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The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

Serving the citizens of Floyd County since 1927

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IN

Our

Vol.

Jack Staff W

PRESTONSBURG — A Galveston man was indicted by a grand jury last week after a traffic stop led to numerous drug charges. On Dec. 19, a Floyd County

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy. High of 45. Low of 30.



SPORTS

Spring Nationals to make tour stop at Speedway ... Page 6



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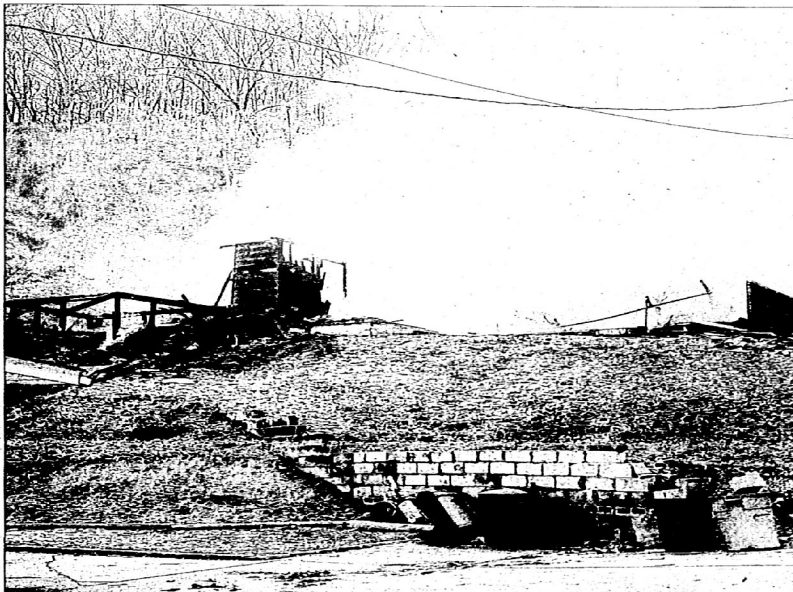
Traffic stop leads to drug charges

grand jury returned more than a dozen indictments, including one against Jackie L. Hamilton, 59, of Galveston. Hamilton was indicted by the grand jury on 12 counts, including operating a motor vehicle under the influence, reckless driving, no/expired

registration, failure to wear a seat-belt, first-degree possession of a controlled substance, second-degree possession of a controlled substance, third-degree possession of a controlled substance, controlled substance prescription not in original container, possession

of marijuana, operating a motor vehicle while license is revoked or suspended, failure to surrender revoked license, and failure to produce proof of insurance. According to the indictment, Hamilton was in possession of Tramadol, a schedule four narcotic; hydrocodone and Tylenol

3 with codeine, schedule three narcotics; and morphine, a schedule two narcotic. Hamilton is scheduled to appear in court early next year. An indictment is not an admission of guilt, and all persons are considered innocent until proven guilty.



The charred remains of a home on Westminster Avenue were still smoking Tuesday afternoon. The home became engulfed in flames in the early morning and burned to the ground.

Prestonsburg home destroyed by fire

Jack Latta Staff Writer

PRESTONSBURG — An unoccupied home was destroyed Christmas morning after a fire broke out in the early morning hours. Remains of the home, at the head of Westminster Avenue, were still smoking at 3 p.m. Tuesday. Neighbors say the home caught on fire sometime around 4 a.m. Prestonsburg Fire Department was called out at 5:15 a.m.

According to Prestonsburg Fire Chief Bobby Carpenter, the home was vacant and in the process of being remodeled by its owner. Carpenter said the house was fully involved before discovery. "It had been burning for a while before it woke any of the neighbors up." The cause of the fire is still under investigation. "Nothing suspicious is jumping out, but the official cause is still under investigation," Carpenter said.

According to Carpenter, a second fire took place Wednesday at Spradlin Branch. He said the cause of that fire was a deteriorating chimney. The fire did not cause a lot of damage, but Carpenter said it had a potential to be very bad. "The homeowners discovered the chimney fire pretty quick." Carpenter said it is important for people with wood burning fireplaces or wood burning stoves that use flue pipes to have them inspected annually by a chimney sweep.

Two shot in Knott Co. attempted robbery

Jack Latta Staff Writer

HINDMAN — One man is deceased and another in serious condition after an altercation over gasoline led to a double shooting in Knott County. According to Kentucky State Police, Post 13 received a call Christmas day that a man had been shot at Jamestown Village Trailer Park in the Talcum community of Knott County. Police say the call came in at 10:30 p.m. Once police arrived on the scene, they found Ricky Sweet, 61 of Talcum, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, and Aaron Pratt, 45, of Pinetop, shot to death. Investigators say Pratt and another male subject went to the residence of Ricky Sweet and asked to borrow some gasoline. Sweet retrieved the gas from an outside storage building, when one of the individuals brandished a handgun and also demanded money. An altercation ensued and both Pratt and Sweet were shot in the resulting gunfire. Pratt was pronounced dead at the scene by the Knott County coroner. Sweet was transported to Hazard ARH, before being transferred to the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center. The second man who allegedly accompanied Pratt to Sweet's residence has not been identified. KSP officials say that the investigation is ongoing. Det. Joel Abner is in charge of the investigation.

Suit questions constitutionality of oil and gas condemnation law

Ralph B. Davis Managing Editor

PIKEVILLE — A lawsuit originating out of Knott County could have far-reaching implications for property rights, as well as the oil and gas industries in Kentucky. A group of 17 plaintiffs has brought suit in Knott Circuit Court against EQT Gathering LLC in October, asking that a state law allowing private out-of-state companies to exercise the power of eminent domain to obtain land or easements for oil and gas wells and transmission lines. Under the law, KRS 278.502, if a company is unable to work out a deal with landowners, it can initiate condemnation proceedings in order to obtain access to land for "constructing, maintaining, drilling, utilizing and operating pipelines, underground oil and gas storage fields and wells." The dispute arose over a 160 acre tract of land, upon which portions of the Mayking Node 3 pipeline was constructed. The pipeline carries natural gas from EQT's Mayking Compressor Station in Letcher County to its Right Beaver Compressor Station in Knott County. The plaintiffs, who are represented by Hindman attorney Adam P. Collins, argue that the law should be struck down

because "it allows private, foreign-owned corporations to exercise the power of eminent domain... without any restriction that the use of this power be for a public purpose or use," and "it permits private, foreign-owned corporations to take private property without the prior payment of just compensation." "In this way, KRS 278.502 permits a private person (or, corporation, in this case) to exercise the power of eminent domain in a way that immediately threatens to 'compel a citizen to surrender his productive and attractive property to another [foreign] citizen, who will use it predominantly for his own private profit, just because such alternative private use is thought to be preferable in the subjective notion of the governmental authorities,'" the complaint reads. The case has since been removed to U.S. District Court, in Pikeville. EQT Gathering has filed a motion for dismissal, arguing that the issue has already been decided in previous cases. "This court and the Knott Circuit Court have previously rejected plaintiffs' efforts to challenge the constitutionality of KRS 278.502 in connection with the facts of this case," EQT's attorney See LAW | Page 2

KSP warns of Craigslist scam

Julia Roberts Goad Staff Writer

PIKEVILLE — Kentucky State Police are warning the public about an internet scam connected to Craigslist. Trooper Shaun Little, Public Affairs Officer at KSP Post 9 in Pikeville, said information obtained indicates that the scam is being conducted through the online classified ads website Craigslist, where the perpetrators of these crimes are

purchasing items and conducting the transactions online. "People are posting items to sell on Craigslist," Little said. "Then someone agrees to purchase the item, and sends a cashier's check, but the cashier's check is for an amount more than the sale price." The seller is then asked cash the check, keep \$50 for their troubles and send the remainder to the United Kingdom. Little said the checks are bogus. "They are not connected to any

actual financial institution," Little said. "So when a person signs the check to endorse it, they become responsible for the check." KSP said the scam has been operated throughout the state, including the counties of the Post 9 district. Kentucky State Police asks that anyone who receive this type of online solicitation contact Kentucky State Police at (606) 433-7711, and to be aware of online internet crimes.

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HAROLD

Obituaries

Willis Cox Jr. Willis Cox Jr., 67, of Wayland, windower of Yvonne Thornsberry Cox, died Dec. 26, at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Born March 20, 1945, to the late Arthur and Grelthel Crum Cox, he was a disabled coal miner. He is survived by four sons, Jeffery Cox, of Prestonsburg, Jimmy Cox, of Wayland, Iran O'Neil Cox, of McDowell, and Charles Rodney Cox, of Garrett; a daughter, Narita Collett, of Garrett; three brothers, Elmer "Pete" Cox of Fleming County, Joe Cox of Sandy Hook, and Willard Cox of Fleming County; four sisters, Cora Moore, of Estill, Mary Howard and Leila Cox, of Hueysville, and Betsy Stone of Mousie; 11 grandchildren, Chris, Katie, Kristan, Jordan, Zach, Hannah, Devan, Neil Jr., Austin, Justin and Hannah; and two great grandchildren, Arick and Isabella.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a son, James Cox, and two brothers, Grant Cox and Bill Cox.

Funeral services for Willis Cox Jr. will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at the Ball Branch Old Regular Baptist Church, at Mousie, with Old Regular Baptist ministers officiating. Burial will follow in the Thornsberry Cemetery, at Mousie. Visitation will be held all day Thursday, at the church.

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

Deborah Kay Crager Deborah Kay Crager, 46, Hueysville, died Monday, Dec. 24, 2012.

She was born March 21, 1966, to Molly Shepherd Crager of Salt Lick and the late Carlos Crager. She is survived by her son, Wesley Crager, of Gunlock, and brothers, Melvin Ray Crager and Michael Randall Crager, both of Salt Lick.

Funeral services will be held at noon, Saturday, Dec. 29, at Nelson Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin. Burial will follow the service in the Handsome Cemetery, at Hueysville.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Nelson Frazier Funeral Home, of Martin, is in charge of arrangements. www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com

Mary Eloise Martin Mary Eloise Martin, 76, of Deane, died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012, at Pikeville Medical Center. She was born Dec. 14, 1936, to the late David Albert and Elsie Allen Sanders. She was the wife of Pon "Buck" Martin, a homemaker, and a member of the Fleming Neon Baptist Church.

She is survived by three sons, David (Debbie) Martin, of Ypsilanti, Mich., Bobby Martin, of Titusville, Fla., and Barry (Tonya) Martin, of Lexington; six grandchildren, Fonda Martin, Crystal Martin, Jonathan Martin, Ethan Martin, Morgan Martin and Logan Martin; and a great grandchild, Trae David Martin. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 29, at Nelson Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Edmon Bolen officiating. Burial will follow the service in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, at Ivel.

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

Terry Strong Terry Strong, 51, of Ashland, formerly of Long Fork of Virgie, passed away Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012, at the Community Hospice Care Center in Ashland. He was born July 12, 1961, in Floyd County.

He is survived by three sons, David (Debbie) Martin, of Ypsilanti, Mich., Bobby Martin, of Titusville, Fla., and Barry (Tonya) Martin, of Lexington; six grandchildren, Fonda Martin, Crystal Martin, Jonathan Martin, Ethan Martin, Morgan Martin and Logan Martin; and a great grandchild, Trae David Martin.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 29, at Nelson Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Edmon Bolen officiating. Burial will follow the service in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, at Ivel.

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

to the late Hatler and Besse Tackett Strong. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, at the Wheelwright Freewill Baptist Church, with Vernon Johnson and others officiating. Burial will follow in the Brian Tackett Cemetery, at Hi Hat.

He was born on Jan. 14, 1925, at Hardy, to parents Willie Sexton and Sylvia Cox Sexton. He has two brothers, Norman Sexton, of Oregon, and David Sexton, of California. His two sisters, Lillian Sexton Purdum and Phyllis Sexton Fickes, reside in Ohio.

Bill has two children from his first marriage, Pamela R. Sexton, of Allen, and James P. Sexton (Bridget), of Madisonville. He has three grandchildren, Stephen E. Branham Jr., of Elkhorn City, Jacquelyn J. Branham (Rafael Prieto), of Clarksville, Tenn., and Margo Branham (Casey Martin), of Lexington. He has one great-granddaughter, Ellie Branham-Martin, of Lexington. He is also survived

by his best friend, his Chinese Pug, Buddy.

Most of his youth and young adult life was spent in Eastern Kentucky. He worked in the coal mines, worked for Joy Manufacturing Company, and began his own businesses, which were coal mining-related. He relocated to Madisonville in 1960, where he remained until his wife of 31 years, Nancy Brown Sexton, retired, and they began their life in their motor home.

He loved to travel and he loved being around water. His first career gave him the opportunity to travel across the United States. His second career began after his first retirement when he began selling boats for Kentuckiana Yacht Sales in Gilbertsville. This "job" gave him opportunities to travel on many lakes and rivers delivering boats.

He was a Kentucky Colonel and a member of the Richland Baptist Church.

A gathering of family and friends will be held at their home in Madisonville, at 57 S. Seminary on Dec. 30, from 2 until 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Odysse Hospice, 1400 Donelson Pike, Ste. B-6, Nashville, TN 37217.

Stewart, to Sally Ousley, property located near Allen.

Lillian Allen and Lonnie Allen, to Lonnie Ray Allen and Paul Jean Allen, property located along Big Sandy River.

Appalachian Land Company, to EQT Gathering LLC, easement at Lick Branch of Buffalo Creek.

Selena Bryant, to Anthony Bryant, property location not listed.

Barbara Clark Burchett and Joe A. Burchett Sr., to Jennifer Blitner, property located at Garfield Addition.

Barbara Clark Burchett and Joe A. Burchett Sr., to Kathryn Brown, property located at Garfield Avenue.

Barbara Clark Burchett and Joe A. Burchett Sr., to Barbara Brown and Kathryn Brown, property located at Sugar Loaf Creek.

Barbara Clark Burchett and Joe A. Burchett Sr., to Eghra Brown and Kathryn Brown, property located at Sugar Loaf.

Barbara Clark Burchett and Joe A. Burchett Sr., to Joe A. Burchett II, property location not listed.

For the Record

MARRIAGES

Ashley A. Stephens to Richard Crum, both of Martin. Shannon Lee Goble to Megan Elizabeth Little, both of Oak Harbor, Wash.

Amber Dudrick, of Prestonsburg, to Jordan W. Henry, of Craynor.

CHARGES FILED

Brett Michael Combs, 24, Allen - theft by unlawful taking, persistent felony offender. David H. Akers, 25, Teaberry - making false statements to receive benefits over \$100. Jennifer Newman, McDowell - criminal trespassing second degree.

Bella Wilson, 51, Prestonsburg - criminal trespassing third degree, fourth degree assault. Corey Bailey, 21, Hueysville - alcohol intoxication. Sheam Hall, 29, Prestonsburg - fourth degree assault. Travis Fields, 21, Martin - fourth degree assault. Anthony Keathley, 29, Pikeville - careless driving, disorderly conduct, second degree, no/expired registration, no/expired plates.

Tommy Bolen, 39, Hueysville - hunting without a license. Tommy Stone, 22, McDowell - possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia.

Christopher Henson, 23, McDowell - third degree terrorist threatening. Becky Schleter, 23, McDowell - third degree terrorist threatening. Dustin Rowe, 22, Beaver - fourth degree assault, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Jennifer M. Cumberland, 22, Martin - fourth degree assault. Shane D. Howard, 21, Allen - public intoxication of a controlled substance.

Justin Prater, 30, Auxier - fourth degree assault. David Bartley Jr., 39, Beauty - fourth degree assault. Julianna Edwards, 30, Garrett - harassment. Lawrence R. Montgomery, 53, Van Lear - theft by decep-

tion (cold checks). Lola Howell, 28, Ivel - fourth degree assault. Azzie J. Hall, 40, Printer - harassment. Jolene K. Ferrari, 21, Bypro - criminal mischief third degree.

Willis H. Rice, 41, Prestonsburg - terrorist threatening third degree. Michael L. Compton, 44, Blue River - fourth degree assault. Manola Weiss, 19, Banner - harassment.

Christopher Gooslin, 22, Banner - fourth degree assault.

CIVIL SUITS

Pioneer Credit Company v. Allison Williams - contract. Pioneer Credit Company v. Pam Miller - contract. Pioneer Credit Company v. Jonathan R. Blair - contract. Asset Acceptance, LLC v. William R. Branham - contract. Asset Acceptance, LLC v. Sabrina Howell - contract. Bridgewater Assets v. Sondra Spurlock - contract.

Wells Fargo Bank v. Betty N. Summers - contract. The INA Group LLC v. Erceel Jarrell, et al. - contract. Discover Bank v. Pamela Combs - contract. Community Trust Bank v. Eddie Phillips - contract. Community Trust Bank v. Desiree Hagans, et al. - contract. Tax Ease Lien Servicing LLC v. Unknown heirs of Joseph Maness, et al. - contract. Tax Ease Lien Servicing LLC v. Deborah E. Goble - contract.

Denver Adkins, Lorieth Adkins, Betty Conn, Ray Conn, Raymond Conn, Terry Conn, Devniss James Crisp, Johnnie Ray Crisp, Janice Hackworth, Betty Hicks, Charles Hicks, Mary Hyden, Norman Hyden, Debra Kilburn, Billy Mullins, Sharon Mullins, Kansas Ousley, Willis Ousley, James Ratliff, Debra Stewart and Scott

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Denver Adkins, Lorieth Adkins, Betty Conn, Ray Conn, Raymond Conn, Terry Conn, Devniss James Crisp, Johnnie Ray Crisp, Janice Hackworth, Betty Hicks, Charles Hicks, Mary Hyden, Norman Hyden, Debra Kilburn, Billy Mullins, Sharon Mullins, Kansas Ousley, Willis Ousley, James Ratliff, Debra Stewart and Scott

Law

From Page 1 news, W. Mitchell Hall Jr., Kimberly S. McCann and Christina D. Hajjar, argue in their motion. "Nothing" has changed that would allow plaintiffs to proceed. Accordingly, this action should be dismissed." Plaintiffs in the case include Harold Hall, Larry J. Hall, William R. Hall, Mike Hall, Meredith Diane Hall, Arroyo Hall, Glenda Hall, Harold O. Hall, Peggy Hall, Jimmy King, Chelsea King, Arretta Hice, Larry E. Hice, Dale Hall, Morris D. Hall, James D. Hall and Judith Hall.

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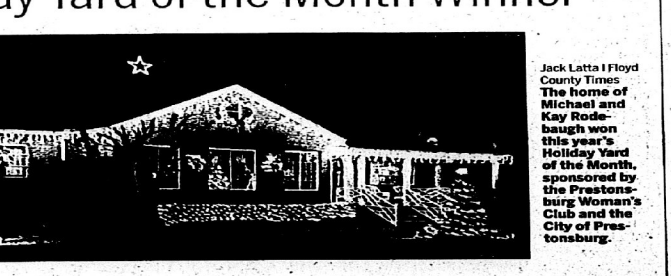
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Holiday Yard of the Month Winner



Jack Latta | Floyd County Times. The home of Michael and Kay Rodebaugh won this year's Holiday Yard of the Month, sponsored by the Prestonsburg Woman's Club and the City of Prestonsburg.

Storm topples trees around Floyd County



Jack Latta | Floyd County Times. High winds during last Friday's storm toppled several trees around the county, including this one which split in half on Central Avenue in Prestonsburg.

Calendar

Calendar items will be printed as space permits.
Editor's note: To announce your community event, you may hand-deliver your notice to The Floyd County Times 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.

Dance like an Egyptian
 The University of Pikeville School of Dance will be offering Middle Eastern dance, commonly known as belly dancing, for teens and adults during the spring semester. Classes will be taught on Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. and from 7-8 p.m. Additional times may be arranged. Classes begin on Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the UPIke Ridenour Dance Studios, Record Memorial Building, level two. Cost is \$150 for the semester.
 For more information, call the dance studio at (606) 218-5751.

Kudzu seeking submissions
 Do you have a poem or a story to share? KCTC'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 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 at (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 De-

partment 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@MtComp.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, Calvary's Call Church, Lancer, (6-7 p.m.). Contact: Billie Chain, eastkyautismawareness@gmail.com

Autistic Children Support Group plans 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 fosters 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/

Auxier Learning Center offers home repair aid
 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 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 at 10:30 a.m., at the 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 a 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
 Narconon warns parents that abuse of addictive pharmaceutical drugs with youth is on the rise with deadly consequences. Learn the signs of drug abuse.
 Call Narconon for a free brochure on the signs of addiction for all drugs. 877-379-0208.
www.drugsno.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 addiction?
 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 drug 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 4:00p.m., 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; Maffett, 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 Healthcare 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 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 TOO! Prostate Cancer Survivors 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.

A.S.K. (Adoption Support for Kentucky) - Support group for all adoptive parents (public, private, international, and kinship care). Foster parents and all others interested in adoption. To be held the first Monday of each month, at the Department for Community Based Services, office, 1009 North Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, from 6-8 p.m. Childcare will not be provided. For more information, contact Dendra Slone, adoptive parent liaison, at 432-4110 or 422-7927, or email to: doslone@eastky.net.

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Worth Repeating ...

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

— Gregory Nunn

Viewpoint

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.

Guest View

Raise minimum wage to lift our economy in new year

Darius Ross

As a longtime businessman, I see a deficit in America that has received far too little attention. That's the wage deficit experienced by growing numbers of Americans, with serious consequences for our economy.

On Jan. 1, the minimum wage increases in Rhode Island and in nine states that adjust their minimum wage to match the rise in inflation: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

But the federal minimum wage will be the same as 2013 begins as it was in 2009 — just \$7.25 an hour, or \$15,080 for full-time, year-round work.

That's an impoverishing income anywhere in America, but even more so in high-cost states like New York, where my business is based.

Too many Americans are working an 8-hour day struggling just to pay rent. Even carefully budgeting every dime, they can't afford to fully cover the most basic expenses: shelter, food, transportation, health care and clothing. That's bad for those workers and families, and it's bad for American business.

We should be raising the minimum wage to the level where workers can afford rent, food and other necessities for themselves and their families.

Raising the minimum wage benefits businesses in three ways: productivity, profit and prosperity.

With more adequate wages, businesses experience decreased worker turnover and greater worker morale and productivity — all good for the bottom line.

The number one factor in business growth and hiring is customer demand. Consumer spending makes up 70 percent of our economy.

Raising the minimum wage puts more money in the hands of low-income workers — the very people most likely to need to spend additional dollars in their paychecks. That means increased consumer buying power, which means increased demand for goods and services, which means more revenues and profits for businesses, and a stronger, more prosperous economy.

When millions of full-time workers see the American Dream increasingly out of reach, it's not just a nightmare for them. It's a nightmare for our nation.

We cannot restore the American Dream when the floor under our economy has fallen so far under the cost of living that employers today can pay an entry-level wage that is lower than their counterparts paid in 1956, adjusted for inflation.

The year 1956 is so long ago that most Americans, including me, weren't even born yet. Yet, our federal minimum wage is just \$7.25 while the value of the 1956 minimum wage is \$8.46 in today's dollars. That's no formula for economic success.

Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa and Rep. George Miller of California introduced the Fair Minimum Wage Act in Congress in 2012. It calls for incrementally raising the minimum wage to \$9.80 and then indexing it to the cost of living. That's the least we should do to make up ground lost since 1998, when the minimum wage was worth \$10.58, adjusted for inflation.

If the minimum wage were raised to \$9.80, 28 million Americans would see their wages go up, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

More than a million veterans would get a much-needed raise.

Among the 28 million workers who would benefit from a \$9.80 minimum wage, 88 percent are at least 20 years old and 42 percent have at least some college education.

Moreover, nearly 22 million children have a parent whose income would rise if the minimum wage were increased to \$9.80.

There is no good reason people working full time should be living in poverty.

There is no good reason people working full time should have to depend on food banks or food stamps to feed their families.

There is no good reason people working full time should be living in their cars or homeless shelters.

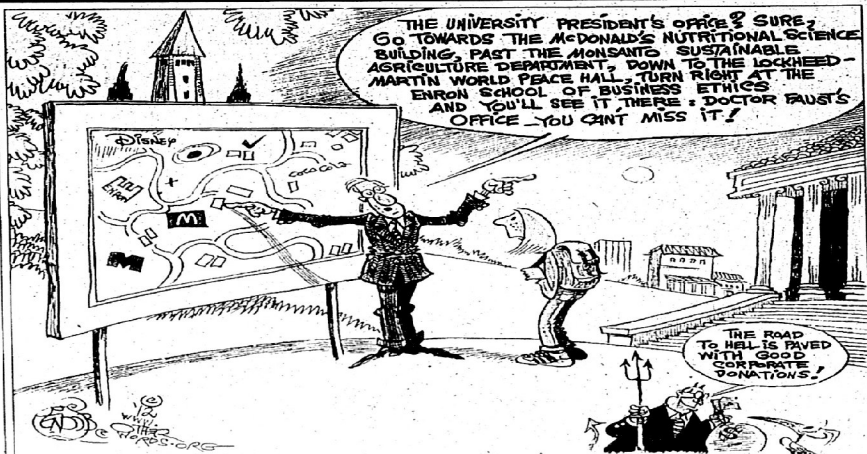
Yet, we see this more and more because of the wage deficit.

Working Americans must make at least enough to buy basic goods and services or we will never be able to rebuild the consumer demand that businesses need to thrive and create millions of new jobs.

Without a decent floor under wages, the middle class will continue to sink. And the American Dream that once inspired so many, including my parents, will become increasingly the privilege of the few.

America needs a minimum wage raise now.

Ross is managing partner of D Alexander Ross Real Estate Capital Partners, a New York-based real estate and construction firm. He is a member of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage.



Beyond the Beltway

Our nation, on its knees

Donald Kaul
Other Words

My favorite part of the budget negotiations is when a glum-looking John Boehner — backed by the vulpine Eric Cantor, eyes blazing — steps in front of the cameras and accuses Barack Obama of “not negotiating in good faith.” And he does it with a straight face.

Apparently, good faith negotiation to a Republican consists of demanding unconditional surrender and an apology for disagreeing in the first place. This qualifies as theater of the absurd. Republicans can't even negotiate in good faith with each other, or crying out loud, let alone with the president of the United States.

I had high hopes. I admit it. The economy was starting to revive, we had beaten the barbarians back from the gates of the city in the election and Mr. Obama seemed informed by a new resolve.

I was encouraged by Obama's tough talk at the onset of the budget negotiations. He was prepared to cut the size of government and gradually reduce Social Security benefits through a complex formula, but he was also going to let tax rates rise by a few percentage points on income of more than \$250,000 to even things out.

It wasn't good enough for the Republicans. They kept holding out for no rate hikes on the rich, instead leaning heavily on taking money and

benefits from the sick and the disabled to balance the budget.

Then Obama offered to raise the tax threshold to incomes of \$400,000 or more.

“Oh no,” I said to myself. “He's starting to negotiate with himself again. He always does that and he always loses.” But then John Boehner, the Republican Speaker of House, started to negotiate with himself, too. He offered to accept a tax rise for incomes of \$1 million or more.

This, of course, was unacceptable to Democrats but, as it turned out, the Republican knuckle-draggers in the House wouldn't go along either.

So, at this writing, there we are, on the very edge of the fiscal cliff with no easy way back. (Republican conservatives have an ancient Greek warrior streak in them. They take out a position, then burn the boats they came in.)

One thing the Republicans were able to agree on was to cut out the cuts in military spending that were intended as part of the cliff deal and apply them to other spending in the budget — frills like subsidies for higher education, public housing for the poor, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

As New York Times columnist Eduardo Porter put it: “Without such spending, the government becomes little more than a heavily armed pension plan with a health insurer on the

side.” And not a very good insurer at that.

Every once in a while, the question arises of whether the United States of America constitutes “the greatest country in the world.” Most Americans, say: “Sure we are.”

Really? I've always had my doubts about that. Whenever international rankings of nations come out — categories like infant mortality, educational achievement, even overall “quality of life” — the U.S. seldom cracks the top 10.

The one place where we have absolute, undisputed supremacy is the percentage of our people who are locked up. With just 5 percent of the world's population, we've got 25 percent of the planet's prisoners. We rank No. 1 in this regard, well ahead of the much-larger China, which also happens to be a police state, and Russia, where they put singers in jail for making fun of Vladimir Putin.

Those just don't seem like the kind of statistics the greatest country on earth should generate.

Nor would it put up with a political system where a determined group of informationally-challenged zealots could bring the nation to its knees on any pretext that struck its fancy.

We're a pretty good country — don't misunderstand me. I'm glad I live here. But the greatest on earth? I'd like a second opinion.

Other Words columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Usual Eccentric

Sleeping with the enemy

Will E. Sanders

I have been married to Christine for three months and the thing I can't stand about being married the most are people who insistently ask me if I enjoy married life. They ask it in this condescending, self-satisfying tone like they are half expecting me to answer that marriage is terrible.

So naturally the crash course of such conversations eventually leads such people to inquire if there are any annoying habits, quirks or behaviors that Christine exhibits frequently that get under my skin. Um, I lived with her for three years. It wasn't like Christine waited until the marriage certificate was signed, sealed and delivered before she started using my shaving cream, wearing all my good shirts, clogging the shower drain or constantly complaining that I leave the toilet seat up.

I mean, so what? I leave the toilet seat up. As a man I hardly see how that is a big deal.

Fact of the matter is I love being married. It's better than anything in the world and let me tell you why. I don't mean this in a chauvinistic way, but food doesn't purchase and prepare itself you know. She washes my clothes. She cleans up my messes. She picks up my toys. I leave them scattered about on the living room floor.

And besides, nothing beats the obligation of consensual sex.

No, I love being married, and to be honest there isn't a single thing about Christine that bothers me. Those things were discovered long ago. I accept Christine just the way she is — so long as she is conscious.

Once she's unconscious, specifically asleep, she can be a real nightmare. Christine is one of those people who worries about falling asleep and falls asleep faster than pulling a plug out of a power outlet. Head to bed — boom. She is asleep, out to the world around her. Many nights I toss and turn and to provide myself entertainment I oftentimes turn and watch Christine sleep, which I realize is quite unenvying.

To Christine sleeping isn't sleeping. To Christine snoring is a full-body contact sport. She throws more kicks and elbows than a sanctioned MMA fight. She doesn't saw logs, she chainsaws them with both hands. At this point I would be better served by wearing a mouth guard and shin guards to bed. Maybe even a cup.

No, definitely a cup. The worst thing about it is Christine is snoring. When she accidentally and repeatedly elbows me in the ribs it feels like I'm being the recipient of a prison knitting.

But flailing around like a crazy woman

when she sleeps is just the start of it. She talks in her sleep, too. Talking isn't even the right word for it. It sounds like someone speaking coherently in tongues, and most of the time I can only make out one distinct word. Last night she was carrying on and I could only make out the word “douglass.”

Against my better judgment I am choosing to inform you that Christine is an Olympian drooler. This isn't an exaggeration, nor is it hyperbole. She could easily drown herself or me (perhaps even the two of us) to death with the volume of drool she salivates in her slumber. One time she fell asleep with her cell phone near her head. She drooled so much that she crippled the circuit board with her saliva and rendered the technological apparatus immobile.

Thankfully, her new cell phone is protected in a drool-proof case.

But what I can't stand is her love of the snooze button. It's called an alarm clock, not a sleep-a-little-longer machine. I fail to see the point of getting an extra five minutes of sleep after hard work antennas have blasted out my eardrums, but that's just me.

So do I enjoy being married?

Yes, it's a dream come true — almost.

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

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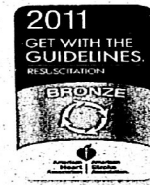
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Little Caesars Pizza Bowl: Western Kentucky falls to Central Michigan

Times Staff Report

DETROIT, Mich. — Central Michigan scored what proved to be a game-winning touchdown with 5:11 remaining in the fourth quarter, and a fourth-down pass play for WKU fell incomplete as the Hilltoppers fell 24-21 Wednesday night in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl at Ford Field.

WKU ended the 2012 season with a 7-6 record, playing in the first FBS bowl game in school history.

"I am so proud of this group. The have been through so much in the last few weeks," said WKU interim head coach Lance Guidry. "I'm proud of the way we played tonight. We left some plays out of the field that might have changed the outcome, but sometimes that's how the cookie crumbles."

The Hilltoppers led 21-17 entering the fourth quarter, but a blocked punt gave the Chippewas a short field with just under seven minutes remaining. Game MVP Ryan Radcliff threw his third touchdown pass of the game, connecting with Cody Wilson on an 11-yard scoring pass to put CMU in front 24-21 with 5:11 left.

WKU was able to get the ball

back and drive down to the Central Michigan 19 yard line, converting two third-and-longs on the drive. On third-and-10 from the 27, Kawaun Jakes connected with Willie McNeal on an eight-yard completion. After a timeout with 51 seconds left, WKU kept its offense on the field, but a pass from Jakes to Jack Doyle was incomplete as CMU was able to run out the clock for the victory.

After taking the opening kickoff, Central Michigan appeared to be stopped on a third-down play before a holding penalty on WKU kept the drive alive. A near interception by Kianté Young brought up another third down for CMU, but this time Radcliff found Andrew Flory on a 69-yard touchdown pass to give the Chippewas a 7-0 lead with 10:54 to play in the opening quarter.

The Hilltoppers came right back as on the first play of the game Antonio Andrews threw a pass back to Jakes, who then found Rico Brown for a career-long 70-yard reception down to the CMU seven. Two plays later, Jakes ran it in from six yards to even the score at 7-7.

Flory was on the receiving end of another CMU touchdown as the Chippewas needed just six plays to go 73 yards. This time

Radcliff found Flory on a 29-yard scoring pass to again put Central Michigan back on top 14-7 with 5:49 remaining in the opening quarter.

After those three quick scores, the kicking games took center stage for both teams. WKU punter Hendrix Brakefield was able to boom a 74-yard kick late in the quarter, setting a Little Caesars Pizza Bowl record, and equalling the fourth-longest punt in school history. The record was short-lived, however, as just a couple minutes later CMU's Richie Hogan got off an 82-yard punt. Then, with 9:59 remaining in the first half, Central Michigan was able to stretch it lead to 17-7 when David Harman tied a bowl record with a 50-yard field goal.

The Hilltoppers were able to find the end zone for the second time in the half, riding the legs of Andrews down inside the central Michigan 10-yard line. Faced with a third down from the six yard line, Jakes was able to scramble to his right and find Jack Doyle who pulled in a one-handed touchdown grab to pull WKU within three points. That also moved Jakes past Justin Haddix into first place on WKU's career touchdown passing list with his 51st career scoring throw.

That would prove to be the final score of the half as Xavious Boyd blocked a late CMU field goal try, keeping the deficit at three as the teams went into the locker room.

After both teams were forced to punt on their first drives of the second half, the Hilltoppers were able to put together their longest scoring drive of the season to eat up most of the third-quarter clock. After a CMU punt traveled into the end zone for a touchback, the WKU offense was able to drive 80 yards in 16 plays, using up 9:23 of the clock. Andrews carried the ball nine times on the drive, while Jakes completed all four of his passes. That included a 22-yard pass to Kadeem Jones that down to the one-yard line. After a false start, and a five-yard Andrews run, Jones finished off the drive with a one-yard scoring dive, giving WKU a 21-17 lead with 1:24 remaining in the third quarter.

Central Michigan appeared to answer with a score on its next possession, but a review determined that Zurlon Tipton's elbow was down at the one yard line before he crossed the goal line, giving the ball back over to WKU with 9:21 remaining. The Hilltoppers went three-and-out, however, and CMU blocked a

punt that was recovered at the 25-yard line with 8:55 remaining. The Chippewas were able to capitalize as Radcliff hit Wilson for the 11-yard, game-winning touchdown.

Andrews finished the game with 119 rushing yards, setting a new Hilltopper single-season record with 1,728 yards. He also finished with 184 all-purpose yards, joining Barry Sanders as the only two players in FBS history to eclipse 3,000 all-purpose yards in a season. Jakes completed 14 of 24 passes for 199 yards in his final game as a Hilltopper.

For CMU, Radcliff finished the day 19-of-29 for 253 yards and three TDs. Both Flory (105) and Wilson (101) went over 100 yards receiving. Tipton carried the ball 23 times for 101 yards.

Despite the loss, WKU became just the eighth program since 1989 to earn a bowl berth in its first four years of eligibility. The Hilltoppers joined the Football Bowl Subdivision in 2009. WKU's senior class also was part of a remarkable turnaround that saw the program go 0-12 during their freshman season, to putting together back-to-back winning seasons in 2011 and 2012, and giving the school its first bowl trip.

Five MSC teams ranked in NAIA Football Postseason Top-25 Poll

Times Staff Report

LOUISVILLE — Five Mid-South Conference teams are ranked in the NAIA Football Coaches' Postseason Top-25 Poll, NAIA officials announced earlier in the month.

University of the Cumberlands, Georgetown College and Bethel University - all playoff teams - finished Nov. 7, No. 8 and No. 9 respectively in the final poll of 2012. Cumberlands (10-2) received 242 points after reaching the second round of the playoffs. The Patriots hold steady from the national ranking in the final regular season poll.

Georgetown slipped from the top spot in the final regular season poll to No. 8 after picking up 234 voting points from the national raters. The Tigers fell to Bethel in the Football Championship Series' opening round to end their season at 10-1.

Bethel (9-4) made the biggest jump from the end of the regular season to the post-season poll climbing from No. 18 to No. 9. The Wildcats - who bowed out of the playoffs in the second round - received 227 voting points.

Cumberland University and Kentucky Christian University rounds out the MSC teams ranked in the final poll.

Cumberland (8-3) jumped one spot to No. 19 after receiving 93 voting points while Kentucky Christian (7-4) remains at No. 25 with 26 voting points.

Marian (Ind.) ends the season at No. 1 after capturing the national title. Marian (12-1) received 314 voting points and all 14 first-place votes.

The poll was voted upon by a panel of head coaches representing each of the conferences and independents.

DiNunno named OVC Player of the Week

Times Staff Report

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — Eastern Kentucky University senior Mike DiNunno was named as the adidas Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week on Sunday. The award is the first-ever for the Chicago native.

DiNunno led all players in scoring in both of Eastern's games last week. In addition to averaging 22 points and four

assists per game, the senior shot 44 percent from the field, 53 percent from the free-point range and 93 percent from the free throw line.

He set a new season-high with 22 points at North Carolina A&T. He matched his season-best with 22 points again in the Colonels' road win at High Point. DiNunno also had five rebounds, five assists and only one turnover in 35 minutes. He made all six of his attempts from the free

throw line, including 4-of-4 in the final 30 seconds to secure the victory.

DiNunno ranks first in the OVC in assist-to-turnover ratio (2.3), fourth in assists (4.6/game), seventh in steals (1.8/game) and 12th in scoring (14.4 points/game).

The Colonels will return to action on Sunday (Dec. 30) at West Virginia. The game will be televised on WTVQ. Tip-off is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Whooping cranes spotted; remain off-limits to hunting

Times Staff Report

FRANKFORT — A federally protected whooping crane has been sighted at Sloughs Wildlife Management Area near Henderson. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has also received a report of two whooping cranes along the Ford River in Hopkins County.

The whooping crane is a federally endangered bird that may not be hunted. All three cranes currently in Kentucky are birds that were released in an effort to establish a second flock in the eastern United States. The whooping crane at Sloughs arrived in late November and has been staying in a refuge section of the WMA that is closed to hunting and closed to the public.

Whooping cranes are solid white with black wingtips. They have a red crown. Adults may have a wingspan of 7 1/2 feet and stand up to 5 feet tall on stilted legs.

Hunters should not confuse these cranes with snow geese, another white-bodied bird with black wingtips. Snow geese do not have

stilted legs. Currently there are approximately 10,000 snow geese located in the Sloughs area.

Whooping cranes are similar in silhouette to a sandhill crane. However, sandhill cranes have gray bodies and are smaller than whooping cranes. There are no reports currently of sandhill cranes in the Sloughs area.

The refuge section of Sloughs does have approximately 80 tundra swans which fly around the area. Tundra swans are large, solid white birds with

wingspans approaching 7 feet. They do not have stilted legs. Tundra swans may not be hunted in Kentucky.

Hunters should always be sure of their target before firing a gun, regardless of the species being hunted.

Morehead State to host Tyndall's Southern Miss team

Times Staff Report

MOREHEAD — The Morehead State University men's basketball team returns to Johnson Arena on Friday when it welcomes Conference USA foe Southern Mississippi. Tip-off is set for approximately 7:30 p.m.

The contest will be part of a doubleheader as the Morehead State women's basketball team nationally-ranked opponent Bethel (Tenn.) at 5:15 p.m. One ticket gets fans into both games.

The Eagles, 5-7 overall,

suffered a 69-49 setback at North Dakota State last Friday. The Golden Eagles, 8-4 overall, dropped a 59-51 decision at Wichita State last Saturday.

Friday's game will be the eighth meeting between Morehead State and Southern Mississippi in men's basketball. MSU has won three straight and leads the series, 5-2.

Morehead State graduate who guided his alma mater to a 114-85 record (.572) and two NCAA Tournament appear-

ances from 2006-12, is in his first season as head coach at Southern Mississippi. He owns a 152-94 mark (.618) in eight years as a bench boss.

The game will be web-cast free of charge on OVC Digital Network.com. It will also be broadcast on WTVQ 96.3 FM in Morehead, MSUEagles.com (computers) and m.morehead.ezstream.com (mobile devices).

Chuck Mraz will call the play-by-play, while Johnson County native Jason Blanton provides analysis.

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Our Yesterdays

20 years ago

(Dec. 16, and Dec. 18, 1992)

A mishap Tuesday evening on Route 23 caused a brief scare and an extended detour near Allen, when a truck carrying explosives broke down on the highway. Traffic on Route 23 was rerouted through New Allen by officials with the state's department for Disaster and Emergency Services, while the truck's contents were removed. The vehicle, owned by Econ-Express, of Wheaton, Illinois, was transporting explosives to a Pike County mine. The road was reopened at 6:30 p.m., about two hours after the truck broke down when its frame reportedly snapped. No injuries were reported.

Members of the Prestonsburg City Council publicly assailed the Floyd County Board of Education Monday evening for its plan to move its headquarters from the city of Prestonsburg. Mayor Ann Latta told the council at its regularly scheduled meeting Monday that Superintendent of Floyd County Schools Stephen Towler was expected to recommend that the board consider moving its central office out of Prestonsburg to a new location in Martin because the Prestonsburg office was run down.

The Floyd County Landfill, temporarily closed earlier this year in order to accommodate stringent new environmental regulations, may not reopen at all in the foreseeable future, at least as a landfill facility. Due to the Kentucky

Cabinet for Natural Resources' lengthy review and constant disapproval of proposed changes in the landfill's permit application, Floyd County Judge/Executive John M. Stumbo said Tuesday, Floyd County Solid Waste's resources are severely depleted and several other options must be discussed for solving the problem.

Public and private officials from around the state fought snow and ice Friday afternoon to pick up a shovel and dig right in at the ceremonial groundbreaking at the future site of the Kentucky Downs Harness Track/East Kentucky Fair Grounds and Convention Center, Kentucky Racing Commissioner Wayne Lyster III, who cast the deciding vote allowing the first legal horse racing facility east of Interstate 75, called the event an "historic occasion."

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Our Yesterdays

20 years ago

(Dec. 16, and Dec. 18, 1992)

A mishap Tuesday evening on Route 23 caused a brief scare and an extended detour near Allen, when a truck carrying explosives broke down on the highway. Traffic on Route 23 was rerouted through New Allen by officials with the state's department for Disaster and Emergency Services, while the truck's contents were removed. The vehicle, owned by Econ-Express, of Wheaton, Illinois, was transporting explosives to a Pike County mine. The road was reopened at 6:30 p.m., about two hours after the truck broke down when its frame reportedly snapped. No injuries were reported.

Members of the Prestonsburg City Council publicly assailed the Floyd County Board of Education Monday evening for its plan to move its headquarters from the city of Prestonsburg. Mayor Ann Latta told the council at its regularly scheduled meeting Monday that Superintendent of Floyd County Schools Stephen Towler was expected to recommend that the board consider moving its central office out of Prestonsburg to a new location in Martin because the Prestonsburg office was run down.

The Floyd County Landfill, temporarily closed earlier this year in order to accommodate stringent new environmental regulations, may not reopen at all in the foreseeable future, at least as a landfill facility. Due to the Kentucky

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Movies from the Black Lagoon 'MegaForce'

Tom Doty
Times Columnist

When a South American country steps out of line, the world calls on the MegaForce to step in and blow stuff up in this action romp from the 1980s.

The summer of 1982 was a fantastic one for big action movies that were entertaining and so strong that they resonate today. "Blade Runner" springs to mind and then there is always "Star Trek 2: The Wrath of Khan." Excellent sci-fi flicks that established directors like Ridley Scott, or guaranteed the continuing life of an epic series. Trek would go on to spawn countless movies and even land back on television to spin off four more series.

Then there is "MegaForce."
This film was the big budget bomb that vanished from theaters before most kids got to see it. That situation has been rectified on DVD and the film is back. Unfortunately, it isn't any better, but it is still fun to watch.

The team is composed of 60 soldiers from all over the globe. They have no ranks to speak of, but they all get to rock spandex jumpsuits that leave little to the imagination and probably hurt like heck after a few days of filming in the desert.

The leader of the group is Ace Hunter. Thankfully, he has a tough name, because he looks like a Vegas lounge dancer. He sports a "Bee Gees" style beard and long locks that have been bleached and poofed out. He is played by Barry Hostwick ("Spin City") who looks pretty uncomfortable in his unit that makes him move awkwardly as if he was chinking like a bear.

The MegaForce operates out of a desert base that is several stories underground (perhaps out of embarrassment) and chockful of the latest high tech equipment. The team goes into action when the crazed Gen. Guera begins crossing over international borders.

They attack Guera's army by landing outside his city and storming the place on their high-tech motorcycles that are clumsily outfitted with rocket launchers and machine guns. They blow up everything in sight, only to find out they have been betrayed by the international community in a way that makes them mad but is never properly explained.

This means they must sneak up on the General's army while their rescue planes approach from the front as a diversion. It all leads to more stuff blowing up and one of the planes getting damaged before they over run Guera's forces, so they can get out of this movie before the lights come on and those 1980s audiences realize they have been had.

This is all quite bad, but that's okay, because they throw a lot of money at it. The retrofitted motorcycles must have set them back the most.

The plot required four writers, but it is obvious they didn't talk to each other. This basically consists of one long set up scene in which we meet the force and see their hideout before jumping into the action-packed ending in which it is hard to figure out what is happening.

Credit Hal Needham with the action stuff. He was an excellent stuntman who got a chance to direct the "Smokey and the Bandit" flicks before crafting this big-budget disaster.

If you like action scenes in which people you don't care about are placed in danger for reasons you don't understand, then I have a piece of the action. Now the bar you'll laugh and you might even cry, but I kind of doubt you will be able to explain what just happened to whoever you force to watch it with you.

On that note have a happy New Year. I guarantee that every movie you see in 2013 will feel like a classic after having sat through "MegaForce."
Best line: "The good guys always win. Even in the 1980s."

1982, rated PG.

Rental Central

Tom Doty
Times Columnist

A terrific series and a fairly decent low-budget horror flick made it a good week to rent, though a less than auspicious ending for 2012.

"Looper" — Time travel is always a tricky business. It gets even trickier in the future postulated here, as organized crime has a piece of the action. Now the bad guys go send a killer back in time to rub you out before you threaten their operations. This would have been an awesome flick for a young Martin Scorsese, but it gets fumbled. The budget is huge, so there is plenty of eye candy. The story has an assassin encountering a guy who seems to know his every move. Turns out he should, because he is the same guy, just older. Interesting idea, but less than exciting execution. Joseph-Gordon Leavitt has the lead and Bruce Willis is his older ego.

"The Thompsons" — A family of blood-drinking serial killers flees the country and try to hide out in England in the sequel to "The Hamiltons." The first film was a good low-budget yarn that was part of the first "After Dark Horror Festival." The sequel finds the Hamiltons now calling themselves Stuart, but they wind up falling in with a family of vampires who have their own agenda. Good and gory.

"Satisfied" Season 3 — Marshall Givens returns for another go-round with Kentucky criminals in this excellent season of the low-key crime series. Givens winds up dealing with the aftermath of shutting down a crime syndicate. This time out, the players include a mafia big wig (the icy Neal McDonough) and an African American loan shark who runs his hollow from the ground. Good stuff that gives Givens plenty of opportunity to shoot it out with the bad guys. Timothy Olyphant returns as Givens and gets great support from Mykelti Williamson and Walton Goggins.

"2012 Best Pay-Per-View Fights" — The best wrestling matches from the WWE pay fights are all collected here to save you a dollar if you had the patience to wait for it.

Next week we take a break. Not because we had an exhausting year, but because the studios are taking a break until Jan. 8 when they start up releasing new product. Enjoy your champagne.

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<p>Legals</p> <p>LEGAL NOTICE TO LOT-TIE JOHNSON, ALAN MCCARTY AND CHARLIE JOHNSON Civil Action No. 12-CI-01226</p> <p>Notice is hereby given of the filing of a lawsuit styled: Doreka Vaughn v. Lottie Johnson, Alan McCarty, and Charlie Johnson, Civil Action No. 12-CI-01226 in Floyd County Circuit Court, Prestonsburg, Kentucky. Anyone who may be an interested party in this action is asked to file a written Order Attorney Dustin R. Jones, Prestonsburg, Kentucky at 606-886-8910. Defendants should be aware that the Writting Order Attorney does not represent them but is only notifying them of the pending lawsuit. Defendants should also be aware that they should file a written response to this lawsuit within the next fifty (50) days or there may be a judgment entered against them.</p>	<p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>PAK AVENUE Buy Gold & Silver Coins - 1 percent over dealer cost For a limited time, Park Avenue Numismatics is selling Silver and Gold American Eagle Coins at 1 percent over dealer cost. 1-888-284-9780</p> <p>RECREATIONAL VEHICLES</p> <p>Bicycles Bicycle for Sale - Raleigh Touring with pump, water bottle, and carrying rack, in great Like new. Asking \$400. Call (606) 524-4717.</p> <p>AUTOMOTIVE</p> <p>Autos HICKS AUTO SALES DAVID ROAD 1995 Oldsmobile Silhouette van 115,000 miles \$3,200 98 Dodge ram 4x4 quad cab 1995 GMC Sierra 4wd extra cab 1988 2/2 210 1995 Ford Mustang GT Convertible 90,000 miles 5 speed \$6,250 1998 Chevy Tracker S3,000 2005 Buick Rendezvous H. D. 12,000 miles \$9,000 2004 Mercury Marquis 128,000 miles \$3,900 2005 Chevy Equinox AWD 90,000 \$6,200 2005 Nissan Sentra 90,000 miles \$5,995 1999 Ford Taurus \$ 2,900 CALL 606-886-2842.</p> <p>REAL ESTATE SALES</p> <p>Houses For Sale New Clayton 3 bedroom 2 bath \$25,900 Delivered and Setup (606) 487-0329. New housing program now available! Your land or family land. \$0 down and turn key housing available with land improvement packages. Call to apply 866-287-2053</p> <p>Lots LOTS FOR RENT, DWALE MOBILE HOME PARK, NEAR PRESTONSBURG, RESERVATIONS APPLY. CALL 377-2357.</p> <p>REAL ESTATE RENTALS</p> <p>Apartments/Townhouses FOR RENT FURNISHED GUEST HOUSE APARTMENT, UTILITIES INCLUDED. NO PETS PLEASE ALSO 2 BR UNFURNISHED APARTMENT LOCATED ON UNIVERSITY DRIVE. DEPOSIT & SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. 886-0999 OR 886-3565.</p>	<p>Apartments/Townhouses</p> <p>2 BR House & 2 BR Duplex for rent, central heat and air, 1 mile north of Prestonsburg. No pets, references and security deposit required. Call 889-9747 or 886-9007.</p> <p>TOWNHOUSE APARTMENT FOR RENT: 2BR, 1 1/2 BATH, HOOK UP, CITY LIMITS AT US 23 and 80. \$600.00 A MONTH PLUS 400.00 DEPOSIT. NO PETS 1YR. LEASE. ALSO 2 BDR, 1 BATH - \$550 PER MONTH PLUS \$350 DEPOSIT. CALL 606-237-4758 OR 606-825-0134</p> <p>MEADE RENTALS</p> <p>- 2 bedroom Condo "brand new" - 5 bath - All hardwood floors - Located in the middle of Prestonsburg - Luxury Kitchen - Pantry cabinets - Dishwasher, Stove, Refrigerator - Luxury at it's finest \$795.00 per month \$250.00 Deposit Call 367-1605 Ask for Todd</p> <p>FOR RENT - Large 1 bedroom apartment, Utilities Paid W/D provided. No Pets. No HUD. \$350 per month. \$200 deposit. Call 226-0999</p> <p>Houses For Rent</p> <p>8-Room House Near downtown, driveway, backyard, front porch, 245 Highland, \$255 mo., open house 3-6 Sunday (859)585-2727</p> <p>2 bedroom House in Martin, \$500 per month. Also 2 bedroom Apartment in Prestonsburg, \$700 per month. Includes utilities. Also 3 bedroom House located at Allen, for \$600 per month. Call 606-794-9249</p> <p>3 BDR - 2 BA DW near Health Dept. Can be used as Residential or Commercial. \$895 per month. 606-784-2242</p> <p>MANUFACTURED HOUSING</p> <p>Rentals</p> <p>FOR RENT SINGLE WIDE 3 BR, 2 BATH AT ALXIER \$495.00 PER MONTH. CALL 367-1605 OR 367-1169.</p> <p>MOBILE HOME FOR RENT, 4 MILES FROM PRESTONSBURG 1 OR 2 OCCUPANTS. \$425.00 PER MONTH, 400.00 DEPOSIT, WATER, TRASH PICK UP & LAWN CARE INCLUDED. NO HUD NO PETS. 606-339-5979</p>	<p>Rentals</p> <p>FOR RENT 3 BR, 2 BATH MOBILE HOME LOCATED AT EASTERN, NICE QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD, 500.00 DEPOSIT, 500.00 PER MONTH & REFERENCE REQUIRED. CALL 606-237-7058 LEAVE MESSAGE</p> <p>FOR RENT NICE 2 BR MOBILE HOME, PRIVATE LOT, BETWEEN ALLEN & PRESTONSBURG. GARAGE & CARPORT. MONTHLY 250.00 DEPOSIT. WATER, GARAGE & CARPORT FURNISHED. NO HUD, NO PETS. AVAILABLE JAN. 1ST. 606-259-7063</p> <p>Sales</p> <p>Huge 2013 Clayton 28x72 4 bedrooms - 2 bathrooms \$49,900 Delivered & Setup (606) 487-0323</p> <p>Model Year Clearance Sale \$555 606-487-0323</p> <p>NEW 16x80 \$29,900 606-487-0323</p> <p>Used Homes starting @ \$9,999 606-487-0323</p> <p>RESORT PROPERTY</p> <p>EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>Help Wanted- General</p> <p>Drivers Needed Professional Transportation, Inc. is seeking local drivers for passenger vans in the Martin, KY area. Drug screen, driving record and criminal background check required. EOE 1-800-471-2440, ext. 1 www.professionaltransportation.com</p> <p>EXPERIENCED TAX PREPARERS NEEDED. PRESTONSBURG & PIKE COUNTY. LIBERTY TAX SERVICE CALL 304-671-9999</p> <p>Immediately needed Part Time RN for a busy medical office. Day shift only. Email resumes to: ptree0007@gmail.com</p> <p>Tax preparer. No experience necessary. First one-on-one computer training. Starts Jan. 2nd. Register by calling 304-671-9999. Starting 12/29/12. May also register by calling 606-432-7440. Limited space in class. Seasonal job opportunities available in Prestonsburg and Pike Co. Liberty Tax Service.</p> <p>Musical</p> <p>Musical Instrument For Sale Wechter Scheerhorn, model RS-642BR, Resonator Guitar. Like new. Two extra sets of strings, picks, slides, tuner and hardshell case included. Asking \$800. Call (606) 524-4717.</p>
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2012 Year in Review



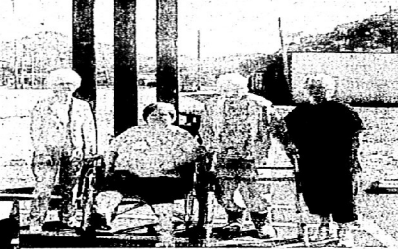
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