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The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

One Voice for Eastern Kentucky

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High school
sketchball
— page B1

Jobless rate rises

FRANKFORT — Kentucky's annual unemployment rate jumped from 5.5 percent in 2007 to 6.4 percent in 2008, the highest annual jobless rate in Kentucky since 1993 when it also was 6.4 percent, according to the Office of Employment and Training (OET), an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

The U.S. unemployment rate climbed to 5.8 percent in 2008, making it the highest annual U.S. unemployment rate since 2003 when it was 6 percent. The U.S. annual unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in 2007.

"Over the last year, the recession took a toll on the Kentucky economy causing its annual unemployment rate to increase 0.9 percentage point to 6.4 percent. The job losses were led by a sharp decline in industrial employment, reflecting the manufacturing slump, and significant decreases in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector, which is indicative of retrenchment by consumers," said Justine Detzel, chief labor market analyst in OET.

Kentucky tied with Oregon and Tennessee for the 11th highest annual unemployment rate among all states and the District of Columbia in 2008. Kentucky was one of 17 states plus the District of Columbia that reported annual unemployment rates above the U.S. annual rate in 2008, while 33 states were lower than the national annual average in 2008.

Minnie-Harold connector gets jump-start

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

FRANKFORT — It's a project that had its beginnings more than 10 years ago when Paul Patton was working in his capacity as governor to bring together a six-year road plan spanning from 1999 through 2004.

And it has many names. The Minnie-Harold Connector, the

Mud Creek Cut-Thru and, most recently, the Little Mud Creek Road Project.

This last was used in an announcement Friday from the office of House Speaker Greg Stumbo, who has worked since the earliest stages to see the road completed.

The House passed what Stumbo has referred to as an "historic" road plan Friday that will see Floyd County receive \$41 million for roads and

bridges. About \$20 million of that will be put to completion of the Little Mud Creek Road Project, which will eventually see a four-lane road running directly from Harold to Minnie when finished.

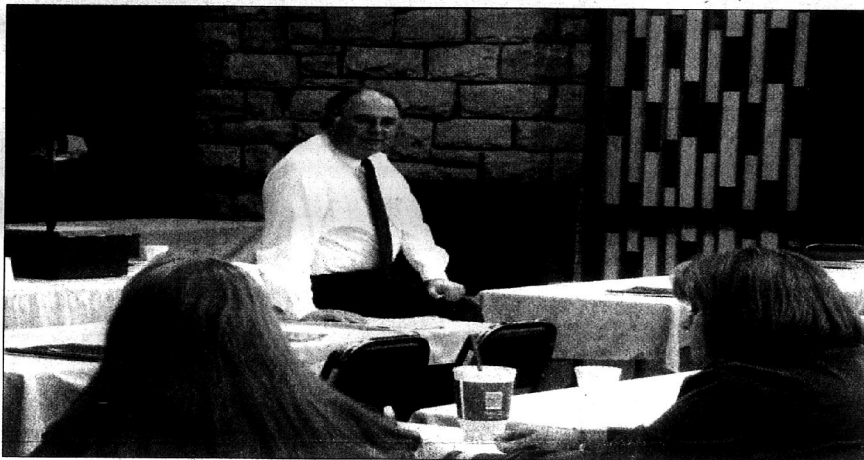
"This road plan is a great step forward for Kentucky and certainly for Floyd County," Stumbo said. "I call it Kentucky's own stimulus plan, because it will help jump-start our economy and

strengthen it in the years ahead."

Both District 4 Magistrate Ronnie Akers and District 3 Magistrate Donnie Daniels have touted the plan and have said that a connector to their two districts would benefit the county as a whole. Akers has told other county officials that he has already been informed that many businesses would

(See **ROAD**, page three)

RAISING READING RATES



The Floyd County school system held a High School Literacy Cadre on Friday at the May Lodge at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park in Prestonsburg. Dr. Charles Whitaker served as speaker at the event. photo by Jarrid Deaton

Knott man faces child porn charges

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — A Knott County man has been indicted by federal officials after investigators said various materials of child pornography were found in his possession.

Joshua Slone, of Knott County, pleaded not guilty to all counts during his arraignment in U.S. District Court in Pikeville Thursday to a total of 10 counts connected to the indictment, issued on Feb. 26.

Slone is accused of nine counts of receipt of child pornography and a single count of possession of child pornography.

Federal prosecutors allege that Slone received and stored at least nine images and videos between June 27, 2008 and Oct. 12, 2008. The images and videos depicted children and infants engaged in sexual acts with adults. According to the listed material in the indictment, seven were photographs, while two others were videos. Most of the images or videos were taken from numerous internet sites, according to documentation within the indictment.

Investigators said the receipt and storage of the material took place both in Knott County and elsewhere, but did not specify where the other areas were.

An additional count against Slone saw federal officials take possession of a variety of computer equipment belonging to the Knott County resident. Among those materials were a Dell desktop computer and a Pentium 4 computer tower without a serial number. Also seized by the court

(See **PORN**, page three)

MCA to offer freshman class

by **JARRID DEATON**
FEATURES WRITER

MARTIN — Mountain Christian Academy, which was recently in danger of closing due to the loss of funding from Christian Appalachian Project, is now opening a ninth-grade class for the first time in over 20 years.

The 2009-10 freshman class will serve as a general diploma credit toward a high school degree. The class will offer courses such as economics, algebra, geometry, foreign language, music

and computers, along with several other core classes.

The decision to open the ninth-grade class was made at a meeting of the Mountain Christian Academy Board of Directors on March 5.

"David Aker, our administrative consultant, had the vision give the eighth-graders of this area a safe haven from the negative things that high school has to offer," said Jessica Gambill, head teacher at Mountain Christian Academy. "It's for the parents who are concerned about their children learning things

from juniors and seniors that they may not want.

"It gives these children a change to mature a little further. It would also be an option for those who may not be ready to go to college prep private schools. Of course, it will also help financially for the school by giving us a larger population. Along with those currently enrolled, we hope to get kids from throughout the county and surrounding counties."

(See **MCA**, page three)

Pike men indicted on federal cocaine charges

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — Three individuals federal prosecutors say sold cocaine in Pike County for nearly a decade are now awaiting trial in Pikeville's U.S. District Court.

Indictments were handed down by a federal grand jury Feb. 26 against Leroy "Dock" Little, Darren Little and Tracy Wooten.

It is alleged that the three conspired to sell cocaine throughout Pike County from December 2000 until Dec. 16, 2008.

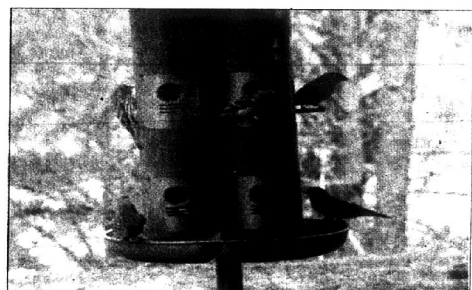
Leroy "Dock" Little is charged with five

counts ranging from selling cocaine, aiding and abetting in the distribution of cocaine to conspiracy to do so.

Darren Little was indicted on four counts of selling cocaine and a single count of conspiracy to do so, while Wooten is facing three counts, two of selling cocaine and another conspiracy count.

The indictment, which lists Leroy "Dock" Little as a defendant and Darren Little and Wooten as co-defendants, specifies that on Aug. 8, 12, 14, 28 and again on Oct. 24, either individually in some cases or

(See **COCAINE**, page three)



While warm weather will soon bring plenty of tourists to Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, guests of the feathered variety were already flocking to May Lodge on Friday. photo by Jarrid Deaton

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 73 • Low: 51

Tomorrow



High: 64 • Low: 41

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

Adrian "Abo" Blackburn, 83, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, March 3, at the Hazard Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Douglas Spurlock Blackburn. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 7, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Gracie Kiser Brown, 77, of Beaver, died Tuesday, March 3, at her residence. Funeral services were held Friday, March 6, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Mero Burchett, 80, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, March 4, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Darvin Burchett. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 7, under the

direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Wyatt Glenn Matthew Collins, infant son of Justin Matthew and Whitley Jane Castle Collins of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, March 1, at Cabell-Huntington Hospital. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 3, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Garfield Johnson, 86, of Bevsinsville, died Monday, March 2, at the McDowell ARH. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Bates Johnson. Funeral services were held Friday, March 6, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Loretta Lucas, 65, of Wabash, Indiana, a native of Buckingham, died Sunday, March 1, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. She is survived by her husband, Benny Lucas. Funeral services were held at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, on Wednesday, March 4.

Ellen Marsillett, 82, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, February 17, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 21, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Thomas "T.C." May, 87, of Langley, died Monday, March 2, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Lucille Allen May. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 5, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Bobby "Bob" Scott Mayo, 79, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, a native of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m., Saturday, February 14, at Kempsville Presbyterian Church.

Jonathan "Spunky" Moore, 60, of Martin, died Saturday, February 28, in Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. He is

survived by his wife, Cheryl Holbrook Moore. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, March 4, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Ray Newsome, 72, of Teaberry, died Monday, March 2, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Joy Newsome. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 5, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Kathy Ann Sexton, 58, of Lackey, died Tuesday, February 17, at home. Funeral services were held Friday, February 20, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Eugene Webb, 81, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, February 26, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, March 1, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Martha Williams, 85, of Minnie, died Sunday, March 1, at her residence. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 4, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

JOHNSON COUNTY

James Ellis Bartley, 93, of Lowmansville, a Pike County native, died Monday, March 2, at the Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Lillian Ruth Daniels Bartley. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 5, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Willis Castle, 71, of Red Bush, died Monday, March 2, at Cabell-Huntington Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Ethel Ferguson Castle. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 5, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Ival Sparks Conley, 93, of Flat Gap, died Thursday, February 26, at Mountain Manor Nursing Home in Paintsville. Funeral services were held Monday, March 2,

under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Janet Lou Sartin Jarvis, 58, of Inez, died Monday, March 2, at King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 5, under the direction of Phelps & Son Funeral Home.

Edward Ray Lambe, 46, of Lowmansville, died Thursday, February 26, at St. Mary's Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia. Funeral services were held Friday, March 1, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

William Anthony Patrick, 21, of Oil Springs, died Friday, February 27. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 5, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Daniel Clay Pennington, 18, of Hager Hill, died Friday, February 27. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 5, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

William Alfred Rice, 71, of Sitka, died Thursday, February 19, at King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. He is survived by his wife, Grace L. Workman Rice. Arrangements, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Dustin "D-Rod" Lee Rodriguez, 21, of Oil Springs, died Friday, February 27. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 4, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Mary K. Short, 79, of Hager Hill, died Saturday, February 28, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, in Paintsville. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 4, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Charles Andrew "Andy" Stapleton, 32, of Tutor Key, died Thursday, February 26, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center in Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Misty Collins Stapleton. Funeral services were held Sunday,

March 1, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Mary Katherine Ward, 77, of Van Lear, died Sunday, March 1, at King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 5, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

David L. Williamson, 67, of Punta Gorda, Florida, formerly of Johnson County has died. He is survived by his wife, Betty Williamson. Funeral services were held Friday, March 6, under the direction of Phelps & Son Funeral Home.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Clara Kay Mayes, 97, off Zephyrhills, Florida, formerly of Blaine, died Friday, February 27. Arrangements, under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, in Drumright, Oklahoma.

PIKE COUNTY

William Milton Damron, 84, of Louisville, died Saturday, February 28, at the Forum of Brookside. He is survived by his wife, Ilene H. Damron. Funeral services were held Monday, March 2, in the Pearson-Ratterman Brothers Funeral Home. Burial was in Davidson Memorial Gardens, in Ivel.

Edward R. Farmer, 74, of Pikeville, died Monday, March 2, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Eloise Thacker. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 5, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

Imogene Hatfield, 91, of Red Jacket W.Va., a Pike County native, died Wednesday, Feb. 25 at South Williamson ARH. Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 28, under the direction of Chambers Funeral Services.

Charles Warren Hopper Jr., 66, of Pikeville, died Sunday, February 15, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington. Memorial services were held

Monday, February 23, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

Billy Jack Justice, 63, of Jeffersonville, a Pike County native, died Saturday, February 28, at his home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 4, under the direction of Herald & Stewart Home for Funeral Inc. of Mt. Sterling.

Opal Ray Little, 80, of Pikeville, died Saturday, February 28, at Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Frank Little. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 3, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

Willard Harve McKinney Jr., 65 of Martin, died Thursday, Feb. 26, at his residence. Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 28, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Regina Lynn Mullins, 49, of Newsome Branch of Caney, died Friday, Feb. 27, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Henry Mullins Jr. Funeral services were held Monday, March 2, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Lonnie Randel Reynolds, 58, of Ashcamp, died Friday, February 27, at his home. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 3, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

KNOTT COUNTY

Conard "Ba Ba" Anderson, 79, of Kite, died Tuesday, February 17, at the Williamsburg ARH. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home. Hindman.

Betty Carol Gibson Collins, 46, of Hindman, died Monday, February 23, at home. She is survived by her husband, Scottie Wayne Collins. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home. Hindman.

Obituaries

Jason Don Tackett

Jason Don Tackett, 26, of Beaver, died Wednesday, March 4, 2009, in Beaver.

Born March 2, 1983, in Martin, he was the son of Donnie Tackett of Teaberry, and Annie Adams Tackett of Beaver.

Other survivors include a son, Skylar Don Tackett of Betsy Layne; a stepson, Nicholas Tackett; a sister, Sabrina Johnson of Beaver; a nephew, Braxton Chase Johnson; and several aunts, uncles, and other family and friends.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, March 8, at noon, at the Samaria Old Regular Baptist Church, in Teaberry, with Old Regular Baptist ministers officiating.

Burial will be in the Family Cemetery, in Beaver, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin. Visitation is at the church.

(Paid obituary)

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MCA

According to Gambill, things are looking fairly solid in terms of finances for the upcoming school year and the near future.

"We are planning to be

open next year," Gambill said. "There are some changes that have to be made, including no insurance, and a lot of things depend on the projected enrollment. Also, some parents

are trying to come up with effective fund raising."

The open enrollment for Mountain Christian Academy's preschool through ninth-grade will begin on April 1.

Continued from p 1

Cocaine

as a team or as partners, distributed what totaled at five kilograms or more of a mixture prosecutors say contained a "detectable amount of cocaine."

Another count in the indictment list the forfeiture of various real property and cash allegedly obtained during the eight years the three have been accused of operating.

These include land, which is listed as having been deeded

to Leroy "Dock" Little, \$74,100 in cash, a 2006 H3 Hummer and a 1931 Ford Coupe.

There is also a \$1 million money judgment included in the indictment against the three.

Leroy "Dock" Little and Tammy Wooten have already pleaded not guilty to all charges in U.S. District Court in Pikeville, while Darren Little, who was in custody at

the time of the indictment, is set to be arraigned on April 6.

Depending on the prior number of felony offenses for each, the three could face maximum sentences of life in prison and face fines exceeding \$8 million on the primary count of the indictment and up to 20 years in prison and a maximum of \$1 million in fines on the remaining counts.

Continued from p 1



Floyd County Judge-Executive R.D. "Doc" Marshall signed a proclamation on Friday declaring the month of March as "Professional Social Work Month" in Floyd County. Pictured left to right are Elizabeth Bishop, facilitator of social work at Morehead State's Prestonsburg campus, Tammi Rowe, student, Jessica Frasure, student, and Jennifer Moore, student and president of the Student Association of Social Workers.

Photo by Janie Deaton

Porn

was a Motorola Surfboard modem, four compact discs and six floppy disks used for storage of material.

In addition to entering his plea on Wednesday, Stone was

scheduled for a motion hearing at Pikeville on April 6. A jury trial, if needed, was also set for April 20.

In found guilty, Stone could face up to 20 years in prison on

each of the first nine counts in the indictment, an additional 10 years on the possession count, as well as be ordered to pay up to \$250,000 in fines along with court costs.

Continued from p 1

Road

locate along the new road.

And according to Stumbo, the project has, in reality, been in the works for nearly a quarter of a century when he and others first envisioned a connecting road for the two districts. The project, he said, was stopped during the last administration, although it was close to completion at that time.

"The people of Floyd County deserve to have this project built as soon as possible," he said Friday.

The McCoy-Elkhorn Coal Company has offered to

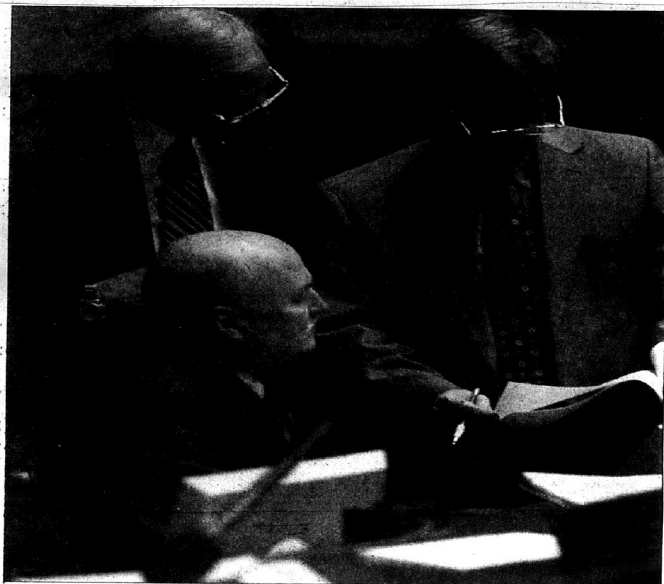
donate four miles of right-of-way that will enable the new connector road to use the flat land left behind after mountaintop removal, something both Stumbo and state Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, have pointed to as unique in that this is the state's first effort to partner with a private company to help build a road.

"This would save the state millions of dollars because Elkhorn will do much of the excavation for us," Turner said. "Hopefully this will become a model for other proj-

ects throughout the coal counties."

While this is the largest road project for the county, it is not the only one. Several others are moving forward including relocating Route 122 at Meade Hill for \$7.6 million and replacing bridges over Beaver Creek, Abbott Creek, Brushy Creek and Cow Creek. The plan now moves to the state Senate for approval. Turner has said he expects the Senate to "give its approval next week."

Continued from p 1



Senate Democratic Whip Jerry Rhoads, D-Madisonville (left), and Senate Democratic Caucus Chair Johnny Ray Turner, D-Drift (seated), confer with Senate Majority Floor Leader Dan Kelly, R-Springfield, during a recess period in the Kentucky Senate.

photo by Mike Sunseri, LRC Public Information

Turner's legislation expands college tuition waivers for veterans' families

FRANKFORT — Sen. Johnny Ray Turner's bill, which expands the college tuition waivers to ensure veterans' families are able to earn a bachelor's degree, passed Thursday on the floor of the Kentucky State Senate.

Current legislation waives the tuition for the spouse or a child, stepchild or orphan of a qualifying deceased veteran. Senate Bill 135 would guarantee sufficient time, with the tuition and fees exempt, to complete at least a bachelor's degree. The maximum number of months for the exemptions would be 45.

"This was already good legislation because it honors our veterans and assures them we will care for their families in the event they cannot," said Sen. Turner, D-Drift. "Senate Bill 135 guarantees their children or spouse will have enough time to complete a bachelor's degree. This is a small token of our appreciation considering that our military men and women put their lives at risk for our country. We can never do enough for our veterans."

Senate Bill 135 will now move to the House of

Representatives for further consideration.

Turner, who has served in the State Senate since 2001,

represents the 29th District, which includes Breathitt, Floyd, Knott and Fletcher counties.

Card of Thanks



We, the family of Larry Douglas Tackett, would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who comforted and consoled us during the recent loss of our beloved husband and father. Without the help of Our Dear Lord and Savior and our wonderful relatives, neighbors and friends, we could never have endured the pain of losing Larry. Thank you to all those who visited Larry at home any time during his illness. A special thank-you to everyone who visited Larry and sat up with us during Larry's last nights. To all those who brought food to the house and church, we greatly appreciated your thoughtfulness. To all those who sat up with us at the church and all those who visited at the church and sent flowers and cards, they were appreciated more than you will ever know. Thank you to Dr. Tamara Musgrave and her wonderful caring staff. Also, thank-you to Dr. Bagrath and the staff at FMC Dialysis Clinic for the wonderful care you gave Larry. Larry appreciated every smile and kind word you gave him. Also, thank you to the Pilgrim Home Church and all the preachers and singers who participated during services. Thank you to all the pallbearers who served. Larry would have been so proud! Thanks to Hall Funeral Home, who handled the arrangements.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you all.

The Tackett Family: Flora, Shawn, and Darena

Through it all, newspapers did their jobs, too

We salute newspapers across Kentucky. When power was off for more than 700,000 state residents, the Internet was down, many cell phones didn't work and Kentuckians begged for news about the ice storm and emergency shelters - and just about anything else - overall, Kentucky newspapers didn't miss a beat - or an issue. Keeping their readers informed was their top priority.

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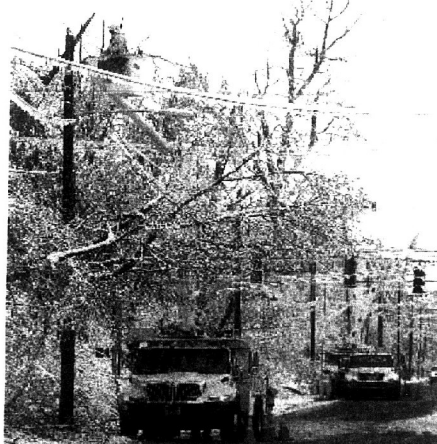


Photo courtesy of The Advocate Messenger - Danville



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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

Health reform depends on improving quality

American taxpayers already have spent more than \$2 trillion bailing out banks and insurance companies. Can we afford to reform health care, too?

It's an understandable question, one that was at center stage Thursday when the White House convened a health reform summit. Here's a better question: Can we afford not to?

Americans will spend \$2.5 trillion on health care this year. That's an increase of 85 percent since 2000.

The nation's medical bill has been growing at about twice the rate of inflation for the past several years. Now, with the economy in free fall, it still continues to grow. According to the latest projections, that trend will persist into the foreseeable future.

We are, in other words, in the same position with health care as we were with banks and insurance companies: Too heavily invested to let it fail, with too much potential liability to permit business as usual.

To most people, health care reform means covering the uninsured. That's certainly part of it, a job that gets bigger every day.

In December, the unemployment rate hit 7.2 percent, the highest in 16 years. Most economists expect it to go even higher when figures for January are released on Friday.

About 45.7 million Americans were without health insurance in 2007, before the economic meltdown. That number had, by one authoritative estimate, grown to more than 48.3 million by December. If the national unemployment rate exceeds 8 percent, more than 50 million will be uninsured.

That's obviously a big problem for them. But it's an even bigger problem to the rest of us, because much of the cost of their care gets shifted onto us. That sends insurance premiums even higher, which causes more people to lose health insurance, and so the cycle continues.

The most obvious priority for health reform, then, is to shore up the existing system. The fiscal stimulus bill did some of that by providing \$87 billion to state governments to help underwrite higher Medicaid costs.

In the short term, that should help prevent the system's failure. But by itself, it's business as usual. It falls far short of addressing the long-term problems of the health care system.

A major part of that challenge is getting rid of the myth that says the more you spend on health care, the better care you get.

Medicare, the federal health program for the elderly, spends far more per person in some parts of the country than in others. Average spending in Miami, for example, is nearly double that in Minneapolis. Yet elderly people in Miami don't live any longer or have any better quality of life than those in Minneapolis.

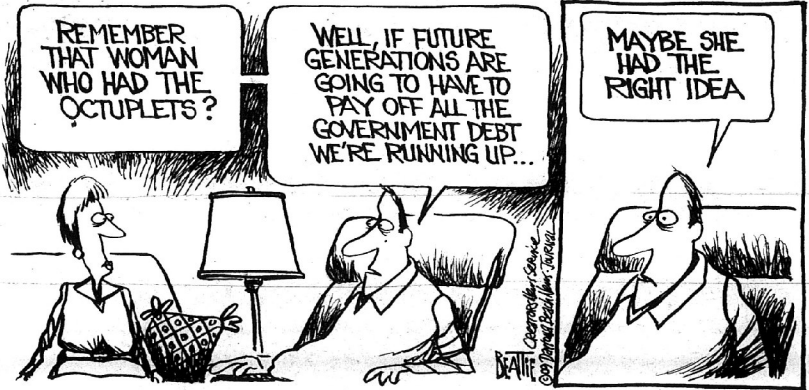
Between 1992 and 2006, Medicare spending grew twice as fast in Miami as it did in San Francisco. It increased by 146 percent in St. Louis and a whopping 206 percent in Kansas City.

The implications of those differences are immense. Doctors at Dartmouth University, who compiled those figures, recently estimated that we could save \$1.42 trillion by 2023 simply by adopting the same health strategies that led to lower spending growth in places like San Francisco.

That doesn't mean rationing care or denying sick people medical treatment. It means providing care more efficiently.

Improving health quality is every bit as important as shoring up the existing system. In the long run, it's the only way to ensure any of us can get the care we need.

— The St. Louis Post-Dispatch



— Chuck Norris

Obama plus Congress equals economic chaos

by CHUCK NORRIS
CREATORS SYNDICATE

Ronald Reagan was right when he said: "Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

The next stage of out-of-control government spending started when George W. Bush bailed out Wall Street with \$700 billion (new debt No. 1). But Congress didn't learn from that failure, and apparently, neither did Barack Obama. So the newly elected president pushed for the next stimulus bill (debt No. 2), this one for \$787 billion.

But that wasn't enough, either, so the recent \$410 billion omnibus spending bill (with 9,000 earmarks 60 percent originating with Democrats and 40 percent with Republicans) is being railroaded through Congress to keep government moving until September (debt No. 3).

And then Obama informed us last week that another \$634 billion is required for a down payment on universal health care. Before there's a plan, there's already a payment (debt No. 4).

If that isn't enough, Obama is asking for a roughly \$3.6 trillion budget for 2010 despite the fact that the White House projects a 2009 budget shortfall of \$1.5 trillion — triple the \$455 billion in 2008. (That's debt No. 5.)

All of that doesn't include other stimuli on the horizon, as Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, noted when he called the mammoth \$787 billion spending bill "stimulus No. 1." (That's debt No. 6, debt No. 7, debt No. 8, etc.)

All of these wild expenditures would be a little more bearable if we saw any signs of economic recovery. But how has all this alleged stimulus stabilized and grown the economy and the market? As our government has bailed out, the Dow Jones industrial average has dropped. It's dropped about 2,000 points since Obama took office, roughly 200 points after every major speech he has made.

So the big question is: How has Obama gotten away with racking up more expenses in his first 30 days in office than all the presidents combined since the founding of our republic did in theirs?

Bernard Goldberg's "A Slobbering Love Affair" is a great book about the media's blind bias and

infatuation with Obama, but Obama's hypnotic effects permeate every stratum of society, from political corridors to public schools. Why? Because he's young, hip, cool, liberal and charismatic — and that's what sells today in America. Objectiveness and criticism fly right out the window with the mere mention of his name or any discussion of his excessive spending plans.

On "Good Morning America" last Thursday, two of ABC's financial experts graded Obama's excessive borrowing and fiscal performance a B, while guest financial expert Dave Ramsey rated it an F. Despite the two B grades, one of ABC's financial experts quipped that one of the biggest problems with Obama's bailouts is that there is no real form of government accountability over the money pouring out of Washington. Yet she maintained her B grade for Obama's stewardship plan. Why?

Here's an even better example: As Obama addressed Congress last week, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi led the way in spontaneous emotive applause for her political hero. Pop-up Pelosi was bouncing up and down like Tigger on steroids, forcing Vice President Joe Biden to rise slowly

(See NORRIS, page 8)



Chuck Norris

— beyond the beltway

Religion still has a way to go

by DONALD KAUL
MUNTEMAN MEDIA

The Pew Forum on Religion in Public Life recently released a study that found — Wait! Wait! Don't go away. It gets better — that roughly two-thirds of Americans believe that religions other than their own can lead to eternal life. (Heaven, if you want to be technical about it.)

This is religious tolerance of the highest order. It means that Americans, most of them, have grasped the ecumenical spirit and accepted the idea that even though there is but one God, he/she answers to many names.

Among those who got a Get Out of Purgatory Free card from a majority of the respondents were Jews, Muslims, Hindus and even people of no religious faith.

Of course, two-thirds is not 100 percent. According to Charles Blow of "The New York Times," there were those who believed that no one but their spiritual brethren was fit for service in the Hallelujah choir, fundamentalist Christians mainly, people who believe that the Bible should be taken at its word, word for word. They think that when Jesus says to Thomas (John 14:6) "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" — he means what he says. No heathen in heaven, and precious few others.

They're welcome to their beliefs, of course, and I'd say I respect them except that I don't I confess to being

a card-carrying skeptic but it never made sense to me that God, if any, would go to all the trouble of creating a heavenly home for his children on earth, and then let only a fraction of them in on the eligibility require-

ments. My own feeling is that the Bible is a wonderfully instructive book written by men of faith but not by God him- or herself. They did the best they could but they made mistakes, relegating women and black people to the back of the bus being two of them. They were expressing not God's will but the earthly prejudices of the time. Almost all religions make the same mistake, particularly at the extreme end of orthodoxy.

The more devout the believers, the more restrictive their rules. No people who do not resemble members are allowed as members. No women on the golf course, except on Wednesdays before noon. For white Christians, it's as though heaven were merely the Augusta National Golf Course carried on by other means.

The worst of that sort of prejudice has been leached out of mainstream religion but zealots still cling to their bigoted customs, citing their sacred book of scripture as inspiration. And more often than not, it is women who bear the brunt of their prejudice — from being denied the priesthood to being cordoned off in segregated areas, away from strangers' eyes, to unspeakable abuse.

They're all bad but fundamentalist Muslim nations seem to offer the

worst examples: terrible tales of women being publicly beaten for showing an inch of ankle on the street; being stoned to death for suspected adultery; being ostracized, sometimes murdered, for the crime of being a rape victim. Progressive Muslims disavow these acts, of course. They say they are the work of ignorant people who do not understand the true nature of Islam.

I accept that, but...when a Danish newspaper published a few relatively innocuous cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad a few years ago, the Muslim world erupted in anger. There were protests and riots all over Europe, as well as hysterical demonstrations in the Middle East.

But when some young Muslim couple offends some religious tenet, are buried to their necks in the earth and stoned to death, you don't hear a peep from the Muslim world. Not a demonstration, not a protest. I don't know if there's a heaven but if there is, I'm hoping it does not contain loonies who stone people to death and call it religion.

If it does, I'm willing to go along with Mark Twain on the subject: "Heaven for climate; Hell for company."

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.



Donald Kaul

The Times

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FLOYD COUNTY Lifestyles



INSIDESTUFF

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- Classifieds.....page B4

CAR TALK:

Slow leak may signal the end

see pg. B6

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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.

THE DOOR

The Green Door. Sounds like the title of a mystery novel, but it's the key to our whereabouts. Those looking for The Times office are told to go on up the street from the old location and at the corner of Third and Graham to look across the street for a green door.

As of present date, it's green. We fear that it may soon become more black than green as ink-dabbers contact it.

□ □ □

The peepers are back, the robins are on the wing. All may not be right with the world, but there's a lot that isn't wrong.

TO LEARN, THE HARD WAY

If you think that the world has gone to pot and that everybody is packin' a gun for everybody else, just have yourself a calamity. It will be painful, real painful. But after it happens you'll know that when a feller needs a friend, friends will be ready...bless 'em, every one.

CRYPTIC LETTERS

The population movement from this section to other states, and vice versa, has been the subject of a rash of jokes, but this one, I'm told, is true.

Jim Clay Osborne drove up Beaver Creek, a new Pontiac, which did not bear the familiar name and insignia. The only visible identification was "GTO."

Some of the boys gathered 'round to inspect the new car, and one wondered what it was. "GTO is all I can see," he said.

"GTO—why, that sounds for Gas, Tires and Oil," another quipped.

Retorted the other: "Wrong, son. It means, 'Goin' to Ohio.'"

HELP WANTED

If the owner of this dog that is curled up on our back porch, this very moment, cares for him, I suggest he or she get around and file a claim. For the Son-of-a-gun has me at the point of renouncing the resolution which I made at the passing of my old Dalmation—namely, that I was as of that moment and forever more out of the dog business.

This dog has enough cocker in him to crowd right up against you and demand loving, and enough Shepherd or Collie to outsmart you, if you aren't careful. He's hep, this one. Just smile at him and watch his ears perk.

My conscience tells me to feed this dog. The little good sense I have warns me to ignore the mutt.

Will the owner please come forward?

Eat pie

by DAVE BALCH

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL: THE CANCER BOOK"

My wife, Chris, received a renewal notice for a health and nutrition newsletter that she had been receiving for years. I asked Chris if she wanted to renew, and she told me to give it to her. She brought it back to me a few minutes later with a note she had written:

I've always loved your newsletter

and followed what it said. I got breast cancer anyway. So, now I don't read any health material and I eat pie. Thanks anyway, Chris Balch. I laughed out loud. "You want me to send this?" She said, "Yes, send it just like that." A started to say something and stopped. I remembered when Chris had her lumpectomy and the surgeon couldn't remove the whole tumor, which meant that she was going to have to have a mastectomy. "The five-year survival rate for

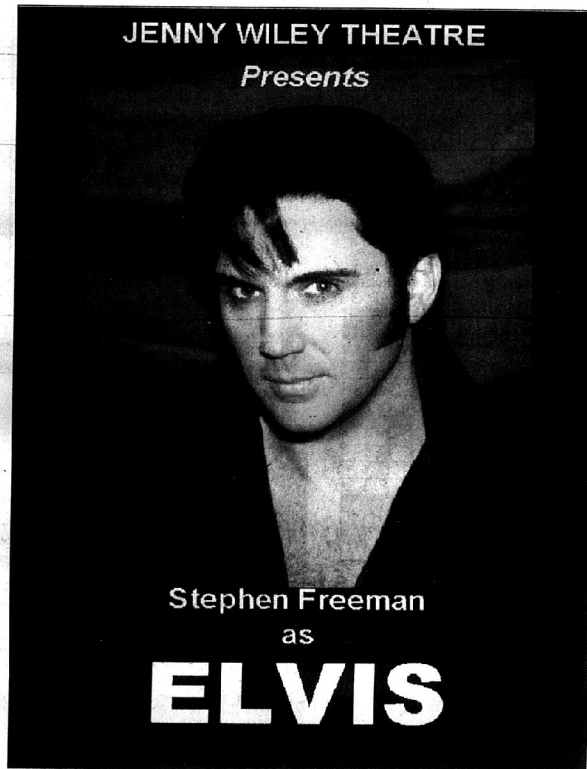
THE UN-COMFORT ZONE

someone with your type of cancer and the stage you're in and the fact that it's spread to your lymph system is about 50 to 60 percent," her doctor told her. Chris went pale. "You mean I only have a 50-50 chance of living for five years?" On the way home that day, she cried. In a voice I'd never heard her use before, she said, "I don't want to die. Why is this happening to me?" It absolutely broke my heart. I couldn't hold or comfort her because she was in the back seat. My eyes teared and I had to concentrate on driving, but I knew that I had to say something. Or did I? Everything that

I considered saying seemed hollow, empty or just plain stupid. What could I possibly say? I couldn't tell her it would be OK, because I didn't know that, and she knew that I didn't. I just listened to her cry. It was one of the hardest things I've ever done, but I'm convinced that, under the circumstances, it was the best thing. And, when my instinct might have been to question her response to the health and nutrition newsletter, I held my tongue. Sometimes, the best thing you can do is nothing at all. So, that's what I did, and we haven't heard from them since.

JENNY WILEY THEATRE

Presents



Stephen Freeman

as

ELVIS

TCB

Elvis impersonator to perform at MAC

by JARRID DEATON
FEATURES WRITER

Elvis will be in the building at the Mountain Arts Center in April. There will be no need, however, to contact any of the tabloids with reports of sighting the king of rock and roll.

As part of a special weekend performance organize by Jenny Wiley Theatre, Stephen Freeman, a renowned Elvis impersonator, will perform a number of Presley's top 40 hits, along with featuring the Gospel Side of Elvis in tribute of Easter weekend.

According to his biographical information, Freeman worked as a police officer for six years, and he

began to perform Elvis music at karaoke restaurants and small birthday parties. As his repertoire of songs grew, so did his bookings, and he started doing official Elvis tribute shows in 1994. Freeman also worked as a reallor during the early days in order to earn extra money to purchase sound equipment and costumes, and now tours the nation as one of the top Elvis tribute artists in the world.

Showing dedication to his craft as an impersonator, Freeman also studies to improve his vocals and physical characteristics to make sure he is presenting the most authentic Elvis experience possible for the crowds that pay to see him.

For more information of Stephen

Freeman, visit his website at <http://www.stephenfreeman.com>

The Jenny Wiley Theatre creative team, including Dave Kaeze, musical director, David Gardner, lighting designer and Jill Goldfrey, stage director and choreographer, will be working with Freeman to design the show and coordinate the performance.

Tickets for the event are \$18, and discounts are available for groups of 15 or more. All seating for the performance is reserved.

The shows are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on April 10-11 at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg. To purchase tickets, contact Jenny Wiley Theatre at 1-877-CALL-IWT.

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'Wanted'

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST



Tom Doty
Times Columnist

A nerdy cubicle slave trades his pocket protector for automatic weapons as the world's top assassin in this action yarn that offers plenty of well staged sequences that should distract you from the gaping plot holes that spring up in this flashy adaptation of a graphic novel, by Mark Millar.

The film opens with an excellent sequence that follows Mr. X as he enters a corporate office and demands help in identifying a bullet let from a covering executive. His contact wants to help him but finds it's impossible to concentrate when a sniper plants one in your brainpan.

Mr. X leaps into action, literally, by crashing through a window into the building across the street, where he quickly caps a quartet of killers disguised as construction workers. Unfortunately that's what the sniper wanted him to do and he's soon face down amongst the killers, who were only hired to draw him outside.

The film does a 180 here and drops in on the sad life of Wesley Gibson. He's a henpecked office drone who covers before his supervisor, suffers from panic attacks and is well aware that his fellow office mate is faking dental problems to free up time to have afternoon trysts with Wesley's girlfriend. A routine trip to the pharmacy, for more panic attack meds, plunges him right into the thick of things when a gorgeous brunette (who introduces herself as Fox) sidles up to him and warns him he is in danger.

She couldn't be more right as a gunman begins firing at them, whom and you'll recognize as the same cat who killed Mr. X. Pretty soon they're dodging bullets and engaged in a high speed car chase, during which Fox gets all of the exposition out of the way by explaining that Wesley's dad was an assassin and that the guy shooting at them has made Wesley an orphan.

Fox spirits Wesley back to a linen factory where her team of killers is headquartered. There, Wesley meets the group's leader, Sloan, and he finds out that his father was their best killer. He also learns that he has inherited his father's ability to produce enough adrenaline to kill a donkey, which comes in handy when you're a hired killer.

Sloan also reveals that their group has been around forever and they only kill targets that fate orders them to by communicating with them via messages implanted in their fabrics. He buys it all eventually and then must engage in some dubious training before being allowed to kill the most-terrific man who keeps shooting at him whenever he leaves the factory. Said training includes being tied up and punched in the face alongside

(See LAGOON page B3)



Norris

every time she jumped up, and Biden had to try to hide his frustration with her. Pelosi's eyes and facial expressions seemed almost giddy as she gazed at Obama like a teenager infatuated with the popular high-school jock.

As I watched this obsessive congressional circus, I asked myself, "Is this the type of objective bipartisan leadership we want running our government, leading our nation, and spending our money?"

The political and financial math is easy to calculate. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure it out — just an honest assessment of Washington's present landscape. Here's how the equation pans out:

America's political love affair with President Obama plus the Democratic majority's coercions in Congress equals trillions of dollars in new debt for Americans, or more economic chaos.

If we ever are to restore the fiscal and leadership sanity to our economy and government, we need not to reinvent the Great Depression wheel of Roosevelt's New Deal. We need to look to a time when Congress was more frugal in its spending and stabilized our government and economy. And in the past 100 years, one of the best examples of that occurred when Newt Gingrich led Congress in the 1990s. I'm not justifying every financial move he made back then, but despite losing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution by only one Senate vote, they still committed to spending caps and balancing the budget, which they did for four consecutive years. That was the first time that had happened since the 1920s.

The Congress of the '90s steadied and strengthened the economy by following four priorities and principles, which are being turned on their heads at this moment by the present

administration. As Newt noted in his excellent book "Real Change," Congress' top priorities were to:

■ Cut taxes to increase economic growth and therefore increase revenues (unlike Obama's tax hikes, which will retard economic growth and depress revenues).

■ Set priorities and increase spending in key areas while reducing it in nonessential areas (unlike Obama's fiscal priorities of health care, energy and education, which are based not upon what is best for the economy but what is reflective of typical partisan preferences and doing what is politically expedient).

■ Eliminate pork-barrel spending (unlike the 9,000 earmarks in the present \$410 billion omnibus spending bill, which is nothing short of absolute economic ludicrousness, mismanagement and waste within our present crisis).

■ Shift from expensive, wasteful systems to smarter spending; look at not only more inexpensive ways but also more productive ones

(unlike Obama's theory to spend our way to prosperity, which is a sure way to sink America).

Our government is hemorrhaging money. The nanny state is becoming the norm. Our Founders are rolling in their graves. And at this very moment, Washington's credit-crazy and debt-accumulating addiction is dissolving our sovereignty like a sugar cube in coffee by handing our financial autonomy over to other nations. In other words, Rome is burning, and Caesar is stocking the fire!

Time is running out, but it's not too late to reverse Washington's fiscal frenzy. Don't just write to your representatives; hound them to live and legislate by the preceding four proven priorities and principles of governmental and monetary prudence.

To find out more about Chuck Norris and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Lagoon

firearms classes and a little knife fighting.

This all leads to a showdown with the guy who killed his dad in the opening, and it's worth the wait. Their epic battle is a corker of a sequence that climaxes with them shooting at each other while inside of a speeding train that has just plunged off of a cliff.

Great stuff, but the real payoff involves a lot of information that was left out of his training and a stunning revelation about the true identity of the guy he's been sent to kill. Suffice to say there are plenty of last-minute surprises here that they save for the finale, which pits Wesley against the real enemy armed only with two guns and an army of time bombs attached to a hoard of rodents.

This one works more often than it doesn't, but fans of the graphic novel will be disappointed in how much they have scaled down the story (which originally dealt with meta-humans). That said, this one provides a ton of great action scenes and a satisfying conclusion, thanks to some expert staging by director Timor Bekmambetov ("Night Watch" and "Day Watch").

The cast is up to the game as

well with good turns by James Macavoy, as Wesley, and Morgan Freeman, as Sloan. Lorna Scott all but steals this as Wesley's supervisor from his office job and she's even scarier than the gun toting bad guys

here. Best line: "Oh my God. Hey, we can't shoot a dead woman. She might be somebody's mom." 2008, rated R.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 grid for Weekly SUDOKU with some numbers pre-filled.

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: *

* Moderate ** Challenging *** HOO BOY!

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ThemeCross by Kelly Ann Buchanan

ACROSS

- 1 March: In like a lion, out like a lamb
5 Full of
8 Shake a
11 Don't cry
12 When the cards are dealt, the... will play
13 Buff add-on (City in New York)
14 ...one's head
15 Soreness
16 Party: the cows come home
17 Long pole in the
18 Fools rush in where angels fear to

COIN A PHRASE

15x15 grid for COIN A PHRASE crossword puzzle.

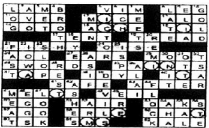
TUMBLE-THEME-A!

After completing the ThemeCross, untumble the 13 scattered letters to spell out WHAT SAVES NINE: (4 words)

- 21 Something
24 River to the Seine
26 Certain ISP
27 Pick up your
29 ...point
33 ...into plowshares
36 A picture ... a thousand words
37 Rec
38 Pastoral poem (var. sp.)
40 Call a day
41 Better
43 A man my own heart
45 It's my heart.
48 Lifting the
50 Self-image
51 As fine as
53 Mighty
57 Long and
58 Author
59 Lots
60 "For shame!"

- 81 Some T-shirt
62 Crinkly green
DOWN
1 Slept like a
2 Macao money
3 Tail fellow well
4 Too many cooks spoil the
5 To the goes the spoils
6 ...bin in Berlin. President John F. Kennedy
7 Where the rubber the road
8 It's better than never
9 Director Mr. Kazan
10 All that
11 Beware the green
12 Time and tide wait for no
15 Followers of Do in music
21 Play and loose
22 Corn Belt
23 Happy as a pig in the
25 little eye
28 In your dreams!
30 Get a handle
31 Chart add-on (North Carolina city)
32 Nicholas II, for one (var. sp.)
34 No for the wicked
36 Jai (Court game)
39 Idle hands are the
42 Sackcloth and
44 Birds of a feather
45 It is and drink to me
46 Don't put all your in one basket
47 Don't a gift horse in the mouth
49 Prior to, poetically
52 A shot in the
54 "Eureka!"
55 Kan (Pet food maker)
56 Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.

Asterisked clues relate to theme of the puzzle. © 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

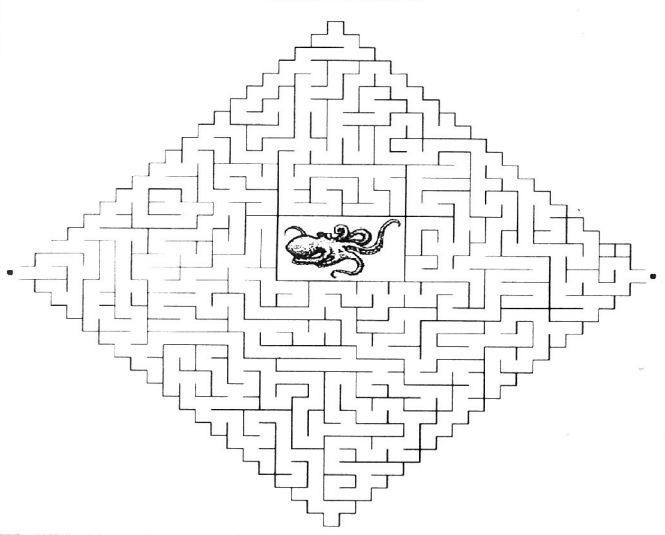


Tumble-Theme-A answer: "A STITCH IN TIME"

People know Pueblo for its... free federal information. You can download it right away by going into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov.

Mega Maze

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Advertisement for asthma relief featuring a child and a dog. Text: KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. Asthma attacks can be caused by many things you'd never expect. Including stuffed animals. With new information, you can help prevent your child's asthma attacks, and avoid the emergency room. ATTACK ASTHMA. ACT NOW. 1-866-NO-ATTACKS WWW.NOATTACKS.ORG DON'T LET YOUR CHILD FEEL LIKE A FISH WITHOUT WATER.

FLOYD COUNTY Sports

Blackcats advance to region semifinals

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PIKEVILLE — Prestonsburg earned a trip to the Boys' 15th Region Tournament semifinals following a win over Pike County Central Thursday night. The Blackcats defeated Pike County Central 76-71. Prestonsburg prevailed after facing an eight-point deficit at the intermission.

Senior guard Jody Tackett led Prestonsburg to a 21-point win over Pike County Central. Tackett, a two-year starter for the Blackcats, scored a game-high 21 points. Seniors Alex Stumbo and Steven Patrick added 13 points apiece for the

Blackcats. Austin Gearheart, another senior, scored 12 points as Prestonsburg (18-12) advanced.

The Blackcats had an early lead before trailing at the break. Prestonsburg outscored Pike County Central 16-13 in the opening quarter. Pike County Central led 38-30 when the game entered halftime.

The Blackcats outscored Pike County Central in each of the last two quarters en route to the win. Prestonsburg moved back out in front of Pike County Central in the third quarter, outscoring the Hawks 22-13.

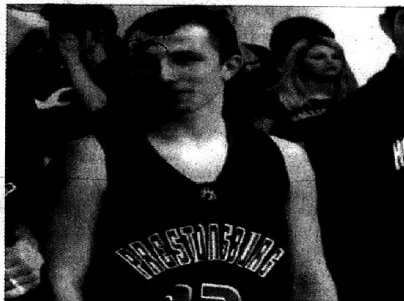
Seth Setser and Cameron

Tincher rounded out the Prestonsburg scoring with six and two points, respectively.

Senior forward Dalton Meade led Pike County Central with a team-high 18 points. Sophomore guard Hobo McCoy scored 16 points and senior guard/forward Michael Thompson tossed in 10 for the Hawks.

Pike County Central concluded the season 9-23.

At press time on Saturday, Prestonsburg was battling Lawrence County in the regional tournament semifinals. More on the Prestonsburg-Lawrence County game will appear in Wednesday's edition.



Senior guard Jody Tackett scored a game-high 21 points Thursday night, leading Prestonsburg past Pike County Central in the Boys' 15th Region Tournament. The Blackcats were back in action Saturday evening in the 15th Region Tournament semifinals against Lawrence County. The Prestonsburg-Lawrence County game ended too late to make this edition.

Inside Ky. Golf set to return

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — The popular television series Inside Kentucky Golf will begin its 20th season on May 3, and will include 20 episodes over consecutive weeks, and concluding with the 37th Ryder Cup in September. Veteran sportscaster Don Russell returns as host and executive producer, and each episode will feature instruction from Kentucky PGA Professionals, a Ryder Cup preview segment from Tournament Director Tara Guenther, a Valhalla hole-by-hole preview segment featuring Valhalla Head PGA Professional Keith Reese, along with a weekly re-cap of events and activities in Kentucky golf. Inside Kentucky Golf is sponsored by Kroger and presented by the Kentucky Section PGA and the Kentucky Golf Association.

The series will be broadcast on the following stations:

WDRB (Fox - Louisville) - Sunday evenings at 11 p.m., following Fox News at 10; WKYT and CWKYT (CBS and CW - Lexington) - Prior to or following week-end network coverage of sports - check local listings for exact times; WYMT (CBS - Hazard) - Prior to or following week-end network coverage of sports - check local listings for exact times; Insight Communications (Northern Kentucky) - simulcast with WKYT (Lexington) - check local listings for exact times.

Episodes will also be available for viewing and download at www.kygolf.org.

Meeks, Patterson named NABC All-District

TIMES STAFF REPORT

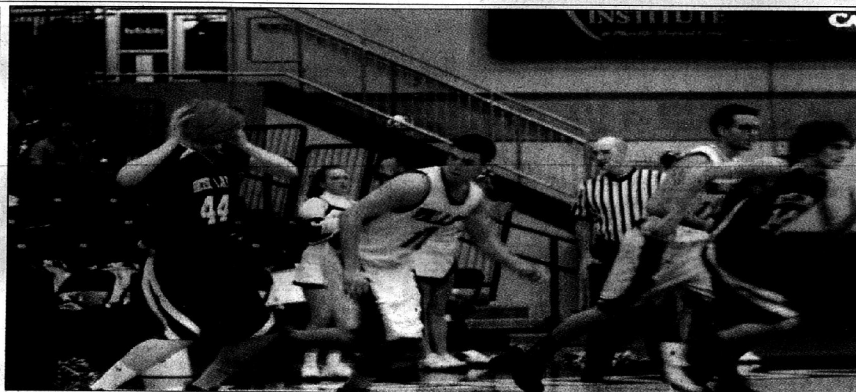
LEXINGTON — University of Kentucky men's basketball players Jodie Meeks and Patrick Patterson have been named National Associate of Basketball (NABC) All-District performers.

Meeks was named NABC First Team All-District in District 21 while Patterson was named a second team performer.

Meeks currently leads the Southeastern Conference and ranks fifth in the country in scoring with 25.0 ppg, while shooting 46.5 percent from the field, including 41.5 percent from three-point range. The 6-4 junior is also shooting 89.4 percent from the free throw line. His free throw percentage ranks seventh in the country.

Patterson currently leads the SEC and ranks fourth nationally in field goal percentage (.626) and is the only player in the league to rank in the top five in the conference in scoring (18.5) and rebounding (9.1).

The 238 other student-athletes, from 24 districts which were realigned this season, are now eligible for the State Farm Coaches' Division I All-America teams to be announced on Saturday, April 4, at Hoop City in the COBO Center at 10 a.m. as part of the 2009 NABC Convention in Detroit.



JORDAN NEWMAN (44) cleared out a rebound for Betsy Layne during a 15th Region Tournament game against frontrunner Shelby Valley earlier in the week.

Family ties bind Brit 57 Racing team

TIMES STAFF REPORT

GRETHEL — Every great race team is powered in part by a solid pit crew. Brit 57 Racing features a close-knit pit crew. Sixteen-year-old Brittany McKinney, driver of the Brit 57 Racing Super Late Model, has known many members of her crew most all of her life. That's because many Brit 57 Racing crew members are family.

"My family is heavily involved in my racing," McKinney commented. "For one, my parents are both great sponsors for me with their company, Mountain Pre-Blast Services. Also, every Saturday night, my mom is always filming me no matter if I'm just hot lapping. She has always loved to film me while I am racing or doing anything else. My dad is a really big help on the car. He helps do all the work that has to be done to the car in order to get it ready to head to the track. He always hauls the car everywhere it needs to go. My sister goes to the races and is a very big fan. Another person that has helped me out a lot with my racing is my boyfriend, Derek Coleman. He always helps me when there is anything that needs to be done to the racecar. He has also helped me out a lot by getting more and more sponsors each and every year. I would also like to thank the rest of my crew members and all of my sponsors."

The Brit 57 Racing team

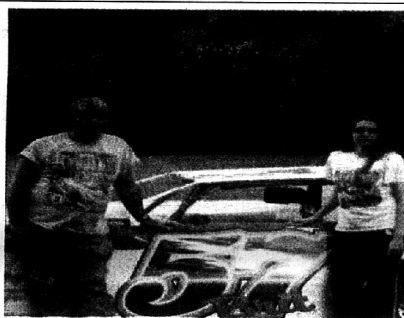
pit crew consists of Steve McKinney, Bobbie McKinney, Stephanie McKinney, Derek Coleman, Carl Dean Howell, Jonathon Howell and Jimmy McKinney.

Brittany McKinney has a passion for racing and continues to strive to get better on the track. She puts in much time but is quick to point out that racing is far from being work for her.

"Some of the things that I love most about racing are, well first of all, getting to race," McKinney confided. "Getting to race to me is so enjoyable. I look forward to racing throughout the week. Especially when you get out on the track with some of the best drivers; it makes racing so fun. Racing is really fun to me because you get this intense feeling when you get out on the track and when you reach high speeds. Also, I really enjoy working on the car throughout the week, and getting to wash the race car and the trailer. What I enjoy most about racing, though, is simply racing."

The Brit 57 Racing team has spent the offseason preparing for the 2009 season and is now less than two months away from its season-opener.

INSIDE:
More Brit 57 Racing News



ABOVE: Brittany McKinney and her father, Steve, are pictured in front of the No. 57 Super Late Model. McKinney (also pictured below) is a 16-year-old driver in the Super Late Model division.



Commodores eliminate Knott County Central

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

STANTON — Knott County Central's postseason run ended in overtime Thursday night. Perry County Central outlasted the Patriots 56-54 in overtime in the opening round of the Boys' 14th Region Tournament at Powell County. Three Perry County Central players reached double figures in the scoring column as the Commodores

defeated Knott County Central. Junior guard Jordan Amis led Perry County Central with 17 points. Senior guard Deron Amis scored 13 points and senior center Klay Maggard added 12 for the Commodores.

Neither team could pull away in regulation. The Patriots enjoyed an early advantage, outscoring Perry County Central 12-8 in the opening quarter. Knott County Central carried a 20-

17 lead into halftime.

After being limited to single digits in the scoring column in each of the first two quarters, Perry County Central outscored Knott County Central 13-8 in the third period.

Stuart Stammer led Knott County Central with a game-high 20 points. Stammer was the only Knott County Central player to reach double figures in the scoring column. Logan

Bartrum and Zack Davis dumped in eight points apiece for the Patriots. Tate Cox and Jarrod Amburgey contributed six points each for Knott County Central.

In another Boys' 14th Region Tournament game Thursday night, Wolfe County edged Estill County 75-73.

One of the 14th Region's leading teams, Knott County Central finished the season 22-10.

Bulldogs too strong, fast for Phelps

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PIKEVILLE — Lawrence County made a great first impression Thursday evening at the East Kentucky Expo Center. The Bulldogs, playing on the East Kentucky Expo Center hardwood for the first time in the postseason, overcame a first quarter deficit and pulled away from Boys' 15th Region Tournament opening round opponent Phelps. Lawrence County won convincingly, prevailing 80-60.

Four Lawrence County scorers reached double figures as part of a balanced offensive attack. Michael Adkins led Lawrence County with 15 points. Lucas Frasher scored 14 points and Wade Skaggs added 12 for the Bulldogs. Joel Baldwin also worked his way into double figures for Lawrence County, finishing with 11 points. In all, nine different Bulldogs dented the scoring column. Chandler Thompson tossed in nine points, Josh Wilks scored eight and Justin Roberts added seven for 57th District champion Lawrence County (21-9).

Phelps took an early lead, outscoring Lawrence County 23-17 in the first quarter. But the Bulldogs battled back, outscoring Phelps in each of the late three quarters en route to the 20-point win.

Lawrence County took a 34-28 lead into halftime and pushed its lead out to double digits in the third quarter. The Bulldogs exploded offensively in the third quarter, outscoring Phelps 27-18.

Dillon Stiltner led Phelps with a game-high 26 points. Austin Campbell contributed 16 points for the Hornets (16-10) in the season-ending loss.

Lawrence County was facing Prestonsburg Saturday evening in the Boys' 15th Region Tournament Semifinals. The Lawrence County-Prestonsburg game ended too late to make this edition.

Friends of Coal to sponsor annual team championship

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — The Kentucky Golf Association (KGA) has announced that Friends of Coal will serve as title sponsor of the 2009 Fred Allen Team Championship. The event, which is a four ball stroke play competition, is scheduled for July 13-14 at the University Club of Kentucky's Wildcat Course, and will feature Championship, Senior, and Women's divisions.

Friends of Coal is dedicated to inform and educate Kentucky citizens about the coal industry and its vital role in the state's future. Its goal is to provide a united voice for an industry that has been and remains a critical economic contributor to Kentucky.

INSIDE:
Kentucky golf tournament schedules released. • B3

National City/KHSAA Sweet 16 scholarship award winners announced

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON - Following are the 2009 winners of the National City Sweet 16 scholarships. As part of its title sponsorship of the Boys' Sweet 16, National City will present each with a one-time \$1,000 scholarship. Each winner, along with his/her family, will be invited to attend a reception Saturday, March 21 from 5-7 p.m. at the Bluegrass Ballroom on the third floor of the Lexington Center prior to the championship game of the National City/KHSAA Boys' State Basketball Tournament. In addition, winners will be recognized during halftime of the contest.

Region 1 - Brock Moran (Carlisle County), Karisha Biggers (Mayfield); Region 2 - Janson James (Citifentens County), Mariah Owen (Livingston Central); Region 3 - J.P. Stovall (Owensboro), Chastity Henning (Brookings County); Region 4 - Kanayo Onyekwelu (Bowling Green), McKinley Ingram (Bowling Green); Region 5 - Greg Shepherd (North Hardin), Elena Hitch (Central Hardin); Region 6 - Matthew West (Southern Middle Tennessee Central); Region 7 - Alex Dadds (Trenton Louisville), Catherine Fontane (Mercy); Region 8 - Jarred Clarkson (Shelby County), Lindsay Fultz (Anderson County); Region 9 - Alex Dinkel (Covington Catholic), Samantha Messner (Highlands); Region 10 - Ryan Owens (Mason County), Kayla Baranski (Mason County); Region 11 - Brandon Eggenwiler (Paul Dunbar), Kayla Smith (Western Hills); Region 12 - Zeke Edwards (Macon County), Jaala Mounce (Pulaski County); Region 13 - Chris Akter (Middleboro), Candace Kirby (South Laurel); Region 14 - Chris Coffey (Estill County), Gabrielle Spencer (Hazard); Region 15 - Tyler Lemaster (Paintsville), Eleni Maroudas (Bellevue); Region 16 - Corey Evans (Elliot County), Elizabeth Moore (Fairview).

BASKETBALL TICKETS: Tickets to the 2009 Houchens/KHSAA Girls' State Basketball Tournament are now on sale only through www.ticketmaster.com and the Rupp Arena Box Office. Both all sessions and single session tickets are available. Tickets to the '2009 National City/KHSAA Boys' State Basketball Tournament are now on sale only through www.ticketmaster.com and the Rupp Arena Box Office. Both all sessions and single session tickets are available. The price for all-session tickets are the same for both the boys' and girls' tournaments - lower arena seats are \$116 each and upper arena seats are \$66 each.

2009 National HS Hall of Fame Class announced

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

INDIANAPOLIS - Bob Hurley, one of the most successful coaches in high school basketball history from St. Anthony High School in Jersey City, New Jersey, and David Clyde, one of the most dominating pitchers in high school baseball history from Houston (Texas) Westchester High School, headline the 2009 class of the National High School Hall of Fame.

Hurley and Clyde are among 12 individuals who will be inducted in the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) National High School Hall of Fame July 1 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile in Chicago, Illinois. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be the closing event of the 90th annual NFHS Summer Meeting.

Dana Mioballi, who won 10 state cross country and track and field championships

at Wheeling (Illinois) High School in the 1980s, and Billy Bye, who won an amazing 21 letters in six sports at Thief River Falls (Minnesota) High School and Anoka (Minnesota) High School in the 1940s, join Clyde as former high school athletes in the 2009 class.

In addition to Hurley, the five coaches selected for induction into this year's class have led their teams to a combined total of 56 state championships. Other coaches in the 2009 class are Dick Dullaghan, who won seven of his eight state football championships at Indianapolis (Indiana) Ben Davis High School; Catherine Lempe, who has won 15 state titles in cross country and track and field at four South Carolina high schools; Harry Breland, who recently retired after 824 victories and nine state baseball championships at Hattiesburg (Mississippi) Oak Grove High School; and Guy Anderson, who has won 822

games in 39 years at Cordova High School in Rancho Cordova, California.

Two administrators were selected for the 2009 class: George Cleveland, superintendent of the Ohio High School Athletic Association for 14 years, and Ruth Rehn, a leader in the development of girls sports programs at the state and national levels during her 34 years as assistant executive director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

Selected in the Officials category for 2009 is George Ford, the top swimming and diving referee in Connecticut who is now in his 41st season as an official. The final inductee in this year's class in the fine arts category is Iowa's Hinnie Voxman, whose music compositions and arrangements can be found in virtually every high school band

room in the United States. The National High School Hall of Fame was started in 1982 by the NFHS to honor high school athletes, coaches, contest officials, administrators, fine arts coaches/directors and others for their extraordinary achievements and accomplishments in high school sports and activity programs. The 12 individuals were chosen after a two-level selection process involving a screening committee composed of active high school state association administrators, coaches and officials, and a final selection committee composed of coaches, former athletes, state association officials, media representatives and educational leaders. Nominations were made through NFHS member associations.

Samarco, Hinton garner Mid-South Conference honors

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT - One Pikeville College Bear and one Lady Bear were named to the 2009 All-Mid-South Conference team on Thursday night.

Junior Josh Samarco and sophomore Natiera Hinton were named to the teams as they were announced at the banquet on the eve of the basketball tournament, to be held at the Frankfort Convention Center.

Samarco, a 6-1 junior from Ypsilanti, Mich., led the league in scoring at 20.9 points per game. He also led the conference in three-point shooting, hitting 49.2 percent and nailing 3.43 three-point shots per game. He was also the league's top free throw shooter, hitting 88.3 percent.

Samarco was in the nation's top 10 in all four categories. He is fourth in free-throw and three-point percentage, sixth in three-pointers made per game and 10th in scoring. Hinton is a 6-0 sophomore from Rock Hill, S.C., was also the league leader in scoring, tossing in 20.43 points per game. She also led the conference with 2.82 steals per game. She was also in the Top 10 in five other categories: She was second in blocked shots at 1.46 per game; third in field

goal percentage (51.0 percent); fourth in double-doubles with eight; fifth in rebounds (8.18 per game); and seventh in free throw percentage (74.5 percent).

She is in the Top 25 nationally in three of those categories: She is fourth in scoring, 17th in steals and 24th in blocks. Pikeville had two men's players mentioned all-conference. They were sophomore Justin Hicks and senior J.B. Smiley.

Hicks was ninth in the league in scoring, averaging 13.5 points per game. He was second in the conference in free throw percentage at 83.2 and assists at 4.57. Smiley averaged 11.5 points per game and led the league with 2.97 steals per game. He finished fifth in assists, handing out 3.62 per outing.

University of the Cumberland's senior forward Luke Fitzgerald is the MSC Men's Basketball Player of the Year. Fitzgerald is one of 11 men named to the team that was voted on by the conference coaches. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own players.

Fitzgerald finished the regular season in the conference's top five in five different statistical categories, including second in the league rebounding (8.0), field goal percentage (61.8) and double doubles (10). He finished third in free

throw percentage (80.7) and fourth in scoring (17.2).

The Cleveland native was named MSC Player of the Week on four times and once NAIA National Player of the Week.

Campbellsville University senior Zach Allender, Cumberland's senior Josh Phillips and junior Chad Byron, Georgetown College seniors David Graham and Arthur Latham and West Virginia Tech senior Sam Robertson joined Fitzgerald on the all-conference team.

Moses was named the MSC Freshman of the Year after leading the conference in field goal percentage (70.2) and finishing eighth in scoring (13.9). The Lexington native finished the regular season fifth in the MSC with 6.3 rebounds per game.

Campbellsville's Hristo Petkov is the Champions of Character recipient. Petkov earned the award as voted on by the conference athletics director for his civic and servant leadership within the campus and community.

Georgetown's Happy Osborne and West Virginia Tech's Bob Williams were selected by their peers as MSC Co-Coach of the Year.

Lindsey Wilson College sophomore center Viktoria Krell is the MSC Women's Basketball Player of the Year. Krell is one of 10 women named to the team that was voted on by the conference coaches. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own players.

Krell finished the regular season averaging a double-double on the season. She led the Mid-South Conference in rebounding (10.6) and double-doubles (17), while finishing second in the conference in scoring (17.7) and fourth in field goal percentage (50.1).

The Ludwigsburg, Germany, native, was named MSC Player of the Week on three times and once NAIA National Player of the Week.

Campbellsville University sophomores Whitney Ballinger and Courtney Danis, University of the Cumberland's senior Madison Flowers, junior Amber Neace and freshman Lauren Womble, Georgetown College junior Jayme Gilbert, Lindsey Wilson junior Sierra Ramba, Pikeville College sophomore Natiera Hinton and St. Catharine College junior Erin Rogers join Krell on the all-conference team.

Womble was named the MSC Freshman of the Year after leading the conference in field goal percentage (54.7) and finishing fifth in scoring (15.8). The London native finished the regular season third in the conference with 8.9 rebounds per game.

Georgetown's Katie Filiatreau is the Champions of Character recipient. Filiatreau earned the award as voted on by the conference athletics director for her civic and servant leadership within the campus and community.

Campbellsville's Ginger Colvin was selected by her peers as MSC Coach of the Year. Colvin led the Tigers to a tie for the MSC regular season title with a 10-2 league mark and a 25-5 overall record.

Campbellsville wins MSC cheer competition

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT - University of the Cumberland captured the 2009 Mid-South Conference Cheerleading Championship on Thursday at the Frankfort Civic Center.

The Tigers claimed their second cheerleading championship in three seasons. Campbellsville also won the 2007 title, also held at the Frankfort Civic Center.

The Mid-South Conference is the only league in the country that gives President's Cup points for cheerleading. University of the Cumberland finished second in the team competition followed by Georgetown College in the five-team event.

Prior to the team competition, Georgetown's Tori Page, Molly Maggard, Hillary Richardson, Courtney Winney, Amberly and Madison Osborne won the All-Girl Partner Stunt Competition.

Ten cheerleaders earned all-conference honors. Campbellsville's Nathaniel Hobbs and Bethany Gray, Cumberland's Amy Beth Shemwell and Erin White, Georgetown's Kaitlin Johnson and Allison Hord, Lindsey Wilson College's Erin Williams and Derek Johnson and Pikeville College's Ashley

West and Leah Harris. Campbellsville coach Vanessa Adkins is the Mid-South Conference Coach of the Year and Campbell's Gray was selected as the Cheerleader of the Year.

Campbellsville's Alicia Wren is the Champions of Character recipient. Wren earned the award as voted on by the conference athletics director for her civic and servant leadership within the campus and community.

Campbellsville's twenty-eight student-athletes earned academic all-conference for maintaining at least a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and being a sophomore or higher standing.

Campbellsville's Mandy McCowan, Alicia Schellenberger, Alicia Wren, Sara Tramble, Rachael Sibeby, Ashley Todd and Jessica Shetyell, West Virginia's Horn, Debra Iles, Corissa Black and Amy Roberts; Georgetown's Johnson, Ashley Perkins, Kimberly Crabtree, Brittany Davidson, Hillary Richardson, and Molly Maggard; Lindsey Wilson's Williams, Johnson, Natalie Godbey, Ashley Russell Emily Keeton and Kaitlin Frederick; and Pikeville's West, Harris and Corey Huxton earned academic all-conference.

Kentucky golf tourney schedules released

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON - The 2009 tournament schedule for the KGA, KSGA and USGA qualifying rounds is now complete. Headlining the season for the KGA will be the flagship event for the association, the 2009 at&T Kentucky State Amateur Championship. Champion Trace Golf Club in Nicholasville will be the showcase for the commonwealth's top players in June.

The Kentucky Senior Golf Association is announcing a schedule of seven tournaments beginning with the 2009 KSGA Senior Amateur Championship at Hunting Creek CC in Prospect. Play begins on April 20 with the Spring Special at Wildwood CC in Louisville.

The United States Golf Association provides a vast array of qualifying opportuni-

ties in Kentucky starting with the 2009 USGA Qualifying will be held at Lexington's Idle Hour Country Club in May. Other events include the US Amateur, US Mid-Amateur, US Senior Amateur and many others.

AT&T Kentucky State Amateur Championship Qualifying: May 24 - Henderson Country Club, Henderson; May 26 - Indian Hills Country Club, Bowling Green; May 26 - Gay Brewer, Jr. Golf Course, Pleadome, Lexington; May 27 - London Country Club, London; May 27 - Pendleton Country Club, Butler; May 27 - Danville Country Club, Danville; May 29 - Bellefonte Country Club, Ashland; May 29 - Boots Randolph Golf Course at Lake Barkley State Park, Cadiz; May 29 - Frankfort Country Club, Frankfort.



JOSH SAMARCO



NATIERA HINTON



JUNIOR TYLER NEWSOME (24) is a key contributor for the Shelby Valley boys' basketball team.

Funeral arrangements set for former coach Lake Kelly

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FLEMINGSBURG - Lake Kelly, a Morehead State University alumnus and successful college and high school basketball coach, died Thursday morning in Flemingsburg. His funeral is scheduled for 2 p.m. EST on Sunday (March

8) at Fleming County High School in Flemingsburg. Visitation will take place from 1 p.m. until time of service on Sunday.

Kelly served as an assistant basketball coach at Morehead State on three occasions and earned a master's degree from the University in 1961. He

played college basketball and earned a bachelor's degree at Georgia Tech.

Kelly enjoyed a considerable amount of success as Ashland head coach.

Kelly served as an assistant coach at the University of Kentucky under Joe B. Hall. He ranks as one of the top high school coaches in

state history.

He survived by his wife, Marti, sons Lake Jr. and Brian, and daughter Jane (Rob) Tenyer. Lake Jr. and Rob and Jane Tenyer are all current employees of MSU. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Flemingsburg Presbyterian Church.

Williams earns NABC All-District honor

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE - University of Louisville senior forward Terrence Williams has earned a spot on the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-District 5 first team, the NABC announced on March 5.

Williams is the only player in U of L history with career totals of at least 1,400 points, 800 rebounds, 500 assists and 150 steals. He needs one rebound to reach 900 for his career. This season, he is averaging 12.6 points, 8.1 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 2.1 steals.

Joining Williams on the first team were Connecticut's Hasheem Thabeet, Marquette's Jerrell McNeal, Notre Dame's

Luke Harangody and Syracuse's Jonny Flynn.

The second team consisted of DeJuan Blair and Sam Young of Pittsburgh, Dante Cunningham of Villanova, Da'Sean Butler of West Virginia and Jeff Adrien of Connecticut.

Selected and voted on by members/coaches of the NABC, these student-athletes represent the finest basketball players across America. The 240 student-athletes, from 24 districts which were realigned this season, are now eligible for the State Farm Coaches' Division All-America teams to be announced on Saturday, April 4, at Hoop City in the COBO Center at 10 a.m. as part of the 2009 NABC Convention in Detroit.

B3

Buchanan, Faried earn All-Ohio Valley Conference honors

TIMES STAFF REPORT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The 2008-09 Ohio Valley Conference Postseason Awards were handed out Thursday evening in a ceremony at the Hilton Nashville Downtown hotel. Morehead State's Leon Buchanan and Kenneth Faried earned All-OVC First-Team Honors. Faried was awarded the league's first-ever Defensive Player of the Year Award.

"Leon and Kenneth have been the heart and soul of our team all season long," said MSU Coach Donnie Tyndall. "Leon has been a tremendous leader as a senior captain, and Kenneth has continued to grow in his leadership ability. Each of them show every day what we try to be, which is tough, hard-working and individuals of character."

Buchanan (F. Sr., Albany, Ga.) is averaging 15.4 points and 6.4 rebounds while hitting

53.3 percent from the field and 81.3 percent from the free throw line. Faried (C., Newark, N.J.) is scoring at a 13.6 points per game clip and leads the OVC and ranks fourth nationally with a 12.8 rebound average. His 21 double-doubles are third best in the nation.

Buchanan's and Faried's selections mark the first time that two MSU players have earned first-team honors in the same season since the league went from a 10-member first team to a five-member first team in 1980-81.

In addition to leading the OVC in rebounding, Faried also ranks fourth in steals per game. As a team, the Eagles lead the conference in field goal percentage defense.

"Kenneth has really grown up as a defender," said Tyndall. "I've said all year that he impacts the game on both ends of the floor. I believe his shot-blocking and rebounding are a

huge part of us leading the league in field goal percentage defense."

Faried and Buchanan were also selected for the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-District 19 Team. Faried was a first-team selection, Buchanan was a second-team pick. NABC all-district selections are eligible for the State Farm Coaches' All-American Team.

MSU women's program lands three on All-OVC Teams

TIMES STAFF REPORT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Morehead State University women's basketball program landed three players on the All-Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Teams, announced Thursday at the league's post-season awards ceremony.

Sophomore Chynna Bozeman was named first-team, junior Brittany Pittman earned a spot on the second-team and junior Tiffany Hamilton was named on the All-Newcomer team.

Bozeman finished her second collegiate season with 492 points, averaging 15.9 per game to lead the team and rank sixth in the OVC. She led the conference and ranked in the top five nationally with 95 three-pointers, tying Tarah Combs' single season school record for treys made. Bozeman also shot 80 percent at the free throw line, dished out 101 assists, had 50 steals, and scored in double figures in 24 of the Eagles' 31 games. She also had seven 20-point games and now has 860 career points in her first two collegiate seasons.

Pittman averaged a double-double this year with 11.9 points and 10.1 rebounds and had 14 total double-doubles. She also totaled 164 blocked

shots, shattering her own single season school mark of 123 and breaking the all-time NCAA Division I single season mark of 156. During the season, she broke the MSU career record for blocks with her 206th, and then broke the OVC career mark a few weeks later with her 224th. She finished the season with 5.7 blocks per game, which would set the NCAA Division I single season record for blocks per game. Her 292 rebounds were the ninth-best season total in school history.

Hamilton averaged 11.2 points and 4.0 rebounds during the 2008-09 season. She also had 71 assists, 37 steals, and shot 84 percent at the free throw line. She hit 66 three-pointers, which was the ninth best season total in MSU history. She scored in double figures in 19 of the 31 games, registering a career high of 23 points.

Bozeman, the only underclassman on the first-team,

joined Murray State's Amber Guffey and Ashley Hayes, Tennessee State's Kendra Appling, and Eastern Illinois' Rachel Galligan. Year, and Appling was the Defensive Player of the Year.

Joining Hamilton as all-newcomer honorees were Jasmune Smith of Tennessee State, Kayla Drake of Eastern Kentucky, Brittany Wiley of Jacksonville State, and Whitney Hanley of Austin Peay.

Hayes earned her second straight OVC Player of the Year Award, while Murray State's Rob Cross was the Coach of the Year in his first season. Drake was the Freshman of the Year, and Appling was the Defensive Player of the Year.

Brit 57 Racing to compete at 201, possibly other tracks in '09

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

GRETHEL — Brit 57 Racing fans can expect to see 16-year old Britanny McKinney piloting the No. 57 Super Late Model around 201 Speedway during the 2009 season. McKinney is headed into her fourth season behind the wheel of a racecar. She ranks as one of Kentucky's youngest female racecar drivers. She's found a home and solid fanbase at 201 Speedway — one of Kentucky's most beloved dirt tracks.

"201 Speedway is a great track to race at because it is run right and by very nice people," McKinney commented. "201 Speedway is any other track, not only because it is close to where I live but it is

just a great place to race. I think that all racers that have not been to 201 Speedway should try it out. There's no other track like it. Also, fans that have not been to 201 Speedway don't know what they are missing either. There's some exciting racing there — each and every race night."

Fans can also expect to see the young McKinney behind the wheel of the No. 57 Super Late Model at more than one track during the 2009 season.

"There are other tracks this season that I would like to run at," McKinney added. "Of course I will still be racing at 201 Speedway, but I would also like to try out some other tracks such as Portsmouth Raceway Park and Rocky Top

Raceway. Those are two other tracks that I have in mind that I would definitely like to visit during the 2009 season."

Brit 57 Racing team is looking to continue its climb up in the Super Late Model ranks during the 2009 season. Brit 57 Racing has shown improvement from one season to the next in each of its first two Super Late Model campaigns.

McKinney values each and every fan

GRETHEL — Sixteen-year-old Super Late Model driver Britanny McKinney has made communication with fans a top

priority since she first took to the 201 Speedway (Sitka, Ky.) red clay at the young age of 13. McKinney, who finished last season ninth in the 201 Speedway Super Late Model points standings, appreciates the support given from all of her fans. McKinney is younger than many of her fans and the same age as or even younger than several others. The Brit 57 Racing fanbase continues to grow.

"I really appreciate each and every fan," said McKinney. "Fans, to me, are what makes racing. I have a lot of younger fans also. I am a younger driver and a lot of the younger fans find it easy to relate to me. One of my best fans is no longer with me. His name was Larry Tackett and

he passed away at age 56. The last 2-3 years of his life, he fought, battling cancer. He was a really great fan. He loved going to the races and watching. I know, though, every time I get out on the track, he is still watching me. He is watching over me each lap that I make. I know now that he is in Heaven and will be watching over me all of the time. There is also another person that I know who is watching over me every weekend and that is my cousin, Tandy "Suicide" Spurlock. He was a very good racecar driver, and I am very thankful for all that he did for me. Both are sadly missed by the Brit 57 Racing team. There is one other person that I'm very thankful for making it possible for me to

race every weekend, and that is God. Without him, no one could do anything. I also have to give special thanks to Larry Tackett and all of his family, as well as all of my other fans. Any of my fans are more than welcome to come over to the pits and visit anytime. The Brit 57 Racing team will always make time for its fans."

The entire Brit 57 Racing team is preparing for the 2009 season. Young Britanny McKinney and the rest of her race team will again compete at 201 Speedway in the highly-competitive Super Late Model Division.

BRIT 57 ONLINE:
www.brit57racing.com

Bowyer eyes another Bristol Nationwide Series victory

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BRISTOL, Tenn. — A year ago, Clint Bowyer tasted victory at Bristol Motor Speedway for the first time in his career in the spring Nationwide Series event.

He will try to make it two in row Saturday, March 21 during the Scotts Turf Builder 300, one of NASCAR's most popular Nationwide races.

"Winning the Nationwide Series race at Bristol in the spring last year was very special to me," said Bowyer. "It's one of my favorite tracks on the circuit. You've really earned it when you win a race there. It's a very tough, demanding race track."

"We should have won both Nationwide races last year. I feel like I gave up the

second race. I made a mistake and it cost us the race. We had the car to win. I'll be in both Nationwide Series races at Bristol this year, and we're going to do all we can to sweep both races this time around."

Bowyer leads a strong field of drivers in the quest to conquer the World's Fastest Half-Mile. Among the other NASCAR Sprint Cup regulars who will vie for the Scotts Turf Builder 300 win are Carl Edwards, Kevin Harvick, Greg Biffle, Kyle Busch, David Ragan, Joey Logano and Scott Speed.

Among those drivers, Harvick, Edwards and Kyle Busch join Bowyer as past winners at BMS.

Another strong contender will be Brad Keselowski,

who picked up his first win at BMS in last year's Food City 250 in August.

Qualifying for the Scotts Turf Builder 300 will take place Saturday, March 21 at 9:40 a.m., with the race slated to get the green flag at 2 p.m.

Fans in attendance that afternoon also will get to see the Scotts Saturday Night Special, an all-star race, featuring some of racing's greatest drivers, including Rusty Wallace, Junior Johnson and Harry Gant. To cap the night, a 100-lap UARA race also is on tap.

Tickets, which include all three races, start at \$45 and are available by calling the BMS ticket office at 423-989-6900 or going online to www.bristolix.com

Meijer extends partnership with Kentucky Speedway

TIMES STAFF REPORT

SPARTA — Kentucky Speedway has announced Meijer has extended its sponsorships of the NASCAR Nationwide and IndyCar Series 300-mile events staged at the motorsports facility.

The NASCAR Nationwide Series "Meijer 300 Presented by Ritz" will be held June 13 and the IndyCar Series "Meijer Indy 300 Presented by Red Baron and Edy's" will conclude an Aug. 1 double-header that begins with a Firestone Indy Lights 100-mile event.

Meijer also will be the track's "Official Supercenter" for a seventh consecutive season. Meijer will receive promotional category exclusivity, facility advertising/signage, luxury suite access, promotional considerations and event tickets for both races.

"Our Kentucky Speedway events provide a great way to extend the Meijer brand to our customers, many of whom are members of the fiercely brand loyal motorsports community," said Cathy Cooper, director of promotions and partnerships. "Our position as the Official Supercenter of Kentucky Speedway is a great fit for our organization because our Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio

team members are always ready to help race fans with everything they require to make the most of a race weekend or simply their day."

Meijer operates 185 Supercenters that employ more than 60,000 team members in five states. Supercenters offer a full grocery department as well as more than 40 other departments such as fashion, automotive, home decor, health and beauty care, pharmacy, electronics and pet care.

"We're proud that we'll be continuing our association with Meijer and that each of our race events will carry primary sponsorship in 2009. Meijer's corporate team has always brought an enthusiastic approach to exploring new and interesting methods of expanding all areas of its event promotion. The team thoroughly understands our product and we're energized about accelerating our partnership in the years to come," Kentucky Speedway Director of Sponsorship Development and Client Services Dan Stuart said.

The four-weekend, six-race Kentucky Speedway opens May 9 with the ARCA RE/MAX Series "Drive Smart Buckle-Up! Kentucky 150." In addition to the "Meijer 300" events,

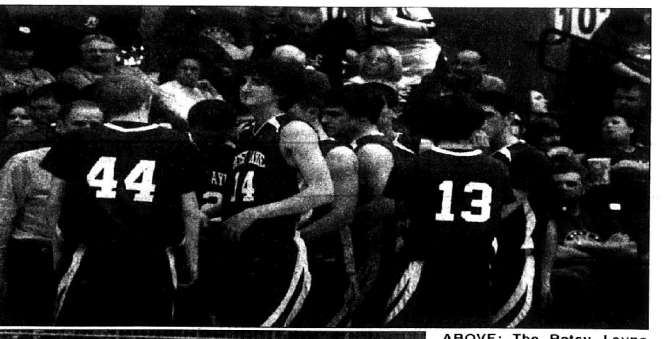
Kentucky Speedway also will feature the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series "Built Ford Tough 225 Presented by the Greater Cincinnati Ford Dealers" July 18 as part of a double-header race day that includes the ARCA RE/MAX Series "Click it or Ticket. Buckle-Up! Kentucky 150."

Value-packed Kentucky Speedway season ticket plans are on sale now and from \$165 to \$255, meaning fans can enjoy a reserved seat for each of the six race events for as little as \$27.50. Benefit-rich plans also include VIP parking for each event which can be exchanged for general campground admission for a savings of \$30, one cold pit pass for each race day with each ticket purchased and the opportunity to purchase additional race tickets at a discount.

Ticket plans can be reserved and renewed online through the tickets pages of this Web site, by calling 859-578-2300 and by visiting the Kentucky Speedway ticket office in Ft. Mitchell, Ky., at 400 Buttermilk Pike, Suite 100 near the Montgomery Inn restaurant or the track office at the Kentucky Center located off of Interstate 75 in Ft. Mitchell, Ky. Hwy. 35 N in Sparta, Ky.



TAYLOR HOTT (BETSY LAYNE) AND HOLLY HARRIS (PIKE CENTRAL) eyed a pass during the Taylor Hott Region Tournament game earlier in the week at the East Kentucky Expo Center in Pikeville.



ABOVE: The Betsy Layne Bobcats had an early exit from the Boys' 15th Region Tournament. Betsy Layne fell to tournament favorite Shelby Valley in the opening round.



LEFT: Dylan Maldonado (3) and Fichie Tackett (22) are pictured defending for the Bobcats.

B5

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INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL SPURLOCK POWER STATION UNIT NOS. 1 & 2
East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. ("EKPC") is accepting proposals for contract coal requirements at Spurlock Power Station Unit Nos. 1 and 2. Deliveries will begin July 1, 2009. Coal specification requirements shall be a minimum 11,000 Btu/lb., maximum 16 percent ash; and maximum 7 lbs. SO₂/MMBtu, all on an "as received" basis. ALL BIDS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH a full proximate analysis including grindability, mineral/ash including trace elements, ultimate analysis, ash fusions, and slagging and fouling factor calculations.
Please submit a proposal for contract deliveries of up to 20,000 tons per month. Time periods for a term of up to three years will be considered. Force majeure terms, changes in legislation, and breach of contract language are also covered in the contract. A coal supply bond, irrevocable letter of credit, or escrow account in the amount of one dollar times the annual tonnage will be required before the signing of any contracts.

INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL SPURLOCK POWER STATION GILBERT AND UNIT NO. 4
East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. ("EKPC") is accepting proposals for contract coal requirements for the Gilbert and No. 4 units at Spurlock Power Station.
Please submit a proposal for contract deliveries of up to 20,000 tons per month beginning July 1, 2009, for a term of up to three years. EKPC's typical coal quality specifications defined on the Coal Specification sheet are for a sulfur maximum of 10 lbs. SO₂/MMBtu. Force majeure terms, changes in legislation, and breach of contract language are also covered in the contract. A coal supply bond, irrevocable letter of credit, or escrow account in the amount of one dollar times the annual tonnage will be required before the signing of any contracts.

All requested information must be accurately submitted on the proposal forms, available upon request from EKPC. EKPC will require additional information including mine plans, permit information, and financial statements from companies making the short list before any purchase commitment is made. Mine visits will also be conducted. If a contract agreement is reached, no substitution of the coal source or changes in the preparation, as described in the proposal, will be accepted without prior approval by EKPC.

EKPC's Spurlock Power Station receives coal by barge on the Ohio River at Milepost 414 and by rail at Charleston Bottoms, Kentucky, via CSX Transportation or TTI Railroad. If the coal is to be rail delivered, a freeze conditioning agent must be applied on December, January, and February shipments at buyer's option.

A Coal Sales Proposal form and a Coal Specifications & Information sheet are available by contacting EKPC Senior Fuel Buyer, Ernie Huff, at 859-745-9821.

Please mark your envelope "SPURLOCK CONTRACT COAL PROPOSAL ENCLOSED" or "GILBERT AND SPURLOCK NO. 4 CONTRACT COAL PROPOSAL ENCLOSED" and mail to the attention of Ernie Huff at P.O. Box 707, Winchester, KY 40392-0707. Proposals must be submitted by 2 p.m., Friday, March 27, 2009.

Proposals must be received by the above date. Faxes and e-mails will NOT be accepted. No revisions will be accepted after the deadline noted above.

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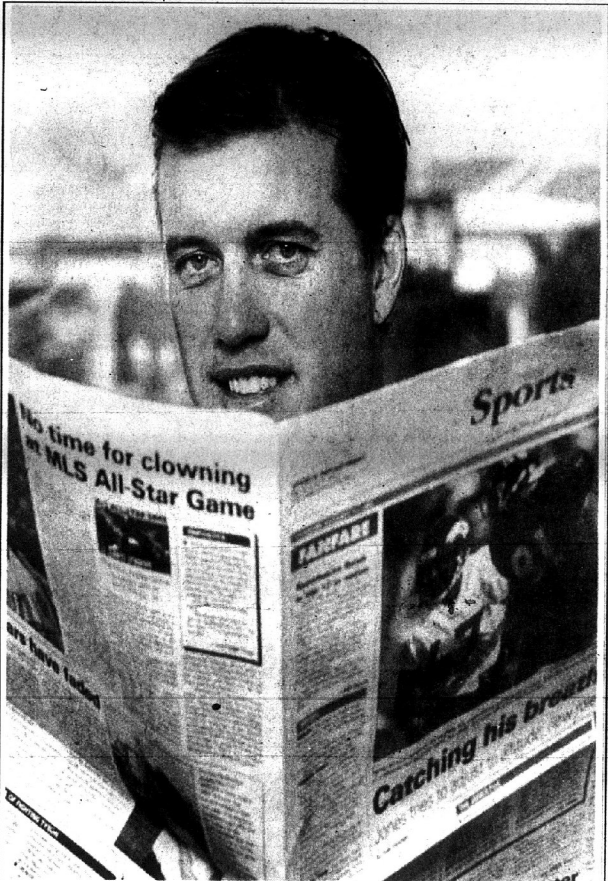
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Slow leak may signal the end

by TOM and RAY
MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
I have a 1992 Chevy Lumina with 432,686 miles on it. I'm losing coolant. The "low coolant" light goes on on cold mornings and stays on for about one to two minutes before it goes off. The cooling/heating system has been checked by three different mechanics, who all have pressurized the system and have not found any external leaks. I've been told that the antifreeze is going out my exhaust. The car continues to give me incredibly good service, including averaging 33 miles per gallon on the highway. Thus, I'm reluctant to part with this car. To date, it still hasn't been nickel-and-diming me. I just top off the radiator with antifreeze before I turn on a cold engine (a little inconvenient, but doable). What are your thoughts? Is there something I can repair, or should I just be giving my car a regular drink of antifreeze? Thanks for your help. —Faye

TOM: It's great that it hasn't been nickel-and-diming you, Faye. Because it's about to start thousand-dollar-ing you.

RAY: If you're burning coolant, you have a blown head gasket, a cracked head or a cracked block. None of those is trivial.

TOM: Right. My brother's got a cracked head, and look how bad he's running it.
RAY: The problem is, it's hard to know whether it's a head gasket, the head itself or the block until you get it "under the knife" and see what you find. So, you won't know whether you're in for \$500 or \$3,000 until the engine's in pieces.

TOM: And with your car's mileage approaching that "round trip to the moon" milestone, I'd be reluctant to spend a lot of money on major engine surgery. You certainly can do it, but with that kind of mileage, something else major — a transmission, a rack and pinion, an air-conditioning compressor or the frame — is likely to fail relatively soon. And you don't want to put \$1,500 into a new head only to have to junk the car a month later.

RAY: So you can take one of two approaches. Approach No. 1 is the scientific method. You take the car to a mechanic you trust and ask him to examine it from stem to stern — as if you were going to buy it now, as a used car.

TOM: If he tells you that the rest of the big, expensive components appear to be in decent shape, then you consider either rebuilding your engine or replacing it with a used engine from a junkyard.

RAY: There's some risk in that. But it's less risky if you have the car thoroughly inspected before making a decision. And if you get another year out of it for \$1,500, that wouldn't be bad, right?

TOM: Approach No. 2 is the "fate" approach. In that approach, you acknowledge that this car's days are numbered. And that someday, the engine is going to overheat and fail suddenly and catastrophically. And it's going to strand you out on the road.

RAY: If you choose the "fate" approach, we'd recommend several things. (1) You keep a close eye on the coolant and refill it regularly — just like you're doing now. (2) You make sure you have an up-to-date auto-club membership so you can have the car towed to the junkyard when it dies. And (3) you relegate the car to short trips, and rent a car when you need to drive a long distance so you don't get stranded far from home.

TOM: And in the meantime, keep your eyes peeled for your next car. You know, a nice '93 Lumina or something. Good luck, Faye. And good for you for keeping this one running so long!

kept in the garage. My question is about tires. The tires are the original Goodyears. They appear to be in excellent condition except for some very minor cupping. Should the tires be replaced because of the age? —Arthur

RAY: Unfortunately, yes. There are some things that wear out only when you use them. That's why my brother's work clothes are still brand spankin' new.

TOM: But there are other things that degrade over time,

whether you use them or not. Rubber is one of those things. It's degraded by ozone in the air. And over time, it dries out and cracks, and loses its pliability.

RAY: Some people say: "Well, to protect your tires and make them last longer, you should pay money to have them filled with nitrogen instead of air. That way, you're ridding the insides of your tires of all ozone." Good idea, right? Except that only protects the insides of the tires.

The outsides of the tires are still surrounded by air with ozone (unless you park it in a hyperbaric garage).

TOM: And the conventional wisdom these days says that tires should be replaced every six years or so, even if they're not worn out. Add to that the fact that your tires are cupped, which can compromise emergency handling, and I'd say you're way overdue, Arthur.

RAY: You got more than your money's worth out of your current set, Arthur. So

bite the bullet and spring for some new rubber. And if you're still driving this car in six years, you can celebrate your good fortune with another new set of tires.

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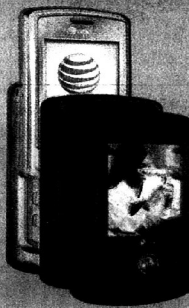


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Tires do have a shelf life
 Dear Tom and Ray:
 I have a 1992 Chevy Lumina. I purchased new before I retired. I drive the car approximately once a month. The car has 55,000 miles and is always

