health and dental insurance. Please call our office at 606-437-4603 for an application.

JOB OPENING

On call in home assistance for elderly. Some medical programs accepted. Call 606-889-8529. Also, accepting applications for caregivers.

JOB OPENING

Drivers needed seeking f/t and p/t on call drivers for 7 passenger mini-van's in Shelby and Martin. Drug screen, clean MVR and 7 years. Valid DL required. 1-800-471-2440. References # 26, EOE.

JOB OPENING

Dietary Aide/Cook:

Apply in person at Mtn. Manor of Painstville, 1025 Euclid Avenue, Painstville, KY from Monday -Friday between 8am and 4pm.

JOB OPENING

Mountain Manor of Painstville is taking applications for LPN, RN and CMA (7a to 7p) positions. Excellent wages and benefits. Apply in person at 1025 Euclid Ave. Painstville Ky 41240 between 8a and 4p. Mon-Fri.

JOB OPENING

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

PC Repair

COMPUTER REPAIR \$30.00 FLAT FEE!! Half the price of the competition! Call 226-1654 TODAY!

Misc.

LOT FOR RENT
 Located at Old Allen Road. \$200 per month. City sewer available. 874-2421 and 259-1844.

Wanted To Buy

WANTED TO BUY
 Interested in buying land or home from Hindman to Martin or McDowell area. 606-634-2960

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE
 Gas well interest for sale. Owners desire to sell their 20% interest in 2 gas wells at Viper, Ky. If seriously interested call 478-1002.

Houses

HOUSE FOR SALE 3.5 acres 3

WELDING POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Excellent pay, drug screening required.
 Call Mon-Fri 8a-5p
 285-9358.

PART-TIME MAILROOM POSITION AVAILABLE

Apply in Person at
Floyd County Times
 263 S. Central Ave.
 Prestonsburg, KY
 (across from Ray Howard Furniture)
 886-8506

BR 2 bath, attached 2 car garage with work shop or 1/2 acre lot for sale. Prestonsburg, meadows branch area. Call 889-0149.

HOUSE FOR SALE 4 BR Brick house apx 1500 sq. ft. 2 baths, living room, family room, kitchen, utility room, large deck, double carport on nice corner lot. Hardwood floors in living room, kitchen, family room and one bedroom. New carpet in 3 bedrooms. Also has Gas log fire place, electric. heat pump. Located 2 miles up Abbott Rd. on Frasure Hill Dr. Prestonsburg, KY. 606-886-6778. Shown by appointment.

HOUSE FOR SALE 3 BR 2 bath house completely remodeled inside and out. South River view lane. Prestonsburg. 886-8991.

HOUSE FOR SALE Newly constructed house for sale located at Abbott Creek. Vaulted living room ceiling, 3 BR, bonus room, fireplace, with cherry hardwood floors and cabinets with spacious attached garage. Located 4 miles from us 23. Panoramic view located in new subdivisions. Seller willing to help with closing costs! Call 606-285-0051, evenings 606-377-6042

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE! 1 MONTH WITH A PICTURE INCLUDED JUST \$75.00. CALL LEIGHANN

WILLIAMS TODAY TO SALE YOUR HOUSE FAST! 886-8506.

FOR SALE
 5 BR house 1 1/2 bath. 2 story on approx 3 1/2 level acres with barn and out buildings. Could develop as 5 building lot. Located in banner area. \$124,900 Call 874-9456.

Sale or Lease

FOR SALE
 2003 16x80 mobile home. Fire place, dishwasher, garden tub, walk in shower, shingle roof, gutters, used for short time. Good price. Central air. Located outside City limits. Call 886-2474

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

FOR RENT
 Beauty shop equipmt with 3 stations and tanning bed. Would consider renting for commercial use

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

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

FOR SALE
 Baby farm for sale possible commercial site 6.50 acres with house and outbuilding approximately 3/4- 1 acre building site out of floor plain. Location: Just above Mtn. Arts Center on Mountain Parkway. Contact Franklin Fitzpatrick at 886-3533 after 6pm. Interested parties only.

FARM FOR SALE
 Floyd county 75 acres more or less, rt. 1100 off US 23 East Point Upper Little Paint. Lum Derossett Branch. Call 606-325-4430 or 606-325-2809. Level- Sloping and

RENTALS

APARTMENT

FOR RENT
 Furnished apartment, real clean, quiet near Jenny Wiley lake. Suitable for 2 people. NO drugs. Call 886-3941.

FOR RENT
 Branham Heights Apartments - Now accepting applications for 1 and 2 BR apts. Rent based on 30% of income. Appliances furnished. very nice, central heat and air, water, garbage and sewer included. Please contact the manager 606-452-4777. Equal Opportunity housing.



House for sale
 Very well build home with heritage. Corner lot across from old Allen Grade School. 4 BR, LR, DR, LR built in kitchen, Utility room, family room. Lots of closets and storage space. Carpet covered hardwood floors. Full sized unfurnished basement and new roof. Shown by appointment. interested buyers only. 606-874-9520 606-874-917

MUD CREEK CLINIC

seeks candidates for
Certified Nurse Aide
 Mud Creek Clinic operates Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Requirements include current certificate in KY as Nurse Aide and current CPR.
 An excellent benefit package accompanies this position.
 Mail or fax resume to:
 Attn: Jessica N. Conn, BBA
 Big Sandy Health Care, Inc.
 1709 KY Route 321, Suite 3
 Prestonsburg, KY 41653
 Fax: (606) 886-8548
 Email: j.conn@bshc.org
 "A proud tradition of providing access to quality health care"
 Big Sandy Health Care is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Driver Needed

Part-time position
 Must have clean driving record.

Apply in person at:
Floyd County Times
 263 South Central Ave.
 Prestonsburg, KY
 886-8506

It's Our Treat... HAPPY EASTER

Purchase one week of classified advertising and get **2 DAYS FREE!!!!!!**
 Mention seeing this ad! This is only good until April 4th.

Let us treat you with our sweet classified deals!

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IS OUR BUSINESS

FOR RENT
2 BR Apt for rent
2.5 bath, garage,
W/D hookup, 1 year
lease. \$790 per
month \$790
deposit. 874-1660

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

APT FOR RENT
Newly remodeled
2 **BEDROOM** 1
Bath apartment
located
in
Prestonsburg,
above safelite auto-
glass. Call 478-
8100 for price.

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

MH FOR RENT
2 BR, At Garrett
HUD approved. Call
285-3504 or 432-
9110.

**MARCH MAD-
NESS** Park Place
apartments first
month rent **FREE**
w/deposit paid in full
-\$280, 2BR -\$304.
Offer valid thru
3/31/07. All electric
and HUD accepted.
Call 886-0039.

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

House's

HOUSE FOR RENT
Newly build 9 room,
3 BR house at 98
Cardinal lvel, KY for
rent. \$750 per
month plus utilities
and \$500 deposit.
No HUD, NO pets.
Quiet and safe
neighborhood.
Large yard.
References
required. Great fish-
ing on river! Call
437-6507 or 434-
9008.

HOUSE FOR RENT
2 BR house on
Martin. \$500 per
month. Call 606-
794-0249 or 606-
437-0910.

HOUSE FOR RENT
EXCELLENT
NEIGHBORHOOD
1600 Sq ft house 3
BR 2 bath, kitchen,
utility room, heat
pump, built in vac-
uum. Gated com-
munity, references
and deposit
required. Located
in Knott County. No
pets, call 438-6104.

Mobile Home

FOR RENT
2 BR Mobile
home, quiet neigh-
borhood, large yard.
HUD approved, no
pets. Would pre-
ferred couples or
elderly. \$350 per
month \$200
deposit. Serious
inquires only. Call
886-9460.

FOR RENT
16x80 3 BR 2
bath. Located at
Spradlin Branch 1/2
mile North of
Prestonsburg. No
HUD. \$600 per
month plus deposit
and utilities.

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an
Angel.**

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For information contact:
1-800-525-3456, or
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Leigh
Ann
Today to
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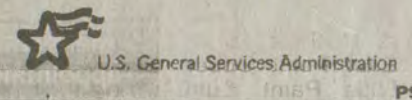
LEGALS

**PUBLIC
NOTICE**

Notice is hereby
given that Melissa
Sammons, 882
Arkansas Creek
Road, Martin, KY
41649, has filed an
application with the
Natural Resources and
Environmental Protection
Cabinet to install a gabion
basket retaining
wall along the front
of her yard, next to
the creek. The prop-
erty is located .9
mile up Arkansas
Creek on the right
side. Any comments
or objections con-
cerning this applica-
tion shall be direct-
ed to: Kentucky
Division of Water,
Water Resources
Branch, 14 Reilly
Road, Frankfort
Office Park,
Frankfort, KY
40601, Phone (502)
564-3410.

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Once, she needed care. And Americans united to
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the way and rekindle a spirit of community with those
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Victims of the recent hurricane need help immediately. The **American Red Cross** is on the scene—providing shelter, food and counseling. But your help is urgently needed. Your contribution will help the victims of the recent hurricane and thousands of other disasters across the country each year.

Make a financial contribution to the Disaster Relief Fund.
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 McDowell
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YOU CAN WIN \$500.00

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 in a single bound!
 No Climbing Telephone Poles!*

JUST FOLLOW THESE OFFICIAL RULES:

1. Follow the clues. A new clue will be printed in the Floyd County Times each publication day between Sunday, March 11 and Friday, April 6.
2. Each clue will be printed in paper only once. Previous clues can be found at Official Sponsor Locations. Clues are posted at Official Sponsor Locations 24 hours after each publication.
3. Discover the egg. The egg is located on public property in an easily accessible hiding place. No Fear Factor® stunts required!
4. Bring the egg and the enclosed certificate to the Floyd County Times Office at 263 S. Central Ave. Prestonsburg, between 9-5 weekdays, and you win \$500!
5. Employees of the Floyd County Times and their families are ineligible to win.
6. The Floyd County Times and the Official Sponsors are not liable for any injuries, damages, or losses resulting from your participation. Your attempt to locate the egg is acknowledgment that you agree and hold said parties harmless.

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