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12/21/12

The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

DEC 21 2012

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WEATHER

Snow, High 32, Low 21.

SPORTS

Michael Williams' triple double... Page 6



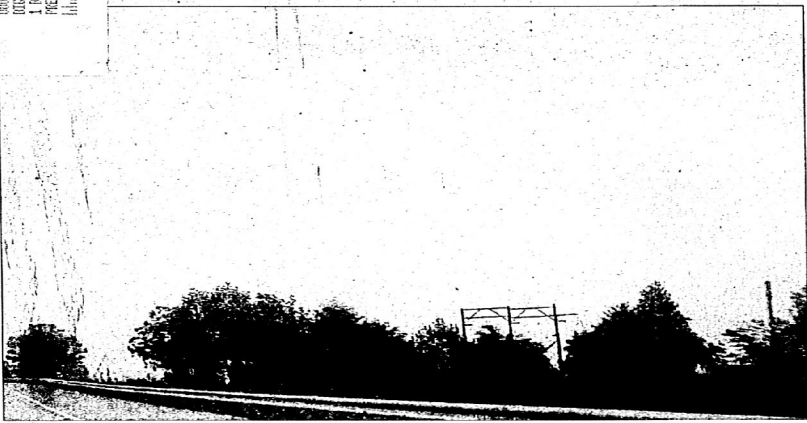
ONLINE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2012

75 cents



Cris Ritchie | Heartland News Service

The Kentucky Power Big Sandy plant would stop burning coal altogether. If a new plan to shutter the plant's Number 2 generator is approved by the Public Service Commission.

Big Sandy's main generator could close

Ky. Power would take 50 percent ownership of plant; consumer bills would rise 8 percent

Ralph B. Davis
Managing Editor

LOUISA — After scrapping plans earlier this year to install a \$1 billion scrubber at its Big Sandy Power Plant to comply with environmental standards, Kentucky Power announced Wednesday its intention to close the primary generating unit at the facility and replace it with power generated in Moundsville, W.Va.

If approved, the plan would cause consumer electric bills to rise 8 percent.

Kentucky Power is under a federal consent decree to bring the Big Sandy plant into compliance with the Clean Air Act by the end of 2015, or else close the facility. The utility's initial plan called for

the construction of a \$1 billion scrubber at the Big Sandy plant to clean environmental emissions, which would have caused electric bills to soar 31 percent.

That plan was later withdrawn at the last minute, as the state Public Service Commission considered whether or not to approve it. At the time, Kentucky Power said it wanted to "reevaluate alternatives" due to changes in the energy market.

Under the plan announced Wednesday, Kentucky Power would obtain 50 percent of the Mitchell Generation Station, in Moundsville, W.Va., which is currently owned by AEP Ohio. The cost of the transfer would be \$530 million, which, when combined with savings from terminating a power inter-connection agreement, would result in the 8 percent bump in electric bills.

The transfer of half the Moundsville plant to Kentucky Power will give the utility 780 megawatts of generation, compared to the 800 megawatts

currently produced by the Unit 2 generator, which will be shut down if the plan is approved.

"At this time, and after much study and evaluation, we think this filing represents the best path forward for the company to meet both its environmental and customer obligations," Greg Pauley, president and chief operating officer of Kentucky, said in a statement Wednesday. "While it does represent an increase in customers' rates of about 8 percent, it is substantially less than our previous filing and will save our customers millions of dollars, while bringing us into environmental compliance."

Wednesday's filing does not address what will happen to the smaller and older 276-megawatt Unit 1 generator at Big Sandy, and a statement released by Kentucky Power notes that the company is still trying to decide what to do with it. The statement notes that those plans could become clear next year, when Kentucky Power

See SANDY | Page 5

Two students arrested after making threats

Police: Prestonsburg men threatened classmates

Jack Latta
Staff Writer

PRESTONSBURG — Only four days removed from one of the worst school shootings in U.S. history, two Prestonsburg teens are facing charges of terroristic threatening after making threats against fellow students in school.

Prestonsburg Police Chief Michael Ormerod says officials got information Saturday night that there might be a threat of violence against Prestonsburg High School.

"Sunday, officers interviewed several people, and an investigation was started," said Ormerod. Superintendent Henry Webb, PHS principal Jerry Butcher, Mayor Jerry Fannin, and several others were interviewed as part of the investigation.

Ormerod says that through the interviews, police felt like they had enough indication that there was a credible threat against the school. "Late Sunday evening they put him into custody. He was lodged at Breathitt County and charged with second-degree terroristic threatening," Ormerod said.

Ormerod said that the juvenile's home was never

searched as part of the investigation, but did indicate that his parents had been cooperative.

Ormerod said another juvenile at the school made threats to several people Monday. That student was charged with third-degree terroristic threatening and also arrested and lodged in Breathitt County Detention Center. Ormerod said the targets of the threats were interviewed, as well as the accused himself. He made a statement that he was going to take some people out at the high school, or some other places, Ormerod said.

According to police, the juvenile in question confirmed what witnesses had told police.

Following the tragic occurrence in Newtown, Conn., Ormerod said any and all threats against students and their schools will be investigated.

"Any indication that we get of a threat of that type, we will investigate, and if warranted we will prosecute. Since it is domestic terrorism, the FBI will also be notified," Ormerod said.

Ormerod said an FBI field agent from Ashland was present during this weekend's investigation.

Man kills self in college parking lot

Julia Roberts Goad
Heartland News Service

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Christmas Spirit

Children from the Dinosaur Playland Daycare visited Prestonsburg Healthcare Thursday, to sing carols and take gifts to all the residents.

Jack Latta | Floyd County Times

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Obituaries



Charles 'Rick' Collins

Charles "Rick" Collins, age 67 passed away at his residence in Claypool, Ind., on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012, at 7:39 p.m.

On March 29, 1945, Rick was born to Malcolm and Edith (Hall) Collins, at Dwale. On Sept. 5, 1969, he was united in marriage to Betty Prater in Clintwood, Va. They moved to Kosciusko County in 1985.

Rick was a member of the American Legion Post 49 and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He served in the United States Army, serving in Vietnam for three years. He was in the National Guard for 13 years, in Prestonsburg. He was a carpenter, building homes in Kentucky. He worked at Gilbert Corp as a tree trimmer and retired from R.R. Donnelley & Sons as a material handler. Rick enjoyed fixing watches, hunting and was a Colts fan.

Rick is survived by his wife, Betty; three sons, Charles David (Victoria) Collins, Curtis Ray Collins and Stephen Richard Collins, all of Claypool. Rick is also survived by five grandchildren: Also surviving are five brothers, Malcolm Holbert Jr (Corr) Collins of Warsaw, Ind., Bill David (Martha) Collins, of Prestonsburg, James Curtis (Lou-Vada) Collins, of Warsaw, Ind., Floyd Donald (Pamela Sue) Collins, of Prestonsburg, and Okie (Pam) Hall, of Claypool, along with three sisters, Shirley Faye (Jimmy) Martin, of West Liberty, Anita Gaye (Kenneth) Burchett, of Allen, and Bessie Sue Collins, of Allen County. Rick was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Velva May Martins.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 22, at McHatton-Sadler Funeral Chapel, in Warsaw. Visitation will be Friday, Dec. 21, from 3 to 8 p.m., at McHatton-Sadler Funeral Chapel, Warsaw. Pastor Bob Brown will officiate the service. Burial will be at Hillcrest Cemetery with Military Honors by the American Legion Post 49 and the VFW 1126.

To send condolence or sign a guestbook go to www.mchattonsadlerfuneralchapel.com

Maecel Wells Baxter

Maecel Wells Baxter, age 82, of Bypro, passed away Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, at the McDowell Appalachian Hospital, in McDowell.

She was born Jan. 17, 1950, in Lacey, a daughter of the late Frank N. and Liza Slone Wells. She was a retired beautician.

She is survived by a daughter, Kimberly Lynn (Michael Gerald Adney) Baxter, of Bypro; a goddaughter, Christy Mae Crum, of Dwale; five special friends, Doris Bates, Deborah Lindsey, Maggie Johnson, Kitty Ryan and Sharee Harris; and several other nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by four brothers, J.D. Wells, Hershell Wells, James Wells and Robert Wells; three sisters, Wilda Kohler, Maxine Sisk and Thelma Clee Wells; and one special friend, Scotty Hall.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 23, at the Lower Burton Pentecostal Church, at Bypro, with Louis Sandin officiating. Burial will follow in the Hall Cemetery, at Golf Hollow, in Wheelwright.

Charles David Parsons

Charles David Parsons, 58, of Betsy Layne, died Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, at his residence.

He was born Jan. 11, 1954, to the late Frank and Mary Eleanor Crum Parsons. Charles was a disabled veteran.

A memorial service was held Thursday, Dec. 20, at the Betsy Layne Church of Christ, with Tommy Spears officiating. Burial followed the service at Bush Cemetery in Harold.

Nelson Frazier Funeral Home, of Martin, was in charge of arrangements. www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com.

Paul Prater

Paul Prater, age 81, of Hueysville, husband of Juanita Shepherd Prater, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012, at his residence.

He was born Jan. 7, 1931, in Hueysville, a son of the late Corbett and Carrie Ratliff Prater. He was a retired coal miner.

In addition to his wife, Paul is survived by three sons, Paul Douglas (Tauda) Prater, Dwane (Doris) Prater and Darrell Prater, all of Hueysville;

two daughters, Sandra Wallen and Dalphina (Alan) Conley, both of Hueysville; a brother, Nelson Prater, of Hueysville; two sisters, Irene Meadows, of Richmond, and Thelma House, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Corbett and Carrie Ratliff Prater; son-in-law, Paul Wallen; three brothers, James C. Prater, Fair Prater, and Corbett Prater, Jr.; and a sister, Melba Sexton.

Funeral services for Paul Prater will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 22, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin, with Jerry Manns officiating. Burial will follow in the Press Shepherd Cemetery, at Hueysville.

Bennie Joe Tackett

Bennie Joe Tackett, 61, of Clay City, died Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012, at UK Chandler Medical Center, in Lexington.

He was born June 24, 1951, to the late Clarence and Artie Tackett.

He was the husband of Helen King Tackett. He worked in maintenance for Kroger and attended the Freewill Baptist

Church in Clay City. He was preceded in death by a son, Larry Tackett; a step-son, James Tackett; three brothers, L.J. Tackett, Harold Dean Tackett and Bobby Gene Tackett; and a sister, Dorothy Domino.

He is survived by three sons, Keith Tackett, of Michigan, and Tom T. Tackett and Jack Tackett, both of Harold; a daughter, Irene (Paul) Aune, of Michigan; three step-sons, Dwaine Tackett, David (Danielle) Tackett and Dennis (Angie) Tackett, all of Harold; a step-daughter, Tootsie Tackett; brothers and sisters, Archie B. Tackett, of Michigan, Jerry Tackett, Irene Rose and Virgie Spears, all of Grethel, Gary Tackett, Eugene Tackett, Tony Tackett, Terry Tackett, Bonnie Allen and Darlene Tackett, all of Harold, and Patty Miller of Betsy Layne; 13 grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 21, at the Glen Haven Memorial Chapel, in New Carlisle, Ohio. Burial will follow the service at New Haven Memorial Gardens, New Carlisle, Ohio.

Nelson Frazier Funeral Home, of Martin, is in charge of arrangements. www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com

For the Record

CHARGES FILED

Gregory Lee Akers - offering for sale copies of illegal recordings.
William Dale Lawson - fugitive from another state.
Jeremy Chester Ison - third degree assault (4 counts).
Donnie Robinette - first degree wanton endangerment, menacing.
Orville Moore - flagrant non-support.
Branden Neeley - public intoxication of a controlled substance.
Tony Bradley - theft by failure to make required disposition.

Jessica Wood - theft by unlawful taking (shoplifting).
Karen Harvey - fourth degree assault.
Kelly Harvey - fourth degree assault.
Rex Gayheart - possession of marijuana, operating motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, drugs, possession of open alcohol beverage container.
Jesse Hamilton - public intoxication of a controlled substance.
Terry G. Tackett - fourth degree assault.

Tracy Lynn Oaks - theft by deception (16 counts).
Ricky Little - theft by unlawful taking (shoplifting).
Charlotte Osborne - harassment.
Charlene Fields - fourth degree assault.
Anthony Keathley - careless driving, disorderly conduct, no/expired registration, no/expired plates.
Tony Bolen - resident hunting without permit.
Tommy Slone - possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia.
James E. Mace - murder, first

degree assault.
LAWSUITS FILED
Jimmy Hall v. American Modern Home Ins. Co. - contract.
Unifund Corporation, LLC v. Forrest Bentley - contract.
Citizens National Bank v. John Shane Blackburn - contract.
First Commonwealth Bank v. James Miller - contract.
Ronnie Fannin v. Jennifer Fannin - dissolution of marriage.
Jeremy Brown v. Kimberly

Brown - dissolution of marriage.
Lisa Gayle Clark v. James C. Clark - dissolution of marriage.
Citizens National Bank v. Tony Honeycutt - contract.
Discover Bank v. John Clark - contract.
Capital One Bank v. Sandra Mullins - contract.
Capital One Bank v. Darren Steele - contract.
Alpha Mechanical Services Inc. v. Renos of Prestonsburg - contract.

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For more information, call 606-886-2405

www.moreheadstate.edu

Calendar

Calendar items will be printed as space permits.
Editor's note: To announce your community event, you may hand-deliver your item to The Floyd County office, located at 263 S. Central Avenue, Prestonsburg; or mail to: The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653; or fax to 606-886-3603; or email to: features@floydcountytimes.com. Information will not be taken over the telephone. All items will be placed on a first-come, first-serve basis as space permits.

Christmas programs

• On Dec. 23, at 11 a.m., Christ United Methodist Church, Choir 390, presents its Christmas cantata, "Majesty of Heaven."
 • There will be a Christmas Eve, candlelight service at 8 p.m. Dec. 24, at Christ United Methodist Church, in Allen.

Advent readings and prayer

An hour of advent readings and quiet prayer will be held Wednesdays at 7 p.m., during Advent, St. James Episcopal Church.

Kudzu seeking submissions

Do you have a poem or a story to share? HCTC's literary magazine, Kudzu, is seeking submissions for its Spring 2013 issue. Send your original poetry, short stories, flash fiction, and creative nonfiction. Submissions must be in either Word or as an RTF and uploaded as attached documents at <https://kudzu.submittable.com/> submit. Please upload each poem, story, or essay separately.

No small mail submissions will be accepted. Please contact Instructor Savannah Sipple at ssipple0001@kctcs.edu or at 487-3547, for more detailed submission guidelines. Deadline is Jan. 15, 2013.

Floyd County Job Club

The Floyd County Job club meets every Thursday, from 11 a.m. until noon, at the Kentucky Career Center Office of Employment and Training, in Prestonsburg. This free job club is sponsored by Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Big Sandy Area Community Action Program and the Office of Employment and Training. At the club, you will get job leads, job search advice and networking opportunities that will help you get hired. All are welcome and first-time visitors are encouraged to come one hour early for a new member orientation. Call (606) 886-2948, for more information.

Quit smoking Are you ready to kick the tobacco habit for good? The Cooper/Clayton Method to Stop Smoking can help! Classes are ongoing at Saint Joseph - Martin on Mondays, at 10:30 a.m., in the Seton Complex Lower Level Conference Room.

For more information, call 285-6692. The Cooper/Clayton Method to Stop Smoking Program is made available to Kentuckians through the Kentucky Cancer Program and its partners.

Communities Against Drug Addiction

Floyd County Communities Against Drug Addiction meets at noon the third Tuesday of each month, in the third floor conference room of the Floyd County Health Department. Lunch is provided.

For more information, contact Mike Vance (606) 226-2075, Leslie Howell at (606) 263-4370 or (606) 339-7358, or Carol Jo May at (606) 226-2565.

Allen VFD membership drive
 Allen Volunteer Fire Department is now holding a membership drive. Meetings are held every Monday night, at 6:30 p.m., at the station. Please stop and help your volunteer fire department or call Asst. Chief Bill Jarvis at (606) 791-6601.

Volunteer mentors wanted

Mentoring for a Second Chance is a jail-based service program designed to help reduce recidivism and promote positive growth, by linking nonviolent offenders with a mentor from the local community. M2C is looking for local men who are motivated to make a difference in the life of an individual while having a positive impact on the community.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a mentor, contact mentor coordinator Joshua Kinzer, (606) 886-4439, (606) 339-8878, or Jkinzer@M2Comp.org.

Veterans service officer

VFW Post 5839 in Lancer will have a service officer available every Wednesday, from noon until 4 p.m. Some services offered will be initial claim filing, upgrades, appeals, permanent and total claims and others.

Contact (606) 886-9428 or (606) 297-1973 for more information.

Autism Awareness & Support Group

2nd Monday of each month, Calvarys Call Church, Lancer, (6-7 p.m.). Contact: Billie Chain, eastkyautismawareness@gmail.com

Autistic Children Support Group

Autistic Children Support Group plans monthly meeting. Support group for Guardians of Autistic Children will meet the first Thursday of every month at the Haven of Rest, 1601 Airport Road, Inez. Call 606-298-0520 for information.

Non-profit agency needs foster parents

Non-profit agency in need of foster parents in your area. Financial compensation bonuses, free foster parent trainings, mileage reimbursement, and 24-7 support are available. All foster children get a medical card, free school lunches, and clothing vouchers/other reimbursements. Call for more information, at 606-886-0163 or visit our website at www.benchmarkfamilyservices.org/

Auxiliary Learning Center offers home repair aid

Need help with home repairs? The Auxiliary Life-

time Learning Center can help. We are now taking applications for home repairs. If you or someone you know are low income and need help with repairs on your home, please call 606-886-0709 for your application, or stop by the office at 21 South River Street, Auxier. Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00. Must provide proof of income and ownership.

FCHD offers Body Recall exercise classes

The Floyd County Health Department offers Body Recall gentle exercise classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg.

Classes are free and open to the public. Call 886-2788 for more information.

Become a volunteer with Victim Services Program

You are more likely to be hurt by someone whom you know rather than be assaulted on Kentucky's streets by a total stranger. Learn to assist victims of sexual assault, child abuse and domestic violence by becoming a Volunteer with Victim Services Program. Call today to receive an application for our free training program.

Call the Volunteer Coordinator at (606) 886-4323 for further information or to request an application. (The Victim Services Program is a program of Mountain Comprehensive Care Center.)

OutPatient Drug Treatment Program and Education

Narcotics warns parents that abuse of addictive pharmaceutical drugs with youth is on the rise with deadly consequences. Learn the signs of drug abuse. Call Narcocon for a free brochure on the signs of addiction for all drugs. 877-379-0208. www.drugsn0.com

Auxier Community Center

Free GED classes, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10 a.m.-12.

Free Bible Lessons
 Write to: Bible Way Outreach Ministry, P.O. Box 3371, Kingsport, TN 37664. Lessons completely free of charge to all interested.

Need help with Home Repairs?

LifeLine of Floyd County "Conquer Chemical Dependency" is a Christ-centered 12-step program offering support to those who are coping with addiction and learning to live drug-free lives. The support group meets on the following schedule:

Mondays, at Minnie (beside pharmacy), from 7-8 p.m.
 Mondays, at Little Mud, Spruce Pine School, from 7-8 p.m.

Mondays, family support group, for families that have been hurt by addiction, McDowell First Baptist Church, 7 p.m.

Tuesdays, in Prestonsburg, in the Van Ark Building, from 2-3 p.m.
 Tuesdays, at David, The David School, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, at Allen Baptist Church, from 7-8 p.m.
 Thursdays, at Allen Baptist Church, from 7-8 p.m.
 Sundays, "Stepping into Freedom" group, McDowell First Baptist Church, 7 p.m.

For more information, call Libbi Hall at (606) 377-2930.

Need Help With Home Repairs?

The Auxier Lifetime Learning Center can help! We are now taking applications for home repairs. If you, or someone you know, are low income and need help with repairs on your home, please call 606-886-0709 for your application, or stop by our office at 21 South River Street, Auxier. Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8-4.

Hope in the Mountains

Hope in the Mountains will host public meetings on Mondays, at 9 a.m., at the junction of U.S. 23 and Rt. 80, on Water Gap Rd., behind the Trimble Chapel Church.

Meetings focus will be to offer information in regard to community resources available to women seeking freedom from domestic abuse. Family members are also

welcome to attend. The Hope initiative proposes to help women break free from addictive lifestyles to become self-respecting contributing members of society. Call 874-2008 or 788-1006 for more information.

Floyd County Seniors
 A regular scheduled Board meeting of the Floyd County Senior Citizens, Inc. will be held on Thursday, November 15 at 4:00pm, in the Courtroom of the Fiscal Court, in the old courthouse building.

Democratic Woman's Club

The Floyd County Democratic Woman's Club meets the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m., at Prestonsburg City Hall.

Have an 'Out of this World' birthday party!

The East Kentucky Science Center is now offering a fun and distinctive party venue for kids of all ages. The Birthday Party package includes rental of a classroom and admission to exhibits and planetarium programs. Must be booked two weeks in advance; limit 40 guests. Call 889-8260 for more information.

Prestonsburg Rotary Club

Prestonsburg Rotary Club meets on Thursdays, 12 noon to 1 p.m., at Reno's Roadhouse. For additional information, contact Paula Howard, 263-3225, or Tommie Layne, 886-4585. Everyone welcome.

'Earn While You Learn'

The Big Sandy Area C.A.P. office is taking applications for its "Senior Training Program." You must be 55 or older to apply. In Floyd, call 886-2929; Johnson, call 789-6515; Magoffin, call 349-2217; Pike, call 432-2775; and in

Lawrence, call 638-4067.

Looking for a support group?

Floyd County Alzheimer's Support Group meets regularly at Riverview Manor Health-care Center. Call the center for meeting times.

Domestic Violence Support Group

The Big Sandy Family Abuse Center holds meetings each Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The meetings are free of charge. Call 886-6025 for more information.

Overeaters' Anonymous Meetings

Meetings held each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., at the old Allen Baptist Church, located in Allen, just past red light. Call 889-9620 for more info.

US 700! Prostate Cancer Support Group

For all men with prostate cancer and their families. Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m., at the Ramada Inn, Paintsville.

Community Weight Loss Support Group

Meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., at the Martin Community Center. For more info., call 377-6658. Those who have had gastric bypass surgery most especially welcome to attend. Meetings being offered as support to anyone needing extra support in dealing with weight loss.

Domestic Violence Hotline

24-hour Crisis Line manned by Certified Domestic violence counselors. Call 886-6025, or 1-800-649-6605. Remember, "Love Doesn't Have to Hurt."

Disabled? - You may be eligible for grant money to assist in your daily living.

For an application or more information, call 886-4326.

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Card of Thanks



The family of Ursal Ray "Buddy" Wilcox wishes to thank all those who sent flowers, food and words of kindness to us during the time of his death. A special thanks to Merle Music.

Peggy A. Lantz, Sister & Family

AARP




"I'D LIKE TO STAY IN MY OWN HOME."

In Kentucky alone, 13.3% of the population is over the age of 65. Support AARP and our campaign to help people live independently, which improves everyone's quality of life and saves taxpayer dollars. Funding programs to help people stay in their homes strengthens the community and the state of Kentucky.

See more of what AARP is doing to help Kentuckians at aarp.org/ky

In Loving Memory

Heath Adam "Buddy" Adkins



Merry Christmas!
Every day without you, since you had to go, is like summer without sunshine, and winter without snow. I wish that I could talk to you. There's so much I would say. Life has changed so very much, since you went away. I miss the bond between us, and I miss your kind support, You're in my mind and in my heart, and every Christmas thought, I'll always feel you close to me, and though you're far from sight, I'll search for you among the stars that shine on Christmas night. We love and Miss You Forever in our hearts
 Love: Mom, Dad, Mommy, Renee and Family

08/09/67 - 05/31/11

Important

Worth Repeating...

A liberal is a man who is right most of the time, but he's right too soon.

—Gregory Nunn

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Our View

The moral case for preserving the safety net

Rev. Jennifer Butler and Gordon Whitman

As cracks form among CEOs and Republican Members of Congress over their headline anti-tax position in the fiscal showdown, religious leaders across the ideological spectrum have been united in supporting new revenue over additional spending cuts. And they're speaking for their people. A strong majority of religious Americans favor letting the Bush tax cuts for the richest two percent of Americans expire. Even reliably conservative groups, such as white evangelical Protestants, are evenly divided on the issue.

The outcome of this debate has profound moral consequences. The government's capacity to invest in the common good and responsibly reduce the debt depends on raising more revenue. Letting tax cuts that only benefit the richest two percent expire isn't a magic bullet, but it's a necessary component of a balanced solution that doesn't harm poor families or slash Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits for current or future beneficiaries.

Clergy have spoken clearly about our duty to protect low-income families in the fiscal showdown negotiations. Inspired by the clear mandates of Scripture, many of our nation's most prominent faith leaders have drawn a circle of protection around programs such as education funding, food stamps, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. This stance reflects not only religious teachings about justice and compassion, but also popular opinion among people of faith. A post-election poll by Public Religion Research Institute showed that majorities of all major religious demographics (with the lone exception of white evangelical Protestants) oppose cutting protections for the poor in order to reduce the deficit.

In addition to programs aimed expressly at low-income Americans, we also have a responsibility to defend Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security. Social Security keeps 21 million Americans out of poverty every year. Medicaid protects not only low-income children and families, but also provides long-term care to millions of older and disabled Americans. And Medicare is the cornerstone of our national commitment that American seniors receive the healthcare they need regardless of economic status.

Using deficits caused by irresponsible tax cuts, increased wars, the financial crisis and an inefficient healthcare system as an excuse to weaken programs that ensure basic economic security and access to health care for millions of Americans is wrong. Arguing that we must slash these programs now to avoid destroying them later is a failure of leadership.

Faith leaders of the PICO National Network are telling our elected officials in no uncertain terms that protecting the poor, preserving the social contract and making the richest Americans pay their fair share are nonnegotiable priorities. This message is particularly important as corporate CEOs intensely lobby both parties to enact an agenda that cuts taxes for rich people and powerful corporations while undermining needed benefits for seniors and working families. Trickle-down economics and austerity benefit only the wealthy and powerful, and the rest of us pay the price.

Some conservative leaders argue that the religious obligation to care for the vulnerable — which is common to all faiths — applies to individuals but not government. But Scripture is clear that nations, not just individuals, will be judged by how we treat the least among us. Furthermore, private religious groups alone cannot meet the needs of struggling families. Just four percent of food aid to hungry Americans comes from private sources. Government has to play a strong role. Those who would let people suffer rather than have government provide assistance put political ideology before the commandment to love our neighbors.

The fiscal showdown is a day of reckoning for the conservative movement's long-term "starve the beast" political strategy. For decades, it has cut taxes at every opportunity in order to run up deficits that would force the government to dramatically scale back the safety net. As right-wing lobbyist Grover Norquist put it, the objective is to shrink government to the size where he can "drag it into the bathroom and drown it in the bathtub." The moral imperative to ensure that this plan fails is clear, and the well-being of millions of Americans who are precious in the eyes of God depends on it.

Butler is executive director of Faith in Public Life. Whitman is director of policy at PICO National Network.

Calendars

The Usual Eccentric Biting the hand that feeds you

Will E. Sanders
Creators Syndicate

In the immediate aftermath of our wedding reception we possessed nary a thought to the vast amount of leftovers that once comprised our wedding bounty. Short of a refrigerated storage locker we were left with little options. So instead we turned our stalwart attentions toward more meaningful activities, like opening wedding presents and cards and judging family and friends for their financial contributions.

In all we were left with a large flock of chicken breasts (about three cubic square feet), 15 gallons of green beans, a bathtub-sized portion of mashed potatoes, and boxes upon boxes of wine. Nothing classes up a wedding reception to me like boxes of wine — and lots of them. I hate wasting food, but there were simply too many matrimonial matters to manage at the time. I think you'll find that after nine months of planning and on the night of your wedding reception that individually packaging pieces of poultry doesn't rank too high on the old priority list. Even if the meal carried an expensive price tag that rivaled the gross domestic product of most Caribbean islands.

I even had to kiss an entire keg of beer goodbye that night. I don't know how it feels to have a child taken away from you, but as I watched that

full keg roll out the door I couldn't help but think the states of mind were similar. I remember briefly thinking that I could take it with us on our honeymoon. Then I realized a marriage should not have "secret honeymoon keg-drinking" as one of its cornerstones, and it wouldn't set a healthy precedent for our budding marriage if I did.

It wasn't until our arrival back home that we learned of my mother's generosity, along with a closer look into her psyche. Unbeknownst to the both of us my mother took it upon herself to package each and every piece of chicken after our reception, which she stowed in her large, industrial-size freezer. You should have witnessed all of the chicken carcasses in there. It looked like the Kentucky Fried Chicken version of the Jeffrey Dahmer murders.

And my mother didn't stop there. No, mere logic would not allow her to do so. She even preserved and froze 15 gallons of green beans.

Look, I'll let you in on a little secret. I love green beans. Sometimes certain hearty meals demand green beans. There have been days when I have devoured a whole can of green beans in one sitting, uncooked. Yet that in no way means I want to sit around all day force-feeding myself 15 gallons worth of wedding green beans.

Not all of the wedding leftovers survived. That's right; there were

casualties along the way. The mashed potatoes did not make it. The little guys never stood a chance, and they were quickly reintroduced into the local ecosystem.

After giving us all the food, my mother handed me a large plastic bag filled with ornamental plastic silverware. Not packaged plastic silverware, loose silverware, a grab bag of plastic silverware. Apparently my mother painstakingly went through each bag of trash after wedding reception and rescued and washed each spoon, fork and knife.

Let me tell you something. When I am eating 15 gallons of green beans there is nothing I love using more than nasty, gruesome tableware that has been plucked out of nearby trash receptacles. Or so my mother thinks.

Since then we have began the tall task of attempting to eat three times our body weight in chicken and green beans while simultaneously consuming generous amounts of boxed wine. And it's tough, it's so, so tough.

For the last three months I have lived entirely off of chicken, green beans and wine. I'm not even sure if I should be eating this much chicken. This can't be healthy. I'll probably wind up giving myself botulism, but it's worth the risk.

I just hope I'm not counting my chickens before they hatch.

To contact Will E. Sanders email him at will@willesanders.com.

Guest View

The new agenda on guns we need after Newtown

Donald Kaul
OtherWords

I'm glad I retired five months ago. Think of it: I was spared writing about the presidential election, an event so vacuous it made reality TV seem interesting. If there was any serious discussion of an important national issue — global warming, our obesity epidemic, transportation policy, the morality of drone attacks on civilian populations, the environmental consequences of fracking, existential implications of the designated hitter — I missed it.

Instead, we got a campaign of misrepresentation, exaggerations, and outright lies. The Republicans were by far the worst offenders but President Barack Obama did not present himself in glory either.

I was happy with the result of the presidential election but I didn't regret not covering it. And I was entirely content to go on not writing about things. (If I could make a living on that, life would be perfect.)

But then Newtown happened. A misanthropic young man who never seemed particularly violent killed his mother and then broke into an elementary school and massacred little kids, teachers, and the principal. And the very air changed. The holiday season suddenly turned somber. You looked at the small children around you differently, as fragile, precious gifts to be cherished and, above all, protected.

Obama struck that note in his moving speech at the memorial service. Speaking for us all, he said: "We can't

tolerate this anymore. These tragedies must end. And to end them, we must change."

Nice words but somehow, not enough. Not nearly enough.

That's when I figured I should write a column about it. During my 50-year career, every time some demoted soul would take a semi-automatic gun and clean out a post office, a school, or a picnic, I'd get up on my soap box let loose with a withering diatribe about guns, the National Rifle Association, and weak-kneed politicians. Did it about 75 times, give or take.

And in every case the main effect was a spike in gun-sales.

Still, I thought I'd give it one more shot...er, chance.

Obama's speech was fine as far as it went but it didn't go very far. Neither have any of the other responses I've heard.

California Senator Dianne Feinstein said she was going to introduce a bill to ban the sale and importation of assault weapons. Great, but the bill wouldn't apply to weapons already out there and in defining illegal weapons it listed more than 900 exceptions.

Nine hundred!

The thing missing from the debate so far is anger — anger that we live in a society where something like the Sandy Hook Elementary massacre can happen and our main concern is not offending the NRA's sensibilities.

That's obscene. Here, then, is my "madder-than-Hell-and-I'm-not-going-to-take-it-anymore" program for

ending gun violence in America:

Repeal the Second Amendment, the part about guns anyway. It's badly written, confusing and more trouble than it's worth. It offers an absolute right to gun ownership, but it puts it in the context of the need for a "well regulated militia." We don't make our militia bring their own guns to battles. And surely the Founders couldn't have envisioned weapons like those used in the Newtown shooting when they guaranteed gun rights. Owning a gun should be a privilege, not a right.

Declare the NRA a terrorist organization and make membership illegal. Hey! We did it to the Communist Party and the NRA has led to the deaths of more of us than American Commies ever did. (I would also raze the organization's headquarters, clear the rubble, and salt the earth, but that's optional.) Make ownership of unlicensed assault rifles a felony. If some people refused to give up their guns, that "prying the guns from their cold, dead hands" thing works for me.

Then I would tie Mitch McConnell and John Boehner, our esteemed Republican leaders, to the back of a Chevy pickup and drag them around a parking lot until they saw the light on gun control.

And if that didn't work, I'd adopt radical measures. None of that is going to happen, of course. But I'll bet gun sales will rise.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Mich. This is his first column since late July, the month he had a heart attack and decided to take a break.

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KCA president: Too early to tell impact of closure

Kentucky Power plans to stop burning coal at Big Sandy

Ralph B. Davis
Managing Editor

For an industry still reeling from rounds of layoffs, weak financial reports and an uncertain future, Wednesday's announcement that Kentucky Power plans to stop burning coal at its Big Sandy Power Plant, in Louisa, comes as unwelcome news for coal operators.

Bill Bissett, president of the Kentucky Coal Association, said Thursday that, while it is too early to tell just what impact the plant's closure will have on coal mining, industry insiders had already been "very concerned" about the future of Big Sandy. Still, they were aware that stopping coal burning at the plant was a distinct possibility.

"This is very concerning news, but not a major surprise," Bissett said.

The Big Sandy plant currently burns 2 million tons of coal a year. That demand on the local coal economy would disappear, if the plan to shut down the plant's 800-megawatt Number 2 generator is approved by the state Public Service Commission. The company would instead obtain its electricity for the region by acquiring a 50 percent stake in a Moundsville, W.Va., plant.

The plant's older, 276-megawatt

Number 1 generator is already slated to stop burning coal in 2015, but company officials say it is uncertain how Kentucky Power will replace its generation capability. The company will seek proposals next year for replacing the generator's production and could also consider converting it to natural gas.

But Bissett said the current trend away from coal and toward natural gas is extremely short-sighted. He said he believes with certainty that natural gas prices will soon undergo a dramatic rise.

"What is inexpensive today may not be tomorrow," Bissett said.

Bissett says there are other reasons for concern, "from what we're seeing in the coal market and a second term for President Obama."

"We're a country that is going to use more electricity in the future, and we're not building power plants, of any kind," Bissett said.

Bissett said it would be difficult to say what impact the closure will have on Kentucky coal miners, because there is no good way to determine how much of an impact the plant currently has on local coal production or what markets might be available to offset the plant's loss. He said coal producers are seeing increasing demand for Kentucky coal overseas, and that demand might counter declining demand at home.

"International demand looks very attractive," Bissett said.



The Floyd County Farm Bureau was recognized for outstanding membership and program achievement during the recent 93rd Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting in Louisville. Here, Eddie Akers, center, accepts the award from David S. Beck, right, Kentucky Farm Bureau executive vice president, and John Sparrow, vice president, agency support and marketing of Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, during a December 7 recognition and awards program.

Sandy

From Page 1

submits another filing to cover future generating capacity at Big Sandy.

Options on the table for the Unit 1 generator could include converting it to natural gas or replacing its generation. The generator will, however, cease burning coal, as plans to retire it as a coal-fired generator in 2015 are already in place.

If approved, Kentucky Power's plan will have an affect on jobs, both at the plant and elsewhere. Ken-

tucky Power spokesman Ronn Robinson said many of the employees who would be displaced by the closure will be given an opportunity to work elsewhere in the AEP system. Those who do not obtain other work with AEP or elsewhere will be offered a severance package.

The closure will also have a negative ripple effect in the coal industry. The Big Sandy plant currently burns 2 million tons of coal a year to produce electricity, which will drop to zero when the

plant stops burning coal.

During a hearing earlier this year about plans for the now-scrapped scrubber, Pike County Judge-Executive Wayne T. Rutherford said the plant is directly responsible for 500 coal jobs in the region. If Rutherford's estimates are accurate, those jobs now appear in jeopardy.

If approved, the plan would not take effect until 2015, and the Big Sandy plant will continue to operate as normal until that time, Robinson said.

Jack Latta
Staff Writer

PRESTONSBURG — Local schools continue to be on alert, following "credible" threats made against the high school and students in the wake of the mass shooting in Newtown, Conn.

Concerned parents have been calling The Times this morning, worried that a juvenile who recently made threats against the Prestonsburg High School has been released, and that as a result, Prestonsburg Police officers are set up at all of the city's schools.

According to Prestonsburg Police Chief Mike Ormerod, there was an issue with the charges that were first placed on the juvenile, who was arrested Sunday night after an investigation determined that there

Police presence are a precautionary measure

Police officers on hand at all city schools

was a credible threat against the school. But Ormerod says the same juvenile was arrested again Monday and detained on a similar charge, and the individual in question is currently in detention in Breathitt County.

"We decided to put an officer at each school today," Ormerod said. "Just as a precautionary measure. We haven't been notified of any additional threats."

Two juveniles at Prestonsburg High School were arrested after threats against students and the school were uncovered and deemed credible following an investigation.

Twenty 6- and 7-year-old children and six adults were killed last Friday in a school shooting in Newtown, Conn. Ormerod told Times staff that because threats of this nature are considered a form of domestic terrorism, the FBI has also been brought in to assist with the investigation.

Due to the age of the two individuals in question, names were not released by authorities.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from Prestonsburg Health Care and all it's staff

Prestonsburg HealthCare Center Purchases New Bus

Prestonsburg Health Care Center strives to offer the best quality of life program in the community. The Quality of Life Department is designed to provide activities that promote residents' personal growth and satisfaction for each of our residents.

With this in mind, our facility recently purchased a bus to help our residents with travel to their activities. The new bus offers comfortable travel for 12 passengers and four wheelchair



This new bus allows our facility to transport more residents now when we travel. Wasn't it wonderful when we were able to take our residents to the Christmas Show at the Mountain Arts Center and see the Christmas lights in and around our town. We invite the families of our residents to come out and see how proud we are to be able to offer these services now!

For more information on our Quality of Life program contact our Director at 606-826-2378 or email: act.preston@signaturehealthcarellc.com

Lee pulls away from Pikeville

Times Staff Report

PIKEVILLE — Sixth-ranked Lee University used a 19-0 run in the first half to knock off the University of Pikeville, 79-54 Tuesday night at the UPIKE Gym.

Lee (10-1) fell behind 11-10 with 10:28 to play when junior

Callisha Johnson hit a jump shot. But the Bears wouldn't score for the next 9:01 while the Flames lit the lamp for their 19-point run. Six players scored for Lee during the stretch, led by junior guard Hollie German's six.

By the time Pikeville scored again, on a layup by senior Sally Roberts with 1:57 to play, the

lead had grown to 29-11.

The Flames never looked back. German led all scorers with 20 for the Flames, who hit 43.8 percent overall and was 16-of-20 from the line. She was joined in double digits by sophomore Jenna Adams, who had a double-double of 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Thanks to Adams' efforts, Lee controlled the glass 52-22.

Pikeville had one player in double figures as sophomore Natalie Tunnell came off the bench to go 5-of-8 from the arc for 15 points. Sophomore Christin Haney had nine to go with four assists.

The Bears hit 54.2 percent in the second half and was 7-of-11

from the arc for 63.6 percent.

Pikeville (5-7) will now begin its Christmas break and will return to the court on Saturday, Jan. 5 when it visits Bluefield College. The next home game is set for Thursday, Jan. 10 when No. 16 Cumberland comes to the East Kentucky Expo Center for a 6 p.m. tipoff.

P'burg falls to Hazard, suffers third straight loss

Steve LeMaster
Sports Editor

HAZARD — Thirteen different Hazard players entered the scoring column Tuesday night as the Bulldogs beat visiting Prestonsburg 76-27.

Hazard remained undefeated, moving to 8-0. The Bulldogs also boast wins over Owsley County, Estill County, South Floyd, Breathitt County, Lee County and Whitley County. The Bulldogs have defeated 14th Region foe Owsley County twice already in the young 2012-13 season.

Prestonsburg, which suffered its third straight loss, dropped to 3-5. The Blackcats had dropped a game to 15th Region rival Magoffin County one night earlier.

Junior forwards Collier Mobelin and Christopher Hudson led Hazard with 10 points apiece. Mack Hall and Jarrod Combs each had eight points for the Bulldogs.

Hazard didn't waste any time moving out in front of Prestonsburg. The Bulldogs outscored Prestonsburg 20-5 in the first quarter and owned a comfortable 40-16 lead over the Blackcats at halftime.

Hazard quickly extended its lead in the second half, outscoring Prestonsburg 23-4 in the third quarter.

Sophomore guards Jarredd Jarrell and Jarin Hall led Prestonsburg with eight points apiece. Bryson Williams had six points, Aaron Foley three and Jon Stidham two for the Blackcats.

Magoffin County defeated the Blackcats 70-57 in a game played Monday night.

Prestonsburg is currently competing in a holiday tournament in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The Blackcats will host the Prestonsburg Invitational Tournament Dec. 27-29.

Hazard 76, Prestonsburg 27

Prestonsburg (3-5): Jarrell 8, Hall 8, Williams 6, Foley 3, Stidham 2

Hazard (8-0): Hollan 7, Hardy 6, Mobelin 10, Olinger 6, Hudson 10, Whitaker 7, Hall 8, Triplett 6, Combs 8, Wells 2, Stone 1, Arnett 2, Haynes

Prestonsburg.....5
11 4 7-27
Hazard.....20 20
23 13-76



Piarist School sophomore point guard Michael Williams is pictured with Coach Kevin Tackett.

Williams registers triple-double

Steve LeMaster
Sports Editor

MARTIN — Piarist School sophomore point guard Michael Williams registered a triple-double in the Knights' 87-50 win over Riverside Christian last week. As part of his triple-double per-

formance on Dec. 10, Williams scored 24 points, pulled down 15 rebounds and dished out 17 assists.

The productive Williams recorded game-highs in points and assists.

Through six games, Williams is averaging 11 points and nine rebounds. The sophomore stand-

out is shooting a team-high 37.5 percent from the floor.

Williams will celebrate his 16th birthday on Friday, Dec. 21.

The Piarist School boys' basketball team is off until Dec. 27. The Knights will play the host team two days after Christmas in the Beth Haven Holiday Classic.

McDowell celebrates county title

Times Staff Report

McDOWELL — The McDowell Elementary School girls' basketball team and cheerleading squad celebrated the Lady Devils' victory in the K-5 championship.

clutching win last week.

McDowell edged previously undefeated Prestonsburg in the championship game.

The McDowell girls' basketball team finished the 2012 season 15-2. Both of McDowell's losses came

to Prestonsburg during the regular-season. Head coach Alan Joe Moore and assistant coach Scott Shannon guided McDowell to the county title.

McDowell's B-Team went undefeated during the 2012 season.



McDowell Elementary School girls' basketball team and cheerleading and dance squads.

Women's Basketball: UAB 57, MSU 50

Times Staff Report

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Junior guard Terice Robinson scored 25 points, including converting 8-of-8 at the free throw line, and the Morehead State women's basketball team ended an eight-game losing skid by best UAB, 52-50, Tuesday at Bartow Arena.

MSU moved to 2-9 by using a 17-2 second-half run to upend the Blazers, who fell to 7-3. Sophomore forward Mackenzie Arledge grabbed a career-best 12 rebounds and drew two key offensive fouls

on the Blazers in the final minute to help the Eagles maintain their advantage. Junior guard Tyler Iuten tallied a season-high 10 points, one short of her career-high.

"I couldn't be prouder for a group of young women who have stayed together through thick and thin," Head Coach Tom Hodges said. "We never talked about a losing streak, and we always stayed positive and kept working on the process of getting better. There were so many players who did incredible things tonight. I am just so proud that we stayed the course

and got a great road win."

The Eagles forced 19 UAB turnovers and connected on 15-of-18 at the free throw line, including 7-of-8 in the final 2:38. After hitting just 29 percent (8-of-28) from the field in the first half, MSU drilled 50 percent (10-of-20) in the final 20 minutes and forced the Blazers to connect on just 28 percent (8-of-29) of their attempts.

MSU got a pair of three-pointers from Robinson and junior guard Allie Turner late in the first half to trail 27-22 at intermission. UAB used a 14-2 first-half run to

build its largest lead at 27-14. The Blazers held a 32-22 advantage with 16 minutes left, but Iuten's layup ignited the 17-2 run that finished with a pair of Robinson free throws at the 8:39 mark. MSU led 39-34 and only trailed once more down the stretch. Robinson scored 11 straight for the Eagles at one point.

UAB climbed back ahead 46-43 with 5:05 left, but MSU outscored the hosts 14-4 and allowed just one field goal in the final five minutes.

Ashley Grimes hit a quartet of three-pointers and finished with

14 points to lead the hosts, who played without their leading scorer Amber Jones (14.3 points per game). Karissa Chapman and Chelsea Black notched 11 each. UAB posted a 39-31 rebounding edge.

Morehead State will return home to host Kent State Friday at 7 p.m. The game will be carried live on WVTV-95.3 FM and live stats will be available on MSUeagles.com. The game can also be seen live on OVCDigitalNetwork.com.

Case leads Bobcats over East Ridge

Steve LeMaster
Sports Editor

BETSY LAYNE — Sophomore guard/forward Peyton Case pushed in a game-high 16 points to help lead host Betsy Layne past East Ridge 49-40 on Tuesday night at The Dome.

Junior guard Dylan Meade accompanied Case in double figures, finishing with 12 points.

Betsy Layne shot 37.5 percent (15-of-48) from the field. The Bobcats, however, drained five-of-10 3-point field goal attempts.

Betsy Layne established a lead size lead in the opening quarter, outscoring East Ridge 20-11.

The Bobcats carried a 26-17 lead into halftime and took a 33-25 advantage out of the third quarter.

Narrowly missing a double-double, junior forward/center Dylan Hamilton scored nine points and grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds for the Bobcats.

Lako Daniels scored six points, Garra Newsome netted three and Blake Rose added two for Betsy Layne in the non-district win.

Dustin Rogers scored on a free throw for the Bobcats.

Betsy Layne won, despite hitting only eight-of-19 free throw attempts.

The Bobcats dished out 18 assists opposed to committing only 10 turnovers.

Betsy Layne grabbed 19 defensive rebounds (26 total), recorded 10 steals and registered three blocks.

Sophomore guards Johnny Miller and Michael Fields led East Ridge with 12 points apiece. Christian Hagy scored seven points and Jacob Chaney chipped in five for the Warriors.

Patrick Coleman and Austin Hylton rounded out the East Ridge scoring with two points apiece.

Betsy Layne and East Ridge are not scheduled to meet again this season.

Betsy Layne 49, East Ridge 40

East Ridge (5-5): Miller 12, Coleman 2, Hylton 2, Fields 12, Chaney 5, Hagy 7

Betsy Layne (6-2): Newsome 3, Meade 12, Case 16, Hamilton 9, Daniels 6, Rogers 1, Rose 2

East Ridge.....11
6 8 15-40
Betsy Layne.....20
6 7 16-49

Lady Knights drop back-to-back games to Pike Central

Steve LeMaster
Sports Editor

MARTIN — The Piarist School girls' basketball team faced 15th Region rival Pike County Central in back-to-back games late last week. Pike County Central pulled away to defeat the Lady Knights in both games.

A look back at each Piarist-Pike County Central girls' basketball game follows.

Pike County Central 63, Piarist 37: Piarist couldn't carry any momentum over from a convincing win against Riverside Christian earlier in the week as visiting Pike County Central won 63-37 Friday night.

The Lady Knights were limited from the field, finishing seven-of-56. Piarist, however, connected on six

3-pointers.

The Lady Knights were 13-of-25 from the free throw line.

Senior Kelli Akers led the Lady Knights with 16 points. Senior Cathryn Calhoun accompanied Akers in double figures, adding 13 points for Piarist in the loss.

Sophomore Shelby Lemaster and eighth-grader Kennedy Hall rounded out

the Piarist scoring with four and two points, respectively.

Jessie Hale didn't score but pulled down a team-high eight rebounds for the Lady Knights.

Pike County Central 74, Piarist 45: Playing on the road Saturday, Piarist fell short for a second straight game versus Pike County Central as the Lady Hawks pulled away to win 74-45.

Fairing better offensively, Piarist drained 13-of-57 attempts from the field. The Lady Knights were seven-of-28 from 3-point range.

Piarist, however, missed some changes at the charity stripe. The Lady Knights were 12-of-28 from the free throw line.

Kelli Akers and Cathryn Calhoun led Piarist (2-5) with 17 points apiece.

Shelby Lemaster just missed double figures, finishing with nine points for the Piarist girls' basketball team.

Jessie Hale added a team-high eight rebounds and scored two points for the Lady Knights.

Pike County Central (6-1) posted its sixth straight win after falling to longtime rival Pikeville in a season-opener.

Kentucky Afield outdoors 2012 year in review

Lee McClellan
Kentucky Afield

FRANKFORT — It was a year for deer and other season records, expanded public hunting opportunities and improved access to Kentucky's premier trout stream. Here's a look back at a few of the top stories from 2012:

Kentucky hunters harvested a record number of white-tailed deer. With 35 days of archery hunting and a two-day youth season remaining before season's end, hunters eclipsed the overall deer harvest total record. As of Dec. 18, hunters harvested 126,923 deer. This total breaks the previous season record of 124,752 set in 2004.

Earlier in the fall, hunters reported bagging 92,737 whitetails during Kentucky's modern gun season which ended Monday, Nov. 25. Last spring, a record 68 deer in the 2011-12 season in Kentucky qualified for entry into the Boone and Crockett record book, the most for any state or Canadian province.

"These records demonstrate that we have a stable, quality deer herd," said Tina Brunjes, deer program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "But what drives the harvest is good hunting weather, particularly during the modern gun season, when the majority of our deer are taken."

Bear season in Kentucky has come of age: Kentucky's

2012 bear season was the first time hunters reached the harvest quota and in the process set a new state record.

Doug Adkins of Jenkins took a 410-pound male bear in Letcher County. "That's the field-dressed weight," said Steve Debey, bear program coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "The live weight would have likely exceeded 450 pounds."

Hunters purchased 359 permits for the 2012 hunt. Nine of the 11 bears taken were males. By the late 2000s, black bears had made a comeback and were well established in eastern Kentucky. These bears did not come to Kentucky by a planned restoration effort, but by natural range expansion. Bears again colonized eastern Kentucky's mountain region from the neighboring states of West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee, where bear populations were never extirpated.

Kentucky hunters have three new properties to enjoy: With the help of participating agencies, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife acquired three new properties, totaling 5,731 acres, for public use as state wildlife management areas (WMAs).

Known locally as the Rogers Gap property, Veterans Memorial WMA is just minutes north of Georgetown, off I-75.

Jon Gasset, commissioner of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, characterized the

acquisition of 2,497 acres in Scott County as "a historic event. This is great for people in central and northern Kentucky who enjoy the outdoors," he said.

This large chunk of undeveloped land is within reasonable driving distance of about one-third of Kentucky's population. The new area has a large deer herd along with excellent potential for small game and wild turkey.

Big Rivers WMA and State Forest is in Union County, west of Sturgis. The Kentucky Division of Forestry and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife jointly acquired 2,488 acres at the confluence of the Ohio and Tradewater rivers, bounded on the north by KY 1508, on the west by the Ohio River and on the south by the Tradewater River.

About 70 percent forested, the property has good populations of deer, wild turkey, small game and seasonally attracts migratory waterfowl. From a resource perspective, the region is very significant: home to federally-endangered bats and mussels and a forest type uncommon in Kentucky: Post Oak Flat Woodlands.

An ecological treasure, Griffith Woods WMA is a 746-acre remnant of Bluegrass savanna.

The property is on U.S. 62 about five miles southwest of Cynthia in Harrison County.

Managed as a research

and demonstration area since 2004, the property was purchased from the Nature Conservancy and the University of Kentucky by the Rock House, and can only be reached by boat.

"These purchases are important because of the lack of riparian wildlife access in the river," said Dave Dreves, a department fisheries research biologist who's studied the river for years. "Long Bar is a place where you can drive up, walk a short distance and you're fishing."

Federal money from the Sport Fish Restoration Fund paid for 75 percent of the purchase price of the properties. Wading anglers have only a handful of places on the river to fish.

The department's property at Long Bar is situated near a former ferry landing. Some old maps also refer to it as Snow Island.

From Long Bar's gravel parking lot it's a short walk to the half-mile long, 12-acre island. At low water, anglers will encounter depths of 2-3 feet when wading to the island.

Downstream of the island, on the same bank as the access parking lot, is a secure hole littered with tree trunks. When the dam is generating power and pushing high water flows downriver, this hole harbors large striped bass and trout.

At low water, anglers can wade along the entire length of the island. The river channel includes shoals, potholes and drowned trees. Anglers can expect to find brown trout, rainbow trout and brook trout.

Rainbow Run is a relatively new name for the shoal located just downriver of the Rock House, since trout weren't introduced there until the Cumberland River was impounded in the early 1950s.

Old maps refer to the 3,500-foot island adjacent to Rainbow Run as Wells Island. The island is about 10 acres at low water, but may go underwater when all the generators are operating at Wolf Creek Dam. A rock beach at the head of the island offers anglers a place to land their boats and wade.

Rainbow Run is one of the most hemmed trout fishing spots on the river because of its productivity.

The shoal is one of five sections of the river sampled for trout every fall by biologists using electro-fishing equipment at night. Since 1995, Rainbow Run has traditionally yielded more rainbow trout 20 inches or longer than all the other sampling locations combined and also holds trophy-sized brown trout.

With hope, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife will have many

South Dakota connects on free throws, sends off Eagles

Times Staff Report

VERMILLION, S.D. — The South Dakota men's basketball team used a 35-point advantage at the free-throw line to post an 85-75 victory over the Morehead State on Wednesday night at the DakotaDome.

The Summit League Coyotes improve to 5-6 on the year, while the Ohio Valley Conference Eagles slipped to 5-7. USD also moved to 3-1 in the Summit League series with its second straight win over MSU.

"I want to apologize to all Morehead State fans because tonight was an embarrassment," Morehead State Coach Sean Woods said. "Give South Dakota credit for doing what they had to do, but we played very poorly. We fell short both mentally and physically, and the final score certainly indicated that."

South Dakota connected on a school-record 43 free throws, while missing just seven attempts from the charity stripe. The Coyotes drilled 22-of-26 in the first half and 21-of-24 in the second stanza.

MSU, which entered the contest with 94 more fouls than its opponents this season, was whittled for 32 infractions, while USD committed just eight. The Eagles made just eight-of-11 from the foul line.

"I've been around this game a long time, and I can't ever remember a team shooting 50 free throws," Woods said. "But we were our own worst enemy tonight. We didn't guard, we didn't rotate and we didn't take charges. I also didn't see any mental toughness from our guys, which is disappointing."

South Dakota senior Juevol Myles, a transfer from Kansas State, poured in 24 points and season-high 32 points on seven-of-13 from the field and 15-of-16 from the charity stripe. He played all 40 minutes.

Junior Karlin Rowson added 17 points for

the Coyotes on 11-of-14 from the foul line, while sophomore Brandon Bos chipped in with 12 and junior Steve Tecker contributed 11.

South Dakota drilled 44 percent overall (18-of-41) and 38 percent from three-point range (six-of-16).

Morehead State made just 38 percent from the field (28-of-74). The Eagles connected on just two-of-seven from long distance in the first half, but rimmed home nine-of-19 from beyond the arc after halftime.

Junior Maurice Lewis-Briggs tallied 24 points and 13 rebounds - both highs in a Morehead State uniform - in 27 minutes off the bench. He drilled nine-of-18 from the floor, including three-of-seven from the arc.

Junior Chase Boswell chipped in with 13 points and seven rebounds for the Eagles, while sophomore Angelo Warner registered MSU's first eight points en route to 11 for the night.

Senior Devon Atkinson handed out a game-best 11 assists, his career-high by one as Morehead State recorded 18 helpers on 28 field goals, with just eight turnovers.

"Championship teams are built on great character, and we're just not there right now," Woods said. "We need to get better quickly because time is running out before Ohio Valley Conference play."

Morehead State wraps up its two-game road trip on Friday at another Summit League opponent, North Dakota State. Tip-off is set for 8 p.m. ET. The Bison defeated the Eagles, 69-57, on Dec. 5.

"The bottom line is we are going to play the guys who give us 110 percent," Woods added. "I don't care who they are, what their stats are or what individual accolades they've earned in the past."

UK Football: Stoops signs two JUCO standouts

Times Staff Report

LEXINGTON — A pair of junior-college standouts, tight end Steven Borden and defensive end Darius Smith, have become the first signees for new Kentucky coach Mark Stoops, the coach announced Wednesday.

Borden is a 6-3, 250-pounder from Kilgore (Texas) College who made second-team all-conference honors. Among junior college players, the 6-6, 255-pound Smith is ranked as the nation's No. 1 strongside defensive end by JCGridiron.com.

"This is a great start to our recruiting class," Stoops said. "Being able to sign such impact players with a short amount of time

to recruit gives me great optimism for the future.

"Steven brings us a player who is very versatile and brings the physical presence we need at the tight end position. We can move him around in the offense and play different positions. We're excited to have him join us."

"Za'Darius has great size and is an 'every down' player - a physical player who can stop the run and also can run the passer," Stoops continued. "We're very happy to sign him."

Borden is the son of famous professional wrestler Sting (Steve Borden).

Both players are graduating in December and plan to enroll at Kentucky in January. The signing participants in spring practice and each has two years of eligibility remaining.

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ChalleNGe Academy seeks participants

HARLAN — If you are looking for a life-changing experience outside of a traditional education setting, the National Guard's Appalachian ChalleNGe Academy (ACA) might be a good option.

The ACA program is offered free for youth between the ages of 16 and 18 who may be working to overcome problems in their lives. In addition to providing an education alternative, the course is designed to instill the same skills, values and self-discipline necessary to succeed in today's society.

The ACA is structured around a military concept that includes a focus on discipline, integrity, teamwork, physical fitness and community service.

Applications are currently being accepted for the next class, which begins Sunday, January 13, 2013 with graduation on June 15.

"Operation UNITE believes the ACA program serves the needs of many young people in our region," said Dan Smoot, vice president and law enforcement director. "We are happy to partner with the National Guard in spreading the word about the many benefits of this alternative educational program."

"If you have dropped out of school for whatever reason, the ACA will help get your life back on track," Smoot continued. "It helps participants to recover credits, obtain their GEDs or even return to school."

The Challenge Program began in 15 states in July 1993, and has operated in Kentucky since July 1999. The ACA began changing the lives of young people in July 2012.

For more information or to obtain an application, contact the Academy Admissions Office by calling toll-free 1-855-596-4927, send an e-mail to dessac.raleigh@us.army.mil, or visiting their website at <http://mgvcp.org/>.

For more information about Operation UNITE visit their website at www.operationunite.org

Lindsey Brown participates in "Pawsibilities for Student Success."



Photo by Stephanie Cole | EKV Public Relations

Lindsey Brown, of Prestonsburg, was one of many Eastern Kentucky University students to recently take advantage of "Pawsibilities for Student Success." Therapy dogs were brought to campus shortly before finals week as a means to help students, faculty and staff lessen anxiety and reduce stress. The 15 canines were on hand, along with their handlers, at three busy campus locations. The dogs and handlers were provided by Pawsibilities Unleashed: Pet Therapy of Kentucky, a Central Kentucky non-profit organization.

Social Security announces new compassionate allowances conditions

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, this week announced 35 additional Compassionate Allowance conditions are in effect, bringing the total number of conditions in the expedited disability process to 200. Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits. The program fast-tracks disability decisions to ensure that Americans with the most serious disabilities receive their benefit decisions within days instead of months or years. These conditions primarily include certain cancers, adult brain disorders, and a number of rare disorders that affect children.

"We have achieved another milestone for the Compassionate Allowances program, reaching 200 conditions," Commissioner Astrue said. "Nearly 200,000 people with severe disabilities nationwide have been quickly approved, usually in less than two weeks, through the program since it began in October 2008."

By definition, these conditions are so severe that Social Security does not need to fully develop the applicant's work history to make a decision. As a result, Social Security eliminated this part of the application process for people who have a condition on the list.

Social Security has held seven public hearings and worked with experts to develop the list of Compassionate Allowances

conditions. The hearings also have helped the agency identify ways to improve the disability process for applicants with Compassionate Allowances conditions.

For more information on the Compassionate Allowances initiative, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

New Compassionate Allowances Conditions

1. Adult Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
2. Adult Onset Huntington Disease
3. Allan-Herndon-Dudley Syndrome
4. Alveolar Soft Part Sarcoma
5. Aplastic Anemia
6. Beta Thalassemia Major

7. Bilateral Optic Atrophy - Infantile
8. Caudal Regression Syndrome - Types III and IV
9. Child T-Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma
10. Congenital Lymphedema
11. DeSanctis Cacchione Syndrome
12. Dravet Syndrome
13. Endometrial Stromal Sarcoma
14. Erdheim Chester Disease
15. Fatal Familial Insomnia
16. Fryns Syndrome
17. Fulminant Giant Cell Myocarditis
18. Hepatopulmonary Syndrome
19. Hepatorenal Syndrome
20. Jervell and Lange-Nielsen Syndrome
21. Leiomyosarcoma
22. Malignant Gastrointest-

23. Malignant Germ Cell Tumor
24. MECP 2 Duplication Syndrome
25. Menkes Disease - Classic or Infantile Onset Form
26. NFU-1 Mitochondrial Disease
27. Non-Ketotic Hyperglycinemia
28. Peritoneal Mucinous Carcinomatosis
29. Phelan-McDermid Syndrome
30. Retinopathy of Prematurity - Stage V
31. Roberts Syndrome
32. Severe Combined Immunodeficiency - Childhood
33. Sinusoidal Cancer
34. Transplant Coronary Artery Vasculopathy
35. Usher Syndrome - Type I

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