



Football changes

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The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

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In brief

HRMC, SEIU agree on contract

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Highlands Regional Medical Center, along with employees with the Service Employees International Union District 1199 (SEIU District 1199) announced last week an agreement which will allow the 253 members of the bargaining unit and management to continue their focus on quality patient care.

Jeanette Voisine, with HRMC said in a release that negotiations between SEIU and the hospital were "very productive and both parties demonstrated a commitment to obtaining a fair contract for employees at HRMC."

According to officials with SEIU, for the first time in the history of the contract, the agreement between caregivers and management was resolved three weeks before the current contract expired. In previous negotiations, contract talks frequently broke down, resulting in strike notices.

(See CONTRACT, page three)

3 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 87 • Low: 58

Tomorrow



High: 85 • Low: 57

Tuesday



High: 86 • Low: 60

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PUTTING IT BACK TOGETHER



photo by Ralph B. Davis

Workers have begun putting back together the intersection of Court Street and Lake Drive, and open to have traffic flowing through Prestonsburg's main thoroughfare this week.

Downtown sewer project finishing ahead of schedule

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The downtown sewer construction in Prestonsburg which was projected to take six weeks to three months to complete, is now expected to wrap up this week after less than a month of work.

"We paved on Friday, should hang signals on Tuesday, and hope to have it back open by Wednesday," said David Ellis, of Prestonsburg City Utilities.

All of Lake Drive between Graham Street and the Route 114 intersection

has been closed except for local access due to the need to separate the city's sewer from its storm drains. The separation had been mandated by the state, and was a hot-button issue for Prestonsburg residents tired of their city smelling like last month's sewage.

Ellis said the biggest reason for the work going faster than expected was the personnel involved. "Long, hard hours of work," explained Ellis, who added that the crew put in a couple of nights on the job as well.

The reason given for the length of the project was the lack of "as built"

plans of what is under the city streets. "We have to be very careful because there are other utilities, such as gas lines, that also run under the street," Ellis said prior to construction beginning.

"We didn't really know what was in there," Ellis said on Friday. "But everything went a lot quicker than expected."

Probably the most tedious aspect of the construction involved the rerouting of traffic around the city, which caused numerous headaches, the destruction of

(See DETOUR, page three)

Knott officials found guilty

by TONYA AMBURGEY
HAZARD HERALD

PIKEVILLE — After hearing closing arguments from the both sides on Wednesday in the case against four Knott County officials accused of voting

buying and misusing public funds, it was left in the hands of the jury, who took several hours to find the men guilty.



Randy Thompson

The four men, Knott County Judge-Executive Randy Thompson and three other county officials, Ronnie Adams, John Mac Combs, and Phillip Champion, were accused of paving and graveling private driveways and building private bridges with county money in an effort to influence the 2006 judge-executive race, a race that Thompson won, making him the first Republican judge to ever be elected in the county.

Even though they had maintained their innocence throughout the trial, the jury came back with the verdict Thursday evening finding them guilty, but it didn't convict them on every count.

During his closing argument on Wednesday, U.S. Attorney Ken Taylor asked the jury to hold the men accountable and compared their efforts to those of former Knott County Judge-Executive Donnie Newsome, who spent time in prison on vote

(See GUILTY, page three)

Governor signs pension bill

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Gov. Steve Beshear signed legislation Friday afternoon aimed at shoring up the state's financially troubled pension system for public employees.

The measure cleared its final legislative hurdle on Friday morning when the Senate approved it on a 35-1 vote. The House had passed the measure 98-0 on Wednesday.

"We are honoring our commitment to teachers, police officers, firefighters and other public employees by protecting their retirement benefits over the long term," Beshear said during a bill

signing ceremony inside the state Capitol.

Legislative leaders who hammered out an agreement on the legislation over three weeks of private negotiations described the bill as a first step toward returning solvency to the state retirement system, which has a \$26 billion unfunded liability.

The reforms require future state employees to work longer before being eligible for retirement. To retire with full benefits, the sum of an employee's age and years of employment would have to total 87. The plan would also require new employees to contribute 1 percent of their

(See PENSION, page three)



photo by Jack Latta

Emergency medical technicians worked to immobilize a woman following a late afternoon traffic accident near Jenny Wiley Village in Prestonsburg.

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Guilty

Continued from p1

buying charges, by saying they had kicked it up a notch from using gravel to using blacktop. "This is Donnie Newsome on steroids," he said. "This is an important case because public officials watch cases like this to see if they will be held accountable," Taylor said during his closing argument. "Being a public official is difficult. It is an awesome responsibility to be elected by the people to handle their

affairs and money. It is a public trust and they have to be held accountable or it is lost." While Taylor argued the reason blacktop spending increased fivefold during the period leading up to the election was to influence the outcome of the race, defense attorneys argued that the improvements were done for public safety. Tom Jensen, Champion's attorney and an elected official

himself (District 21 state senator), said, "There was much testimony that the bridges were rotting and gravel was coming off into the roads making it unsafe. As an elected official, if they don't protect their citizens, then what good are they?" Kent Westberry, the attorney for Thompson, talked about all the different road safety projects that fiscal court money can be used for, such as

providing hospital and ambulance service and providing service to the elderly along with being able to build and maintain an area for safe turning of school buses and maintaining all county roads. All four attorneys said during the trial that these projects were what the money was used for, not on private driveways and bridges as the prosecution was accusing. Adams' attorney, Jason

Williams, talked about a bridge that was washed out by a flood and rebuilt by FEMA, using federal funds, that went to one home. He said, "If a bridge is built by FEMA it is good, but if it is built with county funds it is bad."

Taylor responded in his rebuttal argument that the actions of the four men were not akin to U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers building a parkway, but instead were them using the power of the office to get elected.

"We don't have Congressman Hal Rogers building a parkway. It's a public service. There are plans and public money is spent on public property," Taylor said. "What we have here is a short time before the election and four men with no relation to the road department running it

and the fiscal court, getting \$1.5 million that everybody has to pay back and spending it on private property."

The jury returned the verdict just before 6 p.m. Thursday, finding Thompson, Combs and Adams guilty of conspiring to pave private driveways and build private bridges in exchange for votes. It acquitted Champion on this charge, but found him and the other three men guilty of misusing county money for private road improvements. Adams, who was charged with two counts of vote-buying, was convicted on one and acquitted of the other.

The defendants plan to appeal the ruling. Sentencing is set for Oct. 6, when the judge will announce how much jail time they will receive.



Ralph Davis, 14, son of Floyd County Times managing editor Ralph B. Davis III, has been spending his summer working an old-fashioned job as a street vendor for The Times.

Detour

Continued from p1

a few street signs, and resulted in 18 citations being issued according to Prestonsburg police records.

"We actually picked up one DUI and another person operating on a suspended license due to the fact we were doing increased patrols on those streets," said Mike Ormerod, Director of Public Safety.

Ellis said there are two more storm sewer projects slated to take place this summer in West Prestonsburg, and on Westminister Street. Ellis said start dates for those projects have not been released yet.

"We really appreciate everyone's patience with the construction," Ellis said.

Contract

Continued from p1

According to officials, these negotiations were the first in the 30-year history of the union at Highlands in which the contract was settled without a strike notice.

"We're committed to continuing to partner with the hospital to ensure the best quality patient care for our families, our community and our future," said Larry Daniels, SEIU District 1199 member vice president and a medical technologist at the hospital.

"Working with the bargaining committee this year was a pleasure, as we signed a new contract three weeks before the deadline," said Daniels. "This example of teamwork is only

the beginning of great things to come as we make HRMC the best hospital in the region."

According to officials, the new contract calls for increases in longevity pay, sick leave and across-the-board wage increases.

Members hope the agreement will enable them to work more collaboratively with the hospital system to improve patient care. The contract approval was voted in by an overwhelming majority of its members.

SEIU represents service and maintenance workers, technical staff and licensed practical nurses at Highlands. Registered nurses at the hospital

are not part of the union.

SEIU District 1199 is a health care and social service union. The union represents more than 34,000 members in Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky. District 1199 is a part of the Service Employees International Union, whose 2 million members make it the largest union in the country as well as the largest health care union in the world.

Hospital officials point to this most recent contract as an example of how Highlands Regional Medical Center is improving health care delivery in the community.

HRMC currently employs over 500 people in the region.

Pension

Continued from p1

salaries to health insurance.

State Sen. Tom Buford, R-Nicholasville, who cast the lone negative vote, called it "a little baby step." He said funneling an additional \$50 million a year into the pension system doesn't do enough to shore it up.

"If our goal is to achieve mediocrity in the pension plan, we have succeeded," Buford said.

About 435,000 people are covered by the state retirement system. Lawmakers say it faces eventual financial collapse if ignored.

Beshear called the General Assembly into a special ses-

sion Monday after legislative leaders informed him they had tentatively agreed on a solvency plan for the system. To try to hold down the cost of the session, lawmakers rushed to meet a self-imposed Friday deadline for completing their work.

The Legislative Research Commission estimates the cost of a special session to be about \$60,000 a day — \$300,000 for the week.

State Sen. Tim Shaughnessy, D-Louisville, scolded fellow lawmakers for not passing the retirement reforms during a legislative session that ended in April. If

they had done so, Shaughnessy said, taxpayers could have avoided the expense of a special session.

The proposed reforms would, among other things, put the state on a schedule to gradually increase its payments to the retirement system in hopes of eventually paying down the unfunded liability.

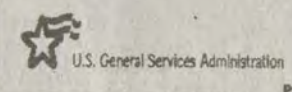
Beshear has set up a special panel to work on other long-term proposals for the legislature to address next year. That panel is studying such issues as whether the state should offer future employees a 401(k)-type retirement plan rather than the current set pension.

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— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

Driven to distraction

The telephone is ringing and the TV is turned up too loud to hear it. "Turn the volume down," shouts the harried mom, a few feet away. "I can't hear the phone."

No, these are not the sounds of a typical evening in an American family room. More disturbing than that, it is a similar scenario that takes place daily in cars wending through city traffic or at 70-plus miles an hour on the Interstates.

The car has become an extension of our technology-saturated day. Many children no longer can ride in the family car without a movie playing on a portable television. Satellite radio provides hundreds of scan choices to scroll through at the touch of a button, and GPS devices give no reason to pull over and look at a map because the directions are on a screen for the driver to observe while cruising down the highway.

Studies such as a recent one by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center have concluded that drivers are four times more likely to be involved in a serious crash if talking on a cell phone, even the hands-free type. The reason: "the brain is less engaged in the task of driving."

No argument with that, however, cell phones are only part of the problem. Even the best at multitasking sacrifice their full attention to the main focus, driving, when all of these electronic diversions become an integrated part of getting from point A to point B.

Maybe it is time to crack down on cell phone use in the car as some states, such as California and New York, which have banned the use of cell phones while driving, or Alaska and Connecticut, which have banned the sending of text messages while driving. But laws are only as effective as the people who choose to obey them. Personal responsibility of the driver must go with it as well.

Driving needs to be re-elevated to the main priority as we buckle in and put our vehicles into gear. Convenience gadgets and gizmos designed to make life more enjoyable and pass the time on road trips have their place, as do cell phones. But cars are not living rooms, dining rooms or family entertainment centers. They are modes of transportation with the potential of deadly accidents and little margin for error.

As we spend more time on the highways this summer, remain focused on safely maneuvering through traffic, eyes and ears on the road, engaged in the responsibility we commit to as drivers. Use cell phone phones, televisions, GPS devices, satellite radios and other electronic devices sparingly and with caution, knowing each can distract us from the task at hand — driving.

After all, your life and the lives of the passengers in your car and on the road beside you are worth your full attention, even if it means doing without a little entertainment or convenience.

— The News-Enterprise, Elizabethtown

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COME AND LISTEN TO A STORY 'BOUT A MAN NAMED JED
POOR MOUNTAINEER, BARELY KEPT HIS FAMILY FED
THEN ONE DAY HE WAS SHOOTING AT SOME FOOD
AND UP THROUGH THE MUD CAME A BUBBLIN CRUDE
(OIL THAT IS, BLACK GOLD, TEXAS TEA)

WELL THE FIRST THING YOU KNOW JED THINKS HE'S A MILLIONAIRE
BUT THEN CONGRESS SAID, "HEY GET AWAY FROM 'THERE!"
SAID CUBA'S THE ONLY PLACE WHERE DRILLING OUGHT TO BE
SO THEY PUT HIM IN A TRUCK BOUND FOR THE PENITENTIARY
(JAIL THAT IS, FEDERAL PEN, WITH OIL COMPANY CROS)

WELL NOW IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO JED AND ALL HIS KIN
THEY RAN OUT OF GAS AND STARVED TO DEATH, CAUSE CONGRESS DID THEM IN
YOU'RE ALL INVITED BACK TO THIS LOCALITY
BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE A CARIBOU OR YOU WANT TO PLANT A TREE
(DON'T COME BACK NOW, YA HEAR?)



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Rich Lowry Column

Scott McClellan, official spokesman

Scott McClellan has learned the profound wisdom of the old Groucho Marx line about not wanting to belong to any club that would have him.

The former press secretary has written a scathing memoir about his time in the Bush administration, but nothing he says in his book, dully titled (appropriately enough) "What Happened," is as damning as the fact that he spent nearly three years as White House press secretary.

Likable, but maladroit and plodding, he was the perfect spokesman for the administration of Harriet Miers, Michael Brown and Al Gonzales. For anyone who doubted that President Bush too often valued loyalty over talent, there was McClellan stumbling through daily briefings to embody the point more eloquently than he ever could have stated it.

McClellan's book has all the inherent interest of one of his briefings. He tells of an incident that was one of his "favorite moments" from working with then-Gov. George Bush in Texas. He stumbled upon Bush making sandwiches. McClellan picks up the tale from there: "For the next 20 minutes or so we munched on the sandwiches and talked about a vari-

ety of topics, few of which had to do with politics."

No one was going to pay any attention to a book replete with such banalities, so McClellan had to "sex it up." He took the conventional anti-Iraq War case and cut-and-pasted it into his book. He says that the administration engaged in a "political propaganda campaign" in the run-up to the war, doing "a disservice to the American people and to our democracy." If McClellan's provocative language is stripped away, what he is saying is unremarkable.

McClellan is more compelling when he complains about his treatment during the Valerie Plame case. He maintains that Karl Rove and "Scooter" Libby made categorical denials to him of involvement in the leak. Whether that was the case or he missed subtleties in what they told him, McClellan said things from the podium about the controversy that were untrue, and no one bothered to correct him.

That would have been grounds for resigning, but McClellan stayed. It wasn't until a new White House chief of staff arrived and wanted a better press secretary that McClellan was forced out. The deep-think (and

entirely commonplace) theme of his book is that Washington has a poisonous culture of the "permanent campaign." But people fighting for what they believe is more admirable than rank, unprincipled careerism.

When McClellan first met with Bush in Texas for a job interview, Bush asked why he wanted to work for him: "Because I believe in you."

McClellan said. What about Bush's agenda? McClellan hastily added he believed in that, too. But he didn't in any meaningful way. He writes of the death penalty, which he defended in Texas: "I do feel significant doubts about the necessity of war in Iraq." But he swallowed them: "I was called on, as official spokesman, to defend a position despite inner qualms about it."

Lo and behold, here is Scott McClellan, ever the mouthpiece, spouting views that happen to suit the interests of his New York publisher and betray his foolishly loyal former boss. If he has any inner qualms, we'll never know.

□□□

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

beyond the beltway

Sexism is a prominent human value

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

Supporters of Hillary Clinton and others have complained — think death threats — about what they saw as the sexist news coverage Ms. Clinton got while campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"It was pretty appalling," said Howard Dean chairman of the Democratic Party. "She got treated the way a lot of women get treated their whole lives."

To which my teen-aged cousin might say: "Well, duh." Of course the media's coverage of Hillary was sexist.

That's the American way. Commentators on the public airwaves have learned to be very careful to avoid overt racism but sexism? Not so much. This is particularly true of cable TV, which if it did not have bad taste would not have any taste at all.

The media people deny everything, of course. They see no sexism and no racism in their coverage, only fair, honest and aggressive reporting. (The first thing they teach you in journalism school is to "get it right." The second thing is "never admit that you didn't.")

Actually, it would have been far more amazing had Hillary's coverage not been tinged with sexism. Sexism is the international default setting.

Name me a society or culture of any size anywhere that is not sexist.

I'm waiting.

Oh, I'll admit that Western Europe has made strides in women's rights, particularly northern Europe, where they've managed to elect a few women to head governments, but even there true gender equality lies somewhere in the far future. And when you look east from there — the Middle East, the Far East, India, Africa — forget it.

I blame religion. Religion is the great machine societies have for passing on values and one of the chief values religions pass on is that women are second-class citizens, useful in their way but not to be entrusted with leadership. And the more orthodox the religion, the more likely to be hostile to the idea that women are the equals of men.

Thus women are denied the priesthood or forced to sit in a segregated section of the church or made to cover their faces in public, not allowed to drive or appear in society unescorted or are expected to walk behind their husbands.

Why? Because the rules are made by and for men and they know a good thing when they see it. Men have to do some heavy lifting from time to time but for the most part, it's more exciting running things than being run. So they want to keep doing it.

To that end, they work to keep women "in their place."

Not mothers, of course. Mothers are sacred. Women in other roles, however, women trying to make their way in the world get harassed, exploited, passed over, patronized

and overlooked. And that's in the advanced (less religious) countries don't forget. The oppression women face in the developing world is beyond the imagination of the rest of us.

So, yeah, Hillary experienced sexism from people who should have known better. And some people voted against her because she was a woman.

But not as many, I think, as Barack Obama lost because he is black. Sexism may be more widely held in our society, but racism goes deeper. There are people, men and women both, who will not vote for a black man. Period. (Hillary suggested as much during the last days of her campaign as she thrashed around for votes.) But a lot of people voted for Obama because he is black, just as a lot of women were thrilled to be able to vote for a woman. Who knows how that evened out?

The reasons I disliked Hillary had nothing to do with her womanhood. I don't like Newt Gingrich either and he's not a woman. I don't like her because I view her as shifty and untrustworthy, a less charming version of her husband.

If that makes me a misogynist, so be it. I'd vote for her against John McCain though. In a New York minute.

□□□

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 dkaul2@earthlink.net.

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Mother concerned about nutjob son's antics

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This Town, That World

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

If you want the latest 'hot' news, read the thermometer.

SHANK-HIGH AND DOWN IN THE DUMPS

I have insisted, all along, that things could be a lot worse, and that we all should not abandon hope. But I don't know, now. I'm plumb upset and leaning just a bit to the theory that we've gone to the bow-wows.

THE AGING DOGS

Jack Hyden and I rambled around in a sidewalk conversation, the other day, till the talk ran to dogs. His dog had only recently died, and we spoke feelingly, perhaps a bit deprecatingly, of the lengths a fellow will go to for his so-called "best friend."

REVIEW

The fellow who went to the amphitheatre, the other night, wasn't a bit enthused about the prospects. He's one who likes his drama or comedy, straight—none of this musical stuff.

WRONG DIAGNOSIS

Woodrow Burchett sometimes tells the story of the guy who got drunk and remembered enough about it, next day, to review the experience with an acquaintance. "I was driving home," he recalled, "when my car begun going thump, thump, bump, thump, and I pulled off to the side of the road. Know what was wrong?"



KSP hit the road in 1948 with black Ford cruisers sporting a gold stripe and distinctive seal

Kentucky State Police celebrates 60 years July 1

by LES WILLIAMS
KSP MEDIA RELATIONS BRANCH

FRANKFORT — In 1948, the world was a very different place. Like the rest of the country, Kentucky was still recovering from the effects of a world war and adjusting to peacetime.

Consequently, on July 1, 1948, Clements signed into law an act that created the Kentucky State Police. With the stroke of a pen, Kentucky became the 38th state to pass a State Police Act, which gave the agency full jurisdiction and power of arrest throughout the state except in cities with 1,000 residents or more.

Guthrie Crowe, an attorney and former police judge from LaGrange, was appointed as the agency's first commissioner. Most of his 147-member staff consisted of former members of the Kentucky Highway Patrol.

With the help of the FBI and the Indiana State Police, a three-week training program was held at Ft. Knox and Frankfort. Bowling Green resident Joe Barrett, one of the first troopers to hit the road, said the training was something he'll never forget.

Training was essential, for Crowe was determined to form a modern law enforcement organization. In a December 1948 article in the Cincinnati Enquirer, Crowe said

he expected his troopers to be "courteous, efficient and attractive in appearance, but firm in their treatment of law violators."

"Policemen," he wrote, "are no longer expected to be ferocious in temperament, not to employ domineering and loud-voiced tactics whereby the luckless transgressor is nearly frightened out of his wits for making a traffic error."

In his efforts to build this modern force, Crowe established the state's first crime lab, acquiring a \$1,200 comparison microscope for bullet and cartridge case analysis. He hired a young, chemical engineering graduate from the University of Louisville, sent him off for two weeks training with the Indiana State Police Criminal Investigations Lab and budgeted \$600 for the start up.

One of the first missions of the new agency was highway safety. In a December 1948 Courier Journal Magazine article, Crowe stated, "We are essentially an organization to police the highways. It was clearly the intent of the legislature that we devote 80 percent of our time to this work."

"From a criminal standpoint, our organization is purely a supplementary one to aid the local constabulary," he added. "We are not designed to supplant local officers, but to lend them assistance when they request it."

The same article went on to explain that "the day's work of a trooper is primarily traffic control, checking for stolen cars, accident investigations and testifying in court against violators."

Resources and equipment were

sparse. A July 1, 1948 inventory lists 96 automobiles "of various ages and stages of repair." Only 45 had two-way radios. One former trooper remembered that if headquarters wanted him, they would call a local gas station, which switched on an outside light as a signal for the trooper to find a phone and call his post commander.

But the challenge remained. In 1948, troopers traveled at about 35 miles per hour except when pursuing a speeder. Only a few congested urban areas had any speed restrictions. The only law allowed police to charge motorists with reckless driving if they were going more than 45 miles per hour! Even then, the officer had to convince a judge that the condition of the road and the vehicle, combined with excessive speed, created a clear hazard to highway safety.

KSP was undaunted, however. On Oct. 30, 1948, in a joint operation with military policemen from Ft. Knox, KSP held its first traffic safety roadblock at the top of Muldraugh Hill in Hardin County. For 10 hours, every vehicle was stopped, the operator's permit inspected and the vehicle checked for safety violations.

Two months later, when the agency totaled up the state's highway deaths for 1948, fatalities were down 28.2 percent. In June of 1950, the traffic fatality rate was 23 percent lower than during the same period in 1949.

As the new decade dawned, KSP continued its highway safety efforts both on and off the road. Public safety programs were developed and highway safety exhibits were displayed at the Kentucky State Fair and other events.

One unique program involved KSP Lt. Lee Allen Estes, whose

(See KSP, page six)

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'I Don't Want to Be Born'

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST

"Rosemary's Baby" meets "Showgirls" in this swinging 1970s take on the exorcist genre that features dangerously high levels of emotion, groan-inducing lines and more London fashion disasters than Austin Powers could shake a stick at.

The film opens with a tight close-up on cinema/literary trash Queen Joan Collins. She wheezes and rolls her eyes while feigning torment.

The camera pulls back to reveal she's in a dimly lit operating room suffering the final stage of labor. Her doctor, who failed Bedside Manner 101, mutters that it doesn't appear that the baby wants to be born and proceeds to yank it out with forceps the size of a Louisville slugger.

The pair are hurried off to a recovery room, where the infant proceeds to scratch Joan's face, leaving bloody tracks a lion would envy. She's understandably shaken and quite happy to opt for bottle feeding from now on.

She is shuttled home to be with her newborn boy, Nicholas, and her vaguely Italian husband, Gino. There they are met by the usual parade of well-wishers, which include Mandy (a stripper who worked with Joan), an unpleasant housekeeper and Gino's sister, Albana (a nun who sports a more authentic accent than her brother).

The home environment does little to pacify Nicholas, who begins terrorizing everyone in sight by trashing his room, scratching more cheeks and even trying to drown his babysitter in two inches of infant bathwater. Joan is at wit's end and soon remembers a precipitating incident in which her former dance partner, a randy dwarf, threatened that she would give birth to the devil because she objected to his clumsy advances.

The situation gets even worse when people start dying. One victim is hung from a rope dangling from the baby's room, while another gets his head split open with a shovel. The film's budgetary limitations restrict it from showing Nicholas perform these functions, so the film compensates by giving you extreme close-ups of the deeds.

It all comes down to a final confrontation between Sister Albana and the evil infant that involves one bottle of holy water, one Bible and a whole lot of rip off.

This one is a lot of fun if you enjoy rubber-necking at a celluloid disaster. The cast is mostly game and benefits from appearances by notable character actors such as Donald Pleasance ("Halloween") and Hilary Mason. The one bump in the thespian road is Hammer Studios veteran Ralph Bates

(See LAGOON, page six)

A gift from the sea

by PAMELA HACKETT HOBSON
"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE BEACH LOVER'S SOUL"

The weather was freezing outside, but it was warm and toasty by the Douglas fir Christmas tree. Our cats were busy batting the ribbons and wrapping paper scattered around the room as my older son handed me his Christmas gift for the family.

Whenever I was asked what I wanted for Christmas, I usually responded as many mothers do: "I

don't need anything ... save your money ... I just want my family to be healthy and happy." My son handed me his present, and all eyes turned to watch me open the handmade gift card. With anticipation, I read his note offering to treat the family to a weekend at the beach at Cape May.

Memories of summers taking the boys to the beach flooded back. Cape May, a beautiful Victorian beach town at the southern tip of New Jersey, was always an ideal spot to get away and spend time together relaxing on the pristine white sand that framed the Atlantic Ocean. With

card in hand, I couldn't wait for summer, when we could once again pile in the car and head to the beach.

As the weekend approached, I prepared by digging out an old Fred Penner tape we used to play to make the car ride go more quickly. I packed Frisbees and tennis balls and long-forgotten sand toys. With the car ready to go, my son eased himself into the driver's seat ... a bonus for my husband, who jumped at the rare opportunity to sit back and play DJ with the radio.

The hours in the car flew by as we caught up on all the happenings in our busy lives. Arriving in the quaint town, we quickly found our favorite hotel, checked in and hit the beach. After a refreshing dip in the ocean,

we basked in the sun and soaked in our surroundings. Sitting on our blankets, my younger son noticed a rare occurrence happening right near the gentle surf where we had just been swimming.

A school of dolphins had emerged and were frolicking just beyond the whitecaps. As they gracefully rose from the water and engaged in their beautiful dance before our eyes, I was sure they had come by just to celebrate our visit.

That afternoon, playing games of Trouble and Uno and reading on the beachfront balcony with its peaceful view, the years continued to slip away. As evening approached, we changed out of our swimsuits and made our way to a favorite seafood restaurant. With the sun setting over the water, we placed our orders from the extensive menu of fresh-fish offerings and took our time savoring the meal.

Afterward we shared ice-cream cones that dripped on our

(See SOUP, page six)



Mother concerned about nutjob son's antics

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
My crazy son is 20 years old. He has been a mechanic since the day he was born. I am afraid his most recent project will be the death of him, and I am desperately seeking your opinion/advice. He has taken a 1989 VW Golf and moved the motor from its proper location under the hood to the back seat. Yes, you read that right. He has installed the motor in the passenger compartment, so the vehicle is now a rear-engine (or mid-engine, he says) car. It is monstrously loud and monstrously fume-y. In a concession to his mother, he wears earplugs while driving it, but when he enters the room after driving the car, he trails a cloud of exhaust fumes. I have begged him to at least install a fire shield around the engine, but my pleas are falling on deaf ears (literally, soon, I'm afraid). Now you know



why I think he is crazy. Please give me some advice or ammunition that I can use to beat some sense into him. I am very much afraid of the health hazards that he has created for himself. What do you say?
— Ann
RAY: Ann, you poor thing. I'm sure our late mother would have felt your pain. Like her, you have the misfortune of having a son who's a nutjob.
TOM: Yeah, my mom had a terrible time with my brother.
RAY: I was talking about you.
TOM: Me??
RAY: Yeah. But unlike MY mother's nutjob, you have a very clever and talented nutjob, Ann! I mean, he's managed to engineer himself a cheapo Porsche. And he's done it — at least so far — without asphyxiating himself, setting himself on fire, crashing the car or digging a 2-inch groove in the back of his head with the newly repositioned fan belt.

TOM: And sometimes, if these nutjobs manage to live long enough, they're the ones who come up with brilliant inventions, or do things that more normal, non-wacko people would never think of.
RAY: You can try crying, Ann. That's what our mother did. And it worked some of the time. But at age 20, there's not a whole lot you can do. Any mistakes you made raising him are now permanently seared into his personality.
TOM: So if crying doesn't work, buy him a crash helmet, a flame-proof suit and some fire extinguishers for his birthday. Then insist that he drive with the windows open, hope he survives, does something to benefit humanity and has the decency to shower before dinner. Good luck.
Go with the dealer on this one
Dear Tom and Ray:
Please help me. I had my oil changed recently and now have been told by my mechanic that the oil-change place stripped the oil plug and I need a new oil pan. I have a Lexus RX 300. The oil-change people think they have adequately fixed it by putting a larger plug in, but the Lexus dealer tells me that is not adequate

and I need a new oil pan because it is a vital part of the car and may leak again, especially with subsequent oil changes. I don't know what to do. Help! — Candace
RAY: I'd side with the dealer in this case, Candace.
TOM: There are ways to "patch up" a stripped oil pan. There's chewing gum, plaster of Paris or an insert, which is probably what your oil-change guy used.
RAY: There are different kinds of inserts. There are inserts that cut new threads into the pan, there are rubber drain plugs that expand once they're in the hole, and there are self-tapping drain plugs that make their own new, threaded hole in the oil pan.
TOM: Most of those will work. At least for a while.
RAY: But they're all designed to be used on cars like the ones my brother drives — i.e., heaps. They're repairs of last resort, when you own a \$300 car and you don't want to invest \$600 in an oil pan.
TOM: And unless you've been using your Lexus in a demolition derby on weekends, I'm going to guess it's not in that category yet.
RAY: So, I'd have the Lexus dealer replace the oil pan. You don't want

to have to worry about your oil leaking out and your engine seizing.
TOM: And it's going to be very hard for you to demand that the oil-change place pay for it. Oil pans usually get stripped over time, particularly when mechanics overtighten the plug instead of changing the gasket and being judicious in tightening it.
RAY: Everyone's afraid of undertightening the oil plug, with good reason. So they tend to go too far in the other direction. But unless you've had your oil changed exclusively at this place, you can't lay all the blame on them with any certainty.
TOM: So, you can show them the receipt for the oil pan, show them a letter from the dealer explaining why the initial repair was inadequate and ask them to contribute to the repair in the interest of keeping you as a customer. But when they tell you to get lost, just chalk it up as an age-related repair. And then enjoy your car and forget about it.
□□□
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.

KSP

entertaining talents as a magician and ventriloquist brought pedestrian safety messages to school children throughout the state.

As the 1950s progressed, KSP took on new duties. In 1951, Gov. Lawrence Weatherby directed the agency to take action against illegal gambling, liquor and prostitution operations in northern Kentucky, Henderson and other areas around the state.

On Aug. 31, 1951, Commissioner Crowe personally led 52 troopers armed with shotguns and pistols in a raid on the Latin Quarter and Club Manana in Wilder, just outside of Newport. Sixty-eight people were arrested, almost \$20,000 in cash was seized and thousands of dollars worth of gambling equipment was confiscated including dice tables, roulette wheels and slot machines.

Other raids soon followed. The Hi-Dee-Ho Club. The Lookout House. The Beverly Hills. The Yorkshire Club.

Operations were also mounted in the Henderson area against nightspots such as The Trocadero, The Dells, Riverview Gardens, The Little Commando and the Kentucky Tavern.

Newspaper clippings of the period mention accounts of other raids in Paducah, Boonesboro, Scottsville and Richmond.

One raid in Richmond uncovered "a second-story handbook operation at the corner of Water and First Streets." Thirty people were arrested and the confiscated equipment included a ticker tape (which was in operation as officers entered), four telephones, a dice table, public address system and microphone, five odds boards with pasted race forms, a betting box, 34 racing journals, book betting slips, parley forms for betting on football games and an adding machine.

KSP continued its battle against vice throughout the 1950s and into the 1960s. They must have done something right. In 1965, a Louisville Courier-Journal reporter toured Newport after dark and was told by one life-long resident that the city was "dead and gettin' deader."

The 1960s marked the beginning of two new KSP programs aimed at young people. In 1961, children visiting the Kentucky State Fair were treated to the debut of Safety Town at the KSP exhibit. Under the watchful eye of state troopers, children pedaled tricycles through a miniature city, complete with replicas of real-life structures, tiny streets and working stoplights. Designed to teach pedestrian safety, it is one of the agency's longest running and most successful programs and it is still in existence today.

The other program, Trooper Island, was originated by KSP Lt. John Ed Tomlinson and launched by KSP Director James E. Bassett, III in 1964. It established a free summer camp for disadvantaged boys on Dale Hollow Lake in

Clinton County. Financed entirely by donations, the camp offered good food, fresh air, recreation, guidance and structured activities designed to build positive relationships with law enforcement officers. Today, Trooper Island remains in operation offering esteem-building summer activities for boys and girls aged 10 to 12.

As the 1970s, 80s and 90s evolved, so did KSP, responding to new missions for new times. A drug enforcement unit was created, full-scale marijuana eradication was initiated (KSP destroyed 493,692 plants in 2007) and DARE and drug interdiction programs were started. A Special Response Team was formed. Canine, Missing Persons, and Hazardous Devices units were created. With the coming of the new century, special units were formed to handle issues such as Oxycontin and methamphetamines.

Over the years, KSP has continually progressed in terms of size and quality of service it provides to the citizens of Kentucky. Today, the agency has 16 posts and 961 troopers throughout the state. Its six regional crime labs provide a variety of forensic support to local law enforcement agencies. Its duties have expanded to include the protection of executive and legislative branch leaders, government facilities security, drug interdiction, marijuana eradication, arson investigation, white collar and electronic crimes, child and sexual abuse cases, anti-terrorism and special response teams.

Training now consists of a 23-week program that includes more than 1,000 hours of classroom and field study in subjects such as constitutional law, juvenile and traffic law, use of force, weapons training, defensive

Lagoon

("Dr. Jekyll and Sister Hyde") who is woefully miscast as Gino and has more trouble with his accent than Paris Hilton working an algebraic equation.

The script is full of howlers and offers everyone a chance to over emot, but appears to have been missing pages, which are substituted by endless shots of people walking around London. At one point we actually watch Gino walk

Soup

clothes as we valiantly tried to keep up with the large melting scoops of cold vanilla ice cream. The evening would not have been complete without an after-dinner trip to the arcade. The whole family played multiple games of skeeball, carefully stockpiling tickets so we could redeem them for the fabulous prizes such as vampire teeth and snake tattoos.

On Sunday, walking one

tactics, first aid, high speed vehicle pursuit, criminal investigation, survival Spanish, computer literacy, hostage negotiations, evidence collection, radio procedures, search and seizure, crash investigation, drug identification, traffic control, crowd control, armed robbery response, land navigation, electronic crimes, sex crimes, hate crimes, domestic violence, bomb threats and hazardous materials.

Despite its many high tech activities, such as radar and video surveillance, DNA testing and on-board vehicle computers, KSP remains committed to the tried and true fundamentals of traditional police work that produce results. Following the concepts of "community policing," its troopers live in the areas where they work, providing "shoes on the street" for an effective and personal local presence.

KSP troopers are involved in their local communities by meeting with civic and community organizations, providing lectures on crime prevention and drug education programs to schools and other youth organizations and assisting schools and businesses in developing security and emergency response plans.

True to KSP's original mission of saving lives on Kentucky's roadways, the KSP Highway Safety Branch continues to educate the public about the use of seat belts and the dangers of speeding and driving while impaired by drugs or alcohol. The Drive To Stay Alive teen driving academy and the Friday Nights, Blue Lights program are just two examples.

In the early days of the Kentucky State Police, troopers' duties were far different than today. They worked a 10-

hour day, six days a week and were lucky if they weren't called back after their shift.

The men and women who wear the distinctive gray uniform and campaign hat of the Kentucky State Police today have much in common with those early troopers. They are all dedicated, hard working individuals who perform their duties because they want to serve others and make a positive difference in society.

The history of the Kentucky State Police is the history of each one of these individuals—past, present and future—who have been or will be a member of the organization.

"The successes of the Kentucky State Police are many and the observance of its 60th anniversary is a tribute to all of the past and present employees of the agency, especially the 25 troopers

killed in the line of duty," said KSP Commissioner Rodney Brewer. "We stand on the shoulders of all those who have gone before us and strive to live up to and continue their high level of dedication and commitment to the principles of public service and law enforcement. In doing this, we set an example for those to come and so 'The Thin Gray Line' continues."

Continued from p5

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FLOYD COUNTY Sports

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Football alignment finalized for 2009, 2010 seasons

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

LEXINGTON – The newest KHSAA (Kentucky High School Athletic Association) football alignment has been finalized. Under the new alignment, perennial state title contender Prestonsburg will remain in Class 2A, District 2-7 with Shelby Valley, Morgan County and Bath County.

The only team in the state that won't compete in a district as part of the new alignment is Evangel Christian.

The final football align-

ment for the 2009 and 2010 playing seasons follows.

CLASS 1A: District-1-1-Ballard Memorial, Crittenden County, Fulton City, Fulton County, Mayfield; District-1-2-Beth Haven, Bethlehem, Caverna, Holy Cross (Louisville), Kentucky Country Day; District-1-3-Beechwood, Bellevue, Bishop Brossart, Dayton, Ludlow, Walton-Verona; District-1-4-Bracken County, Eminence, Frankfort, Gallatin County, Trimble County; District-1-5-Fairview, Lexington, Christian, Nicholas County, Paris, Raceland, Rose Hill

Christian; District-1-6-Berea, Campbellsville, Clinton County, Lynn Camp, Williamsburg; District-1-7-Harlan, Hazard, Jenkins, Pineville; District-1-8-Allen Central, Betsy Layne, Paintsville, Phelps, Pikeville, South Floyd.

CLASS 2A: District-2-1-Caldwell County, Heath, Murray, Reidland, Trigg County; District-2-2-Fort Campbell, Hancock County, Owensboro Catholic, Todd County Central; District-2-3-Glasgow, Green County, Metcalfe County, Monroe County; District-2-4-

Bardstown, Danville, Fort Knox, Washington County; District-2-5-Carroll County, Christian Academy-Louisville, DeSales, Owen County; District-2-6-Holy Cross (Covington), Lloyd Memorial, Newport, Newport Central Catholic; District-2-7-Bath County, Morgan County, Prestonsburg, Shelby Valley; District-2-8-Corbin, Knott County Central, Leslie County, Middlesboro.

CLASS 3A District-3-1-McLean County, Muhlenberg South, Paducah Tilghman,



photo by Paula Goble

HENRY CLAY narrowly edged Prestonsburg in the recent University of Kentucky 7-on-7 passing tournament.

(See ALIGNMENT, page two)

Cards among nation's top five teams in early polls

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE – The University of Louisville men's basketball team is among the top ten teams in the nation in a 2008-09 preseason ranking by a trio of national web sites.

ESPN.com's Andy Katz has the Cardinals fifth in preseason ranking, which was updated after the early-entry NBA draft withdrawal deadline had passed for players. Seven BIG EAST Conference teams were in the top 25, including three of the first five picks – No. 2 Pittsburgh, No. 4 Notre Dame, and Louisville.

U of L is second nationally in a CBSSports.com preseason ranking by Gary Parrish, one of seven BIG EAST teams among the top 16. The Cardinals are No. 6 in a similar ranking by Jeff Goodman of Foxsports.com. Eight BIG EAST teams are in the Foxsports.com listing, including No. 3 Connecticut in the highest position among league schools. North Carolina is top team in all three rankings.

U of L will return four starters – seniors Terrence Williams and Andre McGee, and juniors Earl Clark and Jerry Smith – from a team which posted a 27-9 record, was runner-up in the BIG EAST Conference, and reached the NCAA Elite Eight for the third time in 11 years. The Cardinals will welcome eight newcomers, including 2008 USA Today high school player of the year Samardo Samuels, a 6-8 forward/center.

Louisville Arena Authority unveils updated look at new arena: The Louisville Arena Authority unveiled updated renderings of the downtown arena on Monday, including new renderings of a public plaza planned along Main Street near the arena's entrance and views of the building's interior.

The Louisville Arena Authority also announced that it expects to have the money to pay for a downtown arena by the middle of July. The total amount of construction bonds (\$360 million) would be sold during the week of July 14, according to a timeline presented at this morning's arena authority meeting.

Lakers draft Crawford in second round

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON – Former University of Kentucky men's basketball player Joe Crawford was selected in the second round (58th overall) of Thursday night's NBA Draft by the Western Conference Champion Los Angeles Lakers.

Crawford, a second-team All-SEC selection, led the team and ranked fourth in the league in scoring last season, averaging 17.9 ppg. He also hit a team high 63 three-pointers. The Michigan product performed at his highest level as a senior at the University of Kentucky.

Crawford impressed numerous NBA scouts prior to this year's draft.

The Detroit native finished his career ranked 19th on

(See CRAWFORD, page two)



photo by Jamie Howell

JUNIOR SIGNAL-CALLER MICHAEL BURCHETT (right) will guide Prestonsburg from under center during the upcoming season. Burchett took over at quarterback for the Blackcats last fall after starter Bobby Hughes suffered a season-ending injury.

High school football rules revisions set

TIMES STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS – Four changes in rules regarding penalty options for teams that are fouled on scoring plays were among the 17 revisions in high school football rules approved for the 2008 season by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Football Rules Committee at its annual meeting in January. The rules changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

Rules 2-16-2e and 10-2-4 were revised to state that a team must foul twice during the same down to commit multiple fouls. These changes allow for enforcement of both fouls when the opponent of the scoring team commits a foul on both a touchdown-scoring play and the subsequent try.

An addition to Rule 3-3-4 clarifies issues at the end of the half if there is a foul by either team and the penalty is accepted for unsportsmanlike fouls, non-player fouls, fouls that specify a loss of down and fouls that are enforced on the subsequent kickoff as in Rule 8-2-2.

Changes to Rule 8-2-2 stipulate that fouls by the opponents of the scoring team on the last timed down of the first half can carry over to the second-half kickoff; however, fouls by the opponents of the scoring team on the last timed down of the second half

cannot carry over to overtime play.

"By adopting these changes, the rules committee has further clarified that fouls by opponents of the scoring team may be fully enforced," said Brad Cashman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association and chairman of the NFHS Football Rules Committee.

In other rules changes, the committee removed the option of carrying over unused second-half timeouts into overtime. The NFHS recommended overtime procedure continues to provide for one time-out per overtime period with the revisions stipulating that unused time-outs do not carry over to subsequent overtime periods.

A change in Rule 3-5-2a provides the head coach an option of designating another coach for the purpose of requesting timeouts. The appointed replacement shall remain in place for the entire game except in case of emergency.

Six changes were approved by the committee in Rule 1 – The Game, Field, Players and Equipment. References to hip pads, knee pads and thigh guards in Rule 1-5-1 will now state that these required pieces of equipment must not be altered from the manufacturer's original design or production. Also, shinguards, if worn, must meet specifica-

tions of the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE).

"There are concerns that players and coaches are altering mandatory equipment and, therefore, sacrificing safety by changing the original design by the manufacturer to protect the player," said Bob Colgate, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the Football Rules Committee.

In Rule 1-2-3d, the committee altered last year's rule change regarding the use of a 4-inch-wide restraining line around the outside of the field to state that this line can either be solid or broken. The committee recommends a broken line be used and marked by placing 12-inch-long lines separated by 24-inch intervals.

Although the rules allow for use of other colors for field markings when appropriate, the committee clarified that white is the recommended color for all field markings.

In Rule 1-5-2, the committee provided a definition for hand pads and delayed the implementation date for a mandatory securely attached label or stamp on hand pads to 2012. A hand pad is now defined as "a covering for the hand which may have separate openings for each finger and thumb, is absent of any web-like material between the finger and/or thumb, and not covering each finger and thumb."

Other changes approved by the committee:

– In Rule 10-4-6, the basic spot is the 20-yard line for fouls by either team, in addition to just the team without the ball, which went into effect last year.

– A change in Rule 10-4-7 helps clarify the basic spot on running plays for fouls by the opponent of the team in possession when the team in possession puts the ball in the end zone and, subsequently, possession is lost.

– New wording was formulated for Rule 4-2-3 regarding the inadvertent whistle, which makes the choosing of an option an easier process to understand.

– In Rule 9-9-4, the use of an illegal kicking tee will now be penalized as an unfair act committed by the player.

– Hiding the ball under the jersey will be enforced as a basic spot foul and makes the enforcement consistent with the all-but-one principle.

In addition, the committee identified five points of emphasis for the 2008 season: MRSA and Communicable Skin Conditions; Purpose of a Football Helmet; Altering Legal Football Equipment; Sideline Management and Control; and False Starts, Shifts and Motion.

In terms of the number of participants, football is the most popular high school sport for boys.

Hundreds attend spring ATV event in Knott County

TIMES STAFF REPORT

HINDMAN – Everyone enjoyed being kids again last weekend at the second annual Ground Poundin' Spring Ride, hosted by the Knott County Trail Riders ATV and Dirt Bike Club.

Playing in the mud was not only accepted, but encouraged. A mud bog was one of the favorite events held on the grounds of the ATV and Motorcycle Rider Training Center. Also new this spring for the Knott County event was an ATV sled pull, where riders competed to see who could drag a weighted sled the longest distance. Both drew large crowds of spectators. At the end of the day, several participants tried their skills on a barrel roll course.

One of the most intriguing events was a scavenger hunt organized by Danny Laferty. Colored medallions were placed on trails near the center, and participants had two days to find them and exchange them for prize money.

Traders had an opportunity to take part in a Swap Meet throughout the weekend as well. Some individuals sold ATVs and accessories. Vendors, including ATV Direct, Andy's Cycle Sales and McCoy Motor Sports, set up shop on Saturday.

Participants had the chance to win prizes at the end of the day on Saturday. Each person who registered to take part in organized events was also registered for a drawing of door prizes provided by American ATV & Motorcycle, Andy's Cycle Sales, Honda of Prestonsburg, Helmet City and Perry Distributors/Monster Energy Drink. ATV Direct also gave away two big prizes on Saturday. Greg Robinson won an ATV back pack, and Sarah Jackson won a winch.

Over 100 people took part in two different organized rides on Saturday afternoon – a long ride led by Jimmy Mullins and a shorter trek with leader Corbett Mullins. Both trails featured beautiful scenery plus adventure in the form of water and mud.

It was the largest ATV event in the county since the Adventure Tourism initiative began. An estimated 500 people attended. Many camped out on Friday and Saturday nights.

Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting: The next Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting will be held at 8 a.m., Friday, August 15 at No. 1 Sportsman's Lane off U.S. 60 in Frankfort. Persons interested in addressing the Commission must notify the KDFWR Commissioner's office in writing at least 30 days in advance to be considered for placement on the meeting agenda.

**KINZLER MOTORSPORTS
Driver: Brandon Kinzer
Upcoming Schedule**

July 4	at Tazewell (Tenn.) Speedway (Lucas Oil, \$10,000-to-win)
July 5	at 201 Speedway (Battle of the Bluegrass, \$5,000-to-win)
July 14	at Wythe (Va.) Raceway (Southern Nationals, \$3,500-to-win)
July 15	at Cherokee (SC) Speedway (Southern Nationals, \$3,500-to-win)
July 17	at Hartwell (Ga.) Speedway (Southern Nationals, \$3,500-to-win)
July 18	at Swainsboro (Ga.) Raceway (Southern Nationals, \$5,300-to-win)
July 19	at Screven (Ga.) Motor Speedway (Southern Nationals, \$5,300-to-win)



photo by Rick Schwalle

Allen-based Dirt Late Model driver Brandon Kinzer – pilot of the No. 18 car – is set to compete in the Southern Nationals Series. Kinzer is scheduled to race at 201 Speedway on Saturday, July 5 in a Battle of the Bluegrass Series race. Fellow Floyd Countian and longtime friend Chuckie May owns the Johnson County track.

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Miller Bros. Coal, LLC is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Surface Mine Planning Engineer. Mining Engineering degree and experience required. Competitive salary and benefits package. Interested applicants should send their resume in confidence to P.O. Box 990, Allen, Ky, 41601. Phone inquiries not accepted.

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 Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (606) 886-1759 If no answer leave message

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Help Wanted!!! Fat Boys Pizza and Grill located at Martin, KY is hiring an experienced short order cook. Pay based on experience. Apply in person. 285-1000.
Surveying Crew Chief: Immediate opening for experienced crew chief with underground and surface surveying. Must have all necessary papers. We offer an excellent benefit package. Application may be picked up at Abbott Engineering, Inc. 3073 Ky Rt 321 or call 886-1221.

Star Construction LLC had an immediate opening in their Banner, KY office for an experienced backhoe operator. The successful candidate will have a Class A CDL license, and have experience digging around utilities. Star Construction offers competitive wages and benefits, to include medical insurance, dental, vision, disability, life insurance, 401(k), paid vacations and holidays. Interested individuals should contact Harold Adkins at the Banner office at 606-874-1263 for more information about the position

2002 BuickCentury 37,000 miles loaded \$4,700
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Want to help people? Transit Drivers needed. Sandy Valley Transportation Services, Inc. (SVTS) is seeking qualified applicants for the position of a Transit Driver in the Floyd County area. Must be at least 21 years old, pass drug test, D.O.T. physical examination, driving history, conviction record and other qualifications listed with Application for Employment. Benefits for eligible employees include: health, dental, life, vision insurance, retirement plan, credit union, holiday, sick, and vacation days. Phone 1-800-444-RIDE / 7433, or write to SVTS at 81 Resource Court., Prestonsburg Ky 41653-7850 for an Application for Employment and more information. SVTS is an equal opportunity employer.

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PREMIER ELKHORN COAL COMPANY Myra, KY is now accepting applications for the following position:
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Send confidential resumé to: Judy.lusk@thetruckpeople.com or Worldwide Equipment, Inc. c/o HR / Finance Box 1370, Prestonsburg, KY 41653
 No phone calls, please.

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Chesapeake Appalachia L.L.C., a division of Chesapeake Energy Corporation, is seeking talented professionals for the positions listed below in our Southwest District office at our Honey Branch (Debord, KY) office. Chesapeake is the largest independent producer of natural gas in the U.S. and the most active driller of new wells in the U.S. In 2008 Chesapeake was added to FORTUNE Magazine's 100 Best Companies to Work For list. Ideal candidates should be self-motivated team players and possess excellent interpersonal skills. A high degree of analytical ability and excellent oral and written communication skills are necessary for success in our fast-paced and rewarding environment.
Receptionist/Production Clerk - Responsibilities include receiving and directing incoming telephone calls from PBX console, greeting, assisting, and directing visitors, operating facsimile equipment and purchasing supplies. High school diploma or equivalent required and prefer six months experience working as a clerk/receptionist. Candidate must have excellent organizational and customer service skills as well as computer proficiency in word processing and spreadsheets.
Regulatory Compliance Tech - Responsibilities include supporting the District team with federal, state, and local regulatory filings, invoicing, and project tracking as it relates to well and pipeline projects. Candidate must have a high school diploma and 2 years of administrative experience. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications and have the ability to work independently.
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Odds & Ends

■ **BERLIN** — A German man doused his BMW with gasoline and torched it on Friday in protest at skyrocketing fuel costs, police said.

The unemployed 30-year-old man drove the black 1995 BMW 3-series sedan onto the lawn outside Frankfurt's convention center grounds at about 7:30 a.m., police spokesman Karlheinz Wagner said.

He then jumped out, emptied a canister of gas over the vehicle, and set fire to it, Wagner said.

By the time the fire department got to the scene, the car was entirely burned out.

The Bavarian man, whose name was being withheld because he has not been charged with a crime, told police that gas prices were so high he could no longer afford to drive the vehicle.

As in many countries, gasoline prices have risen steadily in Germany; a liter of regular gasoline now costs about 1.55 euros, or \$9.40 per gallon.

Police were investigating whether the man could be charged with violating German environmental laws with the stunt, Wagner said. Penalties range from fines to five years in prison.

■ **ARLINGTON, Wash.** — When gas prices hit \$4 a gallon, the staff at Dr. Keith Leonard's dental office figured it was time to pony up.

Since more than half of the dental assistants and office staff own horses, on Wednesday the crew saddled up and rode to work.

"We decided that when gas got to \$4 a gallon, we would all ride in," Leonard said.

Ten riders and two bicyclists met up at Leonard's home about four miles north of his office for the commute. City officials in Arlington, located about 50 miles north of Seattle, granted them a special permit to ride as a group.

"We can't dictate how much oil companies charge, but today we're not buying," Leonard said. "We're using

one-horse power." Leonard said the ride was a way to encourage his patients to use alternative forms of transportation.

■ **GREELEY, Colo.** — The mayor of this northern Colorado city has a temporary restraining order against him after he was accused of throwing a 15-year-old boy to the ground when the teen refused to stop riding a motorbike.

Mayor Ed Clark, who must stay at least 100 yards away from the boy, told the Greeley Tribune he stopped the boy for his own safety and did not hurt him. He said he will fight the restraining order during a July 7 hearing.

The boy's father, Tim Stitt, plans to ask the judge to make the restraining order permanent.

Stitt said Clark forced the boy to the ground on Monday and then held him there until police arrived. Police ticketed the boy for driving without a license.

The father said Clark should be charged with assault. Greeley police spokeswoman Joe Tymkowich said Wednesday an investigation was ongoing.

Stitt said his son and Clark have been at odds for weeks after his son had a dispute with the mayor's wife. Stitt said Clark confronted his son at a basketball court and told him "bad things are going to happen" if he didn't stop showing disrespect to his wife.

Clark is a former police officer who works as a security director at a charter school and recently took a part-time job as an investigator with the Weld County district attorney's office. He did not immediately return a message left by The Associated Press Wednesday.

■ **DARWIN, Australia** — Drinkers at an Outback watering hole may have wondered if perhaps they'd had one too many when they were greeted by a crocodile at the pub's door.

But being good hosts, they

did the only polite thing and invited him inside.

The saltwater croc was just 2 feet long and more a curiosity than a threat to drinkers at the Noonamah Tavern on Sunday. The aggressive hunters can grow to more than 16 feet and have been known to attack people.

Barmaid Sarah Sparre said Thursday that three patrons spotted the creature outside the pub, grabbed it and brought it inside.

"You could say we were a bit surprised," Sparre said. "He was pretty complacent, easygoing. But we weren't going to test him out."

The three men taped up its mouth, held it up for a round of photos, then put it in a box near the bar.

Sparre said the croc may have escaped from a farm for the animals that was several miles away. Wildlife officials took the crocodile to the farm.

Noonamah boasts little more than a gas station and a bar on the main north-south highway through Australia, about 25 miles from the Northern Territory capital of Darwin.

Saltwater crocodiles, once hunted to near extinction by skimmers, have flourished in Australia's tropical north since they became a protected species in the 1970s.

■ **VAN BUREN, Ark.** — Crawford County authorities say an inmate escaped the county jail and left behind a rose fashioned out of toilet paper because he felt sorry for breaking out.

Luis Camacho-Mendoza was recaptured a day later on Wednesday in a Van Buren home after police received a tip. Investigator Ken Howard said Camacho-Mendoza was found hiding in a closet in a pile of clothes with a pillowcase over his head.

"But he wasn't hiding too good because you could see the outline of his head in the pillow case," Howard said. "We all grabbed him pretty quick and he didn't seem to be

resisting." Authorities said Camacho-Mendoza was in jail on drug charges and was expected to be deported to Mexico by immigration officials.

In his escape, Camacho-Mendoza broke open a lock on a kitchen door using a tool made from two screwdrivers, authorities said. Camacho-Mendoza worked in the kitchen.

When the inmate was discovered missing, authorities also found the flower, Howard said.

"When we asked him about that, he said he felt sorry for the captain for escaping," Howard said. "(The flower) looked pretty nice."

■ **BRIDGEPORT, Conn.** — A man being sought by police for questioning in a series of traffic accidents was arrested after crashing his truck in a state police garage in Connecticut.

A 36-year-old man faces charges including criminal

trespass, reckless endangerment and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Police said the man broke through the access arm at the front gate of state police headquarters in Bridgeport on Thursday, drove his pickup into an open garage door and then crashed into a vehicle lift.

The suspect was arrested when he attempted to flee. Troopers said they learned later that Bridgeport police were searching for the vehicle, which had been involved in accidents earlier in the day.

No injuries were reported in any of the accidents.

The man told authorities he was being chased, but there was no evidence to back that claim, police said.

■ **SAVANNAH, Ga.** — Sometimes, it's better to look

like a jailbird than sport a birthday suit.

Police say Bill Merit, 49, left the Chatham County jail and began walking by the side of the road, naked. Witnesses called police, who arrested him and jailed him again on a charge of public indecency.

A police report says Merit told an officer that he didn't take the clothes jailers gave him because he thought they were stolen. The report says the man "appeared rational, except for being naked."

Jail records show Merit had been booked two days earlier on charges of criminal trespass and disorderly conduct. Chatham County Sheriff Lt. Thomas Tillman said Wednesday Merit remains in jail awaiting arraignment. He says he does not know if Merit has a lawyer.

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