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Section



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The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

Serving Floyd County since 1927

2000 — The Year Ahead

Water lines, cleanups top judge's 2000 agenda

by **Ralph B. Davis**
Managing Editor

County Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson thinks of two things when asked to peer into the year ahead — water and the environment.

Of the two, water is perhaps the issue he is most concerned with. Thompson readily admits he could "talk all day" about water, perhaps because that seems to

be the issue he hears about most from constituents.

In that regard, Thompson has set ambitious goals. He wants to see 90 to 95 percent of Floyd County households with running water by the end of 2003.

That will be tough, the judge admits, since only about 70 percent are currently hooked up to "city" water.

But Thompson believes the goal is within reach, especially with the state

Public Service Commission's recent approval of the merger of Beaver Elkhorn and Mud Creek water districts to span nearly all of the southern half of Floyd County.

"Both the federal and state governments are looking very favorably at consolidation (of water districts)," Thompson said. "This will give us initially a customer base of 3,700 people, leaving us with 1,700 to 2,000 households (without

water)."

The newly-created Southern Water District still must clear a few hurdles. The judge must set the district's boundaries through an executive order, then present the plan in a public hearing. After that, the fiscal court must approve the merger.

Those should not be a problem, Thompson said. What will be tough is navigating Floyd County's terrain to extend water service to the county's remaining

households.

"The thing about it is, all the easy places have been done," Thompson said.

But Thompson is planning on receiving a lot of help. He said he expects the upcoming legislature to approve using \$650,000 of the county's economic development money funded by the coal severance tax.

(See County, page three)

Mayor believes golf course will improve P'burg

by **Randell Reno**
Staff Writer

Y2K is spelled G-R-O-W-T-H for Prestonsburg, according to Mayor Jerry Fanning, who said the outlook for the city "is looking a lot better."

The existence of the championship golf course in the city creates the potential for construction of more restaurants, motels and other small businesses, said Fanning. The anticipated opening for the course is this fall.

Plans are to schedule tournaments for the course to draw visitors to Prestonsburg.

"Motels will come with the golf course," he said.

Because the course will add to the attractiveness of the city, Fanning hopes it will entice people to establish roots and stay.

"The housing market will get better," said Fanning.

The four-laning of the Mountain Parkway, improvements at the Mountain Arts Center, Thunder Ridge, the building of a quality athletic complex for Prestonsburg High School and more new businesses will encourage people to take a longer look at the town, the mayor said.

"More people will move into the area. People look for these types of things," he said. "This

(See P'burg, page three)

Scenic beauty...



This utility pole surrounded by interesting cloud formations created a scenic view on recent warm days. The photo was shot from Wendy's parking lot. (photo by Willie Elliott)

Cities looking to grow

by **Randell Reno**
Staff Writer

"Grow, grow, grow" is what Allen Mayor Sharon Woods sees for the city of Allen, as well as New Allen and Dwale.

The three communities have been under utility construction for the past year but those projects are or very near completion.

New water and sewer lines that have been built in the area will allow for growth, whether that be in industrial, commercial or residential.

"The new sewer system will be up and running and the residents will have good water," said Woods. "We are starting to see new businesses already with the Dollar Store and the new laundromat."

The people have a good spirit about all the construction, said Woods.

Completion of the work will allow streets in the area to be paved, smoothing out sore spots the construction has brought the area's appearance. Woods hopes this will make Allen an aesthetically pleasing place to be.

"There will be significant

(See Cities, page three)

Superintendent looking for continued improvement

by **Willie Elliott**
Staff Writer

By all accounts, the Floyd County school system has made great progress in the last year or so.

Not only has the system operated in the black, but the board has begun asking the question, "What can we do to help you (the individual schools) do

your job, raise students' scores and thus better prepare them for the competitive world of the 21st century?"

First-year Superintendent Paul Fanning talked about some of the issues facing the system in the new year. This week we will discuss the support elements of the system to include finance, transportation, construction, state management and tech-

nology. A later issue will deal with instruction and curriculum.

Fanning said his father used to make him clean out the barn and he hated the job because it took so long to accomplish. Fanning would take his problem to his mother who would tell him, "Do the worst first."

That is the attitude Fanning takes in relation to the over \$600,000 debt that

is owed to Cogenex. He said this was a decision board members did not particularly enjoy making but "it has to be done," Fanning said.

The board has agreed to start making payments to the company.

After discussing the debt, Fanning was more positive about other things

(See Schools, page three)

Sept.-Dec.: HRMC strike ends; board has troubling time

September

Highlands Regional Medical Center workers prepared for their strike on September 2 and walked out of the center the next day to the chant "1, 2, 3, 4 — union workers out the door."

Sykes Enterprises of Florida promised to provide about 200 local jobs in its service-oriented plant at Mossy Bottom in Pike County. The company contracts with manufacturers and retailers to service their products.

Dennis Lafferty of Cliffside filed suit against Bryco Arms, a gun manufacturer in Costa Mesa, California, after the weapon went into automatic mode and Lafferty shot himself in the hand.

Monsignor Ralph W. Beiting resigned as chairman of Christian Appalachian Project, the international organization he started in eastern Kentucky more than 38 years ago.

Kathy Jervis, 34, of Endicott, allegedly

shot her husband Mike, 35, in the arm and the bullet went to his chest.

The Kentucky Arts Council hosted a series of meetings with the invitation "We want to hear from you." The group met with 25 local people at the Mountain Arts Center to get input from various groups about plans for the organization.

Floyd Countians prepared to celebrate Labor Day, while workers at Highlands Regional Medical Center manned picket lines.

A woman walked into the Cardinal Country Store at Stanville and pulled a gun on the sole employee, robbed her and fled the scene.

Alcohol Beverage Control agents, conducting their periodic "Cops in Shops" operation to nab under-aged drinkers, arrested four people for violating the state's open container law and for possession of cocaine.

Gerald Hall, 33, of Allen, was arrested after Floyd County Deputy Sheriff Greg Clark and Allen City Police Chief Virgil Conn responded to a domestic violence call at

Hall's home on Hinton Hollow.

Prestonsburg High School football fans held a meeting with board member Johnnie Ross and Supt. Paul Fanning in an attempt to speed up the construction of an athletic complex at the school.

A minor traffic stop led to a major drug bust when KSP Troopers Jamie Kidd and Dwayne Price pulled over Mark D. Shepherd, 27, of Warsaw, Indiana. When Shepherd was pulled over, troopers found 5.7 pounds of cocaine, seven pounds of freshly-harvested high grade marijuana and more than \$17,000 in cash.

A hospital employee, Tim Adams, contended that he lost his job as an anesthetist at Highlands Regional Medical Center when he aided striking workers and refused to cross picket lines.

Timothy Shepherd, 28, of Vest, was one of 12 people indicted by a Floyd County grand jury. Shepherd was charged with six counts of wanton endangerment and one count of criminal attempt to commit murder.

Lawrence Price, a highly-respected teacher and principal in the Floyd County School System, died.

Parents gathered Thursday at Betsy Layne and John M. Stumbo elementary schools to listen to state health officials about the scare of meningitis that gripped the com-

munities.

McDowell and Osborne elementary schools were chosen to take part in a program called Clothes for Curriculum. The program is described as a fresh start for schools to implement the Project Read program.

Jimmy Branham, 20, of Prestonsburg, Brandy Crabtree, 22, of Tera Lane in Prestonsburg, and an unidentified juvenile were arrested for stealing a riding lawn mower, jets skis and a four-wheeler.

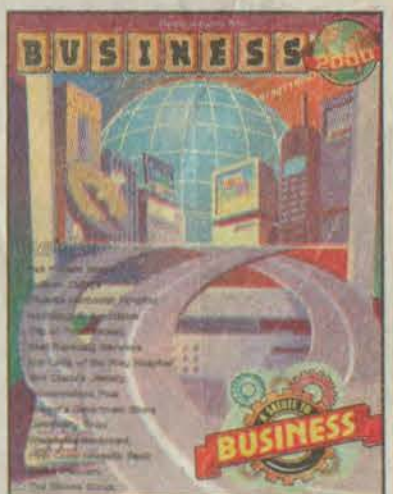
Contrary to media reports of a new case of meningitis, the Floyd County Health Department said there have been no new cases since Betsy Layne Elementary student Jessica Bentley was diagnosed the previous week.

The site-based decision making council at Adams Middle School told parents who were concerned about the newly-adopted dress code to go through the school's attendance/discipline committee to effect changes in the policy.

Eugene Crisp, 73, of Martin, allegedly used a handgun to shoot Mark Crisp, 25, of Jenny's Creek in Martin, during an altercation at the Sav-A-Lot parking lot in Martin.

The American Red Cross appealed to

(See Review, page two)



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1999 YEAR IN REVIEW

Part 3 of 3

A look back at the events which made news during 1999. In this issue, September through December

Review

the citizens of Floyd County to support an effort to relieve the devastation of Hurricane Floyd.

■ Amy F. Hayes, 25, of Oxford, Michigan, starred in "Destination Stardom." She is the daughter of Morris and Freda Hayes of Floyd County and the granddaughter of Opal Hayes of Hi Hat and Mertie Reynolds of Ligon.

■ Schools in the Betsy Layne area were closed for two days because of a scare of a new meningitis case.

■ U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers announced a grant of \$231,490 to the Big Sandy Area Development District to train workers for anticipated economic development in the area.

■ A Danville native, Larry Burton, escaped serious injury in a construction accident at Allen. Burton was buried alive as he worked on installing the new water and sewer system in Allen. Burton was flown out to Cabell-Huntington Hospital by Health Net.

■ The Prestonsburg City Council passed a resolution to support settlement of the Highlands Regional Medical Center strike. A shouting match ensued between Trent Naim, whose father is on the hospital's board of directors, and union members.

■ The Floyd County Board of Education learned that all suggested plans for South Floyd High School and Prestonsburg High School were beyond the money budgeted for the project.

■ Rep. Hal Rogers reported that a House-Senate conference committee agreed to provide \$500,000 in federal funding to start implementing the planned flood control project in the town of Martin. The panel also approved Rogers' request to provide \$2.6 million for projects associated with the PRIDE initiative.

■ Rebecca Lynn Howard, a 20-year-old Salyersville native and Kentucky Opry alumnus, came home to perform as a special guest at the state finals of the True Value Jimmy Dean Country Showdown at the Mountain Arts Center.

October

■ There was no reason for joy or sorrow as students, as a whole, in the Floyd County School System did not score high or low on the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS). One school, Osborne Elementary, was among the bottom 10 schools. Clark Elementary had the highest score — 60.1 — of any Floyd County school.

■ Members of the Floyd County Rescue Squad organized a local effort for victims of Hurricane Floyd in North Carolina. The

response was so good that a tractor-trailer was used to transport the supplies.

■ In a special meeting, the Floyd County Fiscal Court approved a resolution transferring a water line extension project to Beaver-Elkhorn Water District. The commissioners also adopted 18 roads into the county system.

■ In a drug raid, the Floyd County Sheriff's Department found marijuana, drug paraphernalia and cash at the home of Cecil David Ousley, 47, on Caney Fork of Middle Creek. Also arrested was Ousley's 19-year old son Aaron for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

■ Floyd County Fiscal Court sponsored a fall cleanup across the county. Citizens could have debris picked up by calling the road department.

■ In a special-called Floyd County Board of Education meeting, members adopted a tentative facility plan that placed the athletic complexes at South Floyd and Prestonsburg high schools as top priorities.

■ In a letter to state Commissioner of Education Wilmer Cody, board chairman Terry Dotson tendered his resignation, saying "I feel it is in the best interest of everyone involved, if I tender my resignation to you, effective December 31, 1999." (Dotson later rescinded his resignation.)

■ More than 100 volunteers joined the search for two preschoolers, Candance Burchett and Ricky Keathley. After a three-hour search, rescuers found the children sitting on a fallen tree at an abandoned mine more than a mile from home, with Ricky's brown dog between them.

■ Julie and Dwayne Kidd of Branham's Creek welcomed quadruplets into their family. Hunter, Dalton Blake, Kaitlin Rose and Jenna Hope were born at Central Baptist in Lexington, only the fourth set of quads born in the hospital's history.

■ A not guilty verdict was handed down in the civil case of Walters vs. Prestonsburg Lodging Associates, a wrongful death suit centering around the 1997 drunk-driving deaths of Todd Walters, Thomas Word II, Forest Howell and Sean Alexander. The verdict said Super 8 was not responsible for the deaths of the young men.

■ Accompanied by four former governors, Gov. Paul Patton was in Prestonsburg to celebrate the opening of US 23, which is now four lanes from the Virginia border near Jenkins to the Ohio border at Russell.

■ Boyd County Circuit Judge David Hagerman issued a restraining order that limited the number of picketers and identified individuals who could be on the picket line in the Highlands Medical Center and SEIU conflict.

■ Teddi Vaughn, who led the Jenny Wiley Theatre through a resurgence in the early 1990s was tapped to lead the fledgling Mountain Arts Center. Vaughn declined the offer and Keith Caudill continued in the position as interim director.

■ Prestonsburg Community College's board of directors rescinded a resolution that praised then-president Deborah Floyd in the wake of a state auditor's report that was critical of college management. The board also voted to sacrifice the Martin Student Center building to avoid further delays in the construction of three other buildings.

■ County commissioners approved a contract with the state Transportation Cabinet to use \$135,750 in federal funds to develop the Middle Creek Battlefield on KY 114.

■ Mark S. Hayes, 34, of Langley, was indicted on six counts relating to an incident on August 18 when he was alleged to have accelerated his vehicle at a traffic checkpoint, causing KSP Tpr. John McMahan to "leap out of the way to avoid being run over."

■ Prestonsburg firefighters spent six hours assisting in the blaze that destroyed the Maggard and Joseph Furniture business in Paintsville.

■ Claimants Phyllis Ousley, Jeanete Prater, Jackie Hurt, Bonnie Goble and Wanda Conley each received \$11,000 each in a settlement for flu-like symptoms they experienced during the renovation of the Dollar General Store in Prestonsburg.

■ A grieving father, Cliff Daniels, circulated a petition asking for a vaccine against meningitis in the wake of the death of his son Dexter to the virus.

■ The Wheelwright City Commission sold its old city hall to Wheelwright native David Hall.

■ The city of Martin found itself with more bills than revenue. City Clerk Pam Justice told the council that there were \$35,000 in bills to be paid for the month of November, but only \$20,000 was available.

■ The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation providing the Mountain Arts Center with \$100,000 for educational programs and other activities. U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers said he fought to include the money in the final version of the Fiscal Year 2000 appropriation.

November

■ In the local election, Chris Waugh, Doug Hall and Julie Paxton were elected as county clerk, circuit clerk and family court judge, respectively. David Barber was elected as judge of the state Court of Appeals, representing the 7th Appellate District.

■ The Prestonsburg City Council formally agreed to donate land in the city's Mountaintop Project for construction of a football stadium for Prestonsburg High School.

■ At least three persons were involved in a theft of \$8,000 worth of property from land at Garrett belonging to Eugene Mullins, former Wayland mayor.

■ Officers from four separate agencies were involved in a vehicle pursuit and foot chase after Koree Thompson, 24, of Volga in Johnson County. Thompson allegedly pulled a gun on Sheriff John K. Blackburn and fled from the scene.

■ U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers announced that Floyd County schools won grants totaling \$17,465 for an environmental project from the PRIDE program.

■ The parents of a local teenager breathed a sigh of relief when they were reunited with their daughter, Brandi Blocker. Blocker and her boyfriend Gregory Russell of Roane County, Tennessee, had been in Baltimore, Maryland, staying with friends.

■ After two decades of journalistic work, managing editor Janice Shepherd left the Times to concentrate on the titles of wife, mother and grandmother.

■ The Division of Forestry in Betsy Layne spent several weeks controlling forest fires that hit the area. A local and state ban on burning was issued, and firefighters from other parts of the county were brought in to help fight the blazes.

■ Dr. Bernard Greisman, who had been critical of the administration at Highlands Regional Medical Center and supportive of workers who were on strike against the center, resigned his position at the medical center.

■ After Teddi Vaughn declined the director's position, the Mountain Arts Center Management Commission voted to "lean on the interim director for a while longer."

■ Just days after being re-elected to a second term, Gov. Paul Patton outlined proposals aimed at cutting illegal dumps and roadside litter during a stop in Prestonsburg.

■ The Floyd County Board of Education voted to sue the former board attorney for malpractice for his handling of a conflict with Cogenex Corporation, which had won a judgment of over \$600,000 against the board.

■ After more than 70 days of conflict, Highlands Regional Medical Center and SEIU reached a settlement that sent workers back to their jobs.

■ Timothy Wayne Hall, 37, of Galveston, was remanded to the custody of Floyd County Detention Center following a hearing Wednesday. Hall had mysteriously been released and admitted to a Hazard hospital ward, despite being

held on a stiff cash bond.

■ Attorney Ned Pillersdorf, representing former Floyd County Board of Education attorney Jerry Patton, sent a letter to board members saying allegations against Patton were false, and they should reconsider their decision to sue their former barrister.

■ A man who admits he's read the Floyd County Times almost all his life has joined the newspaper's staff as managing editor. Ralph B. Davis III, 30, took over the position on November 8, replacing Janice Shepherd who had retired.

■ Amid charges that some members were being political, the Floyd County Board of Education voted down, for the third time, a proposal to purchase the old Bank Josephine building to be used as a central office.

■ Regina C. Lafferty, 46, and Tommy L. Lafferty, Jr., 48, were indicted by a grand jury on charges of posing as an insurance agency after the couple allegedly accepted payments from customers who believed they were purchasing insurance.

December

■ For a fourth time the question of whether to purchase the old Bank Josephine building came up and was voted down by the Floyd County Board of Education.

■ The Floyd County Board of Education approved a draft of a controversial district facility plan. The board had sent the plan to Frankfort before it was approved.

■ A new food stamp debit card, which looks and behaves much like a credit card, was fully integrated in the Floyd County area, meaning the end of traditional paper food stamps.

■ Officials with the Otter Creek Correctional Center in Wheelwright said the facility must either start accepting out-of-state prisoners or send its 128 workers to the unemployment line.

■ On the fifth try, the Floyd County Board of Education voted to buy the old Bank Josephine building. The board also voted to start correcting some of the shortcomings to other buildings throughout the district.

■ A debate over the creation of a golf course advisory board raged on with the Prestonsburg City Council. The debate became so heated council member Trent Naim resigned his position on the city ordinance committee.

■ The Martin City Council asked Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson for help with the city's flood project. Thompson said, "We're going to support the project. The question is to what extent."

■ Representatives from Otter Creek Correctional Center was at the Wheelwright Commission meeting to explain the implications of not accepting out-of-state prisoners.

■ The Prestonsburg City Council gave final approval to an ordinance which places control of the 18-hole golf course project in the hands of an advisory board, subject to veto by the council and mayor.

■ The Kentucky State Police Professional Association conducted its annual "shop with cops" activity as 71 children got a chance to meet Santa and buy something they truly wanted for Christmas.

■ Officers of the Kentucky State Police, in conjunction with Pikeville City Police and Pike County Sheriff's Department arrested 28 people in an early-morning drug raid.

■ A local lawyer, Sheridan Martin, found himself on the other side of the legal process after one of his employees accused him of sexually abusing her.

■ The state Public Service Commission approved a plan which would merge the Mud Creek and Beaver Elkhorn water districts into a single district known as the Southern Water and Sewer District.

■ The Floyd County Fiscal Court agreed to come to the aid of the city of Martin in an ambitious project to get the community out of the flood plain.

■ The Floyd County Board of Education decided to take one more look at the construction of the Prestonsburg High School athletic complex after Mayor Jerry Fannin offered to help. Board members asked Fannin to supply specific information about the degree to which the city could help.

■ Our Lady of the Way Hospital at Martin was recognized as a recipient of the 1999 Top Hospitals National Benchmark for Success Award, while McDowell Appalachian Regional Health Care

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The Floyd County Times to publish Floyd County and the surrounding area pictorial history

Rod Collins, publisher of The Floyd County Times, announced this week the newspaper will publish a pictorial history book of Floyd County and the surrounding area. The library quality hard-bound collectors' edition will feature 128 pages of pictures and history of Floyd County and the surrounding area. The book will be printed on acid-free archival paper that will last for hundreds of years. Containing around 350 pictures, these volumes will be ready by fall of 2000. The Floyd County Times is soliciting pictures from current and past residents of Floyd County and the surrounding area through the past decades. Please mail in your photos with information attached (who, where, when and what is going on). Or drop by our office and fill out a photo information form for each picture to be submitted. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number on the back of each photo, so it can be returned after the book is completed. You have any questions concerning submitting photos call 606-886-8506 for more information. The limited edition will be featured for those interested in a deluxe version. The limited edition will be a numbered copy with no more than 75 copies ever published. Guided by the highest standards of quality and craftsmanship, the limited edition will also feature a 100% leather cover. This coffee table showpiece displays top craftsmanship. The roots, the character, and the tradition of where we live and work will always be more important to us than any other place in the world. We hope that you and your family and friends will share in the rewarding experience in your own community. To reserve a copy of A Pictorial History of Floyd County — Millennium Edition, you may do so by sending or bringing in your order now. The standard version is \$34.95 plus \$2.09 tax per copy. Orders can be placed with a \$10 down payment. The first 500 to order will receive a \$10 discount, making your copy cost only \$24.95 plus \$1.50 tax. The limited edition will be \$75 plus \$4.50 tax per copy. You need not purchase a book to have your photographs considered. A sample copy of a similar publication is available at our office for your inspection.

Cities

(Continued from page one)

improvements in the visual aspects of Allen," said Roger Recktenwald Big Sandy Area Development District's executive director.

"Hopefully, more businesses will take a deeper look at Allen," Recktenwald said. "Without the new sewage system, the laundry could not have moved in. With the completion of the sewer and water projects, I look for businesses to take a closer look. Everything will be ready."

Recktenwald said major improvements have been made in the Allen area. Because of these changes, he said, Allen will be able to focus on the quality of life of its

residents.

While not physically visible, the city of Martin will make some significant changes organizationally in 2000, said Recktenwald.

With the county agreeing to sponsor the city's flood control project, the city will eventually see radical changes, he said.

"It will be a dramatic change, nothing will look the same. The evolution of the city will be a tremendous impact. The Purple Flash will be back," said Recktenwald.

Those changes may not spell economic prosperity for Martin in 2000, but they certainly will in the

years beyond, Recktenwald said.

Of Wheelwright, Recktenwald said, "The city will continue to improve its utilities service, as well as its housing track."

Plans are in the works for single detached family housing to become available to the residents this year. The modular type homes, which are factory built with standard materials, will be available for purchase for the "working poor," said Recktenwald.

These homes will be built with the same quality of a modular home, but offered to Wheelwright residents at \$10,000 less and at a substantially lower interest rate.

Also in the works for the city is an effort to recapture the city's history.

"Wheelwright was considered the coal camp throughout the U.S.," he said.

Plans for the storied town this year include marketing of the area's heritage. Those interested will be able to tap into that history beginning this year via the world wide web.

"More and more people are taken with looking up their history, and Wheelwright will become the Mecca of coal camp areas."

The Kentucky Department of Tourism, the local tourist commis-

sion, and tourist groups in Somerset are all working on marketing Wheelwright for its historical significance, said Recktenwald.

Like the cities of Allen, Wheelwright and Martin, the city of Wayland has had monumental developments in its water and sewer systems. The entire county seems to be on the edge, poised for growth in the various locales. With the coal business long gone from the city of Wayland, local officials have cemented the city's future by rebuilding its utilities.

Facial changes in the county's topography are more than evident, but the social changes and govern-

mental changes have come about almost at a whisper over the past few years.

"There is much less isolationism," said Recktenwald as he complimented the countywide cooperation in helping communities grow and prosper.

Recktenwald said the perseverance of Floyd County's small towns is admirable.

"With the size of these communities, they should have gone under long ago. Their resilience is a testimony of the people's intestinal fortitude, wanting to stay together and thrive."

County

(Continued from page one)

That will be a start, but Thompson says more will be needed. He estimates it will take over \$5 million over the next four years to achieve his water line goals.

Thompson said he expects the remaining \$4.4 million to be defrayed by state water projects, including an initiative rumored to be on Gov. Paul Patton's drawing board, and bond issues.

But however the goal is achieved, Thompson said he believes it is worthy of the effort.

"I think it's an important enough issue to do whatever it takes to do it," Thompson said. "It's going to be up to the fiscal court to do whatever is necessary to get the people water."

On the environmental front, Thompson is planning to continue to the county's recent spate of cleanups.

On the agenda for 2000 will be seven creek cleanups covering 26 miles, which the county has received grant money to pay for.

Thompson said the county also hopes to receive a \$1.5 million grant to conduct a major "creek rehabilitation" along Left Beaver around McDowell. That project would concentrate not only on trash cleanup, but also flood control.

Thompson said he believes some sort of anti-litter legislation needs to come from the General Assembly during this year's session, though he said he has not made up his mind which of several proposals he thinks would work best.

Still, whether a bill makes it through the session or not, Thompson said Floyd County would take steps to achieve one of the most often discussed objectives of such legislation — establishing a recycling center. Thompson said he expects plans for such a center in Floyd County to be completed during the next year, with the center itself coming into operation either in 2000 or 2001.

Kentucky legislative issues could affect businesses

The Kentucky legislative session is nearly set to roll. As usual, there are a lot of tough decisions to be made, decisions which could affect your business.

As a legislative representative for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Tony Sholar spends much of his time tracking crucial legislation. On Friday, January 7, from 12 to 1 p.m., Sholar will give a free, informative preview of the upcoming Frankfort legislative session. He will discuss opportunities and dangers which could affect Kentucky businesses.

The workshop, sponsored by the Center for Rural Development, will be broadcast by video conference to eight additional CenterNet sites. It is a must for business leaders and elected officials.

Local sites offering this workshop include the Mountain Arts Center (889-9125) and the Knott County branch of Hazard Community College (785-4114).

Programs are free, but please call the site you wish to attend to reserve your space. Additional information can be obtained by calling The Center at (606) 677-6000.

A new career can be found on the internet

They say there are millions of jobs available on the internet. So, are good jobs really waiting to be filled? How do you navigate all the internet clutter to find them? Can you avoid the traps of those "work at home" scams?

Actually, if you know how to search, there are good jobs to be found on the internet. A free video conference at your local CenterNet site on Wednesday, January 5, will teach you to "surf" for job success.

The one-hour workshop will be held from 12 to 1 p.m. Sponsored by The Center for Rural Development in Somerset, the interactive conference will be broadcast live to eight sites in southern and eastern Kentucky.

Experts will show you how to navigate through internet clutter to find good, traditional jobs, jobs that allow you to work at home through the internet, and internet-based, home-franchise opportunities.

Nearby sites offering the workshop include the Mountain Arts Center (889-9125), and the Knott County branch of Hazard Community College (785-4114).

If you have the right skills, temperament and drive, this may be your ticket to a successful job transition. While the program is free, space is limited, so please call your local site to reserve your spot. Additional information can be obtained by calling The Center at (606) 677-6000.

Schools

(Continued from page one)

the board hopes to accomplish in the coming year.

Fanning said the finances of the system were stable and the system got a good audit report.

Fanning said he was pleased with the progress made by the budget committee. He was especially pleased the committee's work had paved the way for doing things through a process. He said the process was working.

He said the finance department is getting a better handle on MUNIS, a new state accounting software package that helps the system track the its finances. Fanning said MUNIS was helpful in getting information together for board members.

Fanning said the system was Y2K ready, but would be watching things as the new millennium approaches.

Fanning said he had heard the rumors about transportation and said they were exactly that — rumors. He did say he was collecting information from a private contracting firm, Laidlaw.

He said the system was also looking at a software package that would help schedule bus routes so that the time students spent going to and from school would be lessened.

Fanning said he had met with representatives for bus drivers and was up front with them about the kinds of information he was collecting. He said the board has had no formal discussion on the private contracting issue.

Fanning said the construction of

athletic complexes at South Floyd and Prestonsburg high schools was still ongoing. He mentioned the effort by the city to assist in the Prestonsburg project. He said land acquisition was a stumbling block for both sites.

Fanning said the state management team deserves more credit than most people want to give. Fanning said the team did not simply come in and tell the system what had to be done. He said the resources that came with the team have been a valuable asset for the system. He mentioned Region 8 Service Center as an entity that has been helpful in addressing areas that need to be improved.

He said a common comment from such agencies is, "I'm here to help." He said the management team lived up to that promise.

Fanning said Floyd County had one of the best technology plans and implementation in the state. He gave board members credit for sticking to their promise to use money from the sale of board property to enhance the technology program.

Fanning, an Alabama native, is attending training sessions that he says help him understand his role as a superintendent here in Kentucky. He said he had misgivings about leaving his duties to attend these sessions, but said he had good people who filled in when he was absent.

Fanning said these support elements were nearly "eight and moving up" on a 10-point scale.

CHAMBER NOTES

by Rebecca Derossett
Executive Director
Floyd County Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber will meet on January 10, at the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps, at noon. Director Gary Tickle and instructor Carlotta Shannon have invited us to a complimentary luncheon prepared by the culinary arts class.

Some of our members have already enjoyed a sampling of this tasty food at the center's recent Christmas party. Please call the Chamber office at 886-0364 to register for the luncheon.

Floyd County Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson will also be on hand at the meeting to inform the Chamber about plans for the county in 2000. We are eager to hear his comments and urge every member to come out and learn how the Chamber can help the Fiscal Court.

Let's all pull together in the new

year, a new century and the beginning of a new millennium.

January is a really big month for the Chamber of Commerce, as that is when we send out renewal notices to members. We trust we have been of service to you and your business in 1999 and pledge to continue our support in 2000.

Several ideas come to mind as to how we may improve our services to you. We also invite you to submit your suggestions as soon as possible. We hope to present a six-month calendar to you by the end of January.

A little reminder to everyone: Floyd County will be 200 in 2000. How about that. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our county as never before. The Chamber has already worked a bit on plans for the bicentennial; however, this really needs to be a comprehensive effort with all civic organizations involved, as well as tourism officials and other interested parties. Let us hear from you.

See you, same place, same time, next week. Stay in touch! Happy New Year!

P'burg

(Continued from page one)

gives us an advantage over Pikeville or Paintsville."

The new prison will also bring growth in the area. Over \$100 million a year is expected to be spent by the prison, which will attract small businesses and more people to the area, he said.

Growth in Prestonsburg is already evident with the building of new businesses, especially in the outlying areas, but Fanning said the downtown areas are also full. The mayor said he had been approached about more businesses opening in the downtown area.

Further annexation may be on the horizon also. With businesses springing up on the city's fringes, the request for the city's protection may soon follow.

The city has a positive outlook, said Fanning.

"It takes everybody playing a role to get growth," he said. "The more people that get involved, the cheaper it becomes."

Fanning said the city is not ready to put the golf course on a PGA level, but it could accommodate a seniors tour. He said a PGA Tour could bring 100,000 visitors into a city, and neither Prestonsburg nor the local area could accommodate that many people.

The downtown area has seen a myriad of improvements in 1999, but Fanning said more improvements are planned for the city. A miniature version of the Floyd County/Prestonsburg arch sign that is located at the entrance to Presonsburg Village has been erected at the Route 1428 entrance into the city off of US 23.

Changes at the MAC will include an orchestra by the Kentucky Opry. Fanning hinted that most of the problems at the MAC are solved or being worked on.

"We all knew we would have growing pains. We thought we would have them a lot sooner," he said. "Now, we have seen what we have done wrong and we can go on and grow."

Quality acts at the MAC bring in visitors, while bringing a bit of culture to Floyd County, Fanning said.

In addition to the golf course, the city also plans to turn people's eyes toward Prestonsburg with a quality recreational facility that will benefit area youth long into the new century. The facility will include softball and baseball fields, possibly a soccer field.

Funding for the facility is limited, so it may not be completed this year.

The city hopes it can get donations

from the private and corporate sectors, alerting citizens and businesses to the need to invest in the area children's future. Fanning hopes that these donations will help to build a baseball field or some other part of the recreational area.

Review

(Continued from page two)

was selected as one of the top 100 hospitals in its region.

■ Terry Dotson, chairman of the Floyd County Board of Education, reconsidered his decision to step down from the board and asked state Commissioner of Education Wilmer Cody to disregard his resignation.

■ The Prestonsburg City Council discussed the possibility of helping Prestonsburg High School get a new athletic complex. A letter was sent to the city by the Floyd County Board of Education, asking the council to submit "definitive answers" to some pertinent questions.

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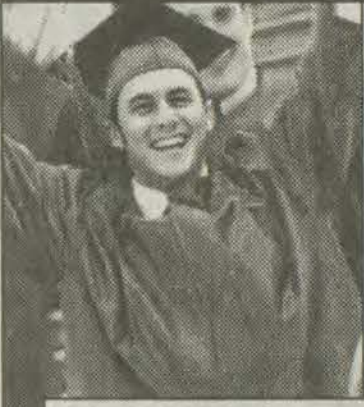
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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress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

—First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution—

Viewpoint

QUOTE OF THE DAY...

A good scare is worth more to a man than good advice.

Edgar Watson Howe—

Sunday, January 2, 2000 A4

Editorial

Time passages

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past... We spend our years as a tale that is told.

— Psalm 90

Each year new consuls and proconsuls are made, but not every year is a king or a poet born.

— Lucius Annaeus Florus

If all year were playing holidays, To sport would be as tedious as work.

— Shakespeare

All Kings, and all their favorites, All glory of honors, beauties, wits, The sun itself, which marks times, as they pass, Is elder by a year, now, than it was.

— John Donne

The months and days are the travelers of eternity. The years that come and go are also voyagers.

— Matsuo Basho

Thou dirge Of the dying year, to which this closing might Well be the dome of a vast sepulcher.

— Percy Bysshe Shelley

As long as skies are blue, and fields are green, Evening must usher night, night urge the morrow, Month follow month with woe, and year wake year to sorrow.

— Percy Bysshe Shelley

Keep cool: it will be all one a hundred years hence.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Now the New Year reviving old Desires, The thoughtful Soul to Solitude retires.

— Edward Fitzgerald

Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true. Ring out old shapes of foul disease, Ring out the narrowing lust of gold; Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace.

— Alfred Lord Tennyson

It's but little good you'll do a-watering the last year's crop.

— George Eliot

I have more memories than if I were a thousand years old.

— Charles Baudelaire

Before the beginning of years, There came to the making of man Time, with a gift of tears ...

— Algernon Charles Swinburne

See Time, page five



Guest Column

Money—that's what I want

by Chuck Cushman
Executive Director,
American Land Rights Association

"The best things in life are free. But you can keep 'em for the birds and bees. Now give me money, that's what I want."

This Motown hit made famous by the Beatles may as well be the theme song for HR 70 1/S 25, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). Fiscal responsibility, private property rights and environmental protection are all being overridden by old fashioned pork barrel politics.

CARA creates a three billion dollar annual trust fund taken from royalties generated by offshore oil production, called outer continental shelf (OCS) revenue. OCS royalties were established many years ago to pay for damage caused to marine life, oceans and estuaries by oil exploration and extraction activities.

However, in order to gain broader support for CARA, the fund is being bastardized to accommodate a laundry list of constituencies. Under CARA, all fifty states are showered with cash, and for purposes completely unrelated to environmental mitigation. These include building roads and ports, grants to Indian tribes and preserving Civil War battlefields. It seems that every special interest group in Washington has been cut in on the deal, from the National Association of Realtors to Major League Baseball, both of whom support the bill!

Veteran Congressman Don Young (R-Alaska), Billy Tauzin (R-Louisiana) and George Miller (D-California) each abandoned long held beliefs in exchange for cold, hard cash by joining together to cosponsor this monstrosity. Young the hunter, Tauzin the property rights advocate and Miller the environmentalist created a trust fund that will take land from sportsmen, trample private property rights and ignore the environmental goals for which OCS was established.

Under the bill, Young directs \$166 million annually to Alaska, a state with only 614,000 residents. That's a subsidy of \$272 per person, per year. Tauzin racks up \$313 million annually for Louisiana, a huge benefit for one of the poorest states in the country. And Miller tweaked the funding formula to disproportionately benefit localities within his congressional district.

Here is what happened at the recent House Resources Committee meeting, where the bill was approved.

CARA guaranteed nearly one billion dollars annually for land acquisition. Animal rights activists intend to target for purchase, privately owned hunt clubs, woodlots and other areas used by sportsmen, and then eliminate all consumptive use of wildlife. This just occurred in upstate New York, where 139,000 acres of timberland had been leased out to hunters for over one hundred years. It was purchased by the state government, and hunting and snowmobiling were immediately prohibited.

Don Young argued against an amendment that would have assured no net loss of land permitted to be used for hunting. For Young, who is a member of the National Trappers Association, it was a tough spot, and he angrily refused to even allow a roll call vote on the amendment. But selling out sportsmen



was worth it for a guaranteed annual fiscal pipeline from Washington, D.C., to Alaska.

CARA allocates to state governments up to \$450 million per year which can be used to condemn land and force people off their property. Billy Tauzin led the charge against any amendments to protect private property, including an amendment to prohibit condemnation. Not one acre of land anywhere is safe from a bureaucrat's wishes under this bill.

He also opposed an amendment which would have protected property owners adjacent to federal lands from losing use of their property due to regulatory "buffer zones" that are frequently declared around parks and refuges. Tauzin had sponsored an identical amendment during debate over the Desert Protection Act in 1994. This time around, he decided that pork barrel spending overrode principles.

Most of us have visited national parks and seen the poor condition many facilities are in, such as bathrooms, pathways, benches and employee housing. CARA dedicates more than \$400 million per year for additional federal land acquisition, and yet does nothing to address the severe maintenance backlog in our parks. The federal government should not be buying up more land when it cannot handle what it already owns.

Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) pointed out that CARA will create a broad constituency with a very strong incentive to increase offshore oil drilling and the revenue that flows from it. Environmentalists strongly oppose this kind of incentive. But George Miller shut him down before he could even propose an amendment. During last minute negotiations, Miller inserted a narrowly drawn subsection in the bill to treat certain counties that have oil refineries more favorably under the bill's revenue distribution formula. Those counties include Contra Costa and Solano in California, with in which is located Miller's congressional district.

After the committee markup, Congressman Tom Udall (D-New Mexico) and Grace Napolitano (D-California) held a press conference opposing oil drilling in ANWR, the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. Miller has long been an opponent of ANWR drilling, but was strangely absent this time. Perhaps he has lost interest in the issue, now that he has carved out his piece of the money pie.

HR701 is a threat to both private property rights and the environment, and is fiscally irresponsible.

This gravy train is so long you can't see the caboose from the engine!

The American Land Rights Association, located in Battle Ground, Washington, has more than 21,000 members in 50 states. It is a leading grassroots advocate for private property rights and multiple-use of Federal lands. Its website is www.landrights.org.

Poison Pen

by Ralph Davis
Managing Editor



Falling behind — again

Y2K is now two days old. What that means is hard to tell, since I am writing this column in good old Y1.999K. By the time this paper hits the streets, things will either be running just the same as always, or we'll be burning this issue to keep warm.

With that thought in mind, it is no wonder technological issues are the subject of my column this week.

So, what about this whole Y2K thing? If you are reading this issue, I am assuming Y2K turned out to be yet another in the long line of "The world is ending" duds.

Oh, not everything will come through the new millennium unscathed. There will certainly be some casualties. You folks out there who have been housing personal finance or accounting software on machines running Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 machines more than likely had a rude awakening. My advice — buy a Mac.

But just because the clock tolled midnight many hours ago, that doesn't mean we're out of the woods yet.

I'm not one of those Y2K fanatics, but I also believe shortsighted computer makes have left us with more than just a tidbit of inconvenience.

Efforts to squash the millennium bug in this country, as well as in Japan and most of Europe, began several years ago. At the time of this writing, I'm fairly confident that we have enough fixes and contingency plans to get us through.

What I'm worried about, however, is the rest of the world.

Folks in the Middle East, South America and most of Asia haven't paid too much attention to all the Y2K madness. They've been more concerned with other things, such as feeding mouths and building roads.

But they were just as much at risk for Year 2000 problems as the rest of the world. Their economies might not compare to ours, but don't forget that we have a lot of money tied up in those places.

If, for example, Y2K hits hard in places such as Brazil, India and Egypt, you can kiss the booming economy goodbye and say hello to the next recession.

Actually, I think that is perhaps the most likely scenario. We may still have all the conveniences of our American lifestyle, but I fully expect quite a bit of belt-tightening over the next couple of years.

...

Now that we've gotten this latest computer crisis behind us, it's time we began addressing one which has been in the making for several years and is a far more real threat to those of us in eastern Kentucky.

The Computer Age dawned in the 1960s, but it has only been this decade that its implications for everyday folks like you and me have become apparent.

The internet, too, has been around for quite some time, getting its humble beginnings in the 1970s. But it wasn't until 1995 or so that it really caught on with most folks.

The combination of the two left many in the mountain counties hopeful. "Now

See Pen, page five

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The Times reserves the right to reject or edit any letter deemed slanderous, libelous or otherwise objectionable. Letters should be no longer than two type-written pages, and may be edited for length or clarity.

Opinions expressed in letters and other voices are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper. Send letters to: The Editor, The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 391, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653.

One-hundred years of civil justice

**Penny Gold,
Executive Director
Kentucky Academy of
Trial Attorneys**

At the turn of the century in 1900, most women weren't working outside the home; black children and white children went to separate schools; and homes and workplaces were filled with lead-based paint and asbestos insulation.

As we enter the 21st century, children are safer in their homes; families have greater protection on the roads; the environment is being cleaned up; and polluters are being challenged. Our citizens now have greater opportunities and protection from physical danger in the workplace. Much of the progress of the last century is the product of the work of trial lawyers.

"When we look at the significant changes brought about by trial lawyers in the 20th century, we see a history of the social progress of the century itself. In the coming millennium, trial lawyers will continue to work and fight for the improvement of life and safety of American families," says Joe White, president of the Kentucky

Academy of Trial Attorneys (KATA).

To increase public awareness and appreciation for our legal protections in the new century, KATA wishes to share 10 of the most significant changes in American life brought about by trial lawyers through the civil justice system over the past 100 years.

1. The Integration of Public Schools. In *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the United States Supreme Court in 1954 ended years of unfair "separate but equal" education for blacks and whites. This decision ensured that children of all races would have an equal opportunity to learn in public schools. This decision was the result of the work of trial lawyers.

2. The Break-up of Monopolies. In the early part of the 20th Century, huge corporations dominated the American business landscape.

In the landmark case of *Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey v. United States*, the Supreme Court broke up the country's biggest monopoly. This decision made it illegal to restrain trade through price-fixing.

This made the marketplace free to respond to the needs of consumers and resulted in fairer, more competitive prices of products. The curbing of monopolies by big corporations was the product of the work of trial lawyers.

3. Children's Products Made Safer. For most of this century, children too often died of severe burns because their sleepwear caught fire. In *Grye v. Dayton Hudson Corp.*, in 1980, trial lawyers made a jury aware that Riegel Textile manufacturers knew how to make children's pajamas safer but chose not to, in order to save production costs and increase their profits. They could have used fire retardant chemicals to treat the pajamas.

The jury verdict caused the company to remove the pajamas from the market. This began a trend that made children's pajamas, toys and other products safer. This was the result of the work of trial lawyers.

4. Sports Made Safer. In 1991, *Sports Illustrated* published a landmark article, "The Safest Season." This article described the first season in 60 years in which no football

player in the United States died from head injuries. The jury verdicts that held helmet manufacturers responsible for head injuries caused by poorly designed or defective helmets were the product of the work of trial lawyers.

5. Improved Worker's Rights. Prompted by numerous lawsuits and U.S. Supreme Court decisions, Congress passed two landmark pieces of legislation in the early 1960s protecting the right of all Americans to work and be fairly compensated.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 forbids the payment of unequal wages to male and female employees who perform substantially the same work. Title VI, passed in 1964, forbids discrimination in employment based upon race, color, religion, national origin and sex. This also is the result of the work of trial lawyers.

6. Autos and Other Passenger Vehicles Made Safer. Safety features, such as airbags, seat belts and gas tank placement are required in vehicles as a direct result of American juries holding manufacturers responsible for unsafe autos.

In the landmark case, *Grimshaw v. Ford Motor Co.*, a jury awarded significant damages against Ford for selling consumers the Pinto. Ford knew the Pinto would burst into flames on minor rear-end impact, but continued to sell the Pinto to unsuspecting families. The cases that produced safer vehicles were the work of trial lawyers.

7. Environmental Polluters Held Responsible. Those companies responsible for toxic dumpsites, polluted water tables and polluted air have been required by jury verdicts to be responsible for their irresponsible, dangerous and harmful actions.

Woburn, Massachusetts, as described in the book and movie, "A Civil Action," and Love Canal are now safer places because of the work of trial lawyers.

8. Tobacco Litigation. Although the long-term effects remain to be seen, the unprecedented private and governmental lawsuits have revealed the truth that the tobacco industry knew of and concealed the addictive properties and serious health hazards of cigarettes and other tobacco products. This expo-

sure resulted from the work of trial lawyers.

9. Killer Asbestos Stopped. Because of asbestos litigation, workers are now protected by stricter standards for asbestos use. Asbestos insulation is no longer used in buildings and schools.

In cases such as *Borel v. Fiberboard Paper Products Co.* and *Fischer vs. Johns-Manville*, American juries found that asbestos manufacturers knew the dangers of asbestos for decades but concealed the risk from the public to sell more of their product. This improved safety for families and children and workers resulted from the work of trial lawyers.

10. Control of the Use of Lead Paint. After court actions exposed the dangers of lead paint, legislation and government regulations were adopted that largely removed lead from the paint manufacturing process, and thus from our environment. This has greatly improved the safety of our homes and saved thousands of children from the hazards of lead poisoning. This, too, was the result of the work of trial lawyers.

Pen

(Continued from page four)

we are no longer isolated from the rest of the world," they said. "Now we can compete with the rest of the nation for business."

I agree to a point. We could, but we aren't.

Most state and local officials are still caught up in outdated modes of thinking. They feel our hopes for economic parity with the rest of the U.S. lie in vacant industrial parks which grow more grass than jobs, and in that greatest of white elephants, tourism, which produces little more than burger-flipping jobs. To them, the height of economic development is a Wal-Mart Super Center.

The internet promised to put Appalachia on a level playing field. It may have, for a time, but we failed to take advantage of it and we are rapidly falling behind once again.

While much of America is discovering the benefit of high-speed internet access through digital links, cable modems and satellite lines, no such opportunities exist here.

The technological infrastructure of eastern Kentucky is falling woefully behind the rest of the nation, giving us fewer opportunities to use the internet to create new, electronic-based industries within our region.

To put it another way, our connection to the information superhighway is quickly becoming a system of rural secondary roads.

One exception to the rule has been the city of Barbourville. This month, Yahoo! Internet Life named it the top small town in the country in regard to technological infrastructure.

That community's efforts to improve its connections to the world have paid off through new business opportunities for its residents. When the Immigration and Naturalization Service chose that community for a new call center bringing with it 300 new jobs, one

of the top reasons for the selection was the technological advances made by the city.

But Barbourville didn't just luck into its enviable position. The city was fortunate to have leaders with a long-range vision, who were unafraid to embrace innovation. They also spent \$4.5 million over five years to get where they are now, which sounds like a lot until you consider that our community is spending half that amount on two football fields which may be nice, but which will do nothing to improve the economic health of Floyd County.

Barbourville is an example our local leaders should follow. Our county government as well as our municipalities should be doing everything they can to bring our community back on a par with the rest of the nation.

They're not. I doubt if they even realize that a problem exists.

♦♦♦

On a happier note, I'm proud to say that, for those of you who have been clamoring for a Floyd County Times website, your wait is just about over.

Look for its debut later this month at floydcountytimes.com.



(NAPSA)-For information about GTECH, a leading supplier of online lottery products and services, visit www.gtech.com.

For information about Teledyne Water Pik water filtration products, shower heads and oral care devices, visit www.waterpik.com.

Information about judging informercial fitness products may be found at the Total Gym web site at www.totalgym.com.

For information on KFC's Colonel's Way Awards Program that honors seniors who are "young-at-heart," visit the KFC website at www.kfc.com.

For tips on how to plan a wedding, get information on The Learning Channel (TLC)'s *A Wedding Story* on the web at www.tlc.com.

A depression self-assessment and monitoring tool is available, free, at the Mediconsult Depression Center, www.mediconsult.com/depression.

If you visit the website of American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, the leading professional association of diabetes physicians (www.aace.com), you may download a patient-physician contract and take it with you to your doctor's office.

To learn about diabetes, visit the Merck-Medco Web site at www.merck-medco.com.

Information about the Air National Guard is available on the Internet at www.ang.af.mil.

Before surgery, you may be able to get the answers to important questions by spending some time on the Society For Ambulatory Anesthesia website at www.sambahq.org.

The first free educational Web site that connects school and home to enhance communications among kids, parents and teachers is ePlay at www.ePlay.com.

Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University an unquestionable hit in first semester

If customer satisfaction and repeat business are among the most reliable indicators of market success, the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University appears to have scored an unquestionable hit in its first semester.

According to a KCVU survey of its charter class students, 87 percent said their expectations of online learning had been met or exceeded by KCVU and 82 percent of those responding said they would like to take another course.

Mary Beth Susman, CEO of the virtual university, credited the overwhelmingly positive survey results to the hard work and dedication of institution administrators and faculty along with KCVU staff.

"The Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University exists because people of vision and insight saw a need and were determined to address it," Susman said. "Feedback we've received throughout this term led us to believe we were doing a number of things right and response to our survey make us even more confident about our mission and its meaningfulness to the people of Kentucky. We couldn't be more pleased with the results of this survey."

Comments from KCVU students have been even more enthu-

siastic.

"This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," said Nancy Reed, a librarian from Paducah, enrolled in a KCVU library science course. "I feel I have learned much more (in the KCVU course) than I have in more traditional classes."

Tammy Caudell, speech-language pathology major from Booneville and member of the KCVU charter class who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, said KCVU has given her an opportunity to pursue her education goals which might not otherwise have been possible. Because she had to work in order to keep her health insurance coverage and pay for expensive medications, Caudell had not expected to realize her dream to obtain her master's degree in speech pathology.

"KCVU has provided me a way to keep my job, my health insurance and maintain my health," Caudell said. "I avoid the pain and stiffness I experience sitting in class for hours, carrying a backpack full of books, waking all over campus as well as up and down stairs and most of all, the torture to my hands of taking so many notes. Now I can pace myself which is so important with my condition and have everything I need at my fingertips. To obtain class notes, I

simply hit "print" (on my computer keyboard)."

Susman said the technological aspects of KCVU had the most potential to cause problems for students. However, responses to survey questions on the reliability of KCVU's electronic course delivery and the value of technical assistance provided by help desk staff indicated students encountered very few problems.

Ninety-nine percent of those responding said the online system was always or almost always available when they logged on, and the downloading efficiency was rated acceptable to 93 percent who responded.

The KCVU Help Desk received impressive marks from students with 93 percent saying they agree or strongly agree that help desk staff were available when needed, and 95 percent saying they agree or strongly agree that help desk staff were able to answer questions and solve problems when contacted.

And, dispelling early worries from some critics that virtual university students would suffer from inadequate interaction with instructors and other students, interaction with classmates and with instructors was rated "about right" by 78 and 88 percent of respondents, respectively.

"E-mail, electronic forums, threaded discussions and real-time chat are among the technologies being used very successfully by instructors and students to communicate, exchange information and submit assignments," Susman said. "KCVU instructors consistently remark that more students seem to take advantage of opportunities to participate and communicate electronically than in a traditional classroom setting. Many get to know their virtual students much better and engage in more substantive course-related discussions with students in their KCVU courses than in campus-bound classes."

Students participating in the survey also offered suggestions for expanded course offerings and other improvements to KCVU. Susman said these suggestions and comments would be valuable tools in efforts to broaden the scope and appeal of KCVU to more Kentuckians.

Thirty-one percent of KCVU charter class students responded to the survey, a significant sample by most polling standards.

Registration continues into January for the Spring 2000 semester. Visit the website at www.kevu.org or call toll-free at 877-740-4357 for additional information.



At a recent board meeting at Prestonsburg High School, the principals took advantage of an executive session to "hold a meeting of their

own." No credit for professional development will be given for the meeting. (photo by Willie Elliott)

Time

(Continued from page four)

Time has no divisions to mark its passage, there is never a thunderstorm or blare of trumpets to announce the beginning of a new month or year. Even when a new century begins it is only we mortals who ring bells and fire off pistols.

- Thomas Mann

These are the desolate, dark weeks when nature in its barrenness equals the stupidity of man. The year plunges into night and the heart plunges lower than night.

- William Carlos Williams

Our researchers into Public Opinion are content

That he held the proper opinion for the time of year;

When there was peace, he was for the peace; when

there was war he went.

- W.H. Auden

Life's a tough proposition, and the first hundred years are the hardest.

- Wilson Mizner

The end of the second millennium and the beginning of the third will be reached on Jan. 1, 2001.

- Statement of the US Naval Observatory, keeper of the nation's time and calendar

OBITUARIES

Alvin Moore

Alvin Moore, 89, of McDowell, died Wednesday, December 29, 1999, at his residence.

He was born October 5, 1910, in Knott County, the son of the late Von Moore and Nancy Moore. He was a retired coal miner, a member of the UMWA, and a member of the Spurlock Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Moore.

Other survivors include five sons, James Alvin Moore of Ypsilanti, Michigan, Ricky Alvin Moore of Nicholasville, Henry Miles Poston of Flatgap, James Clarence Poston of Bell County, Sherman Ray Poston of McDowell; four daughters, Nancy Sue Moore Bailey of Ironton, Ohio, Marie Gayheart and Nadine Springer, both of McDowell, Lola McClanahan of Teaberry, 23 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, January 1, 2000, at 1 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, McDowell, with the clergymen, Richard Bowens, Bruce Coleman, Jimmy Hall and Clinton Moore, officiating.

Burial was in the Lucy Hall Cemetery, McDowell, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home, Martin.

Osborne

pallbearers listed

Serving as pallbearers for the funeral of Margie Osborne were Chris Moore, Todd Osborne, Mike Osborne, Matt Spradlin, Josh Hubbard, Craig Hubbard, Mickey Slone and Eric Moore.

Honorary pallbearers were Ernie Moore, Craig Crisp, Terry Hubbard, Leslie Spradlin, Ralph Osborne, Mickey Slone and Darrell Osborne.

Thomas George

Thomas M. George, 82, of Danleyton, died Tuesday, in Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital.

He was born June 14, 1917, in Floyd County, a son of the late James and Addie Conley George.

He was a retired pipefitter with Local 248 in Ashland and was a cattle farmer. He was a World War II and Korean War veteran, a Kentucky Colonel, and a member of American Polled Herefords in Kansas City, Missouri.

Surviving are his wife, Lucy Cunningham George; two daughters, Sharon George and Shirley George, both of Lexington; and four sisters, Myrtle Emrick of Waverly, Ohio, Vada Glancy of Ashland, Dottie May of Denver, Indiana and Irene Rice of Louisville.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 31, at Caniff Funeral Home in Westwood with Rev. Clyde Newman officiating.

Burial was in Bellefonte Memorial Gardens with military rites by Kepova American Legion Post.

REGIONAL OBITUARIES

Johnson County

Steve Matijasac, 79, of Austintown, Ohio, died Wednesday, December 22. He is survived by his wife, Theresa Matijasac. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 24, under direction of Lane Funeral Home of Austintown.

John Porter Sr., 87, formerly of Johnson County, died Thursday, December 23, in Lehigh Acres, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Norma Jean Williams Lybrook Porter. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 28, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Sybil Powers, 85, formerly of Johnson County, died Wednesday, December 22, in Wabash, Indiana. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 26, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home Chapel.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Calendar items will be printed as space permits

Editor's note: As a service to the many clubs and committees that meet in our community, The Floyd County Times' Community Calendar will post meeting and public service announcements. Articles for the Community Calendar must be submitted in writing to The Times no later than 5 p.m. Monday for Wednesday's publication, 5 p.m. Wednesday for Friday's publication, or 5 p.m. Thursday for Sunday's publication. These cannot be taken over the telephone.

McDowell SBDM/PTA

McDowell Elementary holds its monthly SBDM meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. PTA monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. The January meetings are rescheduled as follows: SBDM will meet January 18 at 6 p.m. in the school library. PTA will meet January 17 at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Join Alice Lloyd College in the new millennium

It's not too late. Classes for the 2000 Spring Semester at Alice Lloyd College will begin on Wednesday, January 19. Registration for upcoming classes at ALC will begin Tuesday, January 18 at 8:30 a.m. in the June Buchanan Alumni Center. Call 1-888-280-4ALC or come by for a tour.

JBS to resume classes

The June Buchanan School will resume classes on Monday, January 3, on the campus of Alice Lloyd College. For more information, call the director's office at 606-368-6108.

Sullivan College's Registration

Winter registration for classes beginning January 3 at Sullivan College's extended campus location

at Prestonsburg Community College for the 2+2 Bachelor of Business Administration degree program currently open. The application deadline has been extended, so there is still time to enroll. Student financial aid is also still available to those who qualify. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday evenings on the PCC campus. To speak with an academic advisor or for registration information, contact Kimberly Coleman at Sullivan College at (800) 467-6281.

County Pictorial History 2000 calendar available

The Floyd County Pictorial History 2000 Calendar containing 18 pictures of various county locations and scenes is available from any member of the Floyd County Historical Society. The cost is \$8.

County Pictorial History Book has been delayed

The publisher has delayed delivery of the Floyd County Pictorial History Book. When the books arrive, notification will be published in this paper.

Additional sales of the book after December 15, are \$42.50 plus KY tax of \$2.55. Shipping costs \$6, or books can be picked up at the Samuel May House. Additional orders can be mailed to the Friends of the Samuel May House, PO Box 1460, Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

McDowell High School alumni association

The McDowell High School Alumni Association will hold its monthly meeting at the McDowell Senior Citizens Center Monday, January 3, at 6 p.m. All graduates and friends of the McDowell High School are encouraged to attend.

Pikeville Methodist Hospital January 2000

January 4: Prepared Childbirth Classes will be offered from 7-9 p.m., at the Education Center, located in the Wallen & Cornette Building. Pre-register at 437-3938.

January 18: So you're going to have a baby? An Epidural Class will

be offered from 7-9 p.m., at the Education Center, located in the Wallen & Cornette Building. Pre-register at 437-3938.

January 19: A Sibling Class will be offered from 6-7 p.m., at PMH. Participants meet in the lobby. Pre-register at 437-3938.

For a complete listing of hospital-sponsored events, call the Events Line at 437-2003.

You or someone you know can't stop drinking

Alcoholics Anonymous is willing to help. For more information, call 1-800-467-8019.

Al Anon: For support and understanding of the disease—meets, 8 p.m., Saturdays, at the Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg. (Alanon is for family members of alcoholics).

Depressed Anonymous

Are you feeling lonely, hopeless and trapped in a self-constructed prison and can't overcome it or get out? This support group is not for those people who need it but for those people who want it. We understand. For more information, call: Randall, 886-0483; Jim, 886-3027; Jane—886-8219; Sue—789-8712.

G.E.D. classes

Linda Bailey of The David School will teach G.E.D. classes at the Mud Creek Community Family Resource/Youth Service Center each Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are free.

SF Youth Service Center

Walking track is open to the general public, 7 a.m. till 5 p.m. (walking track is closed during special events). The Center is sponsoring several guest presentations. Contact the center for time and subjects. The center has a One-stop Career Station satellite, available to the community as well as to the students. Stop in Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Anyone interested in Adult Education should contact the

center.

The South Floyd Youth Services Center is located on South Floyd's campus in room 232. For more information, contact Keith Smallwood or Mable Hall 606/452-9600, ext. 243.

Martin High alumni

Mark your calendar now for Martin Purple Flash Bash, 2000 on Memorial Day weekend, 2000. This will be perhaps the last Martin Purple Flash Homecoming. The event will begin on Friday evening and end Saturday night with the alumni dance.

McDowell Family

Resource Center Activities

G.E.D. classes are each Monday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., free of charge for those interested in earning their G.E.D.

The Floyd County Health Departments Nurse is at the Center each Monday to see patients needing immunizations, T.B. Skin tests, pre-natal W.I.C., W.I.C., and school physicals (head start, kindergarten, 6th grade).

Call to schedule an appointment, 377-2678.

A Mountain Comprehensive Care counselor is at the Center each Tuesday to see students in need of counseling services. If you feel your child is in need of counseling services, call the Center for more information, 377-2678.

If you would like more information on any of the above programs or services contact the Center, 377-2678.

Veterans rep.

A Veterans Benefit Field Representative for the Kentucky Department for Veterans Affairs has an office on the third floor of the Floyd County Courthouse. He is there to assist veterans and their dependents in filing for state and federal benefits. This service is free and is provided by the commonwealth. Call 606/886-7920. If there

is no answer, leave a message and he will return your call.

Apples for the students

James A. Duff is collecting Food City receipts that will help us to get free computers and other items that we can use in our school. Help us by saving your receipts and either send them to school with your child or dropping them off at the Family Resource Center. You may also drop them off at the front office of our school. We would appreciate any help you could give our school with this project.

Veterans affairs

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs is trying to locate family members of missing soldiers that fought in the Korean War. U.S. and North Korean Governments have been negotiating to bring our missing comrades home. If you are a family member of such a serviceman, from any branch of service, or know of someone that is, please contact your local KDVA field representative, Roger Belcher at 606/886-7920.

Big Sandy Abuse Center

If you are a victim of abuse, remember it is not your fault! The abuser is responsible for their behavior. If there is no intervention, the abuse will only get worse over time. Break the cycle of abuse; call the Big Sandy Family Abuse Center's 24-hour crisis line to find a way out of victimization. Call 886-6025, or out-of-the-area 1-800-649-6605. Remember: Love doesn't have to hurt!

4-H has Wildcat calendars — but wait

The 4-H has University of Kentucky Wildcat calendars on sale for \$7, while they last. But the Floyd County Extension Office, where they are available, will be closed until Monday, January 3. On that date or after, you can pick up a calendar at the office, 921 S. Lake Dr. in Prestonsburg.

Leadership East Kentucky graduates the first class

After six months of sessions and workshops, 44 individuals have graduated from Leadership East Kentucky.

The meetings were held in different communities in eastern Kentucky and focused on assets and challenges in the region.

Leadership East Kentucky is a program made possible by Gov. Paul Patton and is funded in part with state funds and funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission. In addition, businesses and organizations throughout east Kentucky have supported the program during its first year.

The goals of Leadership East Kentucky are to provide individuals an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills; to get a better understanding of themselves and how they can contribute to their communities and eastern Kentucky; to enable them to become more familiar with eastern Kentucky—the uniqueness and similarity of its various communities; and to build a network of leaders throughout the region.

Leadership East Kentucky's Inaugural Class represented businesses, organizations and communities throughout eastern Kentucky.

The class includes Mitchell Ball, Annville; Ewell Balltrip, Hazard; Garry Barker, Morehead; Royal Belding, Myra; Tim Bingham, McKee; Mark Bolinger, London; Rhonda Brashear, Hyden; Mitch

Brunsm, Middlesboro; Peggy Capps, Pineville; Lydia Chandler, Prestonsburg; Jennifer Chester, Hazard; Helen Chichester, Campton; Renee O' Clevenger, Hazard; Carla Coburn, Prestonsburg; Betty Cole, Barbourville; Bruce Combest, Berea; John Coffey III, Pikeville; Dan Connell, Morehead; Jean Dorton, Paintsville; Cynthia Elliott, Jackson; Randal Good, Pikeville; Joellen Hale, Harlan; Liz Hamilton, Prestonsburg; Lyndall Harmed, Catlettsburg; Sandy Hays, Webbville; Chris Hoffman, Ashland; Lonnie Lawson, Somerset; Gail Lincoln, Morehead; Melissa McHenry, Ashland; Doris Miller, Hindman; Cheryl Moorhead, Berea; Rod Morman, Ashland; Annette Napier, Hazard; Don Pratt, Hazard; Margaret Rader, McKee; David Rudy, Morehead; Becky Simpson, Barbourville; Debbie Styer, Somerset; Louise Summers, Mt. Sterling; Nancy Ed Shytle, Jackson; Thames, Richmond; Amy Scarborough, Richmond; Debbie Wallace Padgett, Prestonsburg.

The two program coordinators, Angie Woodward and Linda Gayheart, were made honorary members, along with Gov. Patton.

For information and an application for the 2000 Class of Leadership East Kentucky, contact the Hindman Office, P.O. Box 105, Hindman, KY 41822; telephone, 606/785-9009.



These tree workers were out early Tuesday morning in the McDowell community to cut tree limbs that might cause damage to the electrical lines. (photo by Willie Elliott)

Tips for moving during winter

by J. Stephen Mumma
For News USA

(NUE) - Moving is a laborious task at any time of the year, let alone during the winter. For those of you who have to make a winter move, here are some tips from the moving experts at Atlas Van Lines to help you avoid potential problems.

• Safety matters. Before the movers arrive, clean snow or ice off walks and steps, allowing enough time to dry before moving activities begin. Check with your real estate agent for a local service company that cleans sidewalks and driveways.

• Be prepared. Leave out

unpacked clothing for the family. The house will get cold with the doors constantly open. Everyone should be dressed warmly during the move.

• Be courteous. Leave the coffee pot, filters and coffee unpacked. A fresh cup of hot coffee when the movers arrive will help them warm up and get started on very cold days.

• Keep it clean. When packing fluids from the kitchen — such as syrups, soft drinks and other liquids — realize they can freeze and burst their containers.

• Safeguard kids' toys. Disassemble plastic play gyms or doll houses while still at room temperature. Otherwise, the plastic may crack.

• Appliances need TLC. Turn down the thermostat so the furnace won't work unnecessarily while the doors are open. And before moving the washing machine, run the machine on an extra spin cycle. This will force excess water out of the machine and avoid freezing during transit.

• Just in case. Always keep two cans of de-icer spray and an ice scraper on hand. They're great for clearing frozen rain, sleet or snow from car windshields and your new home's door locks.

• Prevent moving horror stories. Check the laundry room of the new residence before the move. If the laundry room is just off the garage and the pipes are not insulated, they could freeze while doors are opened up. Insulate pipes before hooking up the washer to prevent them from freezing and bursting.

• Destination reached. Once you've reached your new residence, allow electrical appliances such as TVs to warm up to room temperature before plugging in. They may be frosty inside.

• Winter moving etiquette. Remember that nobody — including your movers — should be asked to work during and past the dinner hour. If needed, ask movers to stay overnight at a local hotel and finish the following day.

Weather delays are often inevitable. If your mover calls to postpone because of dangerous weather, be understanding. You wouldn't want to put him, others or your possessions at risk.

J. Stephen Mumma is senior vice president, marketing and agency services, Atlas Van Lines. For more information about how to make your move run smoothly, contact Atlas at 1-800-638-9797.

The "Word" for the Week

Millenium challenge number one

Here is a millenium challenge. Some folks portray the Christian life as a bowl of cherries or a bed of roses. "Come to Christ," they may say, "and your troubles will be over." Well, it's not so. Someone forgot to pit the cherries and to remove those thorns from that bed of roses. In like manner, when you become a Christian, all your problems do not magically disappear. In fact, conversion to Christ may intensify your

problems. Not everyone appreciates the followers of Christ. Don't let this frighten you from the Savior.

Christ teaches you how to cope with your problems. Christ also supports and strengthens you in the midst of your problems. In addition, He personally comforts you. To experience this guidance, strength, support, and comfort in the midst of the challenges of life, you must entrust yourself to God.

No one on this earth has endured more pain and suffering than Jesus Christ. Yet, as the Bible tells us, "While being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:23). In the midst of suffering, Christ trusted His Father for comfort and strength to cope. This is what we need to do in the midst of our problems and challenges. We need to entrust ourselves to God.

Picky shoppers spur customization trend

(NAPSA)-We live in the era of customization. This trend is making its mark on American culture and the marketplace-from custom blend coffees to customized greeting cards. Trend watcher, Faith Popcorn, calls it the era of "egonomics."

Gone are the days when the average person was satisfied by such Spartan choices as chocolate or vanilla, regular or decaf, and-gasp-cash or check. No, thank you. A new breed of picky consumers has come to expect no less than a laundry list of choices before making a purchase, whether it's a car or a tube of lipstick. Not surprisingly, this trend is culminating with the ultimate in consumer choice-customized products from the mundane (coffee) to the sexy (Ultrass haircolor).

Many companies are finding that in today's marketplace, one size does not fit all, and savvy shoppers want, quite simply, exactly what they want. Double café latte with skim milk, no sugar and a splash of hazelnut, please. Traditionally, it has been only the wealthy who have been able to afford customized products (think couture clothing and home decorators). But in today's increasingly competitive marketplace and unlimited shopping options, thanks to e-commerce, companies are compelled to offer customized products to the general population.

From fashion to automobiles to travel to beauty products, consumers are now being presented with more choices than ever. Recent months have seen the customization trend gain popularity in:

- Personalized fragrances (today, everyone's a chemist);
- Customized cosmetic colors from lipstick to foundation (sayonara to testing makeup shades at the counter-now, women are actu-



Customization is the latest trend in personal care products.

ally mixing them);

- "Personal Pair" jeans (a traditionally difficult selection process just entered the information age);
- "Custom Blend" coffee (not to mention more flavors than the tongue can discern);
- Customized greeting cards (when you care enough to make the very best);

Even home haircolor can be customized, thanks to Clairol Ultrass Custom Colour. The permanent haircolor allows women to control color intensity for the first time by using a lot or a little of a special new color customizing ingredient.

A spokesperson for the company said that "women are responding well because they want to be in control and express their individuality." Of course, they might also just be a little fussy, and want exactly the color they want. And why shouldn't they-the haircolor possibilities are endless.

To further improve the condition of CHF patients, Dykstra recommends lifestyle changes such as eating foods low in salt, fat and cholesterol; getting enough rest; quitting smoking; tracking weight gains and losses; and seeing a doctor on a regular basis. In addition, Dykstra says it is important for CHF sufferers to work with their physicians to develop an appropriate exercise plan.

New ways to combat congestive heart failure

(NUE) - If you or a family member has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure (CHF), you should know that specific medications and lifestyle changes may improve sufferers' quality and length of life, according to a recent study and a leading congestive heart failure expert.

Congestive heart failure is a condition in which the heart becomes weaker than normal and is unable to pump blood well enough to the rest of the body. This creates a buildup of fluids in the tissues, including the lungs. The most common causes of congestive heart failure are coronary artery disease, heart attacks and high blood pressure.

Symptoms of the disease include shortness of breath, weakness, fatigue, swollen hands and feet, rapid weight gain, and trouble sleeping.

Nearly five million Americans are affected by congestive heart failure, and the percentage of people diagnosed with this disease is expected to grow as baby boomers age.

"Congestive heart failure sufferers should make sure they receive the medications that have been proven most successful in treating this condition," says Dr. Lee Dykstra, a cardiologist at Kaiser Permanente in Bellflower, California. These medications are ACE inhibitors, beta blockers, digitalis and diuretics.

According to a recent study by the Advisory Council to Improve Outcomes, only 5 percent of congestive heart failure patients receive all of the most beneficial medications. Specifically, only 40 percent of patients receive ACE inhibitors

- drugs that relax blood vessels and make it easier for the heart to pump blood, and fewer than five percent receive beta blockers to help lower blood pressure. The study concluded that if these two drugs were given along with digitalis and diuretics, the number of deaths from congestive heart failure could be cut by 100,000 a year and the number of hospital admissions reduced by 1 million.

Dykstra and Della Leavitt, R.N., a CHF case manager, created a program at Kaiser Permanente that educates patients about congestive heart failure, appropriate medications, nutrition and safe exercises. The program also includes emotional support and a daily call-in program that allows patients to inform health care staff about how they're feeling. This program has helped improve patient satisfaction, extend patients' lives and lower hospital admissions for congestive heart failure.

"Congestive heart failure sufferers should not give up. Medications and lifestyle changes can make a big difference in their lives," says Dykstra.

For more information about congestive heart failure, please consult your doctor.

A bouquet of floral decorating ideas may be found at www.proflowers.com or by calling 1-800-PROFLOWERS (776-3569).

To learn more about the Virginia Marine Science Museum, one of the ten most-visited aquariums in the country, call 757 425-FISH or visit www.vmsm.com.

For more information about creating a safer nursery using a Safety 1st Angelcare Sound Monitor and Movement Reassurance System, call Safety 1st at 800 723-3065.

To learn more about GTE Internet service, visit the website at www.gt.net or call 1 888-GTE-SURF.

FREE THINGS TO SEND FOR

(NAPSA)-For information on stamps, visit the Postal Service Website at www.usps.com. To order stamps or stamp products call 1-800-STAMP24 or visit www.stampsonline.com.

For information advances in lasers and fiber optics, visit the Optical Society of America's website at www.osa.org.

To order an award-winning book published by the Community Associations Institute, "Be Reasonable! How Community Associations Can Enforce Rules Without Antagonizing Residents, Going to Court or Starting World War III" call 703/548-8600 or visit the web at www.caionline.org.

New Millennium

SENSATIONAL "OVERSTOCK" REDUCTIONS!

URGENT BULLETIN

WALL-TO-WALL CLEARANCE SALE!

Special Hours

Sunday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

We at Thacker Furniture are not Y2K ready. We have just discovered that our inventory program will not work after midnight December 31st. We are drastically over stocked and do not have a back-up inventory program. It would be impossible to keep track of over 1/2 million dollars worth of inventory manually, so we have been advised to eliminate as much inventory as possible on New Year's Day, regardless of cost or loss. From 10 a.m. New Year's Day until 10 p.m., no reasonable offer will be refused. We would rather sell it at a loss than loose in in the warehouse.

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- No Payments until January 2001
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Reg. \$264.95	Recliners	Now \$78.00
Reg. \$399.95	5pc round pedestal dinette	Now \$133.00
Reg. \$399.95	5pc white farm table and chairs	Now \$148.00
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886-7007

Hair and Body Shack



Calhoun Dr.
Prestonsburg

889-0809

Penelopes Pets

S. Lake Drive
Prestonsburg

889-0570

City of Prestonsburg

Jerry Fannin, Mayor
and City Council

Super 8

Prestonsburg Village
Prestonsburg
886-3355

Wild Cat Tire & Auto Center

3117 KY Route 321
Prestonsburg, KY

886-8473

New Creations Family Book Store

291 North Lake Drive
Prestonsburg, KY

886-3499

Video Magic 2000



Not Just Another
Video Store
Martin

285-1000

Floyd County Clerk

Chris Waugh

Zoë and Me

McDowell
377-0202

Stumbo, Moak & Nunnery

Prestonsburg
N. Lake Drive

886-1515

■ Lady Cardinals
Holiday Classic • B3

Allen
Central
vs.
Sheldon
Clark



Serving Floyd County since 1927

— Wells scores 29 as —

Prestonsburg rolls past Lawrence

by Ed Taylor
Sports Editor

The Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats were fast out of the starting gate and never did slow down as they raced to a solid 74-29 win over the Lady Bulldogs of Lawrence County.

The two teams met Wednesday afternoon in the third day of the Johnson Central Invitational tournament. It was the third win for Prestonsburg in their pool and fourth straight overall.

The Lady Blackcats defeated Scott County, Paintsville and now Lawrence

County in Pool 1 to move into the championship game against Johnson Central. (Game was played Thursday night. Results will appear in Wednesday's sports section).

Brandy Wells, the lone senior on the Prestonsburg team, was all the offense Prestonsburg needed as she alone scored as much as the Lady Bulldogs, 29



points, in leading the scoring parade for Coach Bobby Hamilton's team.

"Brandy played a whale of a basketball game," said the Prestonsburg coach. "She did just about everything on the floor."

By that, Coach Hamilton meant that she was everywhere, all over the court, doing it

all. "She was hitting the threes, getting out in front on run outs and scoring off layups. She had a super game for us," said Coach Hamilton.



The Lady Blackcats were well in control after the first period as they blitzed Lawrence County 23-3 in the opening quarter. The early lead allowed the Prestonsburg coach to insert his bench early and rest his starters.

(See Wells, page three)



■ From the
Tackle Box
Section • B4



■ Floyd County
Basketball Standings
Section • B2



■ Sports In
Perspective
Section • B4

Betsy Layne beats Allen Central — again

Parsons scores 16 in win over Lady Rebels

by Ed Taylor
Sports Editor

They had to go all the way to Sheldon Clark High School, but the result was the same in Inez, where the Betsy Layne Ladycats defeated the Allen Central Lady Rebels for the second time this season.

Jenny Parsons scored 16 points and hauled in 14 rebounds to lead Betsy Layne to a 56-42 victory to improve to 7-5 on the season. Allen Central evened its record at 5-5.

Devon Reynolds dished off six assists and scored 13 points, hitting one three-point basket. Natasha Stratton scored only two points but had seven rebounds. Whitney Lykens had eight corners for the Ladycats and finished with five points.

Shannon Sizemore led the Lady Rebels with 14 points. Jessica Martin finished with 12 and had 13 boards. Jennifer Risner and

Kari Osborne scored six points apiece. Shanna Howell added two and Barb Prater scored one.

It was a close encounter of the expected kind between he county teams as they battled each other for three-and-half quarters. Betsy Layne began to put some distance between them in the fourth quarter.

"They hung with us until the fourth quarter," said Betsy Layne Coach Cassandra Akers, "until they lost their legs in the fourth period."

Betsy Layne held a 12-6 first quarter lead. "Then we quit," said the Betsy Layne coach. "We let them hang around."

Allen Central outscored Betsy Layne 14-12 in the second period to trail 24-20 at the half.

The two teams played near even in the third period with Martin, who had but three points at the half, scoring nine of her 12 points in the third.

"We tried to front her in the middle and she would move outside on us and hit the three," said Coach Akers. "She is a good ball player."

(See Betsy Layne, page three)



Natasha Stratton



Jessica Martin

Lady Raiders lose close one to Tolsia Lady Rebels

by: Karen Joseph

Floyd County teams did not fair well at Sheldon Clark on Wednesday in the Sheldon Clark Holiday Classic. The first three games featured three of the four teams from Floyd County. Betsy Layne and Allen Central both lost earlier in the day and South Floyd was hoping to break the streak. They came close, very close, but fell to the Runnin' Lady Rebels of Tolsia.

The Lady Raiders Cheerleaders were wearing new uniforms to support their Lady Raiders. The new uniforms are purple. The new color of the Raiders that the student body voted to incorporate into their school colors this year.

The Runnin' Rebels jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter. South Floyd gained the one point lead at 3-2 then Tolsia went on a 8-2 run. The Lady Raiders regrouped and only trailed the Lady Rebels by three at the end of the first quarter. Minnie Tackett hit a three point basket in the first quarter for the Lady Raiders. The Runnin' Lady Rebels led at the first break 14-11.

In the second quarter, South Floyd allowed Tolsia to get too many rebounds and put-back shots. The Lady Rebels

(See Lady Raiders, page three)



Monica Newsome (10) goes in for a layup in the game against Tolsia. Newsome finished the game with four points. South Floyd lost a heart-breaker to the Lady Runnin' Rebels 58-55. (photo by Karen Joseph)



Kelli Joseph
Future All-American

A Look At Sports

The year 1999 has passed from us and we will never experience the year again. In fact, the last 1,000 years are nothing but part of history.

We have entered into a new millennium and all the fears of the New Year and the new millennium have folks scrambling to stock food, water and all the necessities needed to survive.

It is interesting how that all of a sudden we have become concerned with what lies ahead.

We don't know how much all this Y2K thing is going to affect the sports world. I doubt if it will have any affect on it, as I doubt it will have much effect on anything else.

Looking over the past 10 years, 1990 through 2000, I suppose the top story in county sports would be the 1993 football season when the Prestonsburg Blackcats marched undefeated to the state 2A championship only to fall in the final game, 13-12 to Maysville.

The real headliner for that year was the thrilling double overtime win, when Prestonsburg upset state power Danville to advance to the state finals.

I remember that season so well and it all began at Clay County, where then-coach Bill Letton's Blackcats played in a bowl game and was awesome out of the gate.

Dwayne Garza, after a big touchdown run, said to me, "Ed, are you going to the state championship with us?" I assured Dwayne that I would be there.

The march to the championship was a good one as the Blackcats were blowing away all opposition en route to a 13-0 start. They motored through the first 10 regular season games and were unchallenged in the playoffs.

At Louisville on a very wet rainy day, the 'Cats jumped out to a 12-0 lead over a good Maysville team. The rain never did let up and the Blackcats looked like a team that enjoyed the rain, and no cat likes water.

The drastic fourth quar-

(See Sports, page three)

■ Girls

Sheldon Clark 61,	Law., Tenn., 59
Betsy Layne 56,	Allen Central 42
Tolsia, W. Va., 58,	South Floyd 55
Laverge 81,	Betsy Layne 63
Sheldon Clark 69,	Allen Central 47
Prestonsburg 74,	Lawrence Co. 29
Paintsville 47,	Scott Co. 40
JCHS 54,	Rowan Co. 27
Pike Central 61,	Knox Central 46
Wheeling Park, 80,	Belfry 57
Mercer 61,	Belfry 34

■ Boys

Tolsia, W. Va., 70,	Belfry 59
JCHS 83,	West Carter 66
Christian Acad. 88,	Millard 81
Shelby Valley 61,	Letcher Co 57
Wolfe Co. 76,	Feds Creek 58
South Floyd 97,	Whitesburg 90
Paintsville 70,	Pike Central 56

Games on tap

■ Girls

Wed., Dec. 29
Finals of the
Sheldon Clark Invitational, 7:30

Finals of the
Johnson Central Lady Eagles
Invitational, 7:30

■ Boys

Wed., Dec. 29
South Floyd Invitational
First round
Feds Creek vs Wolfe Co, 6 p.m.
Whitesburg vs South Floyd, 8 p.m.

The Girls All "A" basketball classic will tip-off on Tuesday, January 11, with just one game, when the Piarist School meets Elk Horn City in the opening game. The tournament continues Wednesday, January 12, and will conclude on Saturday, January 15.

Millard, the host school, has not determined if the tournament will be played at home or at another site.

Pikeville meets South Floyd in the opening game at 6:30 p.m., while Allen Central will battle Paintsville at 8:15 p.m.

On Thursday night, Phelps meets Feds Creek and Millard will face the winner of the Piarist/Elk Horn game.

The semifinals will be held on Friday, with the championship game played on Saturday.





by Jason Blanton

It's day two of the new century and we hope that you have survived the New Year's parties and Y2K. First, thanks for all the nice comments about the column over the past few months. Second, I decided to take a look back at some things that were important in the area sports scene in the past 75 or so years. I didn't have a lot of information from the early days, but made up for it in more recent times. I know that I didn't get the all-important things to all people. I tried to hit the high points (from Floyd, Johnson and Martin counties). With a limited amount of space, we had to try to keep it as short as possible. So up front, I'm sorry I didn't think of that and here we go.

1930 - A young teacher, Russell Williamson introduces basketball to his students at Inez High School.

1932 - Woodburn defeats the Paintsville Comets, 25-20, to win the Girls' State Basketball Tournament.

1941 - Inez wins KHSAA boys' basketball title.

1948 - Prestonsburg wins state baseball title.

1954 - Inez wins KHSAA boys' basketball title.

1956 - Kelly Coleman of Wayland High School wins first Mr. Basketball award. Later in August,

A look back at sports

Walter J. Brugh wins his debut, a 31-0 victory over McKell High.

1958 - Paintsville boys' golf team captures the school's first state championship.

1959 - Playing in two separate basketball tournaments during the same night, Oil Springs High Schools wins both. Wildcat coach Rusty Yates splits his squad and wins both the Foothills Conference Tournament and the Prestonsburg Invitational on the same night.

1960 - Mike 'Missle' Minix named first team All-State and a high school All-American, both firsts for Paintsville High School. In his senior year, Minix scores 42 touchdowns to establish both state and national records.

1961 - Two Johnson Contains are selected in the first seven rounds of the NBA Draft. Charlie Osborne, of Western Kentucky University and Flat Gap High School, was a third round pick by Syracuse while Donnis Butcher, of Meade Memorial High School and Pikeville College, was the seventh round selection of New York.

1964 - Jenny Wiley Tournament is started. The tournament held at Prestonsburg High around Thanksgiving is an early season look at some of the better high school basketball teams.

1966 - Johnson County native Donnis Butcher replaces Dave Busschere as head coach of the Detroit Pistons.

1972 - Allen Central High School opens, which ends the history of Wayland, Garrett, Maytown and Martin High Schools.

1973 - Johnnie LeMaster, of Paintsville High School, was the 6th overall pick in the June baseball draft as he was the first selection of the San Francisco Giants.

1974 - McDowell's Steve Smith is on Norm Sloan's

NCAA National Championship squad at N.C. State.

1977 - Geri Grigsby, of McDowell, named Miss Basketball.

1978 - In front of 1,500 fans, professional baseball makes its debut as the Paintsville Hillanders defeat Bluefield, 6-4, in the Appalachian League. Paintsville lost to Ft. Campbell in the finals of Class A football.

1980 - High scoring Phelps guard Ervin Stepp wins Mr. Basketball award.

1982 - Virgie's Todd May wins Mr. Basketball.

1983 - 6-10 transfer Jimmy Dale Turner, formally of McDowell High, leads Sheldon Clark to its first and only boys' 15th Regional championship.

1984 - Harry Meek hits last-second shot to lift Johnson Central over Magoffin County, 62-60, to capture the 15th Regional Tournament in front of a standing-room-only crowd at the Virgie Athletic Complex. In August, the Paintsville Brewers play final professional baseball game in area. The Pikeville Cubs shutout Paintsville, 4-0, behind the pitching of Greg Maddux.

1985 - Paintsville lost to Crittenden County in finals of Class A football.

1986 - Former Johnson Central star Karen Pelphrey, of Marshall University, hits a five-foot jumper to become the Southern Conference's all-time leading scorer. Van Lear native Willie Blair is drafted by Toronto Blue Jays. It would take Blair four years to make it to the big leagues.

1987 - Paintsville High's John Pelphrey named Mr. Basketball.

1990 - Charlie Adkins and his Paintsville Tigers win the state high school baseball championship. Local runner Rick Roberts competes in the Goodwill Games in Seattle, Washington.

1991 - Sheldon Clark's Ida Bowen named Miss

Basketball. Johnson Central senior Amiee Cantrell becomes the school's first state title holder as she shoots back-to-back 79s en route to a three-shot victory at the Girls' State High School Golf Tournament.

1993 - Prestonsburg loses 2A football championship, 13-12, to Mayfield. The Blackcats finished the season 14-1.

1994 - In one of the best All 'A' Classic 15th Regional championship games, Elkhorn City's Todd Conley scores 52, including seven three-pointers, while Allen Central's Jeremy Hall has 46, including 12 three-pointers, in a 98-89 Elkhorn City win. Brad Tiller becomes first Martin Countian drafted by a professional team, as he was the 9th round selection of Cleveland.

1995 - After 39 years as head football coach at Paintsville, Walter Brugh retires. He left the KHSAA's All-Time winningest coach.

1996 - Craig Ratliff's 30 points propels Paintsville High School to the KHSAA boys' state basketball championship. The Tigers beat Ashland in the finals at Rupp Arena.

1997 - Former Johnson Central and Morehead State pitcher Willie Blair suffers a broken jaw after being hit by a line drive, which was clocked at 107 mph, off the bat of Cleveland's Julio Franco as he pitches for the Detroit Tigers. He missed about a month of the season, but posted his career best 16-8 record.

1998 - J.R. VanHoose, who had already signed with Marshall University, wins Mr. Basketball award.

1999 - Sheldon Clark's Brent Weaver wins first Martin County track championship (AA high jump) while Jake Karn of Paintsville wins (1600-meter event) Johnson County's first state track championship.

Bentley's COMMENTS

BY RICK BENTLEY

PHOENIX, Ariz. - We've reached the end. Of what, we don't know just yet. We'll have to get back to you tomorrow. Or in my case, next Friday. I guess that means it's up to you to decide.

One thing that's sure is there are changes in store for you tomorrow. For one thing, you'll mess up a lot of checks writing a nine first instead of the double-O.

And then there's that Saturday edition of the News-Express that's coming tomorrow.

Today, we know, is the end of the year, the decade and the century. Many will tell you it's the end of the millenium; others, sticklers about such things, insist that comes next year.

We've decided to limit it to the decade for our little look back. In the following diatribe, you won't reach sentences and paragraphs as

much as names.

We've given you a (supposedly) alphabetical listing of some of the people who have made names for themselves in the 1990s. It's not complete, but it's something to provoke thought, which is what columns are supposed to do.

Oh, one more thing. If you're looking for locals, you can pretty well stop now. The fear of leaving someone out caused us to delete most of them. Locals in here are limited to media members and a select few college coaches who have helped make our community a little better known outside of these mountains.

Because of that, folks such as Jody Thompson, J.J. Hylton and Stacey Spake won't be listed.

So we hope you enjoy, we hope to see you next week.

And we hope you have a Happy New Whatever.

Enjoy the list.

- Troy Aikman, Andre Agassi, Mitch Albom, Robbie Alomar, Otis Anderson, Lance Armstrong, Arthur Ashe.
- Charles Barkley, Gary Barnett, Matt Barr, Don Beebe, Albert Belle, Mike Bibby, Jason Blanton, Richard Blount (the Big Dipper), Jim Boeheim, Barry Bonds, Bobby Bowden, Jim Bowden, Riddick Bowe, Sid Bream, Robert Brooks, Dale Brown, Kevin Brown, Frank Bruno, Jack Buck.
- Francisco Cabrera, John Calipari, The Careys (Chip, Harry, Skip), Joe Carter, Jon Chaney, Brandi Chastain, Mark Chmura, Steve Christie, Cynthia Cooper, Jimmy Connors, Will Cordero, Bob Costas, Tim Couch, Bobby Cox, Bryan Cox, Jim Courier, Bill

- Cowher, Bryan Crager, Bill Curry, Chad Curtis.
- John Daly, Robert Damron, Terrell Davis, Rob Dibble, Jim Donnan, Buster Douglas, Tim Duncan, Lenny Dykstra.
- Dale Earnhardt, Jim Edmonds, John Elway, Janet Evans, Jim Everett (and buddy Jim Rome).
- Fab Five (Jawan Howard, Ray Jackson, Jimmy King, Jalen Rose, Chris Webber), Brett Favre, Shawn Finney, George Foreman, Tommy Frazier, Phil Fulmer.
- Sergio Garcia, Jeff Gillooly, Peter Gammons, Jeff George, Tom Glavine, Jeff Gordon, Steffi Graf, Jim Gray, Wayne Gretzky, Junior Griffey.
- Mia Hamm, Penny Hardaway (and Lil Penny), Tonya Harding, Billy Hatcher, Levon Hernandez, Orlando Hernandez, Mark Herschbeck, Grant Hill, Wayne Hitzenga, Martina Hingis, Chamique Holdsclaw, Evander Holyfield, Allen Houston.
- Michael Irvin, Allen Iverson.
- Phil Jackson, Derek Jeter, Jimmy Johnson, Magic Johnson, Michael Johnson, Randy Johnson, Chipper Jones, Donnie Jones, Jerry Jones, June Jones, Michael Jordan, David Justice.
- Bela Karoli, Nancy Kerrigan,

- Tom Kite, John Kitchen, Bobby Knight, Phil Knight, Mike Krzyzewski, John Kruk, Michelle Kwan.
- Christian Laettner, Tony LaRussa, Bill Laimbeer, Tom Leach, Cawood Ledford, Charlie Liebrandt, Mark Lemke, Justin Leonard, Carl Lewis, Jim Leyritz, Greg Luganis, Mike Lupica.
- John Madden, Bernadette Locke Maddox, Greg Maddox, Karl Malone, Peyton Manning, Mickey Mantle, Casey Martin, Mark Martin, Stephon Mattoe, Tim McCarver, Hal McCrae, Jack McDowell, Mark McGuire, Jeffrey Meier, Mark Messier, James Miller (boxing's Fan Man), Reggie Miller, Art Modell, Tommy Moe, Paul Molitor, Joe Montana, Jack Morris, Michael Moorer, Tommy Morrison, Randy Moss, Alonzo Mourning, Hal Mumme.
- Jim Nantz, C.M. Newton, Greg Norman, Scott Norwood.
- Keith Olbermann (and Dan Patrick), Jose Maria Olazabal, Shaquille O'Neil, Rey Ordenez, Tom Osborne.
- Gunther Parch (stabbed Monica Seles), John Paxton, Jerry Pelphrey, Kim Perrot, Lou Pinella, Scottie Pippen, Rick Pitino, Mike Powell, Kirby Puckett.
- Andre Reed, Edgar Renteria, Jerry Rice, Dot Richardson, Mike

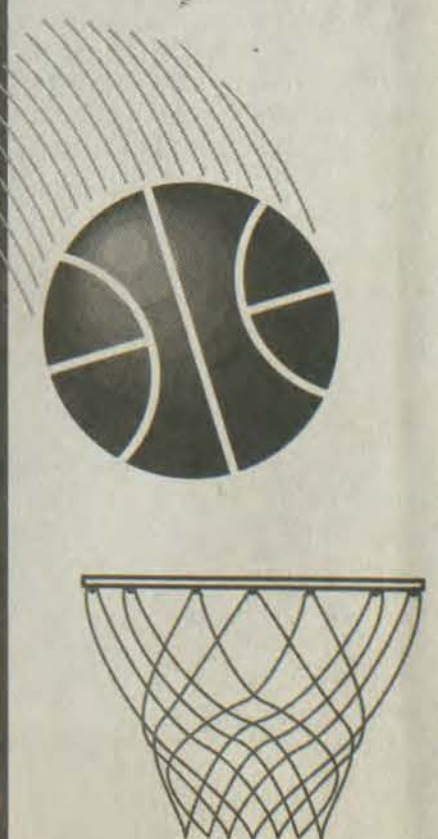
- Richter, the U.S. Rider Cup Team, Cal Ripken Jr., Frank Ritch, David Robinson, John Rocker, Pete Rose, Dennis Rodman, Alex Rodriguez.
- Pete Sampras, Barry Sanders, Deion Sanders, Dick Schaap, Jeremy Schaap, Monica Seles, Bud Selig, Jeff Sheppard, O.J. Simpson (Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman), Emmitt Smith, Tubby Smith, John Smoltz, Sammy Sosa, Lattrel Spreewell, Steve Spurier, Robert Stagg, Kordell Stewart, Dave Stewart, Payne Stewart, John Stockton, Picabo Street, Kerry Strug, Sheryl Swoopes.
- Ed Taylor, Frank Thomas, Isiah Thomas, Thurman Thomas, Jody Thompson, Tony Torasco, Joe Torre, Dick Trickle, Mike Tyson.
- Unforgettables (Richie Farmer, Deron Feldhaus, John Pelphrey, Sean Woods).
- Nick Van Exel, Jesse Ventura, Dick Vitale.
- Charlie Ward, John Ward, Bob Watkins, Bill Watson, Ricky Watters, Teresa Wetherspoon, John Wettland, Greg White, Bart Williams, Mitch Williams, Ricky Williams, Serena Williams, Venus Williams, Mark Wohlers, Kerry Wood, Sean Woods, Tiger Woods, Rod Woodson.
- Steve Young, Steve Yzerman.
- Fuzzy Zoeller.



Floyd County Standings

MEN		
Team	Overall	Conference
South Floyd	8-2	3-0
Allen Central	5-3	2-1
Betsy Layne	4-3	2-1
Prestonsburg	0-10	0-1
Piarist	0-13	0-3
WOMEN		
Team	Overall	Conference
Betsy Layne	7-5	2-0
Prestonsburg	7-5	1-1
South Floyd	6-6	0-1
Allen Central	5-5	1-1

As of Thursday, Dec. 30



Stratton scores 22 points in Bobcat loss to Wolverines

by Karen Joseph
Sports Writer

The semi-final round of the Sheldon Clark Holiday Classic got underway on Wednesday morning. The first game pitted the Bobcats of Betsy Layne against the Wolverines of Laverge, Tennessee.

The Lady Bobcats defeated Cawood on Monday to advance to the semi-finals and the Wolverines defeated the Australian National Team to move on.

Coach Cassandra Akers' Ladycats had their hands full with this Tennessee team. They were quick and could shoot from anywhere on the floor. The Lady Bobcats were playing without the services of senior center Shenna Akers. Akers re-injured her knee and had to sit out the game.

The Lady Wolverines jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter and the Lady Bobcats could not overcome the deficit. The Lady Bobcats fell to the Lady Wolverines 81-63.

Natasha Stratton played a fabulous game for the Lady Bobcats. She finished with 22 points.

The Lady Wolverines outscored the Lady Bobcats 16 points in the first quarter. And that proved

enough for the Wolverines to win the game. In the end they defeated the Lady Cats by 17.

In the first period, for the Bobcats, it was mostly Natasha Stratton. Stratton scored nine of the 14 points for the Bobcats.

The Wolverines went wild from the three-point line in the first quarter. Tennessee hit five three-point baskets in the first period to help them gain a 16-point lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Lady Bobcats, as usual, came out in the second quarter and played much better ball. They held the Wolverines to only one three-point basket. Natasha Stratton had another good quarter, scoring nine points in the second quarter, as she did in the first.

Both teams scored 19 points in the second quarter and the Wolverines went into the locker room with the same advantage as they had at the end of the first quarter, 16 points.

But again, the Lady Bobcats came out in the third quarter and were a little slow getting started. This has bothered the Lady Cats lately. They play better the second and fourth quarters of the game.

The Lady Wolverines zeroed in on Natasha Stratton. Stratton failed to score in the third quarter. The

Lady Bobcats defended against the three-point basket better. Laverge only hit one three-pointer in the third, but they increased their lead to 23, leading 68-45 at the end of the third quarter.

Betsy Layne played better ball in the fourth quarter. Tabitha Mitchell came off the bench to give the Bobcats new life. Mitchell scored four quick points for the Lady Bobcats and pulled down some crucial rebounds for Betsy Layne.

The Lady Bobcats stepped up their defense in the fourth quarter, but it was a little too late. They outscored the Wolverines by five points in the fourth quarter, but as hard as they tried they could not overcome their poor shooting of the first quarter.

"Again, we had a rough first quarter. This Tennessee team is very good ball team. But after the first quarter, our girls could play with them. We just have a hard time in the first quarter. But I think our girls played a good game," said Coach Akers following the game.

Betsy Layne will take on the Allen Central Rebels in the consolation game at 6 p.m. on Wednesday night. The Wolverines of Laverge will play Sheldon Clark in the finals at 8 p.m.



Betsy Layne's Jenny Parsons (23) goes in for a layup in the game against Laverge, TN. Parsons finished the game with 11 points, but the Lady Bobcats fell to the Wolverines, 81-63. (photo by Karen Joseph)

Sports

(Continued from page one)

ter still looms in the minds of the Blackcat faithful who trekked to Louisville.

Two plays of the game stand out in my mind, as both took place just in front of me.

The first was when Jody Cornette took the football at the 5-yard line in a punt situation. The low snap eluded Jody and Maysville fell on the loose ball and later scored to take a 13-12 lead with time running out.

But the Blackcats were not ready to fold and took the ensuing kickoff deep into Maysville's territory, where they were facing a third-down situation at the 22-yard line of Maysville.

Betsy Layne

(Continued from page one)

Martin had two three-point baskets in the game.

Betsy Layne outscored the Lady Rebels 17-8 in the fourth quarter to put the game away. Martin went scoreless for the Lady Rebels in the final period.

For Betsy Layne, Heather Hamilton finished with four points, and Amber Roberts tossed in six. Kim Tackett and Lykens scored five each with Tabitha Mitchell hitting one free throw for one point.

Allen Central travels to Elkhorn City tomorrow night and Betsy Layne will take the week off before playing in the Ashland Invitational Saturday.

I was standing at the edge of the end zone in order to capture a picture of what could be the touchdown that brought a state championship to Prestonsburg and Floyd County.

Nerves were bad in spite of the rain. Everyone was watching and waiting for the play to develop.

Finally, it came in the person of Seth Hyden, who had just an outstanding senior season at Prestonsburg. Hyden broke a tackle and raced into the end zone as Prestonsburg fans began to celebrate. I caught the touchdown on film and it was a good one. I was so excited. I thought of seeing Bill Letton on the ground when his Blackcats upset Danville and wondered if it could get any better than this.

Most fans look for a yellow flag when a touchdown is scored, expecting something to go wrong. It did. A look up field a very, very late yellow flag was lying next to the official and not out in the open like most would throw one.

The touchdown was nullified and called back because of a holding call on Prestonsburg. As anyone knows, a holding call could be called on about every play of a football game. Why now?

But the Cats had one last opportunity when they got the down over after the penalty. Thomas Ratliff, who had a season that he will always remember, attempted a field goal beyond the 40-yard line. The kick just missed the uprights

in what would have been an even more thrilling victory than the Danville win.

That is one football team that I will always remember. I have a nice 16x20 enlargement of the team in my office at home, compliments of Paula Goble. I often look at it and think, "What if?"

It was a great football season and will be the one event that I will never forget, even after I leave this job.

It was a football team that was focused all season. They had a great coach in Bill Letton. It was a team that supported one another. They never did disagree, or at least I never heard of it. They were a close team and had all the tools for greatness.

Will there ever be another Blackcat football team like the '93 squad? No, I think not. It is a rarity to see kids like the ones who made up the '93 team. They were just an outstanding group of young men who had respect for the coaching staff and worked hard every day out. Even in practice, they were competitive. The ones who played the least were always challenging the "starters" to become even better than they were.

The 1993 Prestonsburg football team was the best in the '90s and could very well be the best-ever at the school.

Happy New Year everyone and remember, good sports and be good sports in 2000!

Wells

(Continued from page one)

"It is about time someone starting helping out with the scoring," said center Ramanda Music, who, along with Amelia Conley, has had to battle the sagging defenses of the opposition.

"Brandy's shooting from the outside certainly opened things up underneath for us," said Coach Hamilton. "We needed someone to start hitting from the outside. It took up some of the slack in our offense."

Conley and Music had been carrying the load offensively for Prestonsburg, but Wells has joined in and has shown her ability to score from anywhere on the court. She had 19 points the previous night against Paintsville and scored 10 in a first round game against Scott County.

Lawrence County struggled against the Prestonsburg press. All phases of the Lady Blackcats' game was impressive, according to

Coach Hamilton.

"Overall, we looked pretty good," he said.

Music finished with 11 points in the game as the only other double figure scorer. Conley had only four points, but Coach Hamilton said it was not a case of her not being able to score, but that they just didn't need the point production from her.

"We used her to help break the press and that took her out of the offense some," said the Prestonsburg mentor. "She plays well however we use her."

The Prestonsburg coach feels his team is starting to come together and hopes the excellent play continues.

"We just need to build on what we have done the last three days," said Hamilton. "We have played well and we have played hard."

Prestonsburg (7-5) held a 42-10 lead at the half and led 63-21 after three quarters.

Sophomore point guard Megan Hyden finished with eight points for Prestonsburg and Angela Howell netted six. Brook Coleman and Stephanie Adams scored four points each, as did Heather White, an eighth-grader. Vickie Bowling and Lauren Majaake added two points apiece.

Lawrence County failed to put a player in double figures but was led by Roberts' nine points. Webb finished with six.

Prestonsburg is the defending champion of the Lady Eagles Holiday Tournament and squared off with host Johnson Central in the finals Thursday night.

Prestonsburg will not play again until January 11 when they meet South Floyd at home in conference basketball play. It will mark the first time this basketball season Prestonsburg has gotten to play on their home court. Prestonsburg is 0-1 in conference action.

Lady Raiders

(Continued from page one)

outscored the Lady Raiders by four points in the second quarter to increase their lead to 7 at the end of the half. Martha Crawford hit a three point basket in the second period for the Lady Raiders.

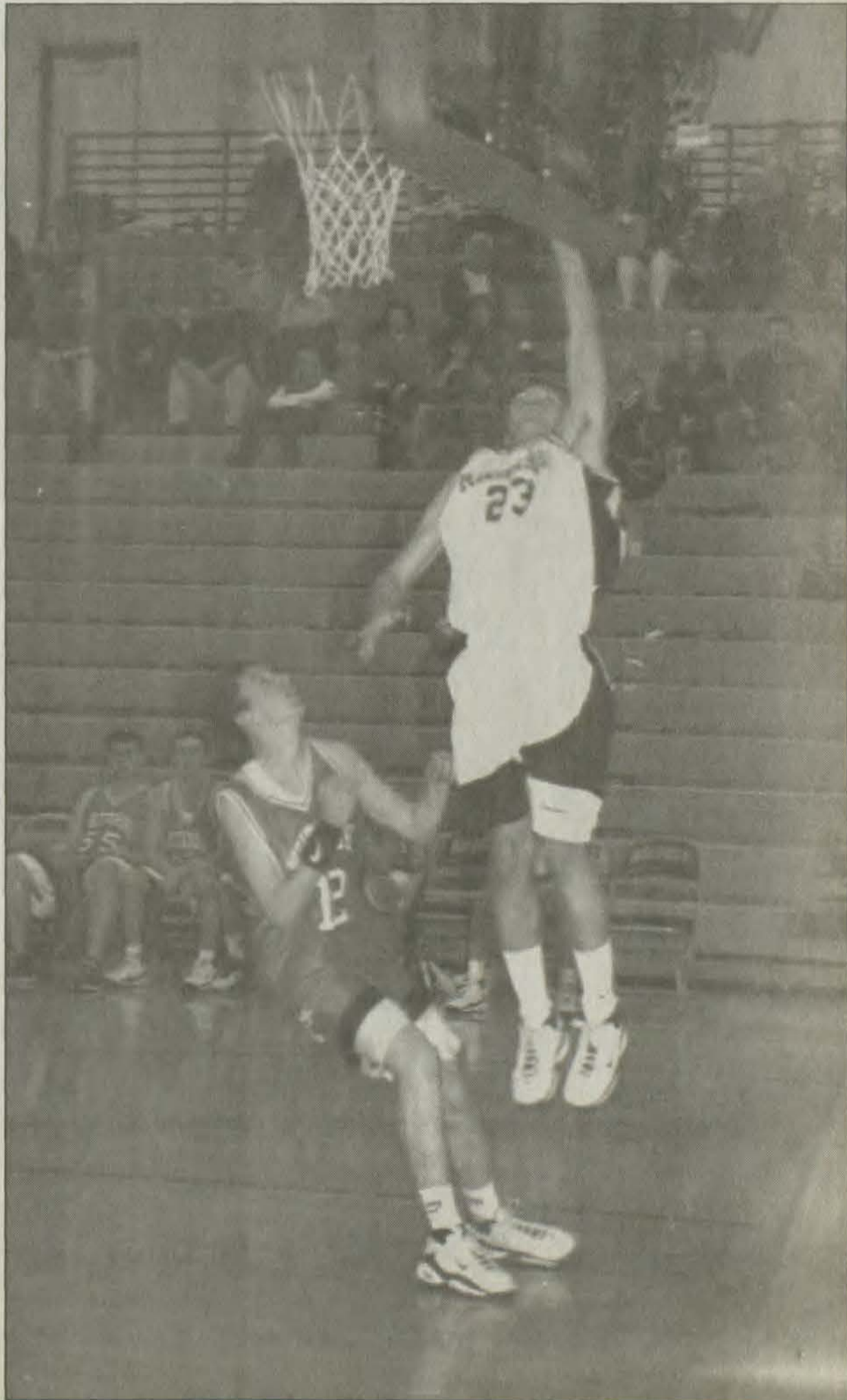
The Runnin' Rebels outscored the Lady Raiders 8-2 in the first three minutes of the third quarter. South Floyd made a come back late in the third quarter, but continued to trail the Lady Rebels 46-35 at the end of the third quarter.

46-35.

In the fourth and final quarter, the Lady Raiders made a very impressive comeback. The Lady Raiders outscored the Lady Rebels 20-12 in the fourth quarter. Martha Crawford hit another three-pointer for South Floyd and Lindsey Hall scored six points in the fourth quarter. South Floyd fought back to come within three points with 32 seconds remaining in the game. But Amanda Preston

was able to connect at the charity line come crunch time. Preston hit two free throws and Rachel Wilson also hit two for the Runnin' Rebels. Martha Crawford hit her three-pointer with 5.6 seconds remaining in the game. But the Lady Rebels held on the win over the Lady Raiders, 58-55.

South Floyd falls to 6-4. Their next game will be on January 3rd at home when they will host the Shelby Valley Wildcats.



Sports In PERSPECTIVE

Denis Harrington

Dale Earnhardt: Number 3

Put your money on black, number three.

For fans of stock car racing this is a solid bet any time out.

Since 1979 Dale Earnhardt has been chauffeuring his black Chevy racer bearing the large block number 3 around the NASCAR Winston Cup Circuit in often triumphant and always controversial fashion.

Now 47, he continues to contend for the top spot week in and week out with the same fervor which marked his Rookie of the Year performance two decades ago.

Innately competitive and aggressive, Earnhardt is still not loth to "kiss" fenders with members of the loyal opposition should this tactic serve to enhance his position in the field.

A classic case in point occurred this season in the Goody's 500 when he found himself trailing fellow driver Terry Labonte entering the white flag lap. With trademark audacity he bumped Labonte's car then passed him to cross the finish line for first place honors.

Needless to say this maneuver prompted no little outcry on behalf of Labonte and his supporters.

"It was totally unsportsmanlike, and totally uncalled for," Labonte angrily protested to all who would hear.

Reacted Earnhardt, "Yeah, I meant to hit Terry and rattle his cage, but I didn't mean to wreck him. I'm sorry it happened. I got in too deep and hit him harder than I meant to."

A livid Labonte retorted, "Have

you ever heard him say he meant to spin anybody? He never has any intention of taking anybody out. It just happens that he does. He'd better tighten up his belts."

The implication being Labonte intended to return the favor.

With an expression of feigned concern, Earnhardt responded, "Guess I'd better be looking after myself a little bit closer."

This scene has been played out many times in the course of his racing career.

Also during the 1999 NASCAR calendar, Earnhardt "traded iron" with Jeff Gordon, the new golden boy of the Winston Cup go-around. The exchange took place on a turn where Earnhardt was closing down on the white line while Gordon

sought to forge an opening in a cluster of cars from his place along the apron.

By virtue of this swiping action Gordon squeezed himself into the lead and went on to victory. Afterward the two men got nose-to-nose in the pit area and exchanged some harsh sentiments.

Later, for the benefit of the media, Gordon said, "I wasn't going to let him force me off the track."

Replied Earnhardt, "If he bumped me once, even twice, okay. That happens. But three times? If he wants war, I can do that."

The old does not give way gracefully to the new, especially if the senior party to said equation is Earnhardt.

Back in 1980, when his was the

fresh face in the crowd, Earnhardt won five races to capture his initial Winston Cup title. He was the first sophomore driver to attain this honor.

Earnhardt topped the individual standings again in 1986, '87, '90, '91, '93 and '94. But thereafter he seemed to lose some of his verve. Reports circulated that he was experiencing unexplained periods of drowsiness, that he would fall asleep at the slightest pretext. When this malady cleared itself up, he broke his sternum and a collarbone in a 1996 crash.

Finally, he took the checkered flag in the '98 Daytona 500. But not long afterward he suffered facial burns in yet another pileup. So it was talk of his being washed-up became

more widespread.

On April 25 of this year Earnhardt ended a 40-race winless streak with a victory in the Diehard 500 event at Talladega.

At that time he said, "We can turn this season around. The name of the game is top five finishes and wins."

Good intentions and high hopes notwithstanding he didn't enjoy another victory celebration until August 25 at Bristol where the Labonte bumping incident marred the moment.

Although first place checks are fewer and further between now, the man known as "Ironhead" and "The Intimidator" doesn't plan to call it quits in the near future.

Said Earnhardt, "Racing comes just like breathing to me."

FROM THE TACKLE BOX

by Jim Lyon

When I go shopping, I always enjoy taking a detour through the sports department. It is not just for the gratification of looking at all the new fishing equipment, but once-in-awhile I meet some very interesting fellow anglers in this department. It is somewhat like averaging down to the old country store, pulling up a chair, taking out a stick and a pocket knife, to spend a spell whittling and swapping stories with the good ole boys.

I recently made this detour, and was admiring all the new equipment that is especially designed to make an angler's dream come true. On this particular day, the department was crowded with anglers standing around just enjoying visiting and talking about fishing. One conversation in particular caught my attention, and it made my blood

run cold. A frustrated angler was sharing with another the problem he had with his recently deceased fishing equipment. He stated that he had taken the equipment home and, beaten it into very small pieces. He said "I will never have that problem again." He had bought a new piece of equipment and was showing it to his friend. I thought to myself, if this angler is expecting perfection out of the one in the bag, it may be destined to the same violent end as the first. I guess this is much the same as tales I have heard of frustrated golfers throwing their golf clubs in a water hazard because they didn't perform well on a given day. The next day they would probably go buy more clubs to replace them. Oh well, it seems that new stuff always works better anyway. I guess that's what keeps the economy going.

Another fellow meandering his way through the department shared with me the worth of some of the hundreds of lures hanging on the wall. He picked up one of the shiny little lures and asked, "did you ever catch anything on one like this." I had to admit I hadn't. He said, "I haven't either, they're not worth anything." We looked at, and discussed several other designs and, he pointed out the success he had with a spinner bait. He explained how he presented and retrieved the bait which was successful in catching fish in weed beds. I like to hear the success stories of fellow anglers and listen as they tell stories of how they outsmarted the big one.

I left the sports department a little wiser, and with the satisfaction

of knowing that other anglers also have fishing equipment problems. It is encouraging to find out that I'm not the only one supporting the fishing equipment industry. I haven't become despondent enough to beat up on my equipment that didn't work properly, but I've been tempted to.

My son is a thirty four year old angler, and nothing pleases me more than spending a day at the fishing hole with him. He is a very good angler, and sometimes he is hard to beat. The last time we went fishing he edged me out on the days catch. I told him, he would have to find someone else to fish with. He knew I was only kidding and we will be back out at the first opportunity. He uses a beautiful bait cast

reel when he gets serious about going after the big ones. He can cast several yards farther than a spin cast. However, I have been concerned at times, when he uses it. Everything will be going well, when suddenly the boat explodes with angry snorting and boat rocking antics. When this happens I can be sure, even without an explanation that his beautiful expensive bait cast reel is looking like a robin's nest. This doesn't happen too often but when it does he spends a lot of time muttering under his breath as he is fixing the problem.

It's a pleasure to fish with a bait-cast reel, when you become accustomed to its action. When desiring longer casts the reel can be set

to the free spool position. It's important to remember that some resistance is required to prevent back lash. This resistance changes with the weight of the lure you are using. A good rule of thumb is to set it so that the weight of the lure will overcome the resistance and slowly fall. It's still necessary to thumb the spool when you cast. The lighter your bait the more critical the backlash characteristic becomes. It takes hours of practice to use this type reel successfully. Once you have mastered the technique it's a pleasure to fish with one. If you are just learning to use a bait caster, it's a good idea to use a narrow spool. A narrow spool rig is more forgiving and is somewhat easier to cast by a novice. I know anglers who wouldn't use any other

Lady Rebels lose to Sheldon Clark in semi-finals of Holiday Classic

by Karen Joseph
Sports Writer

For the second time in the month of December, the Lady Rebels and the Lady Cardinals have faced each other.

The first time was a regular season game at Allen Central. The Lady Cardinals came away with that win.

The two teams faced each other again in the semi-finals of the Sheldon Clark Holiday Classic. The Rebels were hoping to redeem their earlier loss.

The Lady Rebels played the Lady Cardinals a close game for the first quarter, but then the Lady Cardinals pulled away to defeat the Lady Rebels for the second time, 69-47.

Mandy Harmon led both teams in scoring. Harmon finished with 22. Desiree Cassidy and Kelli Moore finished with 17 and 14, respectively.

Jesse Martin led the way for the Lady Rebels. Martin finished the game with 15 points.

In the first quarter, the Lady Rebels struggled against the very tough defense of the Sheldon Clark Lady Cardinals.

Sheldon Clark played a full court press to start the game. Allen Central struggled to get the ball down the floor. But, when the Lady Rebels broke the press, they always had an open player under the basket and scored.

Sheldon Clark took the lead to start the game when Kelli Moore was fouled by Kari Osborne. Moore hit one of two free throws to give the Cardinals the 1-0 lead.

But Shannon Sizemore would hit a three-point basket to give the lead to the Lady Rebels. The Lady Rebels would have the lead one other time, early in the game, but would not regain it for the rest of the game. Sheldon Clark held on to a very slim one-point margin, 12-11.

In the second quarter, the Lady Cardinals did not press as much, but they played a very fast passing, fast paced game. The Lady Rebels had a difficult time defending against this offense. In the second quarter,

the Lady Cardinals outscored the Lady Rebels 21-9.

Freshman Desiree Cassidy scored 10 points for the Lady Cardinals in the second quarter. Cassidy hit nine of 10 free throws in the third quarter. She finished with 11 free throws out of 13 for the game. She had a total of 17 points.

Both teams played some sloppy basketball toward the end of the first half, but Sheldon Clark managed to go into the locker room with a comfortable 13-point lead.

Things got worse for the Lady Rebels. In the third quarter, the Lady Cardinals held Allen Central to only eight points. Allen Central just could not get the open shots.

With a little over a minute remaining in the third quarter, Coach Anthony Moore, upset with a call by the referee, was assessed with a technical foul. Mandy Harmon hit one of the two free throws. And the Lady Cardinals increased their lead to 27 at the end of the third quarter, leading 55-28.

In the fourth quarter, Allen Central outscored Sheldon Clark, but not by enough. Jesse Martin and Jennifer Risner both had three-point baskets for the Lady Rebels, but Allen Central could not come back and the game ended with the Lady Cardinals over the Lady Rebels, 69-47.

This is a hard time of the year for teams to be playing basketball. They are all on Christmas break. They are not in school, and it is really hard for a team to get up to play a ballgame, especially at 12 o'clock in the day. You could tell by watching the teams in this tournament.

Allen Central fell to 5-3 on the season. The Lady Rebels will face the Lady Bobcats of Betsy Layne in the consolation game.

Their next regular season game will be on Monday, January 3, when they travel to Elkhorn City to take on the Elkhorn City Cougars.

The Sheldon Clark Lady Cardinals will take on the Wolverines of Laverne, TN, in the championship game of their tournament.



These two Allen Central players are surrounded by Cardinals. Allen Central fell to the Lady Cardinals of Sheldon Clark for the second time this month at the Sheldon Clark Holiday Tournament. (photo by Karen Joseph)



Little Raiders

These two sisters are ready to cheer on the South Floyd Raiders. They are Joslyn and Jonna Isaac. They were at the game when the Raiders defeated the Yellowjackets of Whitesburg. (photo by Karen Joseph)



INSIDE THE PRO FISHING TOUR

Bentz Emerges As Major Player

There seems to be little doubt that boatbuilder Earl Bentz has injected some excitement into the sagging bass-boat market in the short time that his Triton Boats has been in business.

A recent profile of Bentz in The Wall Street Journal brought out some interesting facts, including:



Tim Tucker's Tour Notebook

to 2,526 boats in the first six months of 1999 — compared with a 1.2 percent increase in volume for the industry as a whole.

Walleye World We've known for years that it takes a major investment (as much as \$60,000 a year) to compete on the national bass circuits. But what about the walleye world?

Illinois' John Phillips, a senior manufacturing specialist for 30 years with Caterpillar Inc., recently hit the professional walleye circuit full-time. He offers a peek at what his expenses will be in the first year.

Boat, trailer and outboard — \$40,000; tournament entry fees — \$6,300; lodging for 54 nights — \$3,200; gasoline for his boat — \$2,900; 15 fishing rods — \$2,250; 15 reels — \$900; approximately 1,000 crankbaits — \$5,000; fishing licenses and boat permits — \$250.

That adds up to \$60,800, and it doesn't include his tow vehicle and its expenses.

"Out of all of the guys that fish as walleye pros, there are probably only two dozen that are making it and don't have day jobs," Phillips said. "My initial goal is to try this for five years and see what level I'm at, and how much success I've had. Then at the age of 55, I'll make a decision whether to go back to fun fishing or to do this more."

They Said It "Bass fishing might be the next big television sport. A few years ago, people were laughing at the idea that NASCAR racing would be a hit with the populace. Now look at it. Every major network is trying to get racing. Well, don't look now, but bass fishing is in NASCAR's rear-view mirror and catching up quickly." —Fox Sports' Bob Brenly, who shared the announcing duties for the Ranger Millennium M-1 tournament.

High Roller Ever wonder what it feels like to take a check for \$100,000 to your local bank and attempt to cash it? David Fritts, a member of fishing's millionaire club, once tried to do exactly that. "It's true. I tried to cash it at my little bank in Lexington (N.C.), but they said they couldn't cash it," he said. "I was at a branch, and they said I'd have to take it down to the main office. I just wanted to see what \$100,000 felt like to carry around. But I never got to find out."

Tim Tucker's Pro Power Ratings

Star indicates a pro who is coming on strong.

1	1	28	Denny Brauer, Camdenton, Mo. Runner-up in 1999 Classic; still the man to beat
2	2	28	Davy Hite, Prosperity, S.C. Won '99 BASS Masters Classic
3	3	28	Larry Nixon, Bee Branch, Ark. Won BASS Top 150 opener; made Md. finals
4	4	28	Kevin VanDam, Kalamazoo, Mich. Won N.Y. BASS event; third in Md. Top 150
5	5	28	Rick Clunn, Ava, Mo. Runner-up in Vt. BASS Top 150
6	6	11	David Fritts, Lexington, N.C. Two top-10 finals; Millennium runner-up
7	7	28	Stephen Browning, Hot Springs, Ark. BASS Mich. Top 150 finals
8	8	11	Tim Horton, Spruce Pine, Ala. Won Md. Top 150; leads Angler of Year race
9	9	24	David Walker, Cannon, Ky. FLW Tour Angler of Year; 15th in Md. Top 150
10	10	28	Zell Rowland, Montgomery, Texas. Finals of Vt. BASS Top 150
11	11	25	Clark Wendlandt, Cedar Park, Texas. Won FLW Open; MegaBucks runner-up
12	12	8	Darrell Robertson, Jay, Okla. M-1 champ; won \$850,000 in two months
13	13	28	Mark Davis, Mount Ida, Ark. Narrowly missed Md. Top 150 finals
14	14	18	Roland Martin, Clewiston, Fla. Runner-up in Top 150 season-opener; 21st in Md.
15	15	6	Aaron Martens, Castaic, Calif. Calif. BASS winner; WON Bass Angler of Year

These ratings of America's top tournament bass pros are based on Tim's opinion of their talent, knowledge, experience and most recent tournament performances.

Tips From the Pros



ALTON JONES of Waco, Texas, is a past BASS winner and former guide on Richland-Chambers Reservoir.

Give Plastic Worm a Twist

"One of my best ways of sight-fishing for bass involves what I call the Jones Rig, a unique way to fish a plastic worm I developed while guiding on Richland-Chambers.

"The Jones Rig begins with a 1/4-ounce lead-head jig and a 4-inch straight, small-diameter, finesse-type worm. I thread the hook through the top of the worm and exit it at the bottom to create a piece of plastic that hangs straight down the hook shank. This is where my bizarre twist comes in. I then bend the worm and hook it onto the shank about an eighth of an inch from the end of the tail. This creates a small tear-shaped loop in the worm.

"Although it was born by accident, I quickly found an advantage to the unusual look, motion and descent of the weird-looking worm rig. This rig slows the fall of the bait, yet causes it to have a little bit more action than straight-tailed worms. This is a good bait to throw in any situation where you might throw a grub or tubejig.

"Anytime you can give the fish a look that they haven't seen before, you have an advantage."

A weekly guide to sports in the wild, including the professional bass fishing tour

Outdoors

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HUNTING



Hunter John Phillips of Birmingham, Ala., peers from around a tree as he stalks deer on foot in north Alabama.

All-but-Lost Art of Stalking Adds More Thrill to the Hunt

By TIM TUCKER, Outdoors Writer

One of Cliff Shelby's most memorable hunts involves a deer that walked away startled but unscathed.

Earlier this season, the veteran Arkansas hunter closely followed a pair of does through the woods for nearly a quarter of a mile with muzzleloader in hand before approaching one so close that he was able to slap it on the rump. The surprised deer instantly bounded off into the undergrowth after an encounter that was undoubtedly puzzling to her.

Shelby did it to prove a point — that you can successfully stalk deer afoot.

"You can actually can sneak up on these things," said Shelby, who has killed more than a hundred white-tailed deer over a lifetime of hunting. "People never try it. People say you have to be sitting up in a tree waiting and hoping a deer comes within range of you. I will sit on a stand, but if I see deer at a long distance moving and they're not headed in my direction, I'm going to where they are."

Stalking deer is an ancient art, all but lost among today's hunters. It is not only an effective way to intercept wandering game, it is also among the most exhilarating forms of hunting.

"When you're stalking deer, it's the most exciting thing in the world," Shelby said. "You're in a constant state of buck fever. When I get in a position to shoot, I have to get as steady and composed as I can to even pull this off."

Shelby offers some solid tips for stalking deer.

Silence is not always good. "You largely want to move quietly, but not completely," he said. "It's better to make some noise every once in a while so that you don't sound like a predator animal sneaking up on them — like a bobcat or coyote. They're alert for

steps or noises made by predators that are sneaking. They're constantly alert. White-tailed deer are probably one of the most paranoid creatures on the face of the Earth. They're very much aware that they're a prey animal and something is apt to eat them all of the time."

Stay downwind. A deer's ultra-sensitive nose can easily detect your presence when you approach from the upwind side.

How to walk. "Don't worry about it that much," Shelby said. "One thing you should do when you're slipping up on deer that might see you any minute is to take a step and move directly toward them. Don't take any angles right or left. The old buffalo hunters hunting on the prairie found that they could move right up on a herd of buffalo if they went straight at them."

"Another thing I believe is most important is never let your arms and hands leave your side. Animals don't go through the woods reaching out and pulling branches back from in front of them and ducking under them. They don't do that. They just move right straight through it. I keep one hand in my pocket all the time and the other one holding my gun right along side my leg."

Avoid eye contact. "You don't ever want to make eye contact with the animal. You can be real, real close to them, but if they look you in the eye and your eyes meet, they're looking a predator right in the face and they know it. So when a deer or any other creature try to look up right at your face, look down or look away from them. Don't ever let them look you in the eye."

"You can actually sneak up on these things."
—Cliff Shelby

YOUR SPORTS

Millennium Adventure Is Most Extreme

By STEPHEN R. DUJACK

I think I've found the best spot for an outdoors adventurer to celebrate the arrival of the new millennium. It's in the middle of the highest, coldest, windiest continent on Earth. Wildlife may be absent — indigenous species amount to a few gnats, and there are no plants at all — but my fellow travelers and I intend to provide our own wildlife.

If you haven't guessed, I'm talking about the South Pole, the spot where all of the time zones come together and you get to pop open a fresh bottle of champagne to toast the big event a total of 24 times.

Tourist travel to Antarctica is all the rage these days, but for the most part people travel on cruise ships, spend a few days looking at penguin rookeries on the coast, then steam back to New Zealand or Argentina. If that's Antarctica, then Miami Beach is the Everglades.

Access to the interior of Antarctica is difficult, and to go to the Pole — unless you want to ski, which is still unrestricted — there is only one way (unless you are assigned to the permanent scientific station there, Amundsen-Scott Base). That's to pull out your credit card and pay for a guided trip with

With all 24 time zones converging at this one point, which is the one that really counts?

Adventure Network International, a Canadian company with headquarters in London.

Every two weeks or so during the astral summer (which has just begun), ANI flies a dozen or so tourists from Punta Arenas, Chile, just above Cape Horn, to Patriot Hills Camp in the Ellsworth Mountains, 1,076 miles

from the Pole. Patriot Hills is the only private camp operating in the Antarctic, and you land there on a specially equipped Hercules prop plane on the world's only ice runway.

The camp, which accommodates about 60 people, consists of dozens of special insulated tents, and you live the entire time there in outdoors clothing. Outfitting for the trip is an experience in itself — the organizers send a very complete list, which interestingly includes a "pee bottle." Expect to spend at least \$1,000 for special equipment to stay warm at a constant 0 degrees or so, with wind-chill a constant factor. At the Pole itself, which is at 9,300 feet, all of it ice, the temperature will be at least another 10-20 degrees lower.

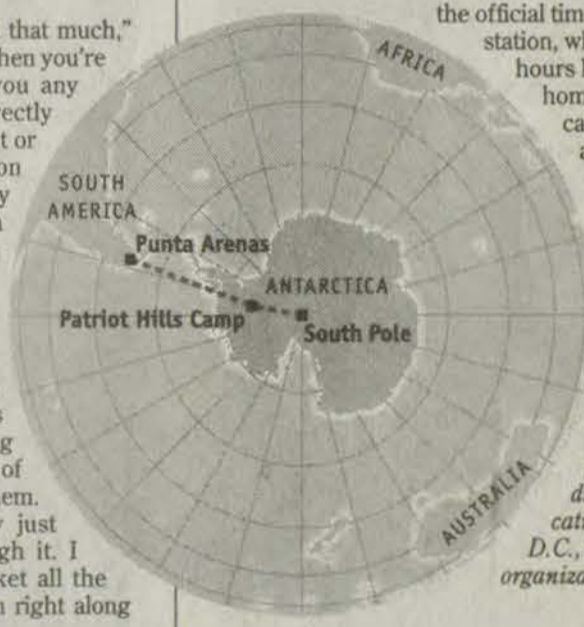
Adventurers spend a week at Patriot Hills hiking in the mountains, cross-country skiing, etc., as the guides wait for clear weather at the Pole. (On this particular trip, of course, timing is going to be especially tricky.) Then it's off on a Cessna ski plane for the southernmost spot in the world.

Amundsen-Scott Base is named for the leaders of the first two expeditions to reach the Pole, in the winter of 1911-12, the Norwegian Roald Amundsen and the Englishman Robert Falcon Scott. (Scott and his crew froze to death on the return trip.) Today, the facility is managed by the 12 signatory nations to the Antarctic Treaty for research into physics, geophysics, meteorology and other areas. The central building is a large geodesic dome, and there are other specialized buildings, including tents in the summer (which has just begun in the Southern Hemisphere).

Then, it's party time! But there are two problems. With all 24 time zones converging at this one point, which is the one that really counts? The International Date Line, which will be first? Greenwich Mean Time, the official time of the science station, which will come 12 hours later? Or your hometown time, in my case Eastern Standard, another five hours later?

As to the other problem, it turns out they don't allow alcohol at Amundsen-Scott Base. Hope nobody checks what's in my "pee bottle."

Steve Dujack is the director of communications for a Washington, D.C., environmental organization.



WRITE TO US

The Outdoors page is published weekly by Longwing Publications Inc., P.O. Box 15045, Sarasota, FL 34277. Outdoors writer Tim Tucker, who has written for every major outdoors magazine in America, has a Web site at www.probass.com. If you have a question that you would like Tim to answer on this page, write to him in care of Longwing Publications. Sorry, no phone calls.

GEAR AND GOODIES

Hand Craftsmanship Still Rules at HighRoller

In this day of machine-made fishing lures, it is refreshing to find a manufacturer that still hand-paints every single bait to ensure that quality is the top priority.

The HighRoller Fishing Lure Co. of Gainesville, Fla., is quietly producing a lineup of wooden topwater lures that is impressive in terms of quality and durability. These custom-made fresh- and saltwater lures are starting to gain worldwide attention.

Each HighRoller lure is meticulously crafted from solid wood, painted individually by hand, gel-coated for durability, and then outfitted with super-sharp hooks. The end result is a series of terrific all-around topwater plugs.

These lures come in deep, rich color schemes designed to attract bone-jarring strikes from bass and other freshwater species, inshore saltwater gamefish like trout and redfish, and even the giant peacock bass of the Amazon.

HighRoller lures come in 44 colors and five models: the Original HighRoller, the RipRoller, the Monster HighRoller, the Monster ChugRoller and the Monster RipRoller. The Original HighRoller is a prime bass lure, and is also effective for catching stripers, musky and pike. The other models are excellent saltwater baits.

— Tim Tucker

For more information, call HighRoller Lures at (887) 205-1764.



HighRoller lure in Steel Shad coloring.

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insider golf

by t.j. tomasi
Director of the Players School at PGA National

TEERING OFF

New Century Opens the Door to New Golf Techniques

The golfer of the future, whom I've nicknamed RoboGolfer®, will call upon an awesome combination of powers that he or she will acquire via specialized training programs. Here are some of the abilities golfers of the 21st century will have:

— RoboGolfer will learn to switch brain hemispheres as needed for learning and playing the game by mastering a technique called "breathe for effect." It involves alternating the lead nostril for breathing depending on which side of the brain the player wants to use (left nostril, right brain; right nostril, left brain).

— On the lesson tee,

RoboGolfer will know which learning style is best at each stage of learning (visual, auditory or kinesthetic), and the lessons will be geared to the time of day Robo learns the best.

On the course, he'll use "mode switching": He'll enter his intellectual mode when he needs to plan, his physical mode when it's time to swing, and he'll control his emotional mode so his feelings match his needs.

— Using "control response" technique, RoboGolfer will have complete command of the body chemicals triggered by the fight/flight response. When a monster drive is needed, a burst of adrenaline, on cue, will do the trick.

This future golfer will also be able to summon the relaxation response to flood him with the serene chemicals necessary for the close work of golf — pitching and putting.

— RoboGolfer will have the ability to "slow time," thereby adapting his "time IQ" to the task at hand. In pressure situations he'll "stop time" by stepping into the image of the target he has frozen on his mental screen, adjusting the outcome as he wants it, then stepping back out and doing it for real.

— Our prototype will use "synesthesia," which is the merging of one sense with another. This will allow him to see the target

in brilliant red, for example, and the trouble in an unobtrusive gray, much as you might highlight an important part of a road map to make it easier to get to your final destination.

— And if I know RoboGolfer, he'll have the ability to turn off the conscious mind and use "psi-enhancement," a technique where the subconscious mind has a direct, nonmediated influence on the coordination of body parts, producing performances over and above what is normally possible. A mother lifting a 2,500-pound car that is pinning her son is an example of this seeming superhuman power.

ASK THE PRO

Q: I read your article on using the power of "mo" and it was helpful. But which part of my body do I think about while I swing to use momentum?

— Bill from Chicago

A: My advice is don't focus on any one thing; focus on the momentum ("mo") of the entire system, triggered by your starting wobble.

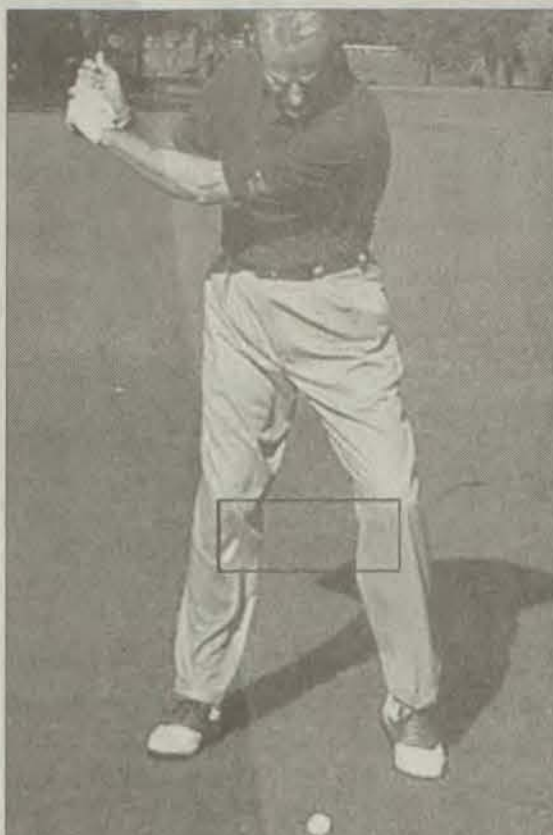
Golfers have been advised to focus on swinging the clubhead or the handle, or to "fire the right side." There are some who swear it's the arm swing that drives everything, and others who are sure it's the big muscles of the body that should be the focus. But the minute you try to narrow your focus to one of these thoughts, the perfect timing of "mo" is ruined.

The setup is where you get involved, but once the swing starts, let momentum take over. So, Bill, your swing thought should be "a lot less Bill and a lot more physics."

Update on the Jack Nicklaus workout program: The word is that after three months, Jack has increased his leg press to 300 pounds, not his bench press, as was widely reported.

(To Ask the Pro a question about golf, e-mail him at: TJInsider@aol.com.)

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME



Trotter Knees: In the backswing (left) and the downswing (right), my knees are way out of place, moving up instead of in and ruining my weight shift.



High-Stepping Knees Are Best Left at the Track

Trotters are beautiful horses trained to run with their knees prancing high in front of them. Well, high knees are great for racehorses and football running backs, but they're lousy for golfers. Raising your knees upward during your swing ruins your weight transfer and fouls your coil.

One way to find out if you've got "trotter knees" is to take a practice swing and stop at the top of your swing. If your front knee moves upward instead of bending inward, you've got high knees.

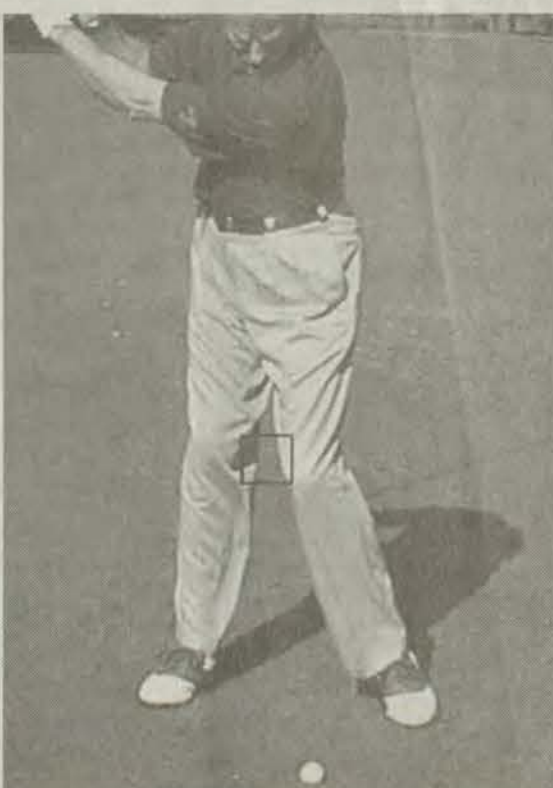
Now look to see what your back knee does during your downswing. If it pops up toward the sky instead of angling forward toward the target, you're in for some problems at impact.

Another good way to diagnose yourself is to put

your swing on video. A third way (the worst way) is to ask a friend to take a look, but you run the risk of getting the full benefit of his current theory of the entire golf swing. The best way is to visit a PGA teaching professional.

Your knees should "get friendly" during your golf swing by moving closer, but they should not be intimate; they should maintain a discreet gap.

Your front knee moves away from the target on the backswing, then reverses direction to start your downswing. As it moves toward the target, your front knee is "chased" by your back knee. The amount of knee movement and the size of the gap between your knees depend on your flexibility, but the gap keeps the coil tight and it must be maintained until your ball is on its way.



Friendly Knees: My knees stay close but not too close through my backswing (left) and downswing (right), keeping my coil tight.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I realized I could be a mom and play golf. It's a fine balance. I have a lot of support at home. It's not easy, but I am doing what I love to do."

— Juli Inkster, LPGA Player of the Year

BIRDIES & BOGEYS

She Said, She Said

In Massachusetts nine women won \$1.97 million from Haverhill Golf and Country Club when a jury ruled they were unfairly denied "primary memberships" that come with choice starting times and greater access to the club.

But Nancy Barron, a limited member of the Haverhill Country Club, gives another side of the case in a letter to The New York Times, a portion of which follows:

"The bylaws of the Haverhill Country Club are, and have been for many years, gender neutral. ... It is true that almost all limited members are women. Limited members pay one-half of the dues and avoid an initiation fee in excess of \$5,000. This is their choice. Each of the nine plaintiffs was offered a primary membership if she paid the fees associated with primary membership. ... They chose to file a lawsuit instead."

GOLF SPOKEN HERE

Strong Grip

The position of your left thumb (right for left-handers) on the club handle influences how much the face of your club will rotate through the hitting zone. When your wrists uncock and your left thumb favors the right side of the shaft, force is applied from behind your club shaft, so your clubface rotates aggressively through impact, imparting the characteristic spin of the draw shot.



A strong grip, indicated by thumb placement above, does not always produce a draw. Players such as Fred Couples and David Duval use strong grips but, by making other swing compensations, they can reduce the amount of clubface rotation through impact enough to fade the ball.

DON'T MISS IT

Cure for Trotter Knees

I've advised the use of the Power Coil before in this page, and I'm going to recommend it again if you have "trotter knees" — knees that come up during your swing, ruining your weight transfer and causing you to lose your coil. This teaching aid forces you to turn into your right side during your backswing and with your weight on the inside of your right leg, the distance between your knees is correct. It's great for the high handicapper and will give the good players a better sense of what goes on below.

For more information, call (800) 824-4279.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Dr. T.J. Tomasi is the director of the Players School at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He is a member of the elite Top 100 Teachers chosen by Golf Magazine for 1999 and is a Class A teaching professional.

TEE TIMES

- **PGA Tour**
Jan. 6-9: Mercedes Championships, The Plantation Course at Kapalua, Lahaina, Hawaii (ESPN)
Jan. 13-16: Sony Open in Hawaii, Waialae Country Club, Honolulu (ESPN)
Jan. 19-23: Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, PGA West/Bermuda Dunes/Indian Wells/Tamarisk, Indian Wells, Calif. (ESPN/ABC)
Jan. 27-30: Phoenix Open, TPC of Scottsdale, Scottsdale, Ariz. (USA/CBS)
- **Senior Tour**
Jan. 21-23: MasterCard Championship, Hualalai Resort Golf Club, Hualalai, Hawaii (ESPN)
Jan. 29-30: Senior Skins Game, Mauna Lani Resort, Kohala Coast, Hawaii (ABC)
Jan. 31-Feb. 6: Royal Caribbean Classic, Crandon Park Golf Club, Key Biscayne, Fla. (ESPN)
- **LPGA Tour**
Jan. 13-16: The Office Depot, Ibis Golf and Country Club, West Palm Beach, Fla. (TBA)
Jan. 20-23: Subaru Memorial of Naples, The Club at the Strand, Naples, Fla. (TBA)

THE GOLF DOCTOR

Customizing Your Swing

Here's a question for you: Do you need a complete swing reconstruction or just a custom rematching? If your swing is really bad and you have the time and dedication for a complete overhaul, find a teacher who's going to be around for at least the next year, agree on a blueprint and stick with it. It took Tiger a year and more to retool his swing, and that was after he won the Masters, so be patient.

Short of a complete overhaul, you can dramatically improve your game by understanding how to customize your golf swing. There are some combinations of swing elements (ball position, grip, clubface position, etc.) that match well and some that don't. For example, a forward ball position and a shut clubface don't match well, and neither do a weak grip and quiet hands.

Playing with mismatches makes golf hard, so you and your teacher need to scout your swing to make sure you have the correct matchups. Here's one to get you started.



If you're a slicer, try decreasing the flare in your front foot (left photo); if you hook the ball, experiment with more front foot flare (right.)

If you're hooking or slicing, check out your Foot Flare/Release matchup pair. If you're hooking, your clubface is too closed at impact. Flare your front foot out to delay the release so the clubface stays open longer.

If you're slicing, do the opposite: Decreasing the flare of your target foot makes the toe of the club rotate over the heel sooner, something a slicer can use to square the clubface at impact.

NASCAR this week

■ If you've got a question or a comment, write:
NASCAR This Week
 c/o The Gaston Gazette
 2500 E. Franklin Blvd.
 Gastonia, N.C. 28054



On TV

All Times Eastern
 ■ **NASCAR's Best of 1999**
 Check local listings • Speedvision

1999 POINTS STANDINGS

WINSTON CUP	BUSCH	TRUCK
1. Dale Jarrett, 5,262	Dale Earnhardt Jr., 4,647	Jack Sprague, 3,747
2. Bobby Labonte, 5,061	Jeff Green, 4,367	Greg Biffle, 3,739
3. Mark Martin, 4,943	Matt Kenseth, 4,327	Dennis Setzer, 3,639
4. Tony Stewart, 4,774	Todd Bodine, 3,029	Stacy Compton, 3,623
5. Jeff Burton, 4,733	Elton Sawyer, 3,891	Jay Sauter, 3,543
6. Jeff Gordon, 4,620	Jeff Purvis, 3,658	Mike Wallace, 3,494
7. Dale Earnhardt, 4,492	Dave Blaney, 3,582	Ron Hornaday, 3,488
8. Rusty Wallace, 4,155	Jason Keller, 3,537	Andy Houston, 3,359
9. Ward Burton, 4,062	Mike McLaughlin, 3,478	Mike Bliss, 3,294
10. Mike Skinner, 4,003	Randy LaJoie, 3,379	Jimmy Hensley, 3,280

TOP TEN

■ Top 10 sad stories of 1999 as rated by NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton

- Ernie Irvan** Injuries force his retirement
- H. Clay Earles** NASCAR pioneer passes away
- William C. France** NASCAR president diagnosed with cancer
- Darrell Waltrip** Groping for last hurrah
- Cale Yarborough** Problems with sale of team
- Ward Burton** Second to kid brother three times
- Bill Elliott** Suffers season-long decline
- Ricky Rudd** Rugged individualist sells team
- Ricky Craven** Trying to pick up the pieces
- Terry Labonte** Worst season since 1993

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

- After a disappointing Daytona 500—in which he was involved in an accident and placed 37th—Dale Jarrett bounced back to finish second to Mark Martin the following week at Rockingham. It was the first of six second-place finishes.
- After finishing fifth at Atlanta, fourth at Darlington, second at Texas, third at Bristol, eighth at Martinsville, second at Talladega and fifth at California, Jarrett won for the first time at Richmond on May 15 and took the Winston Cup point lead. He never gave it up.
- The second victory occurred at Michigan, the fastest 400-mile race in NASCAR history. Jarrett led laps 48 and 49, took the lead again on lap 53 and never relinquished it.
- Victory No. 3 was at Daytona, where Jarrett may have run out of fuel if not for a late caution flag.
- Jarrett became the Brickyard 400's second two-time winner, joining Jeff Gordon, on Aug. 7. He led the last 43 laps after starting fourth.
- Jarrett finished second to Dale Earnhardt in both Talladega races. Earnhardt finished second to Jarrett in the second race at Daytona.
- In Jarrett's four victories, there were four different second-place finishers: Martin at Richmond, Gordon at Michigan, Earnhardt at Daytona and Bobby Labonte at Indianapolis.
- Jarrett also finished second twice to Bobby Labonte, who finished second to him in the season standings.

2000 WINSTON CUP SCHEDULE

Feb. 13	Daytona International Speedway (Bud Shootout)
Feb. 20	Daytona International Speedway
Feb. 27	North Carolina Speedway
March 5	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
March 12	Atlanta Motor Speedway
March 19	Darlington Raceway
March 26	Bristol Motor Speedway
April 2	Texas Motor Speedway
April 9	Martinsville Speedway
April 16	Talladega Superspeedway
April 30	California Speedway
May 6	Richmond International Raceway
May 20	Lowe's Motor Speedway (The Winston)
May 28	Lowe's Motor Speedway
June 4	Dover Downs International Speedway
June 11	Michigan Speedway
June 18	Pocono Raceway
June 25	Sears Point Raceway
July 1	Daytona International Speedway
July 9	New Hampshire International Speedway
July 23	Pocono Raceway
Aug. 5	Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Aug. 13	Watkins Glen International
Aug. 20	Michigan Speedway
Aug. 26	Bristol Motor Speedway
Sept. 3	Darlington Raceway
Sept. 9	Richmond International Raceway
Sept. 17	New Hampshire International Speedway
Sept. 24	Dover Downs International Speedway
Oct. 1	Martinsville Speedway
Oct. 8	Lowe's Motor Speedway
Oct. 15	Talladega Superspeedway
Oct. 22	North Carolina Speedway
Nov. 5	Phoenix International Speedway
Nov. 12	Homestead-Miami Speedway

FROM THE ARCHIVES

■ **Adam Petty may one day become the first fourth-generation driver to race in the Winston Cup Series. Adam's great-grandfather, Lee Petty, won three championships, his grandfather, Richard Petty, won seven (and 200 races), and his father, Kyle, has won eight races. Adam already has an ARCA superspeedway victory and is a regular on the Busch Grand National circuit.**

By Monte Dutton
 NASCAR announced last week that William C. France, its president since 1972, has been diagnosed with cancer. France, 66, is pursuing additional diagnosis and treatments, according to a news release. "The doctors have told me the illness is treatable," said France. "I am anxious to begin treatment and get on the road to recovery." "My father is in good spirits," said Brian France, NASCAR senior vice president. "He is currently receiving expert medical care, and we all have the utmost

respect and confidence in his medical team."
PETTY TO DODGE?
 According to a report in Racer Magazine, Petty Enterprises has already agreed to join Dodge's 2001 Winston Cup effort, and the move will be officially announced at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Jan. 11. A spokesman for the team declined to discuss the report last week. Richard Petty drove Chrysler products in 175 of his record 200 victories. Petty Enterprises cur-

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CHEVY'S YEAR: According to General Motors' archives, Chevrolet products have won more than 11,000 races since the 1955 introduction of Chevy's small-block engine. The make claims to have won 573 races in 1999, a total that includes 12 Winston Cup victories, 24 in Busch Grand National and nine in the Craftsman Truck Series. Chevy drivers won championships in the last two series, as well as ARCA, ASA, NASCAR Winston West and

Southwest Tour.
BLANEY'S GURU: Gil Martin has signed a three-year contract to serve as Winston Cup crew chief for Dave Blaney at Bill Davis Racing. "Gil understands what we want to do with our two-team system," said Davis, "and he now has a chance to really build a competitive program for Dave (Blaney) in the Winston Cup Series." Martin, 39, was once a Cup crew chief with Kenny Wallace at the now-defunct Filmar team.

■ **Martinsville Speedway now has a toll-free ticket office number. People interested in tickets for the Goody's Body Pain 500, to be run April 9, 2000, may call 1-877-RACE-TIX (1-877-722-3849). Tickets for Martinsville's second race, the Oct. 1 NAPA Autocare 500, will go on sale March 1. The ticket office, closed for the holidays, will reopen at 9 a.m. EST on Monday, Jan. 3.**

CHAMPIONS OF 1999

Dale Jarrett's Winston Cup championship headed the list of major stock car racing series in 1999. The other major NASCAR touring-series titles went to Dale Earnhardt Jr. in Busch Grand National and Jack Sprague in the Craftsman Truck Series. It was the second championship for both drivers.

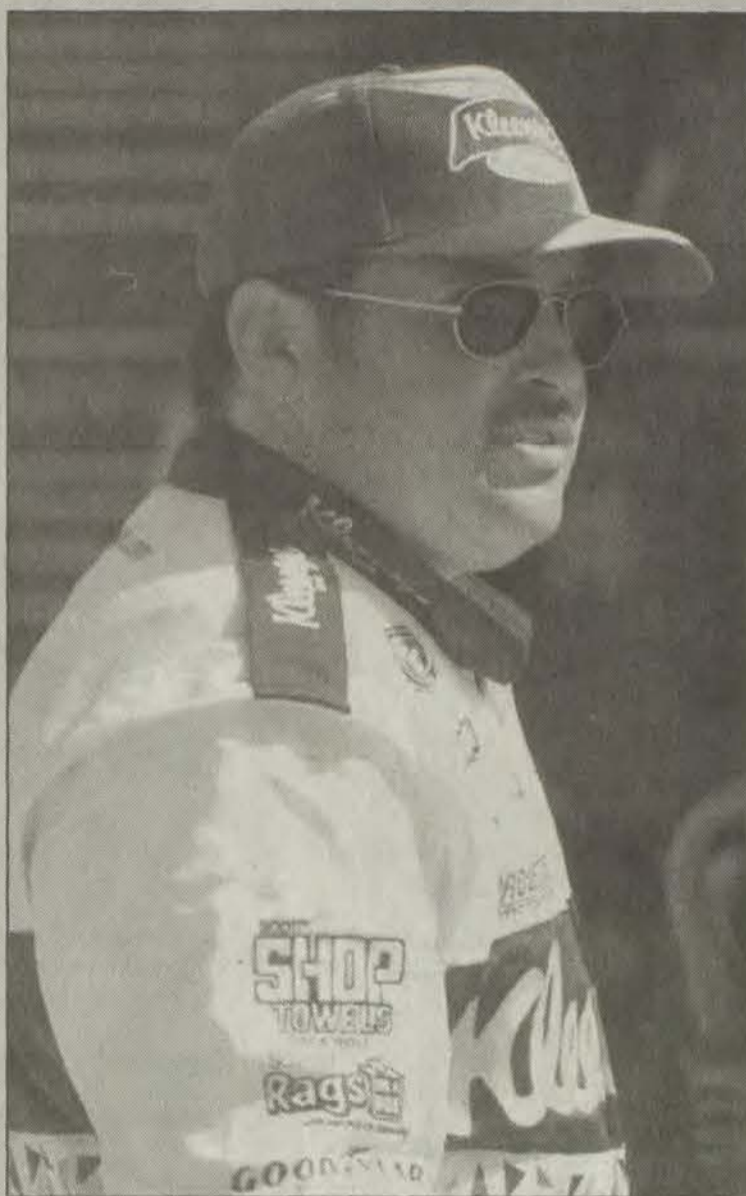
Tony Hirschman won the title in the Featherlite Modified Series. Brad Leighton won the title in the Busch North Series, winning six races. Wayne Anderson of Wildwood, Fla., was champion of the Slim Jim All Pro Series. Robert Huffman won his third championship in the Goody's Dash Series.

Six victories propelled 20-year-old Kurt Busch to the Featherlite Southwest Series championship. Sean Woodside of Saugus, Calif., captured the Winston West Series championship. Pete Harding of Surrey, B.C., captured the title in the Raybestos Northwest Tour. Brian Hoppe won the ReMax Challenge Series.

Ray Guss Jr. of Milan, Ill., won the championship of NASCAR's only dirt-track division, the Busch All-Star Series. Outside NASCAR's sanction, Tim Sauter was champion of the ASA AC-Delco Challenge Series, Bill Baird won the ARCA Bondo/MarHyde Series, and Bobby Gill captured the USAR Hooters Pro Cup.

PROFILE

Jeff Green



John Clark/NASCAR This Week

Jeff Green placed second in the 1999 point standings for Busch Grand National.

By Monte Dutton
 NASCAR This Week

Coming off his second-place finish in the 1999 point standings, Jeff Green figures to be a favorite for the Busch Grand National championship this year. With champion Dale Earnhardt Jr., third-place finisher Matt Kenseth and seventh-place Dave Blaney all headed to the Winston Cup Series, much of Green's opposition seems to have been eliminated. He will, of course, face stiff competition from two-time BGN titlist Randy LaJoie and his own brother, David, who

is a former champion. Another sibling, Mark, also competes in the series.

Only Earnhardt, Mark Martin and Kenseth won more BGN events than Jeff Green, who visited victory lane three times in 1999.

AGE: 37
HOMETOWN: Owensboro, Ky.; now lives in Davidson, N.C.

WIFE: Michelle
CAR: No. 32 Kleenex/Scott Chevrolet Monte Carlo

BGN MILESTONES: 147 starts, 4 wins, 34 top-five finishes, 57 top-10 finishes, earnings of \$1,576,859

RECORD: BGN—31 starts, 3 wins, 15 top-five finishes, 19 top-10 finishes, earnings of \$735,040

YOU WON A RACE LAST YEAR AT MYRTLE BEACH IN WHICH YOUR TEAMMATE, JASON KELLER, CUT A TIRE WITH THREE LAPS TO GO. HOW DID THAT FEEL? "When you win, you'll take them any way you can get them. I felt bad for Jason because he was going to win the race, but the same thing has happened

to me, too. I guess feeling good for myself overrode feeling bad for him."

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR YOU TO GET BACK IN WINSTON CUP? "Being a part of the Winston Cup Series was the biggest challenge of my racing career, and I feel like I've proven myself as a competitor and that I belong there. It's a goal of mine to be back there at some point in the future, but I'm very comfortable in the Busch Series, too. The level of competition here is very high, and I'm really motivated right now about getting a chance to win the championship."

Who's Hot... Who's Not

■ **HOT:** Bobby Labonte—a popular choice for 2000 title.

■ **NOT:** Sale of Cale Yarborough's team falls through ...

Trackside Trivia

1. What is the only "oval" track with a curve on the back stretch?
2. In how many different makes of cars did Bobby Allison win?

ANSWERS
 1) Phoenix International Raceway; 2) Nine (Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Ford, Mercury, Dodge, Plymouth, AMC)

AROUND THE GARAGE

William France being treated for cancer

By Monte Dutton
 NASCAR announced last week that William C. France, its president since 1972, has been diagnosed with cancer. France, 66, is pursuing additional diagnosis and treatments, according to a news release. "The doctors have told me the illness is treatable," said France. "I am anxious to begin treatment and get on the road to recovery." "My father is in good spirits," said Brian France, NASCAR senior vice president. "He is currently receiving expert medical care, and we all have the utmost

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A weekly look at the world of pro wrestling

TOP 10

1. The Big Show, WWF
2. Bret Hart, WCW
3. The Rock, WWF
4. Mike Awesome, ECW
5. Triple H, WWF
6. Rob Van Dam, ECW
7. Jeff Jarrett, WCW
8. Lance Storm, ECW
9. Chris Jericho, WWF
10. Booker T, WCW



■ VAMPIRO



■ JERICHO

Look for: WCW to keep pushing young stars like Vampiro.

PAY-PER-VIEW

- ECW, Guilty as Charged, Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 9
- WCW, Souled Out, Cincinnati, Jan. 16
- WWF, Royal Rumble, New York City, Jan. 23

TOP 10 WRESTLERS OF THE CENTURY

For 27 years, Flair has been The Man

By Anthony Conchel
Squared Circle Editor

Picking the top wrestlers of the century isn't easy. Taking into account their record in the ring, their crowd appeal and their impact on the sport resulted in these top 10 performers of the century.

I looked at records, studied film and talked with several colleagues who share a working knowledge of the industry. Picking a top 100 would be a breeze, or even the best 50. But picking only the top 20 is a tough chore.

Young readers will notice that some older wrestlers appear in the listing. The rationale is simple: Longevity counts for a lot. The longer a wrestler toils in the ring, the higher the ranking he receives in my book. That's why Verne Gagne, Dusty Rhodes and Bruno Sammartino made the top 10 and relative newcomers such as The Rock didn't.

1. Ric Flair. Since 1972 The Nature Boy has been the most consistent performer in the ring. Period. His stylin' & profilin', his second-to-none microphone skills and his knowledge of moves makes the Minnesota native the obvious choice. He's 50 and hobbled by back injuries, but Flair has withstood the test of time.

2. Andre The Giant. At 7 feet 4 inches and 520 pounds, this physical specimen was unmatched for sheer size and strength. His friendly demeanor made him a fan favorite. Early in his career Andre showed a great deal of quickness and movement despite his size.

3. Bruno Sammartino. The Italian Strongman held the WWF title from May 17, 1963, until Jan. 18, 1971, and from Dec. 10, 1973, until May 30, 1977. This unparalleled reign as champion puts Sammartino in a class all his own. He once body-slammed 601-pound Haystacks Calhoun and was known for his bear

hug and backbreaker finishing moves.

4. Hulk Hogan. The man changed the sport of wrestling forever. While

wrestling for one promotion and using one gimmick. That's unique and that's what separates him from many of today's stars. His incredible agility combined with his size made "Taker a headliner for an entire decade. Arthritic joints are keeping him out of action and his best days are behind him.

7. Verne Gagne. The linchpin of the former AWA is generally regarded as the dean of scientific wrestling. At 225 pounds, Gagne relied on leverage and amateur moves to win his matches. His personality was dry as dust but he grappled for 30 years, mainly in the upper Midwest states. His conditioning was superb, and he made the most of a limited physique.

8. Terry Funk. The legendary Texan has competed for 34 years in rings all across the globe. Barbed-wire matches were his specialty. In fact, the more extreme the match, the better The Funker did. In between brawling, he appeared in dozens of movies and has done a lot to promote the sport. Hardcore wrestling fans

worship Funk and his disregard for his body. He's got the scars to prove that for 3½ decades nobody has abused himself to the degree that Funk has.

9. Lou Thesz. This Canadian-born athlete took great pride in his thorough ring knowledge. Like Gagne, Thesz made the most of his smallish stature by developing moves that twisted his opponents into pretzels. His famed Thesz Press is still used by Austin and other wrestlers as a finisher.

10. Dusty Rhodes. The American Dream introduced a flamboyant style in the 1970s that made him a crowd favorite. He is known for his willingness to bleed, to incite a crowd, and to rattle off when behind a mike. He held singles and tag team titles in the old NWA, and his bionic elbow set up numerous victories in his 20-plus years in the business. He went to the pay window frequently, and his stylish mark on the sport will be felt for a long time to come.

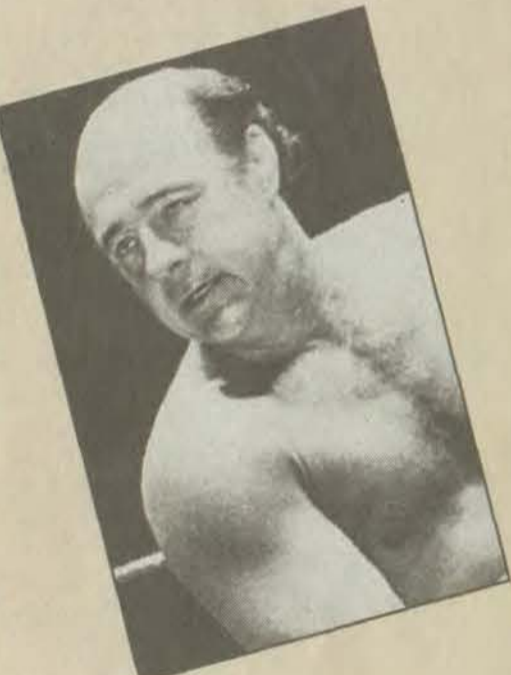
The second 10

11. Mick Foley, aka Mankind, Dude Love and Cactus Jack.
12. Macho Man Randy Savage;
13. The Sheik;
14. Jack Brisco;
15. Bret The Hitman Hart;
16. Bobo Brazil;
17. Sting;
18. Antonino Rocca;
19. Jerry The King Lawler;
20. Antonio Inoki.

■ UNDERTAKER, No. 6



■ TERRY FUNK, NO. 8

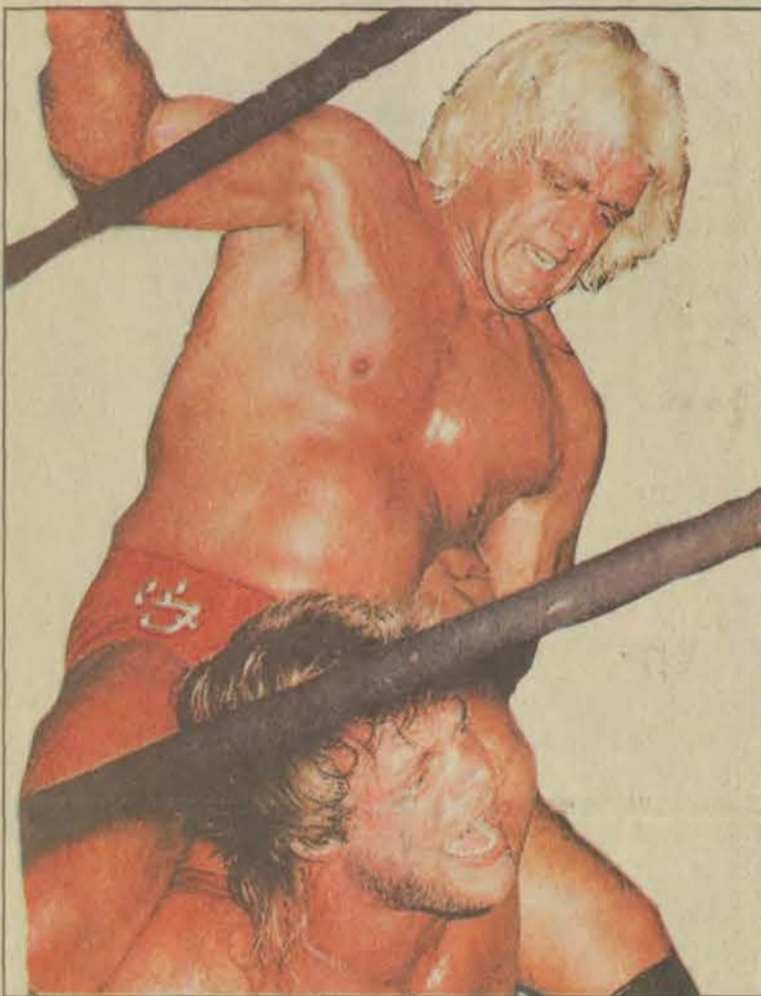


■ VERNE GAGNE, No. 7



■ DUSTY RHODES, No. 10

Some photos courtesy of The Main Event



■ "NATURE BOY" RIC FLAIR ... top wrestler of the century.



■ ANDRE THE GIANT, No. 2

he hasn't wrestled with the regularity of a Flair or a Sammartino, he is undeniably the single biggest name in the history of the sport. He owned professional wrestling in the 1980s

and has managed to stay in the forefront even as the 1990s come to close. Not a great wrestler, but his persona is unmatched.

5. Stone Cold Steve Austin. Like Hogan, Austin is known more for his persona and his 3:16 T-shirts than his ringwork. His legions of followers love Austin and he single-handedly restored the WWF to a position of prominence over the past three years. Once a

Hollywood Blond, Austin's true personality has emerged with the Everyman appearance he donned after coming to the WWF in 1996. But he's paid his dues and remains a top draw at age 35.

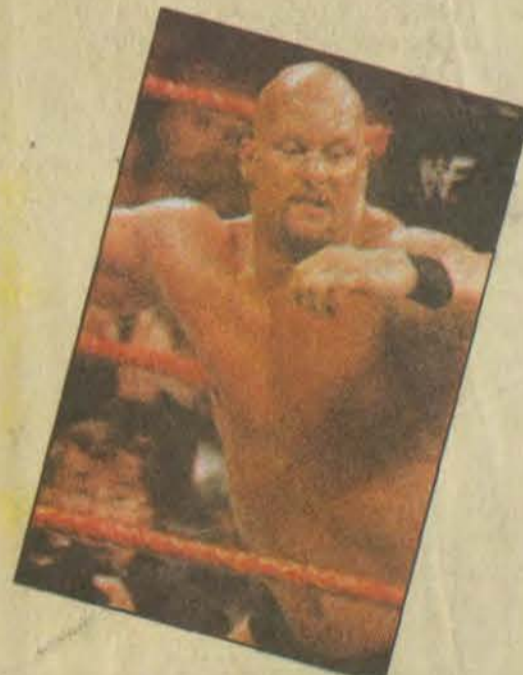
6. The Undertaker. The impressive thing about this 6-9, 325-pounder is that he's been a main eventer for the past 10 years. And he's done it while



■ HULK HOGAN, No. 4



■ BRUNO SAMMARTINO, No. 3



■ STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN, No. 5



■ LOU THESZ, No. 9

REAL NAMES

Lex Luger
Lawrence Pfohl
6-5, 275

Hometown:
Chicago

Born: June 2, 1958

Pro debut:
Oct. 31, 1985

MAT MEMORIES

A look back at memorable moments in pro wrestling history:

■ Sept. 3, 1953: Verne Gagne wins the NWA United States heavyweight title.

■ Feb. 6, 1990: Sting tears his left patella tendon at Clash of the Champions X. He is forced out of an upcoming title match against Ric Flair.

WHO'S HOT/WHO'S NOT



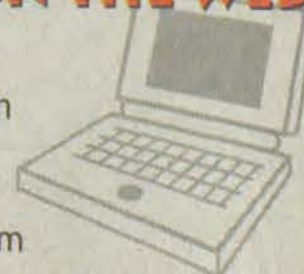
Dustin Rhodes: Since coming to WCW, the American Dream's son has a new take-no-prisoners attitude and is getting a big push. He's a guy



Val Venis: He is over with the fans, but needs a strong feud with a babyface to become a top-level heel in the World Wrestling Federation.

WRESTLING ON THE WEB

- www.wrestlezone.com
- www.wrestleScoop.com
- www.WWF.com
- www.WCW.com
- www.ECWwrestling.com
- www.bad-boyz.com
- www.1wrestling.com



If you know of a hot wrestling Web site, share it with Squared Circle readers. Send it to aconchel@cosmg.com

Is your child's future blurred? • C3

Pointers for Parents



Lifestyles



Serving Floyd County since 1927

Lodge hall is living local history

Story and photos by Pam Shingler

Brett Davis says his brothers call him the "Grand Pooh-bah," referring to a characterization in the Gilbert and Sullivan musical "The Mikado" that pokes fun at pomp and ritual.

Davis, whose eyes disappear when he breaks into frequent smiles, lets go a loud, deep-throated laugh, signifying he doesn't let the good-natured teasing bother him.

The youthful attorney gave up his "pooh-bah" title last night, as new officers were installed for Zebulon Lodge No. 273, F&AM - otherwise known as the Masons.

He was succeeded by the local lodge's 112th Master, Richard Price.

Price assumes leadership of an organization that has enriched and has been enriched by the history of Prestonsburg and Floyd County.

Zebulon Lodge, named for explorer Zebulon Pike, came into being on August 30, 1854, when some of the people who settled this region were still alive. It was well-established and vital even before the Civil War and still united after.

The roster of former masters, whose portraits line the walls of the old lodge hall on West Court Street, is a Who's Who of movers and shakers in eastern Kentucky.

The first master - the only one whose picture is missing - was John P. Martin, a US Congressman for whom Martin County is named. Also on the list are 19th century bankers Greenville Witten and James

Trimble.

Joseph M. Davidson, at one time among the largest landowners in the region, was the fifth master. Entrepreneur Isaac Richmond is on the list, as are bankers George P. Archer and Walter S. Harkins.

Other impressive surnames of past masters, who still impact the region, include Mayo, Friend, Fitzpatrick, Spradlin, Dingus, Clark, Sizemore, Hall, Burke, Moore, Porter, Fannin, Horn, Tackett - to, as they say, name only a few.

With the photos and other pieces of memorabilia, Zebulon Lodge is a kind of museum in itself. Under glass in a locked case is the Bible that survived the fire that destroyed the old Masonic building in the 1920s. Legend says that the Bible was on the altar and was the only thing that did not burn.

Details are scant on the fire. The Masonic building, which for many years housed H.E. Hughes Drug Store, Rose Drug and Rose's Restaurant, has "1924" etched in its bricks on the exterior of the third floor, along with the organization symbol of the compass and square, so the fire must have been before then.

Davis, who has done quite a bit of research while rewriting the organization by-laws, has found a letter to state Masons, from 1927, asking for a copy of the local group's charter, which had apparently burned.

Also under a glass from that time is the bill submitted to the lodge from H.E. Hughes, asking restitution for damage to merchandise that burned in his first floor store.



Sitting pretty are, from left, immediate Past Master Brett Davis, long-time member and Past Master James E. Goble, and newly-installed master Richard Price.

The first page of the bill totals \$480.75 and itemizes "Edison machines," "Edison records," "school supplies," and "Victrolas."

Past Master James E. Goble, whose late father, Henry L. "Printer" Goble, was also a Mason, has found blank checks from the 1930s to be drawn on the Bank Josephine (now Citizens National Bank).

Josephine (of the bank) Harkins Browning, herself, had close ties to Zebulon Lodge. She was a member of the Eastern Star, the Masonic women's auxiliary, and at one time the Worthy Matron of the World, Goble says. Her imposing portrait, many times larger than the men's, looks down from the wall onto the lodge hall meeting room.

The Masonic meeting room is on the third floor of the building. A one-seated elevator on the side of the stairwell is a boon to those who need help with the steep flights of steps.

The warm, blue ceiling is made of decorative, metal squares, typical of 1920s architecture. Heavy, dark chairs line

the walls, the height of the backs denoting the officers seats. The furniture is carved and fine-looking.

The second floor houses the dining room, kitchen and cases for keepsakes. A huge, iron stove with 10 burners makes it easy to cook up a big meal.

Among interesting artifacts at the lodge is a glass-encased gavel presented years ago by John Wesley Hall, the 51st master. The explanatory card says the gavel is made from materials purportedly taken from the quarry from which King Solomon's Temple was built. It was obtained by Rush Sloan, a Hindman Mason, on a trip to the Holy Land.

Hall is one of three state Grand Masters who have come from Floyd County, which Davis thinks is likely more than any other county except Fayette and Jefferson. The other state leaders from here have been Dr. Robert M. Sirkle and William "Bosh" Petry. Besides the Prestonsburg lodge, Floyd County has Masonic groups in Wayland, Martin and Wheelwright.

Like Goble, many members have inherited an interest in Masonry. Davis recounts a family story about his great-great-grandfather, Wilson M. "Doc" Clark of Dwale, who died in 1885, and because he was a Mason, his widow and children were taken in by the organization's Widows and Orphans Home in Louisville.

Davis, who is deputy to Floyd County Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson, says he was perhaps most influenced to become a Mason by his knowledge of one of his chief heroes, President Harry Truman. The late president, Davis says, was an active Mason throughout his life and practiced the Masonic principles of love, relief and truth.

The attorney actually joined the local lodge almost a decade ago as a result of his encounter with member A.J. McCoy. "He was painting my house and I noticed his ring and asked him about the Masons."

Goble, who has been a lodge member for almost 55 years and

See Lodge, page three

This Town That World

Editor's Note: For years, Floyd County Times founder and former publisher Norman Allen wrote a weekly column that looked at Floyd County through his eyes. His columns are being reprinted due to request. The following column was written in 1959.

DIDN'T HELP

Last week, while the presses were quiet here and time dragged, with the pressure off, I thought surely I'd come up with a column in my spare time. But—you guessed it—I am more barren of ideas than usual, now that there is a paper to get out, and I may as well admit that that's getting pretty barren.

FORCE OF HABIT

We are all slaves of habit in one form or another. Some happily have let good habits rather than the bad take charge. There was the case of a certain writer who, the story goes could not compose except with pencil on ruled paper while wearing an old, somewhat bedraggled nightcap fashioned along the lines of a toboggan. He tried writing without the headress but couldn't come up with an idea. His wife dug up the toboggan and settled it on the noble dome, but still (according to the story) the flow of deathless prose would not come. The situation was desperate until the observing little woman noticed something awry. The tassel was hanging over the left instead of the right side.

We talk of "payola" and those other nefarious advertising dodges our moderns have conceived and inflicted on an unsuspecting but not wholly guiltless public. But we catch a glimmer of hope for us when we consider that even tombstones have been used as advertising media in other days and in a generation that many think had a corner on all the virtues.

Consider these inscriptions found in cemeteries:

From an English marker: "Sacred to the remains of Jonathan Thompson, a pious Christian and affectionate husband. His disconsolate widow continues his grocery business at the old stand on Main Street. Cheapest and best prices in town." And this from a Maryland cemetery: "Here lies Jane Smith, wife of Thomas Smith, marble cutter. This monument erected by her husband....Monuments of this same style are \$250." And a New England headstone bears this inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Joseph H. Random. His widow mourns as one who can be comforted. Aged twenty-four and possessing every qualification for a good wife. Lives at No. 4 Church street in this village."

WE'RE ADJACENT JASON!

After years and years of looking we've finally found an expert with whom we agree. He is Jason Lucas, fishing editor of SPORTS AFIELD magazine, and in the following statement is where Jason and I lay our lines out across the water in perfect harmony:

"Anglers like to blame the poor fishing nowadays on everything except the plain and obvious fact that bad fishing for about all game species except sunfish can be attributed almost entirely to removal of too many fish. This is in spite of the currently popular but absurd theory that almost unrestricted fishing can't hurt fishing—this holds true only where it's so bad that nothing can make it noticeably worse."

Did you hear about the fellow who woke up, New Year's morning, with a smoking man's taste?

It has been suggested that I do a piece for this column on a Christmas Tree. But what shall I call it? Not "I Am a Christmas Tree," for I have not been all lit up. But, shoving aside the technicalities, let's say it:

I am a Christmas Tree. They stood me in a corner and dressed me in tinsel and spangles, with lights. They said I was beautiful. Gifts lay at my feet till, one morning, they took them away and left behind a mess of wrapping paper and gay ribbons.

And now, here I am on a garbage truck. What has become of all my fine dress? And the Star—what has become of it? Seems that everybody forgets the Star, these days.



Portraits of former masters of Zebulon Lodge, F&AM, are arranged on the wall of the lodge hall on Court Street in Prestonsburg.

Auxier School in session

Classrooms will soon be filling up again at the Auxier School. A full slate of community courses es scheduled to begin this month.

- Beginning Computer Class, Monday evenings and Saturday mornings, starting January 10, \$20/12 weeks.
- Ladies Craft Class, Monday mornings, starting January 11, 10 a.m.-noon, \$10/10 weeks.
- "Make It-Take It" Sewing Class, Tuesday mornings, starting January 11, 10 a.m.-noon, \$10/10 weeks.
- "Wildcat Way to Wellness & Weight Loss," starting Monday, January 24, 6-7:30 p.m., \$10/10 weeks.

In addition, the meeting hall and gymnasium will be available for community group use, by appointment, beginning January 10. There is a \$25 rental fee for the meeting hall.

Scholarships are available for the community classes, according to volunteer coordinators Charlie and Sue Schaffer. For more information, call 606/886-0709.



This gavel, given to the lodge by John Wesley Hall, is allegedly made of stone from the quarry that furnished King Solomon's Temple.

Other things that bug

PostScript

by Pam Shingler



It's ever been true that everything is temporary. But it seems more so as we switch into this new millennium.

Look at our propensity to throw away. We drink from toss-out cups and eat off paper plates that head for the garbage can instead of the dishwasher.

When we get tired of something, we give it to someone else, sell it at a yard sale, or put it in the trash bin.

We sometimes do the same with people. Despite his incredible success, when Tubby Smith's Wildcats got off to a bad start this basketball season, we started to hear the idiots among the fans begin to talk about throwing out the coach.

To use an old sports analogy, nobody hits every time at bat, but some among us apparently forget that reality. If we held ourselves to the same standards we hold athletic

coaches, most of us would be in bad shape.

What do you suppose would happen if parents held teachers to anywhere near the same standards as coaches? And, what if we held students to the same standards as athletes?

What a crazy world.

Sometimes, simpler is better.

I read the other day that the Amish had little to fear about the Y2K bug. They don't use electricity, which, right there, eliminates half the scare. No terror for them of what to do if the TV won't work.

They don't, as a rule, use cars. They grow their own hay to feed their transportation mode and don't have to be afraid of a shut down at the gas pump.

They raise most of their food and preserve it for winter scarcity. No need to hoard

or wait for handouts.

The Amish way of life is one that most of us could not adjust to. But, you know, they're a lot better prepared for disaster than we are.

Friends of mine were appalled several years back when I spent a week at a Pennsylvania park where the cabins had out-houses, rather than indoor bathrooms.

I explained that, while I prefer indoor plumbing, I grew up without it and am able to cope.

When did health care become one word? Just about everywhere you look now, you see it as "healthcare." Why is that? What is the justification?

What's ahead? Will we be forced to adopt "childcare," "adultdaycare," "couldn't

See Postscript, page two

THINGS TO PONDER

Needed after the Big Apple drops: time, effort, and energy

by Mable Rowe Lineberger, Ph.D.

As they say, "This is the first day of the rest of your life." Guess some folks have been concerned that there just might not be any more days at all.

The extreme media blast about "what could happen," the Y2K syndrome, seems to have been around for years. One also might wonder if all of this hype was a good opportunity to market new products that had to be bought, because of "the need to make sure that it doesn't happen to you."

Anyway, it seems you all are still here to go with whatever it is that you might consider for your future. Just like any other year, it is up to you. Whether it is hard or easy, your future depends on your "time, effort and energy." Now, what do you want?

At this time of the year, the concept of New Year's resolution comes to mind. However, the BIG issues are:

- Are you really tired of how you are managing your daily routine and crisis?
- Have you made a list of your priorities?

• Are you sure that you have had or are having sufficient "pain" (emotionally, physically, financially, or all of the above) to be willing to explore, identify, and adapt into new ways of doing things?

Productive change is like the process of growing up — nobody can do it for you.

In regard to time, effort, and energy, a newsletter from a managed-care insurance company briefly outlined "7 simple ways to put the spring back in your step — Energy to Go." The basic premise was that vitality is a matter of body, mind, and spirit, and involves multiple areas of life — nutrition, exercise, sleep, and psychology.

The first thing to catch my eye was the

data that the "typical European family gets 22 vacation days each year. We get 10...all the more reason to make the most of the time of what we have." But, come to think of it, lots of people get two weeks paid vacation with about seven "paid" holidays.

Whether it is a recognized "vacation" day or not, there are many times that the combination of perception, attitude, and being able to really "let go" of responsibilities completely for a brief time, such as for a 12-hour period, can spell "R-e-l-i-e-f."

For example, I have found going to Abingdon, Virginia, for a long day is really a great way to get out of the ever-ready rut. All of the different parts are enjoyable — the nice ride through the beautiful mountains, time to eat at least one meal out (which is important for a food addict), a couple of hours for some antique wishing, and finally, going to a play at the Barter Theatre.

An added benefit is asking a friend that you don't get to see often to go along.

Then, on the way home, there's time to fantasize about what could have been bought, if "money was no object" and lots of other different topics. The whole object of all of this is that you can make the most of a few hours of escape space and come out with a relieved feeling.

Well, back to the seven simple ways to give you more bounce.

• Eat early and often: Skipping breakfast and grabbing a bite for lunch supposedly slows down metabolism, rather than helping to lose weight. As a result, muscles and brain are deprived of sufficiently banked blood sugar or energy stores. Frequent small meals are the best approach to keep energy flowing and your thinking sharp.

• Go nuts with snacks. Would you believe five or 10 small meals or the "right" snacks are suggested? Of course, this calls for effective planning ahead of time. Avoid the negative eatables such as sugary foods or ones that are digested easily; this gives an "energy valley." (Don't forget to read labels...)

These are "best" snacks with plenty of protein and fiber, even a little fat, and dense coarse grains; i.e., nuts, fresh or dried fruits, low-fat bran muffins, old-fashioned oatmeal, and brown rice.

• Retool your machinery. As we all know, a workout gets you breathing deeply, raises your heart rate, boosts blood flow, increases oxygen — goodies to your brain, and triggers the release of epinephrine and norepinephrine, the good, old, always-at-hand, "pep" hormones. Everyone is acquainted with the benefits of walking and it never disappears.

• Don't get comfortable. Mind, body, blood, brain, and their control center can take your being still for long periods as a signal that it's time to sleep and they may slow down even more in preparation for a

big nap. To help yourself keep the juices flowing, place needed items, such as the phone and trash can, out of reach enough that you have to move to use them. Or you may get up about every 15 minutes and take a short stroll.

• Give in (temporarily): Wouldn't it be nice if you could take a Mexican siesta? But I don't know how many bosses would clap for that one. A brief nap, 15 to 30 minutes, can improve your mood and mental alertness. Since most of us cannot nap on the job, the best solution is to get more sleep at home in your bed.

Some interesting info is that the typical night's sleep went from 10 hours to seven, after the use of the electric light began, so that many people are sleep starved; The sleepy brain makes lots of mistakes.

• Be predictable: research has shown that sleeping regular hours helps to increase feeling refreshed. Take advantage of natural rhythms by resisting sleeping in on weekends.

• Drop a few things: as you know, it isn't likely that you can do everything. Overstimulation can leave you as gorged and wary as too much food. Solutions include not trying to pursue every single possibility and learning to say "no" sometimes to yourself and others.

A final suggestion pertained to "mental flow," the kind of total absorption that can turn a demanding or boring task into an activity that nourishes the soul. Flow

seems to come from savoring whatever it is you're doing and you find engrossing; when you are involved, you don't even know you're tired.

Another important part of your future life will be how you cope with your money. Although you may not want to accept it, it does seem that money — getting and using it — tends to control our lives.

So often, money influences whether or not young folks move away from the nest. Many times married couples' approach to and management of money will be a ruling factor in how stable their relationship is.

The following is about handling all that money you will make in the future (and was something my big sister sent). Ten awesome facts:

- a good life results from good choices (sounds familiar doesn't it);
- when you plan ahead, you get ahead;
- making money makes sense;
- spend money on needs before wants;
- a credit card is not free money;
- saving money is better than spending money;
- a bank is a smart place to keep your money;
- money can work as hard as you do;
- a college education pays; and
- you are your most important investment.

No matter what, the plot is the same. Decide what you need to do to keep using your time, effort, and energy wisely. Always remember that you only have so much for each day and you are in charge. If you don't like what you have been doing, identify what needs to change, make a plan, and follow through consistently.

Here's to a great year!
Happy New Year!

Tips to help improve your memory

Self-help books, diet supplements and other products to improve memory are big business, but improving your memory need not cost anything more than effort.

The biggest obstacle to a good memory is failing to pay attention, Jonathan Golding, a University of Kentucky psychology professor, said.

Take for example, when someone meets 10 people at a party. The most commonly remembered names are those of the first and last people met, but it is even more common not to remember any of the names.

People do not remember names from a party because they do not think it is important. But what happens when it is important? Golding offers salesmen as proof that people can remember.

"They must be doing something to remember all those names. They know it's going to benefit them," said Golding, who remembers all the names of his 60 students each spring semester within a few class sessions. "You have a different relationship when you know someone's name."

• Pay attention. Prioritize what needs to be remembered.

• Be interested. People remember what interests them, but sometimes that means forcing yourself to be interested.

• Make things meaningful. Who doesn't remember when Columbus sailed the ocean blue or that "i" goes before "e" except after "c"? In both cases, rhymes helped give the information meaning.

• Make associations. There are common associations, such as

remembering the difference between "principal" and "principle" (the principal is your "pal."), but more personal associations work best, such as when you meet someone who has the same name as a relative or friend.

• Organize information. For example, organize a shopping list by produce, canned goods and deli.

• Visualize. For example, Golding suggests that his students remember his name with the image of a gold bell with an apple clapper, since Jonathan is a type of apple and "ding" is the sound a bell makes.

"You can't just say something over and over and expect to commit it to memory, unless you assign some sort of meaning to it," Golding said.

That lesson is learned every

time someone repeats a phone number while walking to the phone only to be distracted before dialing and forgetting the number altogether.

In addition to memory techniques, Golding suggests using crutches.

"Writing things down is a good crutch," he said. "It's easier to write 10 things down, or take a quick look at a note, than labor to memorize 10 things."

Golding points out that memory is not a muscle. Exercising it will not necessarily improve it. However, using the right techniques will. While it takes effort, there is good reason for it.

"You're who you are because of your experiences. But also because all the knowledge you have is part of your memory," he said.

How to make exciting meals in a pinch

(NUE) - If you're looking for new and interesting cooking recipes with a distinct flavor, try cooking with spirits such as Pernod — spirit anise.

For 200 years, the French have enjoyed Pernod as a before dinner drink, in cocktails and in cooking. Pernod has a distinct licorice flavor, with herbs such as anise, fennel, parsley, chamomile and coriander, and is believed to stimulate one's appetite.

"Although Pernod is somewhat of a secret to many Americans, chefs everywhere have discovered the liqueur as a flavorful cooking ingredient," said Susan Bocanski, brand man-

ager. "Pernod is versatile and easy to use, and can be used in almost any type of cuisine."

Made with herbs, Pernod has a natural flavor which complements seafood, vegetables, meats and poultry. Some exciting cooking recipe ideas are available in a free brochure, "Pernod, French for Flavor."

The brochure contains cooking tips and recipes for a seafood meal. For a quick appetizer, try Crab Toasts. They can be made easily with either fresh or canned crabmeat and are served on baguette bread.

As an appetizer, Pernod makes a great marinade and topping in a

recipe, Shrimp With Pernod Mayonnaise. As a main course, a simple fish steak, such as halibut, salmon or cod steak, is enhanced with a shallot butter sauce flavored with Pernod.

Pernod adds pizzazz to hot or cold vegetable or fish-based soups, sauces or salad dressings. Even desserts can be made with Pernod, such as a fruit salad marinated with sugar and cinnamon; or flame sautéed apples. For a simple dessert, we suggest you serve ice cream with a splash of

Pernod.

"For centuries, Pernod has been used as everything from a digestif to a love potion. Today, the spirit has become a popular ingredient in the kitchens of both professional chefs and amateur cooks," said Bocanski.

For a free copy of "Pernod, French for Flavor," send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Pernod, French for Flavor, c/o SPI Group, 206 Bellevue Ave., Upper Montclair, NJ 07043.

NEW ARRIVALS

Highlands Regional Medical Center

December 15: A son, William Van-Douglas, to Chicita and William R. Callihan, III of Auxier.

December 18: A son, Jason Alexander, to Cristian Dan and Ellen Mirela Gabor of Prestonsburg; a son, Billy Darrell, to Billy Wayne and Christinna Collinsworth of Salyersville.

December 20: A daughter,

Makenzie Paige, to Monty Scott and Toni Gail Frazier of Stanville.

December 22: A son, Trevor Dewayne, to Jennifer and Lonnie Click of Oil Springs; a son, Trevor Lee, to Lora Ann and Rodney Lee McKenzie of Prestonsburg; a daughter, Desiray Maria Destiny, to Vanessa and Donald Collins of Blue River.

December 25: A son, Adam Dean II, to Michele and Adam Conley of Salyersville.

SOCIETY NEWS

East Point Lodge to meet

East Point Masonic Lodge will hold its regular meeting and open installation of officers for the year 2000, on January 8, starting at 6 p.m.

A dinner will be served to families and friends in attendance. Please bring a covered dish.

All Master Masons, their families and friends are encouraged to attend.

WEDDINGS/ENGAGEMENTS



Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Crum

Couple wed in Inez

Inez Freewill Baptist Church was the scene of the wedding on December 18, 1999, of Stephanie Chandler and Jonathan Crum.

The bride is the daughter of Kim Chandler of Georgetown and Steve Chandler of Titusville, Florida.

The groom is the son of Tammy Nichols of Lovely and Ronnie Crum of Tomahawk. A resident of Versailles, he is employed by Louisville Forge in Georgetown.

The Rev. Tim Preece officiated at the ceremony.

Serving as the maid of honor and wedding coordinator was Allison Lafferty of Auxier. Tiffany Allen was bridesmaid, and Chad Crum was best man. Jerry Lafferty and Rossie Crum were ushers.

Jessica Chandler was flower girl, and Jonathan Morris was ringbearer. A reception for the newlyweds followed the wedding at the church.

Colorado is marriage setting

Keiko Onoue and David Hill Stumbo were united in marriage on September 4, 1999, at Sapphire Point in Breckenridge, Colorado.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shizunori Onoue of Yamaguchi, Japan, and the groom is the son of Sallye Hill Stumbo of Frankfort, and Jack Stumbo of Prestonsburg.

The bride earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Waseda University in Tokyo, Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees from Pittsburg (Kansas) State University and Master of Fine Arts degree from Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho.

She is a language translator for Ohi Automotive of America.

The groom is a graduate of Western Hills High School in Frankfort earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Murray State University at a senior industrial hygienist with the Kentucky Labor Cabinet.



Mr. & Mrs. David Hill Stumbo

Postscript

(Continued from page one)

careless," "withoutcare," and, finally, "whocares"?

I have a standard list of resolutions that I seldom keep. It generally includes losing weight, exercising more, getting up the nerve to try to have my fiction published, and spending more time writing fiction. (Some would say I already do the latter.)

For years, I resolved to stop smoking. When I finally did stop, it was in October and mostly unrelated to the resolution.

This year, my resolutions are do-able, I think. I'm not giving up on the usual ones, but I'm adding some that I can do now.

For instance, I am vowing to have more people over for food and conversation. Years ago and far away, I did that a lot. I haven't done it much since I've been back here and I should. It made me feel good, and I need to feel good.

I'm also resolving to spend more time with my dogs. (Don't laugh.) Lately, I seem to feed them, and that's about all. They

live for my attention, and I ought to give it to them. They make me feel good, too.

I'm also determined to be a better correspondent. Like it or not, most of my old friends are far away. I used to write to them frequently, keeping in touch with some for 25 years or more, but lately all I can say is that "I keep meaning to." I'm going to do better.

I need to find time to do some volunteer work. It's been far too long since I did anything but write a check or donate things. I need to give my time to something I consider important.

I want to take a real vacation. It's been almost 15 years since I've done that. On Christmas day, I got a call from a good friend who's living in France this year. It was the best present. I want to visit him. I want to forget about the money and just do it. Charge!

If I don't go because of the money, I'll get old anyway, and I won't have been to France.

Happy MM!

Lodge

(Continued from page one)

secretary for 40 years, quickly notes that men are not recruited to be members of the brotherhood; rather, they must express an interest as Davis did.

Price, the new master, is a history buff, particularly intrigued by the Civil War. "You'd be surprised at the number of people throughout history who were Masons," he says, adding that two of his heroes, George Washington and Teddy Roosevelt, were members.

He passes on the story of a Civil War battle where all the soldiers on both sides were Masons and refused to fight each other, despite the orders of their two commanders who were not among the brotherhood. The commanders killed each other, Price says, and the men, wearing both the blue and the grey, sat together and had a meeting.

Involvement is down these days, Goble says. He remembers times when more than 100 men would attend meetings and help with charitable work. Today, he says, a couple dozen show up for regular meetings — much as is the case with other fraternal and civic organizations.

Freemasonry, in its present form, dates to the 1600s, when trade guilds, made up of actual stonemasons, opened their membership to other members of the



This Bible, under glass, survived the fire that destroyed Zebulon Lodge in the 1920s.

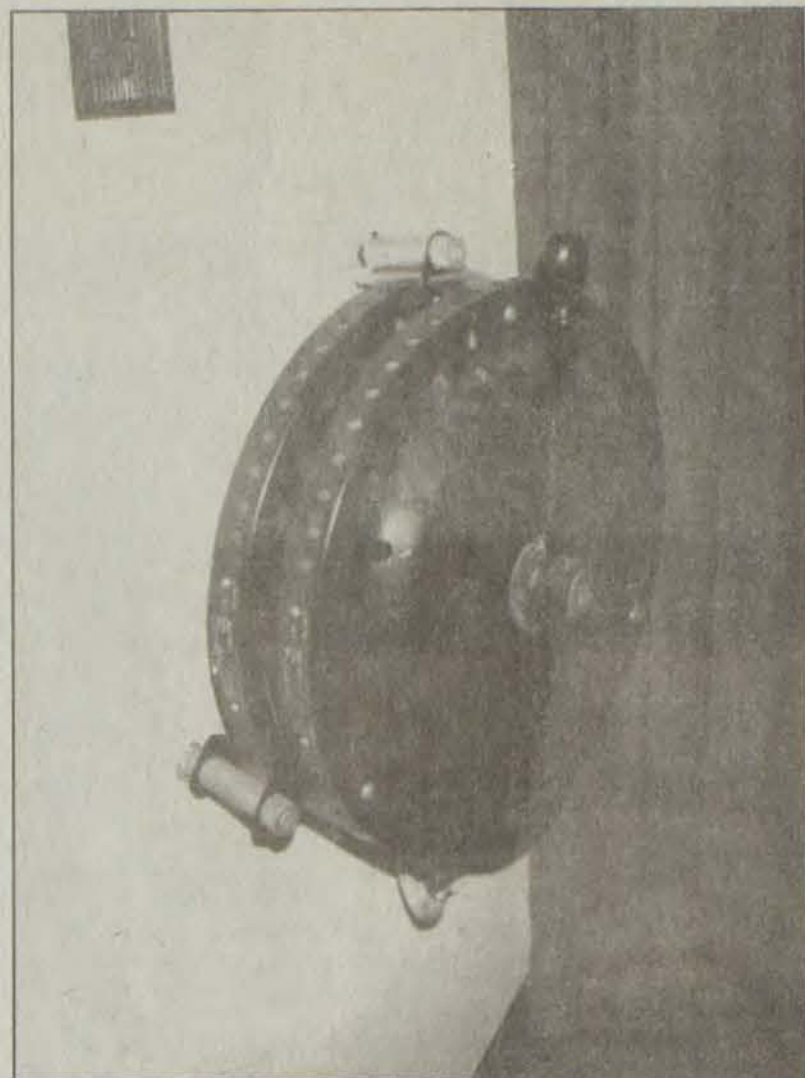
community. The new members were known as "accepted" Masons, giving meaning to the F&AM logo — Free and Accepted Masons.

Over the years, the organization has been accused of being

secretive, but the local masters say that's not true. The community has always known and been aware of the charitable works of the lodge, and members have proudly made their membership known. Last night's installation,

in fact, was open to the public.

In addition to the local lodge's contributions to the community, members support a scholarship for a Prestonsburg High School graduate to attend Prestonsburg Community College.



The wonders of technology are made evident by this machine, which dims the lights at Zebulon Lodge. It probably dates to the 1920s.

Be kind to your waistline — New Year's "Resolution-Food"

You can be kind to your waistline and your health and still eat imaginative, satisfying foods. Start the new millennium and the new century with "resolution-foods," foods that have proportionately more nutritional value than calories.

It's easy to be smart about what you eat when you follow a few simple rules. Remember that all foods have calories, and that if you take in more calories than you use, you'll gain weight. A typical adult needs between 1200 and 2000 calories per day. Active adults and teens can have up to 3000 calories per day without gaining weight. To maintain your weight or lose excess pounds, choose foods that supply lots of nutrients, but fewer calories.

Be smart about what and how you eat. Balance and moderation are still the keys to creating a calorie-wise eating plan. Eat a variety of foods in moderate amounts to meet your nutritional needs.

Making even small changes in the way you prepare foods will make a difference in the total calories you consume.

Instead of frying foods, use "resolution-food" cooking techniques such as stir-frying, grilling, broiling and steaming.

Resolve to be more active. To slim down, you have to move. Run, swim, ski, join an exercise group, or just plain walk for 30 minutes at least three times per week. Make exercise a part of your daily plan.

Eating smart is easy when you start with resolutions-foods such as Chunky Low-Fat Tomato Soup. This healthful, home-style tomato soup will warm your body and your soul, with a minimum of calories. It's the perfect food to make during the week when you want something warm and wonderful, yet quick and easy to make. With only a few ingredients from the pantry, this soup can be ready in 30 minutes or less.

"This chunky soup is a refreshing change from the canned variety and takes just a few minutes longer to make," says Margi Walstrom, senior product development specialist for Pioneer Flour

Mills. Brown gravy mix gives the soup just the right texture and thickness. The combination of tomatoes and fresh basil will make everyone think you've spent the day in the kitchen.

To round out the meal, serve Savory Low-Fat Scones and a fresh winter fruit compote. Scones, English-style biscuits, are usually sweet and contain lots of calories, but these savory scones are low in fat and calories. The flavor of these moist, wedge-shaped biscuits is enhanced with Italian herbs and spices, making them a perfect complement to the soup.

Eat smart for life, starting now, with these new "resolution-foods."

Chunky Low-Fat Tomato Soup

- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 cup thinly sliced celery
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 can (46 oz.) tomato juice
- 2 cans (16 oz. each) diced tomatoes with basil, oregano and garlic
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil

leaves (optional)

- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 3 cups water (divided)
- 1 package (1.61 oz.) Pioneer No-Fat Brown Gravy Mix

In large saucepan or Dutch oven, cook and stir onion, celery and garlic in oil over medium heat until onion and celery are translucent. Add tomato juice, tomatoes, basil, sugar and 2 cups of the water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Return to boiling. Dissolve gravy mix in 1 cup cool water; stir into boiling mixture until thickened. Simmer for 5 minutes more to combine flavors. Makes 8 servings.

Savory Low-Fat Scones

- 3 cups Pioneer Low-Fat Biscuit & Baking Mix
- 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 3/4 cup skim milk
- 1/2 cup low-fat sour cream
- 1 tablespoon skim milk

Garlic salt

In medium bowl, stir together biscuit and baking mix, cheese and Italian seasoning. In small bowl, combine 3/4 cup milk and sour cream. Stir into biscuit and baking mix mixture to form a stiff dough. Turn out onto surface dusted with additional biscuit and baking mix; knead 10 times. Divide dough in half. Press each piece into a circle about 1/2 inch thick. Place on baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Cut each circle into 6 wedges but do not separate wedges. Brush 1 tablespoon milk over top; sprinkle with garlic salt. Bake at 400° for 12 to 15 minutes or until scones are golden brown. Makes 12 scones.

Helpful Tip: When measuring biscuit and baking mix, gently spoon mix into nested (dry) measuring cups. Using a metal spatula or straight-edged knife, level off the top.

For exciting recipes, baking tips, and more, visit Pioneer Flour Mills' web site at: www.pionermills.com

Pointers For Parents

Vision problems: Blurring your child's future?

(NAPSA)—When it comes to school problems such as restlessness and poor academic performance, parents and teachers may not always see the most obvious reasons—undetected vision problems.

While some people might be quick to assume that a child's restlessness and academic problems stem from a learning difficulty, the real trouble could be a vision problem.

According to the Better Vision Institute, children who do not receive comprehensive eye exams entering school can be at-risk for behavioral problems and poor grades.

"Research indicates that there is a relationship between vision problems, learning problems and related behavior problems," said Virginia Beach, Va. optometrist Joel Zaba, a BVI Advisory Council member. "Many times a child may pass a screening for 20/20 vision, although there could be an undetected visual problem at the distance between 14 and 16 inches, where a child normally reads and writes."

Recent research indicates that undetected vision problems can lead to such serious problems as:

- Low self esteem
- Anti-social behavior
- Poor performance in school
- Learning disorders
- Delinquency

While many schools provide in-school screenings for students, it is possible that some problems with the visual skills



A child can pass a screening for 20/20 vision and still have a vision problem at a distance of 14 to 16 inches, where a child normally reads and writes.

necessary for learning may not be identified. Parents and teachers need to understand the value of a comprehensive eye exam in addition to screenings and watch for the following signs:

- Using a finger as a place mark while reading
- Squinting, closing or covering one eye
- Holding a book close to the face

• Losing his/her place while reading

- Excessive clumsiness
 - Tilting the head to one side
 - Rubbing eyes, blinking excessively
 - Performing below potential
- Headquartered in Arlington, Va., BVI is dedicated to communicating the importance of eyecare to the public. For more information, visit www.vision-site.org.

Tips to help teenage girls build healthy self-esteem

(NAPSA)—There are many practical ways that parents and mentors can raise the self-esteem of teenage girls.

Surveys commissioned by Secret® Anti-perspirant and Seventeen magazine reveal that teenage girls are experiencing high rates of depression, insecurities about their physical appearance, and feelings of intellectual inadequacy. "Low self-esteem plays an important role for teens in the development of eating disorders, substance abuse and mood disorders," according to Dr. Ann Kearney-Cooke, Director of the Cincinnati Psychotherapy Institute and a Scholar with the Partnership for Women's Health at Columbia University. Incidentally, the same girls who are experiencing depression and insecurity often lack strong female role models to consult for guidance or positive reinforcement.

Secret Anti-perspirant and the Partnership for Women's Health recognize that fostering healthy self-esteem is a critical part of helping girls become strong women. Secret and the Partnership chartered a panel of world-class physicians, scientists and adolescence experts to create a new skills-based program. "We have developed ten practical tips to help teenage girls develop self-esteem. They focus on forming healthy relationships, cultivating a positive body image, managing stress, and setting personal goals," says Dr. Kearney-Cooke. Each of the ten tips offered to teenage girls has a complementary suggestion that parents and/or mentors can employ to help their teens build self-esteem.

Solutions for Girls

- Confiding in others and listening to what they're going through is a great way to help yourself feel better.
- No one said being a teenager is easy. Talk to someone who's been through it all—a parent,



Secret to Self-Esteem Program Advisory Board member singer Mya talks to teens about building healthy self-esteem.

teacher or coach.

- Set your own standards. Only you can decide what's right for you. Make a list of what's important.
- Ever start bawling your eyes out for no reason? Understanding what led up to the flash flood can help. Keep a journal.
- Is there a problem? List all the possible solutions on a piece of paper; then list the pros and cons. Review your options with someone you trust.
- Puberty happens. Seek information about the changes your body is going through. Know that there's no such thing as a dumb question.
- The new golden rule. Do unto yourself as you would do unto others. Making yourself feel good is important, but it doesn't include drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
- Move it. Find activities and sports you like and make them part of your life.
- You must be good at something. Make a list and pat yourself on the back. Work on other talents you want to improve.
- Lend a hand. Helping others is a surprising way to help yourself.
- Solutions for Mentors
- Circle of friends. Encourage meaningful relationships. Brainstorm with your daughter about interesting things

she can do with friends.

- Be a good listener. Try initiating conversations in the car or in the dark. Teenagers may find it easier to open up when they don't have to look at you.
- Help her define her own personal standards and talk about her dreams and the future.
- Encourage her to list all the possible solutions to any problems she might have and evaluate the pros and cons. Support her decision even if it's not your first choice.
- Teach her to develop a plan to solve or manage a problem. Help her learn to solve her own problems and she'll have those skills for life.
- Take her on a field trip to the bathroom and show her some of the personal products she might be needing soon.
- It's in your nurture. If you have a positive body image and continually develop your mind, chances are she will too. Pamper her on occasion with fun outings and let her know you love her.
- Up and running. Ask your daughter what kinds of physical activity she likes and encourage her to take part in it.
- Help your daughter identify her innate skills. Cite past achievements and talk about her goals.
- Make a difference. Volunteering in tandem is a great way to spend time together and a good way to teach values. For the second consecutive year, Secret and the Partnership have come together to combat the effects of low self-esteem in teenage girls.
- They recently hosted a symposium that focused on practical skills for esteem building. To learn more about how to build and maintain healthy self-esteem, visit the Secret Anti-perspirant website at www.secretantiperspirant.com.

Douth



Students in kindergarten through eighth grade at Mountain Christian Academy presented the school's annual Christmas play on December 6. They performed "A Lamb's Tale" to a near-capacity crowd. The MCA strings and choir also performed.

Johnson County teams are winners in academic contests

Johnson Central and Johnson County 8 were the overall winners at the Eastern Kentucky Academic Conference meets held on December 4 and 18.

In the high school division, Johnson Central accumulated 49 points to capture first place. Pikeville-Maroon finished second with 45.42 points, Betsy Layne was third with 40.83 points, and Pike Central placed fourth with 35.5 points.

In the middle school division, Johnson County 8 totaled 56 points for first place. Johns Creek-Varsity finished second with 40 points, Johnson County 7 was third with 29.5 points, and Mullins placed fourth with 24 points.

In the high school division, the following students finished first through fourth in these written assessment categories:

Mathematics: 1. Josh Allen of Betsy Layne; 2. Tie between Tiffany Caldwell of Pike Central and Evan Smith of Pikeville-Maroon; 4. Tie among J.R. Conn of Betsy Layne, Bob Hall of Shelby Valley, and Justin Shofner of Pikeville-Maroon.

Social Studies: 1. Noah Friend of Pikeville-Maroon; 2. Steven Bartley of Millard; 3. Eddie Gilliam of Pike Central; 4. Tie among Richie Duncan of Belfry, Pradeep Mettu of Pikeville-Maroon, Brandon Newsome of Betsy Layne, and Trent Trackett of

Betsy Layne.

Science: 1. Tie between Pavan Bhatraju of Pikeville-Maroon and David Campbell of Johnson Central; 3. James Stambaugh of Johnson Central; 4. Tie among Josh Casey of Pikeville-Maroon, Lesley Runyon of Belfry, and Brandie Stone of Sheldon Clark.

Language Arts: 1. Swathi Rao of Johnson Central; 2. Laura Wells of Johnson Central; 3. Billy Newsome of Betsy Layne; 4. Tie between Sarah Sparks of Johnson Central and Lensae Vanhooose of Paintsville.

General Knowledge: 1. Tie between Mettu and Stephen Conley of Paintsville; 3. Tie among Caldwell, Shofner, and Nick Hall of Betsy Layne.

In quick recall competition, two teams finished with perfect records: Johnson Central at 7-0 and Betsy Layne at 6-0. Pikeville-Maroon took third with a 5-1 record, and Pike Central finished fourth with a 5-2 record. Individual honors went to the following: 1. Conley; 2. Duncan; 3. Conn; 4. Brandon Newsome.

In the middle school division, the following students finished first through fourth in these written assessment categories:

Mathematics: 1. Caleb Branham of Johnson County 8; 2. Garrett Conley of Johnson County 8; 3. Sarah Billiter of Virgie; 4. Joshua Taylor of Johns Creek-

Junior Varsity.

Social Studies: 1. Josh Daniel of Johnson County 8; 2. Justin Howard of Johns Creek-Varsity; 3. Kevin Wells of Johnson County 8; 4. Braden Blankenship of Johns Creek Varsity.

Science: 1. Daniel; 2. Shawn Reynolds of Johns Creek-Varsity; 3. Tie among John Compton of Paintsville, Kelly Crislip of Johnson County 7, and Nick Ruktanonchai of Pikeville.

Language Arts: 1. Chris Wells of Johnson County 8; 2. Shefa Sikder of Johnson County 8; 3. Tie between Renee Thompson of Johns Creek-Varsity and Carrie Wells of Johnson County 7.

General Knowledge: 1. Howard; 2. Kevin Wells; 3. Chris Wells; 4. Tie between Braden Blankenship of Johns Creek-Varsity and Nick Chapman of Pikeville.

In quick recall competition, Johns Creek-Varsity, Johnson County 7, and Johnson County 8 had perfect 4-0 records. Grapevine, Mullins, and Paintsville each had 3-1 records.

The EKAC middle school conference tournament is scheduled for January 15, 2000, at Johnson County Middle School, while the EKAC high school conference tournament is set for January 22, at Pikeville High School. The public is cordially encouraged to attend.

Most valuable

Front Royal, Virginia - Amanda McDonald of Prestonsburg has won the Most Valuable Cheerleader Award at Randolph-Macon Academy for 1999. She is the daughter of Jim and Donna Vanover. She accepted the award from Coach Kenesa Haffer. Randolph-Macon Academy, founded in 1892, is the country's only co-ed boarding school with Air Force Junior ROTC.

(photo by Cindy Rodney)



May Valley Elementary School students raise money for St. Jude

Students at May Valley Elementary School collected \$1,111.44 during a Math-A-Thon for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Twenty-eight students collected money, and the top collector was Jerica Blair with \$125. She was to receive a CD player from St. Jude, as well as a sports bag, tee-shirt, free pass to Six Flags and a certificate.

In a Math-A-Thon, students get sponsors for the number of math problems completed in special workbooks provided for students in grades K-9.

The program is sponsored nationally by Six Flags Theme Parks, which provides free passes to their parks for every student

raising \$35 or more.

"We are very proud of our students for working so hard on the Math-A-Thon," said Karen Goble, volunteer coordinator. "With their help, St. Jude Hospital will be able to create new treatments that may one day lead to a cure for many forms of cancer that will benefit the children in our state, our country and around the world."

"I also want to extend our thanks to the Martin community for supporting our students. It takes all of us to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer, and we can all feel proud of our response," Goble said. The students who participate

learn to do more than just math problems; they also learn the importance of helping children who are less fortunate than they.

Children with more than 200 forms of cancer and other catastrophic diseases are treated at St. Jude's. Since its founding in 1962 by the late entertainer, Danny Thomas, the survival rate for most forms of pediatric cancer has risen dramatically.

In fact, today more than 70 percent of all children with cancer will survive their bout with the disease. St. Jude's staff credits these successes in treatment to the support of people around the world, including students at May Valley.



Victoria Rice and Cody Castle enjoyed making ice cream while learning about the letter i. They are students in Lisa Thornsberry's class at May Valley Elementary School.



Sixth grade students at Allen Elementary learned about safety when working with electricity when representatives of Big Sandy RECC came to school. The electrical workers taught the students about



safety, and some students participated in demonstrations of safety equipment.



Grandparents came to the classrooms at Allen Elementary School during Grandparents Day and enjoyed time with the students. Martha Clark showed some of her quilt patterns to Mrs. Crider's first grade class. Mrs. Clark, who received the Kentucky Colonel Award, is the mother of 12 children, all of whom she sent to college.

Learning about safety

Sunday
January 2, 2000

Sports *Plus*

ED TAYLOR



**INSIDE: Leader of
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Inside

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From the...

PRESSBOX

by Ed Taylor

Nine times. Nine times to be on the ballot for induction into baseball's Hall of Fame.

That is the situation with former Cincinnati Red standout Tony Perez, one of baseball's top RBI man.

Perez, who played in the days of the Big Red Machine, is deserving of the induction. Being by-passed the first eight times, I think Perez has a good shot at induction this time at Cooperstown. I certainly hope so because he is very deserving of it.

Unlike most players, Perez just sits back and waits for the media to make that decision that he belongs in the Hall. He is not out campaigning or lambasting the press for being overlooked the past years. Five hundred baseball writers will make that decision and the decision will be announced on January 11 of the new millennium.

Last year, Perez came up short by 70 votes but look for the first baseman to make it this time.

Meanwhile, Pete Rose, who should be in the Hall of Fame as baseball's all time hits leader, is just campaigning to get reinstated in major league baseball.

Rose, who agreed to a life ban in baseball, has taken his case on the road and over the internet. Rose, if reinstated, would probably be elected on the first ballot.

However, there seems to be some who say there is proof that Rose indeed did bet on baseball and in particular the Reds while he was manager. Now, Rose's spot in the Hall of Fame is not dependent on what he did as a manager but as a player. I mean, we have the all time home run leader, the most RBI leader, the best of the pitching records there, why shouldn't we have the all-time hits leader in the Hall of Fame.

Oh, well, who knows what the year 2000 may bring. It may bring a change of heart on the part of major league baseball to reinstate Rose.

LOCALLY...

The work began, then it was stopped.

Work on the new softball field at Betsy Layne got off to a great step but I understand that the board of education has some question about the site and has put the project on a hold for a while.

The new facility, once completed, will be the first softball or baseball facility located on school property in the county. Maybe, just maybe, this will lead to all schools having their own baseball/softball facility that will not necessitate traveling and hauling equipment from one location to another.

The work was scheduled to be completed by the start of the 2000 season (late March) but it is doubtful if it will meet that deadline.

Coach Ted George and the folks at Betsy Layne are excited about the possibility of having their own place to play "true home games."

Coach Bobby Hamilton's Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats had a rough road trip when they played in the Queen of the Bluegrass tournament in Lexington just before the holidays. But Coach Hamilton said it was a good learning experience.

"We have learned how to handle the press now," he said, as his team got ready for the Johnson Central Lady Eagle Invitational. "That is how Belfry beat us. I would like to play Belfry again."

Coach Hamilton said the tough teams he faced will make his team a better one.

"We played three top teams in the state," he said. "It hurt our confidence a little bit but that has come back up."

The Lady Blackcats are the defending champions at Johnson Central.

The Lady Blackcats, 4-5 on the year, faced Scott County in a first game and then met rival Paintsville on Tuesday night

Perez: Destined for the Hall of Fame

before playing Russell on Thursday night. Hey, no one said it would be easy.

"You learn as a first year coach," said Hamilton.

NOTES ON NEWTON

C.M. Newton will lead the athletics at the University of Kentucky for the final year as he says he will step down after this year. Of course, the leading replacement for Newton is Larry Ivy, and he is an excellent choice. I believe he will keep the program heading in the direction that Newton has sent it.

Newton made two big decisions when he brought in Rick Pitino to revive a probation saddled program. His second biggest decision was in hiring Hal Mumme, a virtual unknown in Division I football, as the Cats head football coach. Mumme has done

nothing but take the Cats to three bowl appearances.

C.M. will be missed.

NOTES:

- Prestonsburg's Jeremy Caudill is working out as he gets ready to become a Kentucky football Wildcat next season.

- Nathan Tackett has been declared eligible to play for the Betsy Layne Bobcats.

- The girls All "A" Regional will be held January 12-15. Millard High School will be the host school. Site for the tournament has not been announced.

- Asked question: "Does this mean Prestonsburg will not have their football field ready by 2000? Answer: "Who knows!"

From the pressbox, we will be looking for you.



BETSY LAYNE COACH CASSANDRA AKERS has her Betsy Layne Ladycats in front in the Floyd County Conference race heading into a new millennium. Betsy Layne is 2-0 in the conference (photo by Ed Taylor)

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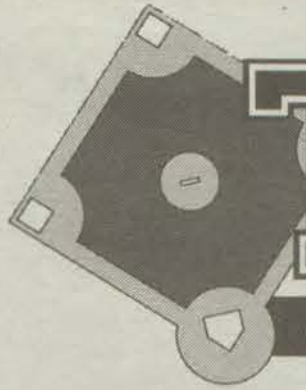
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TOUCHING BASES

with Ed Taylor

Scheduling: Just how difficult is it?

We have completed the first full month of the high school boys and girls basketball schedule and how quickly it has gone by.

Teams try carefully to arrange their schedules that they might now have too long of a lay off over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

But sometimes schedule making is more difficult that you could imagine.

For instance, the Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats, who competed in last week's Johnson Central Round Robin Tournament, finished the year with such and will not return to the hardwood until January 11. That's over a week's lay off. Also, the Lady Blackcats, if you notice their schedule, have yet to play one single game at home as of yet. All 11 games of the 1999-2000 season have been played at someone else's gym, whether it be in Lexington, Pike Central, Betsy Layne or wherever.

The Lady Blackcats will finally get to play at home on January 11, when they host South Floyd in a conference game.

Now why make such a schedule out? Why put your team on the road for the first month-plus of the basketball season?

Current coach Bobby Hamilton did not have anything to do with making out this season's schedule. Last year's coach, Jackie Day Crisp, filled in the open dates and scheduled "his team" on the road for the first month-plus of the year. Why? Because of inclement weather that develops in January and February is just an educated guess. I am sure that Coach Crisp was thinking of his team being on the road in bad weather in the

months of January and February. It stands to reason: Play the early games away from home while the weather is good and stay home when the weather turns bad and get the other team to come to your place.

But, get this, during the month of January, Prestonsburg will play eight games and four of those are at home. But in February, six of the remaining eight games for Prestonsburg will be at the friendly confines of the Prestonsburg Fieldhouse.

Not bad thinking! When the weather goes sour, stay home and play. Play on the road while the sun is shining.

When was the last time a high school in Floyd County scheduled a local tournament? Well, if you will check, not since former Prestonsburg Coach Bridget Clay hosted the Lady Blackcats Invitational. It was a good tournament that showcased some of the regional powers as well as an out-of-county team.

South Floyd High School hosted the first county tournament that any county high school has hosted since Prestonsburg's.

Coach Henry Webb and the Raiders hope to make it an annual event as the Raiders are expected to be one of the dominant teams in the next six years, and maybe beyond.

South Floyd is drawing large crowds and the tournament was a success. The four-team format (held over two days) may expand to include four more teams.

The first month of the season has brought some surprises.

Betsy Layne's boys team is playing excellent

basketball, something fans of the Bobcats did not expect.

Let's look at some of the teams so far in the 1999 season.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: Betsy Layne Bobcats. Coach Brent Rose has his team playing good basketball.

BIGGEST DISPOINTMENT: Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats. A team with the talent this team has should be 9-0 instead of the current 4-5.

BIGGEST OFFENSE: The South Floyd Raiders are averaging nearly 90 points a game. The high-powered offense is scoring at an average of just over 89 points per game.

BIGGEST DEFENSE: The Allen Central Rebels continue to hold down the opposition (with the exception of South Floyd) as they are currently 5-3 on the year.

BIGGEST REBOUND MARGIN: The South Floyd Raiders are sweeping the glass with an average of nearly 28 rebounds a game.

TEAM TO WATCH: Betsy Layne Ladycats. Coach Cassandra Akers is just a notch away from having a club of consistency and ready to make a run at a county championship. They have already knocked off heavyweights Prestonsburg and Allen Central.

ED'S ALL COUNTY TEAM RIGHT NOW

Jessica Martin and Shannon Sizemore of Allen Central; Jenny Parsons and Amber Roberts of Betsy Layne; Amelia Conley, Ramanda Music and Megan Hyden of Prestonsburg; Martha Crawford, Lindsey Hall and Kandice Mitchell of South Floyd.

Larry Mullins, Jeremy Sexton and Jeremy Hayes of Allen Central; Adam Collins, Justin Bartley and Scott Collins of Betsy Layne; Ricky Powers and John Dixon of Prestonsburg; Jimmy Stumbo, Byron Hall, Michael Hall, Rusty Tackett, Ryan Shannon, John Meade and a host of others at South Floyd.

Of course, that is just

for now. It is fun to look at players and how they are doing.

BEST SIXTH MAN: Nathasa Stratton of Betsy Layne. Miss Instant Offense when she comes into the game. Has a great attitude and plays hard at both ends of the floor.

Jeremy Hayes of Allen Central. Comes off the "cold" bench and lights up the basket with his three-

point shooting.

Who is the top defensive player in the county? Allen Central's Jennifer Risner gets the nod there, along with South Floyd's John Meade. Both are hard-nose players on the "D".

Well, it has been fun. Have a great new year and stay well. We'll touch bases with you next Sunday.

PIKEVILLE COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME*
	Thur. 4	Knoxville	Knoxville, TN	7:00
	Sat. 6	Cumberland	Lebanon, TN	7:00
	Wed. 10	Rio Grande	Pikeville	7:00
	Fri. 12	Rax Invitational **	Pikeville	6&8
	Sat. 13	Rax Invitational **	Pikeville	2&4
	Wed. 17	Campbellsville	Pikeville	7:00
	Fri. 19	Bevo Francis Tourn.***	Rio Grande, OH	2:00
	Sat. 20	Bevo Francis Tourn.***	Rio Grande, OH	TBA
	Tues. 23	U.Va. Wise	Wise, Va.	5:30
	Fri. 26	Southern Virginia	Pikeville	4:00
	Sat. 27	Alice Lloyd	Pikeville	4:00
	Sun. 28	Virginia Intermont	Pikeville	2:00
DECEMBER				
	Sat. 4	Bluefield	Bluefield, Va.	2:00
	Thur. 30	Albertson	Phoenix, AZ.	TBA
	Fri. 31	South Dakota Tech	Phoenix, Az.	TBA
JANUARY				
	Sat. 8	Southern Virginia	Buena Vista, VA	2:00
	Mon. 10	Brescia	Owensboro	5:00
	Thur. 13	Alice Lloyd	Pippa Passes	6:30
	Sat. 15	Indiana-Southeast	Pikeville	1:00
	Mon. 17	Michigan-Dearborn	Pikeville	5:00
	Sat. 22	Lindsey Wilson	Columbia	4:00
	Mon. 24	Bluefield	Pikeville	6:00
	Wed. 26	Transylvania	Lexington	5:30
	Sat. 29	Spalding	Pikeville	2:00
FEBRUARY				
	Thur. 3	U.Va.-Wise	Pikeville	5:30
	Sun. 6	Indiana-Southeast	New Albany, Ind	1:00
	Tues. 8	Cumberland	Williamsburg	7:00
	Sat. 12	Lindsey Wilson	Pikeville	3:00
	Tues. 15	Union	Barbourville	7:00
	Sat. 19	Brescia	Pikeville	3:00
	Tues. 22	Georgetown	Pikeville	7:00
	Sat. 26	Spalding	Louisville	1:00

* All times Eastern
 ** (PC, Alice Lloyd, Cumberland, Mt. Aloysius)
 *** (PC, Rio Grande, Union, Spalding)

Tubby Smith



UK basketball: "Tis the season to be jolly..."

KENTUCKY WILDCATS

1999-2000

by Ed Taylor
Sports Editor

Christmas bells, choirs singing and telephones ringing. That seemed to highlight the just completed Christmas season as the world returns to normal after the Christmas Holidays.

Gifts are being returned as department stores

are crowded and still there is no room to shop at the local stores.

But for University of Kentucky basketball fans, it was a week of dialing up your favorite sports talk show and the top discussion was UK's embattled (with the fans anyway) coach, Tubby Smith.

Call-in fans are wondering why, as a disciple

of Rick Pitino, that Smith doesn't use the more up-tempo game of his predecessor and why the Cats aren't the pressing team fans had become accustomed to.

Callers have come short of calling for the removal of Coach Smith as his Cats went 4-4 in the first eight games. Armchair coaches and radio personalities are saying that Smith was not the choice of the "fans" at the start. But all that has been only revealed since the "young Cats" have struggled. Many had gotten off the proverbial UK bandwagon when UK struggled out of the gate.

The past two weeks have changed a lot, but not all the criticism that Coach Smith has received via the radio call-in shows, as well as some from the press.

I have felt from the second half of the Maryland game (which UK lost) up to the thrilling upset of number five Michigan State, the Cats have improved vastly. A big win over Louisville, which turns around and destroys North Carolina, and the big win last Thursday night over the Spartans have UK fans once again boarding the bandwagon.

I was very skeptical of this year's team until I realized two things: Just how young this Division I college team is (seven of 10 are either freshmen or sophomores) and the very, very difficult schedule the Cats have played over the first month and a half of the season. It is staggering to review the schedule and wonder how they won the games they did.

At 6-4 on the season, the Cats now will get into a more mellow part of the schedule before it heats us again. The post-holiday game included Alaska-Anchorage, then a date with Missouri before the year 1999 closed out.

Wednesday night, Kentucky will open what is going to be a very difficult SEC schedule where you will not find any cupcakes to play.

However, when I look at the non-conference schedule UK played and the likes of Auburn, Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Arkansas, Georgia and others, there is no comparison at all to what UK has endured the first 12 games of the schedule.

Here is a team of young men who have grown up through the first 12 outings. I feel that the criticism of Coach Smith is undeserved. I know that his son, Saul, is not a picture of perfect motion when he handles the basketball. However, he is a junior and does have a little more experience than does J.P. Blevins or any of the other players. Now that the team has gone through 12 games, then you can say that Blevins and others have "more experience" and I think you will see Coach Smith play Blevins a lot more and, who knows, maybe insert him into the starting lineup.

The players are not complaining, but just the opposite, have approved the way Coach Smith is coaching this year's team.

Bitterness toward the coach and his son is not what is needed at this time. Neither is there a need for an activist group to holler "racism" when that is not present as well.

What is needed is understanding and support for a group of young men who are trying their best to be a winning basketball program. A group of young men who are away from home, family

(See UK, page eight)



(photos by: Angela Judd)

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Leader of the pack

by Karen Joseph
Sports Writer

The Betsy Layne Lady Bobcats have been playing very good basketball in the last couple of weeks.

They were a little slow getting started, losing four games at the start of the season. Their last loss was on December 13, when they lost to Paintsville.

Since the one point loss at Paintsville, the Lady Bobcats have been playing great basketball.

A very definite key to their success is senior guard Heather Hamilton.

Heather Hamilton and Shenna Akers are the only two seniors on the team. They have played basketball together since they were in grade

school.

"Shenna and I have played basketball for eight years," said the senior. "We both attended John M. Stumbo Elementary and I started in the fourth grade and Shenna started in the fifth grade."

Heather says she enjoys playing basketball.

"The game can get really rough sometimes and it is very easy to lose your temper," Hamilton said, "but you just have to keep your composure and play your game. Even though sometimes it gets frustrating, I still enjoy playing the game."

Hamilton says one of the most difficult things in playing basketball is when you change coaches so much.

"In grade school, I had two different coaches. Sheila Tucker was head coach until I was in the sixth grade. Then Danita Johnson took over as the head coach," explained Hamilton. "And in high school Bill Newsome was my coach until I was a junior. Coach Cassandra Akers took over my

junior year."

"Sometimes it is just hard to adjust to different styles that coaches have," Hamilton explained. "I liked Coach Newsome, but he was too easy on us. We didn't have a lot of discipline when Coach Newsome was our coach. But, Coach Akers is very disciplined. She is very strict and we really respect her. We play together better as a team. We also have respect for each other."

"Heather, along with Shenna Akers, will be our leaders this year," Coach Akers said. "Heather can get the ball down the floor and she will average six or seven assists a game. Plus she usually scores eight to 10 points a game. She plays with maturity and helps the younger girls keep their minds focused. We have a lot of young girls on this team and they look up to her. She is a leader."

Betsy Layne has a very young team, but they are improving with each game. The senior guard thinks by the end of the season they will really come together.

"We are going to be very good toward the end of the season," Hamilton said. "We are playing fairly good ball now, but we are just now starting to come together as a team. We have several young players that don't have a lot of experience at the high school level. It will just take us some time. I just wish Shenna and I were just juniors, so we could play with the team next year when they have more experience."

Heather thinks the younger players will improve and, come tournament time in March, they will be ready.

"I think we have a pretty good chance this year in the tournament," Hamilton said. "We have a tough district, but I think we can do it. We have already beaten Allen Central and Prestonsburg, but that was on our home floor. It will be tougher on their court. But I think we can do it."

"Whitney Lykens will be finished with grade school by then and she will help this team a lot. But we do have some players that have experience. Shenna is great on the

inside. And we have Jenny Parsons that can do anything, shoot or rebound. Devon Reynolds is the other guard and Amber Roberts plays the forward, along with Jenny. These girls have experience. Then Natasha Stratton can come off the bench and play tremendous basketball. The younger girls will really be able to help our team toward the end of the season.

"I think that Prestonsburg will be our strongest competition this season in the district. Shelby Valley will be tough in the region. I guess we will just have to wait and see what happens."

Heather says she will miss playing after she graduates.

"I plan on attending Pikeville College next year and I hope I can play some kind of sports," Hamilton said. "I have played for so long. I don't know if I can just stop all of a sudden."

Heather Hamilton is one of the leaders on this very talented Betsy Layne Lady Bobcat basketball team, and they will be tough come the "second season."



Heather Hamilton

Alice Lloyd College Lady Eagles Basketball Schedule

NOVEMBER			
Nov. 5	Transylvania Univ.	Away	5:30
Nov. 6	Lindsey Wilson	Away	2:30
Nov. 12-13	Pikeville (Rax) Inv. Tour.	Away	6-8
Nov. 16	Ky. Christian	Away	6:30
Nov. 18	Berea College	Home	6:30
Nov. 20	BRYAN COLLEGE	Home	2:00
Nov. 23	BLUEFIELD COLLEGE	Away	5:30
Nov. 27	Pikeville College	Away	4:00
Nov. 30	MONTREAT COLLEGE	Home	5:30
DECEMBER			
Dec. 4	TENN. WESLEYAN	Away	2:00
Dec. 7	VIRGINIA INTERMONT	Home	5:30
Dec. 9	Lindsey Wilson	Home	6:30
Dec. 11	Union College	Away	2:00
JANUARY			
Jan. 3	Berea College	Away	7:00
Jan. 5	CLINCH VALLEY	Home	5:30
Jan. 6	Union College	Home	6:30
Jan. 11	BLUEFIELD COLLEGE	Home	5:30
Jan. 13	Pikeville College	Home	6:30
Jan. 15	MONTREAT COLLEGE	Away	5:30
Jan. 18	KING COLLEGE	Home	5:30
Jan. 21	COVENANT COLLEGE	Away	5:30
Jan. 22	BRYAN COLLEGE	Away	2:00
Jan. 27	MILLIGAN COLLEGE	Away	5:30
Jan. 29	TENN., WESLEYAN	Home	4:00
FEBRUARY			
Feb. 3	KING COLLEGE	Away	5:30
Feb. 8	CLINCH VALLEY	Away	5:30
Feb. 12	COVENANT COLLEGE	Home	5:30
Feb. 15	VIRGINIA INTERMONT	Away	5:30
Feb. 17	MILLIGAN COLLEGE	Home	5:30
Feb. 19	Ky. Christian (Sr. Day)	Home	2:00
Feb. 23-26	T.V.A.C. Conference Tour.	Bristol, VA	TBA

*Conference Teams (All capital letters)

1999-2000 Kentucky Basketball Schedule

November				
2	California All-Stars	UKTV Delay	7:30	H
11	Athletes in Action	UKTV Live	8:00	H
17	Pennsylvania NIT	ESPN	9:00	H
19	Utah NIT	ESPN	7:00	H
24	NIT Semifinals	ESPN	6/8:30	A
26	NIT Finals	ESPN	8:30	A
29	Dayton	ESPN2	7:00	A
December				
4	Indiana	CBS	3:30	A
7	UNC-Asheville	UKTV Live	8:00	H
11	Maryland	ESPN	9:00	A
18	Louisville	CBS	4:00	H
23	Michigan State	ESPN	7:00	H
27	Alaska-Anchorage	UKTV Live	8:00	H
30	Missouri (Sugar Bowl)	Fox Sports Net	7:00	A
January				
5	Georgia Tech	ESPN	7:00	A
8	Vanderbilt	Fox Sports South	6:00	H
11	Auburn	ESPN	9:00	A
15	South Carolina	Fox Sports South	6:00	A
19	Ole Miss	UKTV Delay	7:30	H
22	Vanderbilt	Jefferson-Pilot	TBA	A
26	Georgia	Jefferson-Pilot	8:00	A
29	Miami, Fla.	CBS	1:00	A
February				
1	Tennessee	ESPN	9:00	H
5	South Carolina	Jefferson-Pilot	TBA	H
8	Florida	ESPN2	9:00	A
13	LSU	Jefferson-Pilot	TBA	A
16	Alabama	Jefferson-Pilot	8:00	H
19	Georgia	Jefferson-Pilot	8:00	H
23	Tennessee	Jefferson-Pilot	8:00	A
26	Arkansas	CBS	Noon	H
29	Mississippi State	ESPN	9:00	A
March				
4	Florida	CBS	Noon	H

SEC Tournament March 9-12 at Georgia Dome in Atlanta

PIKEVILLE COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER			
Sat. 6	U.Va-Wise	Pikeville	7:30
Tues. 9	Rio Grande	Pikeville	7:30
Thur. 11	Transylvania	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 13	Miami-Hamilton	Pikeville	7:30
Thur. 18	Alice Lloyd	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 20	Cumberland	Pikeville	7:30
Tues. 23	College of W. Va.	Beckley, W.Va	7:30
Fri. 26	Rax Invitational**	Pikeville	TBA
Sat. 27	Rax Invitational**	Pikeville	TBA
DECEMBER			
Wed. 1	Brevard	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 4	Cumberland	Williamsburg	2:00
Sun. 12	Union	Pikeville	3:00
Mon. 13	U.Va.-Wise	Wise, Va.	7:30
JANUARY			
Mon. 3	Campbellsville	Campbellsville	7:30
Wed. 5	Union	Barbourville	7:30
Mon. 10	College of W. Va.	Pikeville	7:30
Fri. 14	Indiana-Southeast	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 15	Brescia	Pikeville	7:30
Tues. 18	Lindsey Wilson	Columbia	8:00
Thur. 20	Coal Classic ***	Beckley, W.Va,	TBA
Fri. 21	Coal Classic ***	Beckley, W. Va.	TBA
Fri. 28	Temple Baptist	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 29	Spalding	Pikeville	4:00
FEBRUARY			
Sat. 5	Brescia	Owensboro	3:00
Sun. 6	Indiana-Southeast	New Albany, Ind.	3:00
Tues. 8	Berea	Pikeville	7:30
Thur. 10	Alice Lloyd	Pippa Passes	7:30
Sat. 12	Lindsey Wilson	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 19	Berea	Berea	7:30
Thur. 24	Georgetown	Georgetown	7:30
Sat. 26	Spalding	Louisville	7:30

Off-season projects for the hunter make hunting season get here faster

February is a difficult time of year for the hunter because the hunting season for most folks has become little more than a memory as the snow piles up outside and the time until turkey season grows longer by the day.

Fortunately for sportsmen, there are a number of off-season projects that can occupy their time during the month of February. For instance, waterfowlers can find plenty to do despite the fact that their season has been over for at least a month in some places. What's there to do? According to the experts at Hunter's Specialties, now is the time to prepare for next season.

Decoys take a lot of abuse throughout the course of a normal waterfowl season, as do decoy cords and anchoring devices. February is the perfect time for waterfowlers to take advantage of this downtime and to replace or repair any broken or damaged decoy cords and weights. To keep tangles at a minimum, it's best to replace that old line with Tangle-Proof Decoy Cord from Hunter's Specialties. Used in conjunction with the Quik-Rig Weights, this tangle-proof cord is strong, durable and will generally outlive the decoys themselves. And the dark green color of the Tangle-Proof Decoy Cord makes it the ideal choice for most bottom camouflage situations.

If your duck boat took a beating this winter, put a new camouflage finish on that skiff with Hunter's Specialties camouflage paints. Available in easy-to-use aerosol cans and gallon-sized buckets, H.S. Camo paints go on easily and are durable enough to last from season to season. Hunter's

Specialties camo paint kits come in four of the most popular camouflage colors — marsh grass (tan), black, rust and green. Detailed instructions and a durable plastic stencil make this a quick chore.

Is it ever really too early to start planning for this spring's turkey opener? Hunter's Specialties is also the nation's largest manufacturer and supplier of hunting accessories. They offer these suggestions for getting your gear ready.

First, get organized with the H.S. Strut Dual Season Vest. Originally designed with the turkey hunter specifically in mind, the Dual Season Vest has evolved into a do-it-all piece of equipment. Waterfowlers, deer hunters, trappers and anglers all find the vest, with its large game/carry bag and multitude of pockets to be ideal for carrying gear into and out of the field.

For those long winter nights prior to the spring season, nothing makes the time go faster than a copy of Hunter's Specialties' latest turkey hunting video, Cuttn' and Struttin' 3: Double Strike. This spring, the H.S. Pro Staff Team takes its viewers on a tour of the country from Texas to South Dakota and shows what makes them the most talented group of turkey hunters ever assembled.

When it's time to start practicing those clucks and yelps, H.S. Strut follows up with two of the nation's most popular turkey calls — the Lil' Deuce II and the World Champion Triple Glass. Both of these calls are easy to master, with the Lil' Deuce II's small size making it perfect for smaller hands.

So don't let the winter doldrums get you down. Make a list of your off-season chores and start preparing for the seasons to come.

For more information on Hunter's Specialties products, visit www.hunter-spec.com.

Louisville Cardinals 1999-2000 Schedule

November			
Tues. 2	Premier All Stars (EXHIBITION)	Freedom Hall	8:00
Fri. 19	Va. Commonwealth (WDRB/WFTE)	Richmond, Va	8:00
Sun. 21	ATHLETES IN ACTION (WDRB-db)	Freedom Hall	1:30
Thur. 25	at Carrs/ Safeway Great Alaska Shootout	Alaska	TBA
Sat. 27	(First round pairings: 11/24, Grambling State vs. Ga. Tech, Washington vs. Alaska; Nov. 25, Xavier vs. Louisville, Kansas Vs Georgia)		
December			
Sat. 4	Louisville Tech (WDRB/WFTE)	Freedom Hall	2:00
Sat. 11	Alabama (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30
Wed. 15	CENTRAL FLORIDA (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30
Sat. 18	Kentucky (CBS)	Lexington	4:00
Mon. 20	TENNESSEE STATE (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30
Thur. 23	NORTH CAROLINA (ESPN)	FREEDOM HALL	7:00
January			
Mon. 3	TULANE (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30
Thur. 6	UTAH (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30
Sat. 8	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI(WDRB)	FREEDOM HALL	2:00
Wed. 12	UAB (WDRB/WFTE)	Birmingham, Ala.	7:30
Sat. 15	Marquette (WDRB/WFTE)	Milwaukee, Wisc.	2:00
Thur. 20	DEPAUL (ESPN)	FREEDOM HALL	9:00
Sat. 22	UNC CHARLOTTE (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	5:00
Thur. 27	CINCINNATI (ESPN)	FREEDOM HALL	9:00
Sat. 29	Saint Louis (ESPN)	St. Louis, Mo.	1:00
February			
Tues. 1	Georgetown (ESPN2)	Washington, D.C.	7:30
Sat. 5	Memphis (ESPN2)	Memphis, Tenn.	7:00
Thur. 10	SYRACUSE (ESPN)	FREEDOM HALL	9:00
Sun. 13	MARQUETTE (ESPN2)	FREEDOM HALL	6:00
Wed. 16	UNC Charlotte (WDRB/WFTE)	Charlotte, N.C.	7:35
Sat. 19	DePaul (ABC)	Chicago, Ill	1:30
Wed. 23	SAINT LOUIS (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	8:00
Sun. 27	Cincinnati (ESPN2)	Cincinnati, Ohio	7:30
Tues. 29	SOUTH FLORIDA (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30



SOUTH FLOYD MIDDLE SCHOOL GUARD Brandy Anderson put up a three-point try against Betsy Layne. The grade school schedule resumes this week as they enter the final month of the season (photo by Ed Taylor)



FROM THE TACKLE BOX

by Jim Lyon

When fishing through the winter months, you may want to try angling for the much coveted walleye. It is a cold water fish that ranges from the far reaches of Canada down through the Northeastern United States to Georgia and Alabama and the Gulf Coast. The walleye is a hardy feeder and will continue to be more active than most fish through the winter months.

They are sometimes called the walleye pike, but are not a pike at all; they are of the perch family. Unlike the perch the walleye has a streamlined body, with bulging eyes. Their color varies depending on the water of their habitat. Some are dark with olive drab along the sides and white or gold belly. I have caught these fish that have a bluish tint to them on the sides. Regardless of the

color of your walleye, they will always be very identifiable by the head structure and the bulging eyes.

This species of fish were, at one time, found predominantly in rivers and streams. They have become lake dwellers by streams and rivers that were dammed, and the fish were trapped behind it, and by random unrecorded stocking by individual anglers. The walleye found in natural lakes in the eastern United States, such as are found in Minnesota and Wisconsin, are most likely the result of this unrecorded personal stocking. When these fish are not found in our man-made lakes it is probably due to the unfavorable conditions in that particular lake, or possibly the presence of this species was not in the stream prior to construction of the dam.

In eastern Kentucky, there are two lakes that

have a good number of walleye — Carr Creek Lake in Knott County, and Paintsville Lake in Johnson and Morgan County. I have been successful in catching walleye at Paintsville Lake in some of the stick-up and weed bed areas. They can be caught most anytime of the day or night. I have been more successful in catching them in the late evening just after sunset.

Unlike most other species, walleye are most likely to start nesting when the water begins to cool to the upper 40 to 50 degree range. In lakes, they will travel a great distance to find favorable spawning areas in tributary streams. They will also seek out shallow lake areas with rocky bottoms. A favorite place to find these fish in cold water spawning beds is on the rip-rap at the face of a dam or around other areas of the lake that are lined with rock. During

spawning, these fish will not be as apt to get on your hook. The fish feed less as they approach the spawning period. However, it is not uncommon for a large male to strike at a sizable rapala. He may not want to feed, but is protecting his nesting area.

When you catch a walleye, don't move on too quickly. These fish tend to school in groups. They will move from one location to another and cannot be found in the same location on a consistent basis. The movement of the school may be somewhat random depending on the lake conditions and food source. They are unpredictable, and hard to outguess. If you viewed these schools of fish from under the water, they would resemble a school of barracuda.

The best way to find walleye is to know their source of food. In the winter months, if you can

locate the habitat of perch and minnows, you may also know the location of walleye.

Walleye will remain active all winter. The change in water temperature has less effect on them than most other fish. Even though you may successfully use crank bait, rapala or a live minnow, the presentation must be changed to a slower movement than when the water is warm. At very cold water temperatures, walleye are less likely to stake a fast moving lure. The female's eggs will be developing, and at this stage she will feed more often.

A good rig for catching walleye in the deep water areas is a floating rapala, a minnow on a floating jig head or other floating bait. Place a sinker 24 to 36 inches up the line and let the sinker bounce on the bottom. This will allow the bait to float just off the bot-

tom. You may slowly shake or move the line to tease the fish into striking.

If you want fish for the kitchen table, you may want to go after this delicious fish. He is ugly with good-sized teeth, but seldom will you find a more delicious fish.

The water temperature at Paintsville Lake is still at 48 degrees on the surface. Deep largemouth bass are hitting spinner bait, and crappie live bait in bush cover.

You are cautioned by the authorities at Paintsville Lake, not to leave items of value in your vehicles when fishing. There have been several reported break-ins in the parking lot in recent months.

Remember to practice good water safety procedures. Hypothermia occurs 2 times faster in the water than in air. Dress warm and enjoy a day at the fishing hole.

UK — (continued from page five)

and friends. A group of young men who needs the complete support of fans from across the state of Kentucky and beyond.

I must admit that, at times, I have been disappointed in the way Smith has coached and with some of his decisions he has made. But then I got to thinking, here is a man who can be a very positive influence on these young men. We don't have much of that kind of influence in this day and time in which we live. Coach Rick Pitino certainly wasn't a positive influence. On the contrary, he was just the opposite.

I support coach Tubby Smith and the kids that make up Kentucky basketball. Win or lose, I support them. Down the road there are going to be more losses. You can count on that. But also, there are going to be some exciting and unexpected wins. Just enjoy those victories and let this team know that Kentuckians from far and wide support them on the hardwood. Do not let the lack of a win every time out make you bitter toward UK basketball. There are more important things in life than basketball. Bitterness toward anyone only hurts one person — the one who is bitter.

As far as sports talk shows, I enjoy listening to them and I try to dial in one when I am on the road. When they get negative, then I dial somewhere else. I am not a negative person but at times find myself thinking that way. I do not like to listen to negative talk. It is always better to build up than to tear down. It will accomplish so much more if we practice it in our own lives.

