



Detailed detour map

page B6



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In brief

Paintsville lawsuit settled

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

PAINTSVILLE — A 2006 Johnson County civil suit filed by Bill Austin against the city of Paintsville was settled out of court this week for an unspecified amount of money.

"Out of respect for our client's privacy, we cannot comment on the amount of the settlement," John Kirk said. "But will say that justice was done for the very substantial and severe injury Billy received."

Austin, 70, of Paintsville, was on his way to the courthouse when he stepped into a hole in the parking lot, which reportedly caused a severe hip injury and subsequent surgery.

"You could not see this hole for the water over it," Austin said. "It looked like a smooth surface, like the rest of the parking lot."

According to Austin the injury he sustained changed his life.

"After all the surgery and everything, I'm back on my feet again, but only with a walker," Austin said.

Austin added that the city's insurance company did the right thing by settling, "but I'd give it all back in a minute if it had not happened."

"The attorneys and insurance company who represented the city were interested in seeing that justice was done and that was a good thing," said Kirk. "They approached Billy's case in a fair and just manner."

TRAFFIC TIE-UP



photo by Jack Latta

New traffic patterns necessitated by city-wide detours have left many drivers confused and caused countless traffic jams and near-misses on Prestonsburg's back streets.

P'burg detours causing headaches on city streets

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — As "do not enter" signs sprang up all over downtown Prestonsburg Thursday and Friday, more than a few motorists were left scratching their heads trying to navigate from one side of town to the other.

Despite street signs marking the routes, traffic jams and bottlenecks plagued Prestonsburg on the first two days of a major

sewer construction project and its subsequent detours. One motorist reportedly got out of his vehicle and moved a barrier out of his way and proceeded up Court Street the wrong way.

David M. Ellis, superintendent of Prestonsburg City Utilities, was quoted in Wednesday's Times that "Highway District 12 of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will provide our detour and traffic control."

"We have met with them and worked out a detour plan that

should accommodate everyone as well as possible," Ellis added.

Prestonsburg Public Safety Director Mike Ormerod said Highway Department was only handling the traffic off North Lake Drive, leaving the city to handle traffic on the back streets.

Ormerod said he hoped things to be straightened out by Monday.

Ormerod indicated that traffic on Arnold Avenue had not

(See DETOURS, page three)

AG creates unit to combat cybercrime

by BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway knows there are online stalkers and scam artists lurking somewhere — and he's assembled a team of investigators to track them down.

Fulfilling a campaign promise he made last year, Conway on Thursday announced a six-man cybercrime investigation division.

The investigators' tasks include cracking down on identity theft and Internet

scams as well as uncovering sexual predators lurking on youngsters' social networking Web sites.

"Cybercrimes are a huge problem," Conway said in a phone interview after announcing the new investigative unit at a Frankfort school. "It's an issue that's literally scaring parents to death."

The unit's formation was part of a reorganization of the attorney general's office that Conway announced amid budget cuts hitting state government, including

(See CRIME, page three)

U.S. 23 yard sale seen as success

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

The first ever Country Music Highway Yard sale was held last weekend, and left vendors and shoppers alike looking forward to next year.

The yard sale was held along U.S. 23 over a three-day period with successful participation from the counties of Greenup, Boyd, Johnson, Martin, Floyd and Pike.

According to officials with the Floyd County Tourism Office, there were 173 setups, with products such as clothes, tools, antiques, wagons and countless other items and collectibles.

Tourism officials said vendors' comments were overwhelmingly positive.

Information on where and how to set up was provided by tourism commis-

(See SALE, page three)

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 96 • Low: 71

Tomorrow



High: 96 • Low: 70

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Patton named to postsecondary education council

by BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Former Gov. Paul Patton, who reshaped Kentucky higher education a decade ago, was given a new role Friday with his appointment to the council in charge of coordinating the vast postsecondary education system.

Patton was one of three people chosen by Gov. Steve Beshear to fill vacancies on the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. The appointments come at a time of budget cuts for universities and higher tuition for students.

The 16-member council also is searching for a new higher education chief. Richard A. Crofts, a veteran higher education official, was selected as the council's interim president last month until a permanent chief is hired.

Patton said in an interview Friday he was pleased to join the council, which received more authority from the 1997

higher education overhaul he championed.

The other appointees to the postsecondary education council Friday were former Lexington Mayor Pam Miller and Paducah attorney Glenn Denton.

Council members are chosen by the governor, with consent of the House and Senate. Patton's appointment is effective immediately for a term expiring at the end of 2013.

Patton, who left office in late 2003 after two terms, said he needs to "get back up to speed" on higher education issues but expects to have "a fast learning curve."

The overhaul strived to improve coordination of the state's universities, community colleges and technical schools. It removed community colleges from direct control of the University of Kentucky and set a goal of making UK a top-20 research university. Community colleges were placed in a new

(See PATTON, page three)

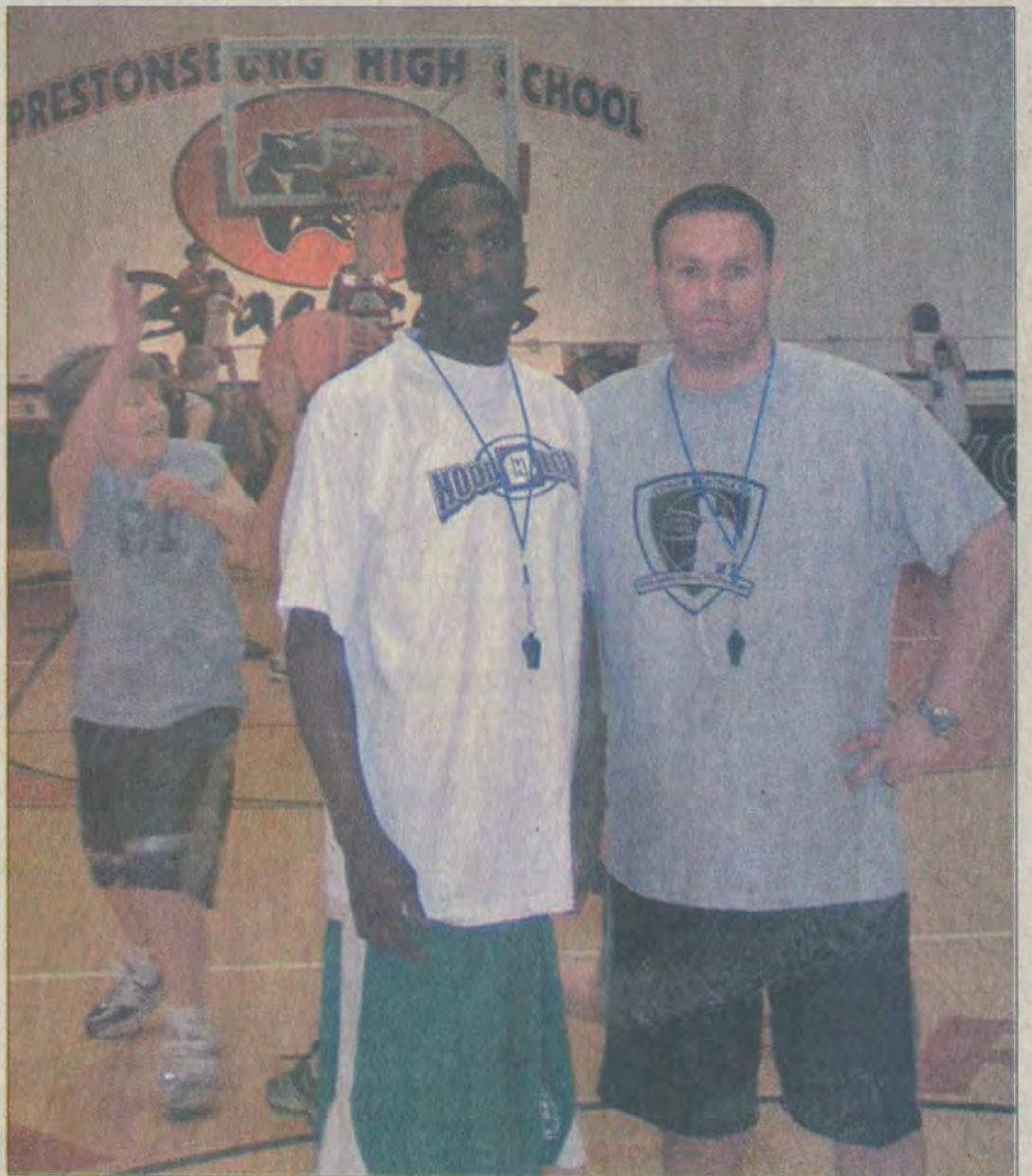


photo by Steve LeMaster

Coach Kevin Keathley's Pro Basketball Youth Camp held at Prestonsburg High School was attended by nearly 70 young basketball players. The camp, under the direction of East Kentucky Miners Coach Kevin Keathley, included Miners guard Jason McLeish on the staff.

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

■ Lora Branham Childers, 92, a resident of Riverview Nursing Home, Hopewell, Virginia, a Wheelwright native, died Saturday, May 31. A private ceremony was held on her behalf on Sunday, June 1, in Chester, Virginia. A private interment of her remains was held on Tuesday, June 3, in the Rosehill Burial Park, in Ashland.

■ Madelyn Boyd Cottrell, 83, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, May 29, in Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 31, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

■ Angie Hunt Hall, 78, of Banner, died Saturday, May 31. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, June 3, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Brother Johnnie Jay Patton, 76, of Weeksbury, died Sunday, June 1, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Imogene Johnson Patton. Funeral services were held Thursday, June 5, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Robert Mario Ranier "Bobby", 72, of Daytona Beach, Florida, died Sunday, June 1, at Halifax Medical Center, in Port Orange, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Harrietta Bowens Ranier. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 7, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Gloria Dean Hicks Shepherd, 55, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, June 1, at her residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 3, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Paula J. Terry, 44, died Tuesday, June 3, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, J. Patrick Terry. Funeral services were held Friday, June 6, under the direction of Kerr Brothers Funeral Home, Lexington.

■ William T. "Buddy" Wallen, 59, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, June 3, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Linda Kaye Lafferty Wallen. Funeral services were held Friday, May 6, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Charles "Jeff" Wells, 86, of Grayson, formerly of Auxier, died Saturday, May 31, following a sudden illness. He is survived by his wife, Jenny Wells. Phelps and Son Funeral Home in Paintsville was in charge of the arrangements.

PIKE COUNTY

■ Henry Shannon Bailey, 90, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, June 4, after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, Ida Mae (Hall) Bailey. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 7, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Ruth Kinney Bartley, 80, of Escoc, died Wednesday, May

28, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 1, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Doug Bentley, 46, of Shelbyana, died Thursday, May 29, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Regina Hill Bentley. Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 3, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Gwendlyn Bentley, 65, of Pikeville, died Sunday, June 1, at her home. A memorial service was held Tuesday, June 3, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ Liddie Casebolt, 52, of Shelbyana, died Wednesday, June 4, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 7, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

■ Barbara Sue Colman, 57, of Ashcamp, died Sunday, June 1, at her home. She is survived by her husband, Jerry A. Coleman. Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 4, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Mary R. Coleman, 74, formerly of McCarr, died Tuesday, June 3, at the Harborside Healthcare Center, Westlake, Ohio. She is survived by her husband, Arnold W. Coleman. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 7, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Mary Lee Johnson Damron, 66, of Elkhorn City, died Monday, June 2, at Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, John H. Damron. Funeral services were held Friday, June 6, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Timothy Dotson, 55, of Ransom, died Sunday, June 1, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Thursday, June 5, under the direction of R. E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Galaway "Bud" Henton, 85, of Betsy Layne, died Thursday, June 5, at Pikeville Healthcare Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 8, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ Peggy Delores Damron Johnson, 62, of Frogtown, formerly of Louisville, died Wednesday, May 28, at Parkview Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Robinson Creek. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 31, under the direction of Hall and Jones Funeral Home.

■ Ruby Derosett Justice, 81, of Robinson Creek, died Wednesday, June 4, at her home. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 7, under the direction of Pikeville Funeral Home.

■ Virtreecy Meade, 66, a Pike County native, died Tuesday, June 3. She is survived by her husband, Johnny P. Meade Sr. Funeral services were held Friday, June 6, under the direction of J.W.

Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ G.C. "Carl" Meade Jr., 71, of Sevierville, Tennessee, a Pike County native, died Wednesday, June 4, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Joy Meade. A memorial service was held Monday, June 16, under the direction of West Chapel of Atchley Funeral Home, Sevierville.

■ Ota Osborne, 89, of Caney Highway, formerly of Dorton, died Friday, May 30, at her home. Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 3, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Ernest Prater, 72, of Stopover, died Tuesday, June 3, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Eunice Prater. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 7, under the direction of R.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home.

■ Darian Wayne Riddle, 36, of Little Creek, died Sunday, June 1, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Leela Riddle. Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 3, under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home.

■ Tommy Joe Russell Jr., 48, of Pikeville, died Thursday, May 15, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Bobbie Mae Branham Russell. A memorial service was held Saturday, May 17, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ Hilda Gay Davis Smith, 70, of Jonancy, died Thursday, May 22, at her home. A memorial candlelight service was held Saturday, July 5, at the W.H.C. Johnson Cemetery, Jonancy, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

■ Verma Gibson Stacy, 91, of Means, formerly of Elkhorn City, died Monday, June 2, in Mt. Sterling. Funeral services were held Friday, June 6, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Rexford "Rex" Standifur, 85, of Ashcamp, died Thursday, May 29, at Jenkins Community Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Pearl Branham Standifur. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 1, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Ronald Dean "Lum" Thacker, 68, of Pikeville, died Sunday, June 1, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Thacker. Memorial services were held Thursday, June 5, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

■ Burbon Thacker, 79, of River Hurricane, a native of Raccoon, died Tuesday, June 3, at his home. Funeral services were Friday, June 6, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Sandra Jean Thompson, 51, of Pikeville died Friday, May 30, at her residence. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 1, under the direction of the Thacker Funeral Home.

■ Dollie Damron Tucker, 76, of Jonancy, died Wednesday, June 4, at

Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Robinson Creek. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 7, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

JOHNSON COUNTY

■ Sybil Burchett, 89, of Stambaugh, died Saturday, May 31, in Nippa. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 1, under the direction of Preston Funeral Chapel.

■ Mary Magdalene Castle, 56, of Lowmansville, died Monday, June 2, in Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, Joe Castle. Funeral services were held Friday, June 6, under the direction of the Young Funeral Home.

■ Vonda Castle, 86, of Thealka, died Sunday, June 1. Funeral services were held Thursday, June 5, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

■ Ilko Cybriwsky, 91, of Paintsville, died Friday, May 30, at his residence. Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 4, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home in Paintsville.

■ Clarence Edmand King, 78, of Staffordsville, died Monday, June 2, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Emma Jean Lemaster King. Funeral services were held Thursday, June 5, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Wellington Reese Meade Jr., 90, of Paintsville, died Monday, June 2, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in

Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Lydia A. Meade. Private graveside services were held Wednesday, June 4, under the direction of the Paintsville Funeral Home.

■ Earl Robinette, 84, of Van Lear, died Friday, May 30, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Margie Blair Robinette. Funeral services were held Monday, June 2, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Prudence M. Picklesimer Robinson, 96, a Johnson County native, died Sunday, June 1, at Heritage Park Health Care Center, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Graveside services were held Saturday, June 7, under the direction of D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home of Fort Wayne.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

■ Harold Eugene Boggs, 71, of Blaine, died Thursday, May 29, at his home. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 1, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

■ Charles Patrick, 70, of Salyersville, died Monday, June 2. Funeral services were held Thursday, June 5, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

■ Ronnie Rife, 60, of Salyersville died Sunday, June 1. Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 4, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

MARTIN COUNTY

■ Chester Crum, 80, of

Debord, died Wednesday, May 14, at Winchester Hospital Center. Graveside services with military honors were held Tuesday, June 10, at Arlington National Cemetery.

■ Wanda Williams Davis, 60, of Inez, died Wednesday, June 4, at King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. She is survived by her husband, William Ronnie "Bill Bo" Davis. Funeral services were held Friday, June 6, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Keira Leigh McLaughlin, infant daughter of Michelle Grace Dingess and Eddie McLaughlin, of Lovely, died Tuesday, May 27. A graveside service was held Friday, May 30, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Cecil George Morris, 92, of Warren, Pennsylvania, formerly of Inez, died Tuesday, May 27, at Golden Living Center, in Warren, Pennsylvania. A memorial service was conducted Saturday, May 31, under the direction of VanRensselaer and Son Funeral Home.

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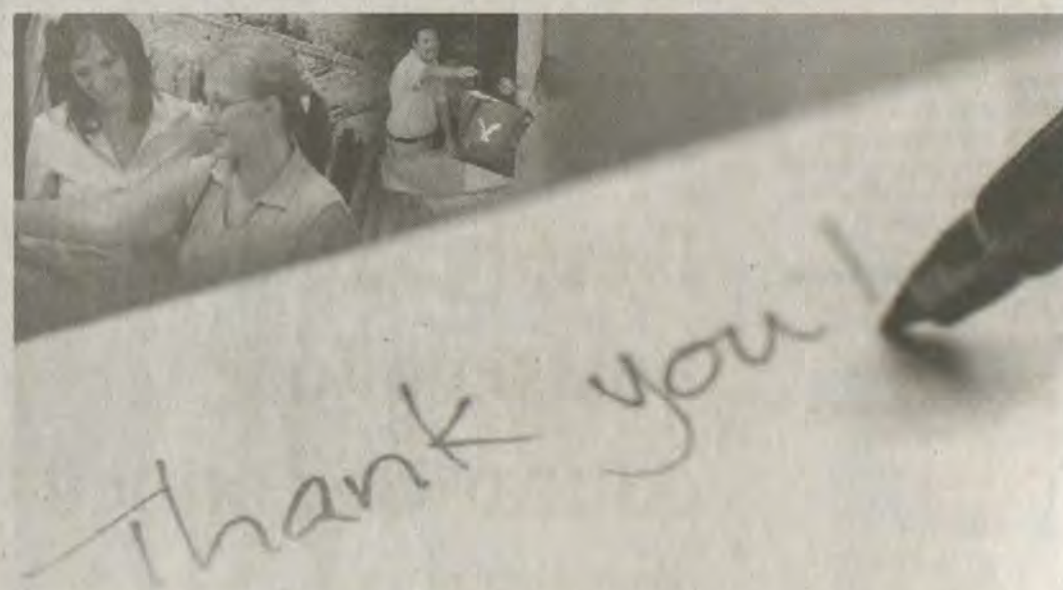
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FCT ONLINE POLL

RESULTS FOR WEEK OF JUNE 1 - JUNE 8, 2008

What is responsible for the rise in obesity among America's children?	
Parent rely too much on fast food and fatty foods	(14 Votes, 16%)
Too many video games and not enough exercise	(14 Votes, 16%)
Not enough physical activity in school	(3 Votes, 3%)
Combination of poor diet and exercise	(53 Votes, 60%)
I don't think there's a problem	(5 Votes, 6%)
Don't know	(0 Votes, 0%)

Go online today and answer this week's question!

Should Barack Obama choose Hillary Clinton as his running mate?

- Yes, She deserves it
- No, he should choose someone else
- She should be considered, but he should make his own choice
- Don't know

FCT ONLINE POLL

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Detours

been a problem, but that Highland Avenue, Court Street, and South Central Avenue had been a problem all day. While interviewing

Ormerod at the corner of Court and South Central, one motorist stopped to ask, "How do I get out of here?" Ormerod expects things to

improve as people figure out the reroutes. "We've got more signs coming to block off streets," said Ormerod. "Highland will

be one way from Dingus Street to Court Street going south, and South Central will be one way from Court to Graham street going south."

Northbound traffic traveling through Prestonsburg has been rerouted to Arnold Avenue. Ormerod suggested Arnold Avenue might be having fewer problems because motorists knew it to be a one-way street prior to construction.

Ormerod said that he will have officials monitor traffic on Highland and South Central during peak hours over the next week to see how people adapt to the changes.

"We're going to have people monitor it first," said Ormerod. "We're not going to start giving out tickets immediately. We want to give peo-

ple some time to get educated."

Ellis said that the city must separate its storm sewer from its sanitary sewer. Currently both lines run together.

"We want to make this as painless as possible for everyone, but the work will take at least six weeks and some people are predicting three months or more."

The traffic reroute map which was run on the front page of the Times on Wednesday, has been enlarged again, and placed on page B6 of this issue.

Continued from p1

Crime

his office. The unit will have a training role as well — helping teach police how to process electronic evidence. That could entail learning how to recover information from computer hard drives or from cell phones, Conway said.

Conway said the use of social networking sites such as MySpace or Facebook is pervasive among youngsters. He knows because when he speaks at middle schools, he'll ask students if they have pages on such sites. All the hands shoot up, he said. Then he'll ask if they are a certain age because there are age restrictions to use the sites.

"Hands go up, down — they don't know what to do," he said. "They realize they're caught in a lie in front of the attorney general."

Conway said parents should take an active role by doing Google searches of their children on the Internet and getting listed as friends on their children's pages.

"I don't know how many kids I've got-

ten grounded by telling parents around this state that have 11- or 12-year-olds. 'Your kid does have a MySpace or a Facebook page,'" he said.

Anthony Sieg, principal at Shelby County East Middle School, liked the idea of the special unit, saying it helps keep kids safe from "cyberspace harassment." He estimated that about half the students with Internet access at his school have some version of a personalized Web site, and that some are underage. Those children may be too naive to realize that they're chatting with adult predators lying about their age, he said.

The Shelby County school system offered sessions for middle and high school students on Internet safety, especially for sites like MySpace.

Conway's predecessor, Greg Stumbo, also tried to crack down on Internet child predators. During Stumbo's tenure, the attorney general's office was involved in Internet sting operations that netted numerous arrests.

Rep. John Vincent, an Ashland Republican who has spearheaded efforts by state lawmakers to crack down on identity theft, called the new investigative unit a "positive step" to take on a growing spectrum of cybercrimes.

"I think it is a good idea to have a concerted, centralized effort on behalf of the state to try to attack some of those problems," he said.

He said the unit's training would be valuable in equipping law enforcement with the knowledge to crack down on sexual and financial predators.

Conway said the special unit will complement "good, sound parenting" needed to help protect children from online predators.

"Parents can't go online and set up a chat with an adult sex offender that wants to target a 13- or 14-year-old kid," he said. "Only law enforcement can, and this new unit will do that."

Continued from p1

Patton

system with technical schools.

Patton called the revamped higher education system the "hallmark" of his governorship. In the 11 years since, postsecondary education in Kentucky has made "substantial progress but has a long way to go," he said.

Another initiative during

Patton's tenure was Bucks for Brains, matching public money with private donations to attract top university researchers to Kentucky.

Patton said he sees the council's role as trying to improve the efficiency of the statewide system.

He said the state's severe

budget crunch has slowed progress in higher education. He said the economy will eventually rebound, and when it does he hopes the state will increase funding for postsecondary education.

He called sharply rising tuition a concern, but said that state-supported scholarships

have also grown through the years.

"If you're going to have quality education, then you have to have a quality staff and faculty, and that's where most of the money goes," he said of tuition. "So there's a tradeoff. You may be paying more, but it's our job to ensure that for that extra money you get a quality education, and the council has a role to play in that."

Patton has kept a low profile since leaving office. His second term was marred by his admission of an extramarital affair.

"This is not the beginning of any resurgence of Paul Patton," he said. "This is just one isolated place where I think I can make a contribution."

Continued from p1

Sale

sions, chambers of commerce, local extension offices and Big Sandy Area Development District.

It's estimated that hundreds of shoppers, many from Ohio

and West Virginia, took part in the three-day event.

For more information on the Country Music Highway yard sale, check the website www.ky23yardsale.com.

Continued from p1

SBDM Parent Representative Nominations and Elections

Nominations for Parent Representatives will be accepted until Friday, June 6th, 2008, at 3:00 p.m., in the office at Prestonsburg High School.

Elections will be held Monday, June 9th, from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. in the Prestonsburg High School Youth Service Center.

Prestonsburg Parks and Recreation

will be hosting a

CHURCH/COED/RECREATION SOFTBALL LEAGUE

at the Sportspark on StoneCrest Mountain

All interested teams should attend a meeting on Tuesday, June 10, at 6 p.m., at the Sportspark facilities. A special invitation to all churches, businesses, and other organizations that want an opportunity to fellowship and enjoy time with friends and colleagues. Rules and scheduling will be discussed at the Tuesday meeting. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact David Baldrige at (606) 886-6390 or (606) 791-3537



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Are you looking for a job that will challenge you to take your writing skills to the next level while serving your community? Do you enjoy meeting new people and finding out about the fascinating stories that color their lives?

The Floyd County Times is currently accepting applications for a Features Writer. The position entails writing stories for our News and Lifestyles sections, working with the public to write announcements (birth, wedding, anniversary, birthday, etc.), taking photos, proofreading, and other duties as assigned.

Applicants should be able to write both human interest and hard news stories, have basic computer skills, be able to meet strict deadlines while juggling multiple tasks, and be familiar with photography. The position requires an excellent grasp of spelling and grammar, frequently working odd hours (including nights and weekends), extensive typing and reliable transportation. The ideal candidate will have a degree in journalism or a related field and/or previous experience as a reporter, and will be able to use page layout software or have a ability and willingness to learn to do so.

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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

A lesson in forgiveness

Sometimes you can't settle a score. Sometimes you can't undo an injustice. And sometimes the only way to right a wrong is, paradoxically, to forgive it.

Heather Lynn Evans' family taught us the stunning power of such an act when they pleaded for no jail time for Virginia truck driver Gregory Gibson.

On July 24 Gibson blew through a red light in Alexandria and crashed into a pickup truck carrying 14-year-old Heather and members of her family. Heather died. Gibson lived, but with the burden of his crime.

On May 28, Gibson faced sentencing after pleading guilty to reckless homicide and six counts of assault for the accident that also seriously injured Heather's mother and younger brother. His attorney said he hadn't realized the light had turned red.

In an act of grace they said was motivated by their religious faith and Heather's spirit, relatives publicly forgave Gibson, asked the judge for leniency, and, outside the courtroom, embraced him and wept with him.

Such a scene is a tough construct for modern observers who are used to a world of litigation, accusation and retribution.

The decision to forgive is an act of will over feeling. The Evans family executed it resolutely.

After 10 months of living with the aftermath of Gibson's actions, they knew the full weight of the crime they were forgiving. Heather wasn't coming home again. Her mother Leah and little brother Jacob would live for years or perhaps forever with the burden of their injuries. Life would never be the same again.

But even in their sorrow they realized the same was true for Gregory Gibson, the father of two teenage girls.

He had been careless and irresponsible, but he was sincerely remorseful. He took responsibility for his actions. He pleaded guilty to charges and agreed never to drive a commercial truck on roadways again. He apologized profoundly.

All of that, however, could never balance out the loss of a life. So Heather's family had to reach beyond emotion — reason, even — to offer something Gibson could never earn.

When mercy is put on the scale, it doesn't counterbalance justice. It wildly outweighs it. It supplants courtroom remedies. It overshadows punishments. It elevates what is legally appropriate to what is morally brave.

Those who knew her will find many ways to memorialize Heather Evans, but none will honor her more than the generosity and grace of her family's actions.

We hope that by refusing to add to a repentant man's burden they will somehow lighten their own heavy hearts. Their pain, like Gibson's terrible error, doesn't go away. It just becomes easier to bear.

— The Kentucky Enquirer, Fort Mitchell



Rich Lowry Column

John McCain — candidate of change?

If there's just one candidate of change this fall, John McCain will be the Horatio Seymour or James Cox of 2008 — a presidential also-ran all but forgotten to history.

The only way McCain can hold the White House for the Republicans is if he trumps his opponent on values and national security, and sells the public on a domestic reform agenda that keeps Democrats from sole ownership of the theme of change. Otherwise, Barack Obama will out-inspire him, or Hillary Clinton out-policy him, in a classic out-with-the-old election.

McCain would seem a natural candidate of reform, given how often he has used the word during the past decade. With his hair-trigger sense of honor, McCain's reformism has been driven by what offends him — large, unregulated campaign contributions and wasteful earmarks. But with the cost of health care increasing and the value of homes declining, the public is going to wonder about McCain's politics of honor: What's in it for them?

The McCain campaign is shrewd enough to realize all of this, which is why he's beginning to piece together a forward-looking domestic agenda. The task isn't easy, given that the

candidate isn't animated by domestic issues and leads a party that is only haltingly realizing it needs a policy renovation as it hits bottom at the end of the Bush years.

On his just-completed health-care tour, McCain appropriately triangulated between the status quo and overreaching Democratic proposals. It doesn't take Michael Moore to realize that our health-care system is expensive and inefficient, and leaves too many people out. The root of the problem is the tax break for employer-provided coverage — dating from World War II — that leads most people to get insurance through their employer.

Since they don't pay directly for the insurance themselves, people don't know the cost of their plans, and since their insurance pays for their medical procedures, they don't know the cost of them either. This creates the predicate for runaway medical inflation.

The answer isn't government-sponsored universal coverage. McCain correctly says it would "replace the inefficiency, irrationality and uncontrolled costs of the current system with the inefficiency, irrationality and uncontrolled costs of a

government monopoly."

McCain wants to give people a tax credit — \$2,500 for individuals and \$5,000 for families — to buy their own insurance. They can keep their insurance through their employer if they like, but the credit would make it easier for individuals to buy — and keep — insurance on their own. "The key to real reform,"

McCain said, "is to restore control over our health-care system to the patients themselves."

If individuals are shopping for health care, insurance companies would have an incentive to provide better plans at lower cost. If they purchase their own plans, their insurance wouldn't be dependent on their jobs. This change therefore mitigates two of the besetting problems of the current system — affordability and access.

McCain's proposal is just the start of what has to be a broader conservative reformation. The sole Republican response to the public's economic anxieties can't be trying to talk the public out of them. If it is, the GOP will have a long time out of power to think more creatively.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



— beyond the beltway

You mean they lied about the war?

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

President George W. Bush is puzzled. And sad. So is Karl Rove, his former political strategist; as is Ari Fleischer, his former chief flack, and Dana Perino, the current chief flack, and Dan Bartlett, former counselor to the president. All puzzled. All sad.

The object of their puzzlement and sadness is, of course, Scott McClellan, another former chief flack, who has written a memoir that casts doubt not merely on the president's motivation for taking us into war in Iraq but on his grasp of reality.

The book is called "What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception" (Public Affairs, \$27.95) and it tells the story of an administration that convinced itself (and argues yet) that Iraq was a threat to our national security that had to be dealt with. No evidence to the contrary — and there was plenty — was admitted and instead of leveling with the American people the president relied on propaganda to sell the war.

In the process, McClellan says, Mr. Bush made "a decision to turn away from candor and honesty when those qualities were most needed."

The Bush loyalists immediately circled the limousine and began taking potshots at their former colleague — sounding more hurt than angry, as though their pet Labrador had bitten

them on the ankle.

"This doesn't sound like Scott, it really doesn't," Rove told Fox News. That sentiment was echoed by any White House type who could reach a microphone. Puzzled. Sad. Not the Scott McClellan they knew. You would think they were reading from the same script or something.

I believe I can clear up their puzzlement for them.

"Of course he's not the Scott McClellan you once knew. When you knew him, he was a lying weasel in the employ of the president. He is now a turn-coat weasel out on his own, trying to make a buck by telling the truth for a change."

McClellan is critical not merely of the Bush White House; the national press corps comes in for its ration. He writes: "If anything, the national press corps was probably too deferential to the White House and to the administration....The collapse of the administration's rationales for war, which became apparent months after our invasion, should never come as such a surprise....In this case, the 'liberal media' didn't live up to its reputation. If it had, the country would have been better served."

How sharper than a serpent's tooth is the scorn of a weasel once held in contempt. He's right of course (although the press is reluctant to admit it) but it should be noted that the American people were in no mood to hear discouraging words about the war in its early stages.

Fox News scored a huge ratings triumph over its competitors by pro-

viding the most flag-waving, jingoist coverage of the invasion. That was a lesson that did not go unlearned at the other networks.

Washington, never forget, is a town that runs on BS. It is rare indeed to find a major politician, Democrat or Republican, who will speak candidly on a controversial topic. They

will not tell you the truth about the Medicare financing problem we're facing, they will only promise you more benefits. They will not tell Iowans that corn ethanol is a bad idea or Kentuckians that tobacco is a killer or West Virginians that coal is a dirty fuel or Westerners that guns kill people or anybody that gasoline should be expensive in order to discourage its use.

Because people, in general, don't want to hear the truth. They, like the president, prefer sweet lies.

Many observers are pooh-poohing the impact of McClellan's book on the presidential election but I don't. Now when John McCain accuses Barack Obama of being inexperienced and naïve, Obama can say: "I'm naïve? You're the one who was bamboozled into supporting this miserable war and you haven't figured things out yet. If that's experience, spare me. And read Scott McClellan's book."

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 dkaul2@earthlink.net.

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Tom and Ray get 'Sirius' about radio problem

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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

I am well along toward keeping a new resolution—to wit, I will not utter one little gripe, however hot the weather may become, for one whole week, keeping its mind those fond wishes expressed such a short time ago for a few days of sunshine.

□□□

Question for folks past 50: Would you suggest a double dose of Single Tansy or a single dose of Double Tansy?

TRAGEDY—NO LESS

The tragedy of the week at Dewey Lake occurred Monday afternoon, late. That was when the grandson hooked onto his first bass on artificial lure, reeled it manfully to the very side of the boat, then saw all 15 inches of it arch beautifully and toss the plug back at him. He expressed considerable displeasure with this turn of events, and I was reminded of the time when I had a wild ycn to shoot a hole in the bottom of the boat, on just such an occasion.

This disappointed fisherman represents the third generation for our immediate family to indulge in this sport. I don't know that I've done the boys any good, but I have enjoyed fishing with them. I saw two of my sons hook their first bass, and now the grandson.

If they'll just stick with me, they may have the privilege of seeing the old man tie into one.

GUN LAW NEEDED

The Congress should enact a gun law that is worth writing and enforcing. Every other so-called civilized nation has such legislation, and none approaches the United States, with all its high ideals, in the sorry matter of gun-slayings. Sure, it isn't the gun, it's the gun-user, that pulls the trigger. Nor is it the H-bomb that, one day, will be to blame, it will be some nation headed by a madman who will blow us all to smithereens. But take the gun and the Bomb away, and they'll have to fall on more primitive means of taking human life.

A gun law will not rid the nation of murders and assassinations, but it can't hurt, should help. Too, it might be good for the nation to forego the Almighty Dollar, for once, for a principle.

REPARTEE

This story gets across better when told orally, but if you can pronounce the words in the question, down near the end, without looking too closely at the spelling, you may get the point.

It concerns the fellow who lost an eye in an auto accident, and for whom an artificial was made. He was allergic to both glass and plastics, and so the doctor finally turned to wood. He ground out a wooden eye, colored it carefully,

(See ALLEN, page six)



Imogene Burchett Caldwell enjoys spending her summer days reminiscing about days past and sharing those memories in her writings. She is the author of the book, "From the Top Rail of the Fence."

photo by Kathy J. Prater

The Swarm of Bees

by IMOGENE BURCHETT CALDWELL

Editor's Note: Enjoy some summer reading by local writer and retired Floyd County schoolteacher, Imogene Burchett Caldwell:

Pa's bee hives sat in a row up on the bank near the old rail fence that enclosed our yard. He had, at times, as many as thirty of them that were made from lengths of logs about three or four feet high and hollowed out to be usable by the bees.

Pa, my grandfather, took good care of his bees. He sat out bowls of syrup and molasses and sometimes dampened sugar to keep his bees busy and also well fed.

Many times, swarms just simply flew off and left their hive and would go to a tree in the woods and live on their own. Pa said that the family was growing too big so half of them would move away to make more room. My Pa and I would watch the trail of buzzing bees as they flew away and that's how we knew where they had gone.

When the bees decided to swarm, we would hear a big, roaring noise start up inside the hive. Grandma would gather up pans and spoons and we would stand and beat on the pans with the spoons which would drown out the roar of the bees. Usually, the bees would follow their queen to a nearby tree

and settle there. There were about two gallon of them in one big ball. I would wonder how they even managed to breathe piled on each other like that.

One warm spring morning, a stand began to roar and buzz. Pa knew a swarm was getting organized. He told me to run as fast as I could and get Uncle Eliga Goble to come and help him make the bees settle close by. That way, he could put them in a new hive and set them in his row there next to the fence.

I got Uncle Eliga and was back to Pa's while Grandma was still beating on her pot. I began to beat, too, but I was out of breath from running with Uncle Eliga.

Well, the bees finally settled in the old apple tree and Uncle Eliga had climbed the tree with his saw to saw off the limb with the hundreds of bees hanging on and buzzing and roaring with such vengeance. When Uncle Eliga has the swarm almost to the mouth of the old gum tree, he dropped it, bees and all.

Bees everywhere! Pa shoved Grandma and me into the kitchen door as he ran in and slammed the screen door behind us. And as for Uncle Eliga? He went running toward the old swimming hole in the creek just around the bend. He dove into the water with nothing showing but his nose! The bees buzzed around and over his nose for a while then flew off to the hill to

begin a life elsewhere. Grandma made poultices of corn starch and soda to ease the pain on Uncle Eliga's head, his ears, his arms, and his hands - and yes, his nose.

His face was swollen until he didn't even look like good old Uncle Eliga for several days after that. I felt so sorry for him. Grandma and I made him some gingerbread. I ran all the way to his house to take it to him. I even sat down and ate a big chunk or two with him and gulped down a mug of his apple cider which he had sweetened with a few drops of honey.

Uncle Eliga has been dead for years and years. He loved to work with honeybees and I loved Uncle Eliga.

Times have changed over the years. They say there aren't many honeybees around anymore - well, for that matter, there aren't many Uncle Eligas around, either; ones that are brave enough to face a swarm of bees in order to help a neighbor out. Then, come to think of it - there aren't many grandmas who know how to settle a swarm of bees with a pot and spoon. Nor are there many little girls around who would run a couple of miles with a pan of gingerbread for a gentle little man with a big red nose.

(See BEES, page six)

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'The Disco Godfather'

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST

Comedian/rapper Rudy Ray Moore stars in this amateur, yet highly entertaining film, and deserves some credit for helping to kill the "Saturday Night Fever" genre before it overstayed its welcome.

If you're unfamiliar with the work of Moore, then let me catch you up. He enjoyed a brief stint as a standup comedian whose gags consisted of vulgar stories (mostly sexual prowess) which were given added heft by being spoken in rhyme.



Tom Doty
Times Columnist

He made the jump to movies by doing several crime flicks that meshed his flamboyant persona with whatever was in vogue at the time, mostly kung-fu, and often saw him portraying a righteous pimp who has to take down the man (usually a racist white sheriff). His best titles were "Dolemite" and "The Human Tornado," but this effort is a lot of fun too and casts Moore as Tucker, or "Disco Godfather" to those in the know.

The film opens with a typical night at Tucker's club, Blueberry Hill, and introduces you to his in-house dancers who perform such feats as roller boogying, break dancing and generally stomping around with all of the grace of a constipated rhinoceros. All the while Tucker scratches records and repeatedly shouts, "Put your weight on it," before joining the crowd on the floor in his open chested jumpsuit which sports more sequins than Dolly Parton's bustier.

Tucker's nephew, Bucky, an aspiring basketball player, stumbles into the club and proceeds to dribble an imaginary ball before totally freaking out and perceiving the crowd as demons and voodoo priestesses. Tucker is totally flummoxed by this behavior but is soon set right by a disco chick who squeals that the boy is on angel dust and suffering a whack attack. Tucker subdues the boy and sends him off to a PCP clinic.

The next scene is right out of "Reefer Madness" as the Disco Godfather gets a tour of the facility and observes a room full of crazies who are hallucinating like mad after getting "dusted." After enduring a pompous speech about the evils of this new drug from the resident doctor, Tucker opts to declare war on the drug (hmm ... maybe Ronald Reagan saw this) and enlists the aid of several support groups. He doesn't attend their rally but that's only so an obvious stunt double can beta up on two thugs that are dispatched to shut the disco godfather down.

After several protracted scenes of Tucker trying to find out who is selling the drug he finally gets an assist

(See LAGOON, page six)

Getting even!

by SUZANNE VAUGHAN

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE MOTHER AND SON SOUL"

Several years ago, my son was attending a college out of state. He called one evening and asked if he could come home for spring break. I reassured him that he was welcome. There was a pause, and he asked, "Can I bring my sweetheart, Deanna, with me?"

"Sure, Jeff," I said. "We'd love to meet her."

While I hung up the phone, I start-

ed remembering all the times this particular son had totally embarrassed me. Like the time when I asked him to pick out a box of cereal at the store, then turned around to see him doing his stammering Elmer Fudd imitation to the delight of fellow shoppers. Or the time I was speaking from the pulpit at church and saw him sitting in the pew wearing glasses with bloodshot eyeballs springing from the lenses, swaying back in forth. His pranks were never-ending.

"So," I said to myself, "this is my chance!" I decided to show up at the

airport to meet him and his sweetheart in less than my conservative manner of dress. I donned a black leather mini-skirt, patterned hose and 6-inch patent-leather heels. I wore a gold sweater that sparkled and glowed in the dark, accented by earrings swaying from my carlobes to my shoulders. I spiked my hair and moussed it orange.

When my husband came home that evening, he took one look at me and said: "What is this? The bachelor party I never had? You aren't going to go through with this, are you?"

I nodded. He drove me to the upper level of the airport and let me out of the car, refusing to walk with me to the gate.

It was a long walk through the airport. I found myself looking down a

lot. I found out what men think of women dressed like I was. I found out what women think of women dressed like that. But when Jeffrey got off the airplane, ohhhhhhhhhhh it was all worth it! I ran, arms outstretched, toward him.

I squealed, stretching out his name as if he were a long-lost relative. "Jeffrey!" He looked away as soon as he saw me, the color quickly fading from his face. Deanna stood behind him, grinning - or was it grimacing.

"Aren't you going to introduce me?" I asked.

"No," he said abruptly. I looked at Deanna, smiled and reached forth my hand.

"Oh hi, Deanna; I'm Jeffrey's mom."

She seemed not to know whether to laugh or cry. A snort of disbelief came from her as she covered her face to disguise her reaction. I looked back at Jeffrey, whose horrified expression looked as if he'd experienced his worst nightmare.

(See SOUP, page six)



PRESTONSBURG DETOUR MAP



Map created by Brian Music

An aerial view of the construction and detours that began Thursday. Red lines show the new routes for southbound traffic, while green lines show the detour for northbound traffic. Blue lines are local traffic to the affected areas. The purple shaded area is where construction will actually take place and will be closed to all traffic.

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