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Internet scheme investigation continuing

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — At this point in his investigation into what has been considered an international, internet-based credit card scheme that has already resulted in five arrests, Floyd County Sheriff's Deputy Jeremy Shepherd says he believes he may have just brushed the surface.

around here, but I can't be sure right now," Shepherd said Friday.

Auxier residents Linda Housinger, her husband Nick Housinger and Frank Richter, along with Prestonsburg residents Nikita "Nick" Gaye and Cheryl Riley, have been arrested in connection to the investigation, which police say has revealed what they believe to be an internet scheme operat-

(See SCHEME, page three)



Linda Housinger



Nick Housinger



Frank Richter



Nikita Gaye



Cheryl Riley

briefs

Endangerment charges filed for vehicular encounter

by LORETTA BLACKBURN STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — A Pikeville woman has been charged with two counts of first-degree wanton endangerment for allegedly attempting to run a Harold woman off the road twice.

According to court documents, Denise D. Jones, 19, was charged pursuant to a sworn statement made by Angela Mollett, who stated that on April 26, Jones tried to run her car off the road at Stanville and later she attempted to detour her again at Mud Creek.

Jones is scheduled to be arraigned on May 28.

inside

Local News

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Sports

- ALC Signing.....B1 Hendrick Motorsports...B1 LeBron James.....B2 Sunday Comics.....B4 Sunday Classifieds.....B5 Business Services.....B6

2 DAY FORECAST

Today Partly cloudy High: 72 • Low: 47

Tomorrow Partly cloudy High: 72 • Low: 49

For up-to-the-minute forecasts, see floydcountytimes.com



photo by Loretta Blackburn

Wendys' employees were showing their "pride" by picking up trash along North Lake Drive. Charlotte Slack, store manager, said that the crew didn't have their t-shirts when the rest of the PRIDE group held a community cleanup. However, the crew was out doing their part on Friday.

McGuire named president-elect of Bar

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Kentucky Bar Foundation recently nominated local attorney Mickey McGuire to serve as president-elect for the coming year, the foundation announced Friday.

McGuire has served in the past as the foundation's secretary and treasurer and only recently finished a term as vice president.

His new position as president-

elect means McGuire will now be next in line for nomination to the foundation's top spot.

Others recently nominated to serve were Kathryn Aterberry, of Louisville, as president, William M. Arvin Sr., of Nicholasville, as vice-president and J. Warren Keller, of London, as secretary and treasurer.

In addition, the foundation also announced a total of \$61,750 in grants for the 2003 year.

The grants will be provided to

fund the Access to Justice, Pass the Word Project, which will receive \$5,000 and the program Courts in Session, which is to be given \$10,000.

The foundation also intends to fund the Department of Public Advocacy with \$9,965, CASA with \$6,000, the Family and Children Counseling Center \$15,000, the Child Abuse Treatment Facility Agency

(See MCGUIRE, page three)

Paintsville soldier gets Purple Heart

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Paintsville native Kevin Hannah, the 22-year-old Army sergeant shot by a civilian while working a checkpoint in Baghdad, was recently awarded the Purple Heart medal while recovering at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

The Purple Heart was presented to Hannah by 5th District U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers.

"Sgt. Hannah is a remarkable young man," Rogers said. "Even in the face of grave danger, he performed his duties bravely and without hesitation. Our nation owes Sgt. Hannah a great deal of gratitude for his willingness

to go into harm's way to protect freedom around the globe. His unwavering commitment to duty and honor is an inspiration to us all."

On May 4, Hannah, who serves in the Army's 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Unit based out of Fort Benning, Ga., was shot in the back of the head while assisting with police efforts at a checkpoint in Baghdad.

He was later flown to a military hospital in Germany before being sent to Washington D.C. on May 12.

His hometown of Paintsville has, since learning of the 1998 Paintsville High School graduate's injury, rallied to collect and donate money to the Hannah family

(See MEDAL, page three)

P'burg man charged with theft from motel

by LORETTA BLACKBURN STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Prestonsburg man has been charged with theft of items stolen from Comfort Suites.

According to court documents, David Alex Haley, 28,

was arrested on May 21, after a 25-inch Phillips Magnavox color television was recovered at his residence at Park Place Apartments.

The television, valued at \$350, was reported as stolen

(See THEFT, page three)

Bogus prescription nets forgery charge

by LORETTA BLACKBURN STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Prestonsburg man is lodged in the Floyd County Detention Center on \$5,000 cash bond pursuant to an incident in which he allegedly sent someone to Rite Aid to pick up a fraudulent

prescription. According to court documents, James A. Chaney, 40, was arrested on Wednesday and charged with first-degree forgery and falsely attempting to obtain a controlled substance in relation to an April 12 incident in which he

(See FORGERY, page three)

Schwann's employee charged with taking from company

by LORETTA BLACKBURN STAFF WRITER

A former employee of Schwann's Food Service has been charged with theft of company cash and property.

According to a court document, Michael D. Conn, 38, has been charged

with theft by unlawful taking as a result of an April 16 incident in which he is accused of making deposits with checks, but keeping cash in the amount of \$1,482.71. He allegedly also kept uniforms worth \$254.

Conn has been summoned to court for an arraignment set for May 28.



photo by Sheldon Compton

A select group of W.D. Osborne sixth-graders were treated to lunch at Reno's in Prestonsburg Thursday afternoon by their teacher, Tammy Mullins. Mullins said the seven girls — Ronsheena Ray, Emilee Carr, Rebecca Jones, Racheal Johnson, Chelsie Hunt, Kayla Slone and Brandi Frazier — were the top seven points-leaders in the school's Accelerated Reader program and were offered the outing as reward for their efforts.

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Odds and Ends

■ **SAN FRANCISCO** —

The ad might read something like this: "Tall, blonde, 'No Blood For Oil' activist seeks same. Let's have fair-trade coffee sometime."

Online personal ads such as this fictitious one are in the offing thanks to ActForLove.org, a Web site matchmaking service launched Tuesday that looks to connect the hearts of progressive activists.

The fledgling Washington, D.C.-based service describes itself as the place to "Take action. Get action."

Pining activists can enter their profile and photos for free. Their profiles will be lumped in with 1 million other singles, activists or not, from personals compiled by Salon, The Onion and Jane Magazine — but advanced search features can filter out those less politically inclined.

There's a \$1 fee to make initial contact with a potential

match, said founder John Hlinko. A minimum \$25 worth of credits is required to begin contacting other members through the service, Hlinko said.

What are the political leanings of participants?

"I'd say it's mostly progressive, to be honest," said Hlinko, who welcomes conservatives and liberals alike. "We love the idea of a good healthy debate."

Tim Kingston, a spokesman for the human rights group Global Exchange, said activists are a natural target audience.

"Global Exchange has been involved in organizing many demonstrations and many campaigns and many relationships have also ensued," Kingston said. "Remember the old slogan, 'Make love, not war.'"

■ **SOLOMON, Kan.** —

A couple whose dog turned up 800 miles from home in Auburn, Ala., won't have to take the more than 20-hour drive to

retrieve their wandering beagle.

Another Auburn couple who already planned to travel to Kansas to visit relatives in El Dorado called Tim and Jennifer Cross after reading about their dog Norman in a local newspaper and offered to bring the dog back. The Crosses were scheduled to pick up their dog Wednesday evening.

"It's crazy," Tim Cross said Monday. "I don't know what in the world he did. If he could only talk."

Cross last saw Norman on March 28, when he took the 8-year-old beagle and the couple's other dog on a walk, off-leash, about a quarter-mile from their home, which is near Interstate 70. Norman showed up Friday outside an Auburn University computer repair shop.

"Sometimes he likes to go hunting, and he puts his nose down and takes off," Cross said. "He doesn't always watch where he's going. Usually he'd

go out hunting and 10, 15 minutes later, here he'd come. He usually found his way home."

The couple's best guess as to how Norman found his way to Alabama was perhaps in the company of a truck driver or an Auburn University student returning east from a spring break skiing trip to the Rocky Mountains.

"I really can't see a short, round dog (walking) between 20 and 23 miles a day," Cross said. "He was two pounds heavier than he was when he left."

■ **NAY-TAH-WAUSH, Minn.** —

If you're going to sell marijuana, you probably shouldn't try to sell it to the sheriff.

Mahnomen County Sheriff Brad Athman said Tuesday he was motorcycling while off-duty over the weekend when a youth tried to sell him marijuana on the main street of Nay-Tah-Waush in northwestern Minnesota.

Athman said the youth tried to wave him over twice, and signaled that he had marijuana for sale by placing his thumb and fingers to his mouth in a smoking gesture.

Athman said he had a full-face helmet on, so he was unrecognizable.

The sheriff said he called a

deputy who arrested the 17-year-old, and that the teen had 11 marijuana cigarettes in his pocket.

Athman said the teen became "very upset" when he discovered he had tried to sell drugs to

(See **ODDS**, page five)

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, May 25, the 145th day of 2003. There are 220 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Two hundred years ago, on May 25, 1803, American essayist and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson was born in Boston.

On this date:

■ In 1787, the Constitutional Convention was convened in Philadelphia after enough delegates had shown up for a quorum.

■ In 1810, Argentina began its revolt against Spain.

■ In 1895, playwright Oscar Wilde was convicted of a morals charge in London; he was sentenced to prison.

■ In 1935, Babe Ruth hit the 714th and final homerun of his career, for the Boston Braves, in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

■ In 1946, Transjordan — now Jordan — became a kingdom as it proclaimed its new monarch, King Abdullah Ibn Ul-Hussein.

■ In 1961, President Kennedy asked the nation to work toward putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

■ In 1963, the Organization of African Unity was founded, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

■ In 1968, the Gateway Arch, part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, was dedicated.

■ In 1979, 275 people died when an American Airlines DC-10 crashed on takeoff from Chicago's O'Hare airport.

■ In 1981, daredevil Daniel Goodwin, wearing a "Spiderman" costume, scaled the outside of Chicago's Sears Tower in 7 1/2 hours.

Ten years ago:

The White House announced it was putting five fired employees of its travel office on paid leave as it investigated accusations of financial mismanagement.

Five years ago:

Indonesia's new president, B.J. Habibie, promised to hold elections. Leaders in the former Soviet republic of Georgia and its breakaway province of Abkhazia agreed to a cease-fire after a week of fighting.

One year ago:

President Bush, during a visit to St. Petersburg, joined Russian President Vladimir Putin in pressuring Pakistan's president to

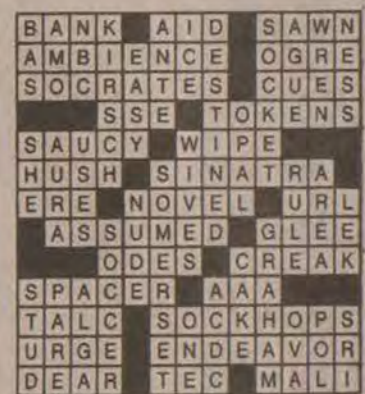
curb cross-border violence in Kashmir and ease tensions with neighboring India. A China Airlines jumbo jet flying to Hong Kong crashed in the Taiwan Strait, killing all 225 people on board. A passenger train and a freight train collided in southern Mozambique, killing 195 people.

Today's Birthdays:

Lyricist Hal David is 82. Actress Jeanne Crain is 78. Former opera singer Beverly Sills is 74. Former White House news secretary Ron Nessen is 69. Country singer-songwriter Tom T. Hall is 67. Actor Ian McKellen is 64. Actress Dixie Carter is 64. Country singer Jessi Colter is 60. Actress-singer Leslie Uggams is 60. Movie director and Muppeteer Frank Oz is 59. Actress Karen Valentine is 56. Rock singer Klaus Meine (The Scorpions) is 55. Actress Patti D'Arbanville is 52. Actress Connie Sellecca is 48. Rock singer-musician Paul Weller is 45. Actor-comedian Mike Myers is 40. Actor Matt Borlenghi ("The Bold and the Beautiful") is 36. Actress Anne Heche is 34. Actresses Lindsay and Sidney Greenbush ("Little House on the Prairie") are 33. Actor Jamie Kennedy is 33. Actor Justin Henry is 32. Rapper Dat Nigga Daz is 30. Singer Lauryn Hill is 28. Rock musician Todd Whitener (Tantric) is 25. Actor Corbin Allred is 24. Actress-singer Lauren Frost is 18.

Thought for Today:

"I hate quotations. Tell me what you know." — Ralph Waldo Emerson, American essayist and poet (1803-1882).



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Court says school superintendents can't screen applications for principalships

by CHARLES WOLFE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — In hiring principals, local school councils can consider all applicants, not just those screened and recommended by their superintendents, the Kentucky Court of Appeals said in a ruling that perplexes some school administrators.

Some said the ruling, if not overturned, would reduce the superintendent's role to little more than clerical.

The process was supposed to

Forgery

Continued from p1

allegedly sent Kimberly Salzgeber to Rite Aid, in Highland Plaza, to pick up a prescription that had been called in for an Eric Rowe, knowing it was fraud.

Chaney was arraigned on Thursday, at which time a \$5,000 cash bond was set. The case is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on May 27, at 1:30 p.m.

McGuire

Continued from p1

Visitation Center \$5,000, the KBA Oral History Project \$9,418, the Kentucky River Children's Advocacy Center \$3,250, the Child Custody Pro Bono Project Practice Manual \$5,000 and the Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency of the Bluegrass \$7,500.

The Kentucky Bar Foundation is a nonprofit organization which serves as the charitable arm of Kentucky's legal community. The foundation's main goal is to promote justice and legal education throughout Kentucky.

Medal

Continued from p1

to help them travel to Washington to be with their son during his recovery.

Hannah has also received the Army Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces wounded in action.

be "advise and consent," Bryan Blavatt, superintendent of Boone County schools, said Friday. Superintendents screen applications and send to the school council the applications of those whom they recommend.

"Now you've taken that out. There's no buffer. It's just a matter of consent. So the advisory capacity (of the superintendent) is null," Blavatt said in a telephone interview.

The ruling, issued last week in a case from the Russell Independent school district in Greenup County, delved into one of the tenets of the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act — a move away from highly centralized decision making in favor of "site-based decision making," with more local control over, and responsibility for, what goes on inside a school building.

"The General Assembly intended for the school councils to have a great say in who the school principal was going to be. They meant it and they meant it strongly," state Sen. David Karem, one of the authors of the 1990 reform act, said. "However, from Day 1, this has

been a problem area," said Karem, D-Louisville.

"I don't think the legislature ever intended" for a council to "just go out to the general world" to select a principal, Karem said. But neither did it intend for a principal's qualification criteria to include being recommended by the superintendent, he said. "That's an appointment, not a qualification," Karem said.

Because multiple cases on the subject are floating through the judicial system, the 14-judge appeals court took the unusual step of deciding the Russell Independent case collectively. The court ordinarily decides cases in three-judge panels.

The appeal was by Mary Robinson, who was among about a dozen applicants for the principal's job at Russell High School in 1996.

Superintendent Ronald Back sent four applications to the local council, but Robinson's was not among them. The council asked for others, but Back declined. He said no others were qualified — having deemed that being qualified required having his recommendation.

Back said the job instead

would be advertised again the following spring, and he would appoint an interim principal. The council then reversed course and selected one of the four, Randy Everly.

Robinson sued, claiming she was entitled, on the basis of education and experience, to have had her name submitted to the Russell High council. She also alleged gender discrimination. Back and the Russell Independent school board disagreed, and Greenup County Circuit Judge Lewis D. Nicholls sided with them.

At issue is a statute that says a school council shall hire a principal "from among those persons recommended by the local school superintendent."

The same statute also says the superintendent "shall provide additional applicants upon request when qualified applicants are available." That sentence says nothing about their being recommended by the superintendent.

Nicholls, the trial judge, said "qualified" means more than being certified. "It seems unlikely that the Legislature would grant discretionary powers to a superintendent to assist a (council) in selecting a principal, then negate that discretion by taking it away in the next sentence," Nicholls said.

The appeals court disagreed. Writing for the majority, Chief Judge Tom Emberton of Edmonton conceded the crucial sentence is "confusingly constructed," making it "unusually difficult to determine clearly its meaning."

"However, it seems clear that with the broad range of meanings that might be given to 'qualified,' the writer of the statute would deem it critical to use the word 'recommend' if that were indeed his intent," Emberton wrote.

Emberton also said Kentucky would be inviting a return to school systems as "political dynasties" if it were to follow Nicholls' interpretation of the statute. "Diminishing the authority of the ... council and enabling the superintendent to name the principal defeats the primary intent" of the reform act, Emberton wrote.

In a dissenting opinion, Judge Daniel T. Guidugli of Newport said the majority would relegate superintendents "to mere administrators and not educators."

"The majority opinion gives the teachers, who must always have a controlling membership

of a (council), the final say in who is to be principal. To me this amounts to allowing the fox to guard the henhouse," Guidugli wrote.

School councils typically are made up of the principal, three teachers and two parents. The Kentucky Education Association has successfully fended off attempts in the General Assembly to dilute teachers' strength on councils through addition of a third parent.

Wayne Young, executive director of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, said it was "not only unreasonable but illogical" to suggest that a superintendent should have no say in the hiring of a principal he or she will be supervising.

"I would call it absurd. ... It's baffling that they could come to this conclusion," Young said.

KEA President Frances Steenbergen said there probably is no more than one case in 10 in which a school council is dissatisfied with a superintendent's recommendations. But in such cases, if the council wants more applications, the superintendent could elaborate on reasons for his or her recommendations, she said.

The appellate opinion sent the case back to the Greenup County court. It also reinstated Robinson's sex discrimination claim.

Others in the majority with Emberton were Judges Matthew Baker of Bowling Green, David Barbour of Prestonsburg, David C. Buckingham of Murray, Rick A. Johnson of Mayfield and Julia Tackett of Lexington. Johnson and Judge Lewis Paisley of Lexington joined in a concurring opinion by Judge William Knopf.

Other dissenters besides Guidugli were Judges Sara Walter Combs of Stanton, Joseph Huddleston of Bowling Green, William McAnulty of Louisville and Wilfrid A. Schroder of Covington. Judge R.W. Dyche III of London did not take part.

Scheme

Continued from p1

ing for an African citizen reportedly named Peter Deanx.

Shepherd said Friday that he hasn't had the chance to look closely into the inner workings of suspect Linda Housinger's charitable Love Line Outreach operations, but feels the program, of which Housinger is director, is most likely not used as a front for the scheme.

Referring to a confiscated file cabinet loaded with various paperwork that provides a paper trail of the alleged operation, Shepherd said any connection with Housinger's program, which accepts item donations to be given to the needy, has not been made apparent.

"I don't know if that's a part of it or not, because there's nothing in the files about it," Shepherd said. "The only connection so far is that this is how she [Housinger] met up with the Richter guy, through the program."

Shepherd says this link to contacts may prove to be the

extent, if any, of the outreach program's function in the alleged scheme.

According to police, the five suspects had been allegedly receiving stolen credit card numbers from Deanx from Nigeria and then using the numbers — each with a \$500 spending limit — to purchase products by mail. The items were then repackaged and then sent to Deanx in Nigeria where they were resold, according to police.

Nick Gaye and Cheryl Riley were arrested early Thursday evening and charged with separate felonious counts of theft by deception.

Linda Housinger initially met Riley while the Prestonsburg woman was cleaning her house, according to Shepherd.

"It seems Linda [Housinger] has been giving some of the credit card numbers to Cheryl after she gets them from Africa," said Shepherd. "And she apparently just told her that this guy in Africa — Paul Deanx — had told her to buy as much Avon stuff as possible, any kind of Avon, because it sold real good over there."

According to the arrest citations completed for both Gaye and Riley, both allegedly received the credit card numbers and then ordered nearly \$14,000 worth of Avon items slated to be repackaged and then sent to Nigeria.

The two additional arrests came after the area's Avon district manager Rosalie Fields called the sheriff's office when she received various complaints from her supervisors about a suspiciously large order. There had been numerous complaints about order information, such as names, not matching up with the information taken from the credit cards, police said.

"She [Fields] actually went over there to [Gaye and Riley's] Cliffside apartment and got the Avon boxes herself and then called us," Shepherd said.

The charges of theft by deception brought against both Gaye and Riley are said to have occurred during a six-day period, May 15 to 21, according to Shepherd's criminal complaint against the two.

Both Gaye and Riley pleaded not guilty in Floyd District Court Friday and are due in court for a preliminary hearing on May 27.

Shepherd said that, despite the five arrests already made, investigative efforts and attempts to secure solid evidence for prosecution are slow going, but unavoidable.

"I know they'd like this investigation to go a little faster, but there's just a lot of stuff to cover here," he said. "Anybody with information that might help is welcome to contact me."

Shepherd has asked that anyone with information pertaining to the case should call the Floyd County Sheriff's Office at (606) 886-6171.

Justice Department giving \$5.5 million to state agencies that help crime victims

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — The U.S. Department of Justice is giving \$5.5 million to community agencies in Kentucky that assist crime victims.

The U.S. attorney's office in Louisville announced the grant on Friday.

The grant is part of an annual distribution by the Justice Department's Crime Victims

Fund, which is supported by criminal fines collected by federal law enforcement agencies. All 50 states get some sort of award.

The state must distribute the money to domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers and other agencies that help victims.

Fines collected by the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime are eligible for grant awards the following year.

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Cooley-Fitzpatrick Wedding Announced



Januari Annelle Cooley and Franklin Kyle Fitzpatrick wish to extend an Open Invitation to all friends and relatives to join them as they celebrate the union of marriage Saturday, June 7, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fitzpatrick Farm on Little Paint. They are the children of Cynthia Ann Woodrow, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy C. Cooley and Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Delano Fitzpatrick. A reception will be held immediately following the ceremony.

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Freedom of the press is not an end in itself but a means to the end of [achieving] a free society.

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest View

Old tricks in a new tax bill

Campaigning for Congress last fall, Rep. Mark Kennedy, Sen. Norm Coleman and a host of other Republicans said it was an outrage that Congress failed to pass permanent tax relief in 2001, but rather used a series of "sunsets" to cut taxes temporarily and raise them later.

That was a curious argument, considering that the 2001 tax bill was deliberately written that way by their own party leadership. But they were right: The phase-ins, phase-outs and other timing tricks, designed to squeeze the tax cut into congressional budget limits, were an insult to voters and a headache for taxpayers.

So voters might expect that these same lawmakers would vote against the landmark tax compromise produced Wednesday night by top GOP negotiators. It uses exactly the same gimmicks all over again. Married couples and parents will get big tax breaks this year, then see them disappear in 2005. Investors will get even bigger tax breaks, then lose them in 2008.

It's routine to fool voters once, as Congress did with the tax cut of 2001, and perhaps even twice, as the candidates tried to do on the campaign trail last fall. But three times? With the same gimmick?

Aides to Coleman and Kennedy said Thursday that the lawmakers are unhappy about the temporary provisions, but would vote for the package because it's the one chance this year to cut taxes and stimulate the economy.

But that doesn't explain why the Bush administration and the GOP congressional leadership continue to demand tax cuts that the government cannot afford. The phase-outs became necessary because moderate Republicans in the Senate balked at the size of the Bush plan, and balked for good reason. Washington will run the biggest deficit in history this year, something like \$400 billion, and the White House admits it has no plan to balance the budget in the future. Even Alan Greenspan, an economist of impeccable conservative credentials, complained Wednesday of a "deafening" silence from Congress on the nation's long-term fiscal outlook.

Apart from the timing provisions, the tax compromise improves on the plan offered by President Bush last January. It contains \$20 billion in fiscal relief to states, and it puts more money into rapid tax relief for middle-class families.

But it's hard to see how members of Congress will be able to defend its long-term fiscal impact, or its short-term sleight of hand, when they hit the campaign trail.

— The Minneapolis Star Tribune



— Jim Davidson

The law of chance

How would you like to live in a world of chance? Many years ago someone wrote a children's book entitled, "The Chance World." It told of a world in which everything happened by chance.

The sun may come up in the morning or it may not. But if it did come up, no one could predict if it would come up at 5 o'clock, at noon, or at midnight. If one planted a field of corn, it may come up as corn, it may come up as wheat, or it may come up as pickles, rose bushes or even apple trees. If one jumped into the air, he may come down or he may keep on going. One could not tell in advance what would happen.

So, again here is the same question: How would you like to live in a world of chance? Well, aren't we thankful we don't have to? We live in a world where there are absolutes. Each night on TV the weatherman tells us exactly what time the sun is coming up the next morning. We may not be able to see it for the clouds, but we know it's there.

Now, based on what I've just said, how many people do you suppose plan their lives and their futures on chance, circumstances or luck?

Here is some really GOOD NEWS and if you happen to be one of these people,

I'm going to share some thoughts that I hope you will ponder. This could make a wonderful difference in your future.

When it comes to our personal success, regardless of what our goals happen to be, there are some areas of knowledge we have to know and in a sense have this knowledge become second nature. That is, if we want to live closer to our true potential and maximize the talents and abilities that God has given us.

One of these areas of knowledge has to do with "natural laws." Based on my personal observation, it's my belief that many people do not truly understand natural laws and how they work, at least not fully. Unfortunately, this lack of knowledge keeps these people at the bottom of the economic and social pyramid, and, believe me, it does not have to be this way. It's my hope and prayer that while reading this column, as well as others, that a light will come on in your mind and you or someone dear to you will say, "Eureka! I've found it," and you will begin to live life more fully and have more of the rewards that can be yours.

A natural law has been defined as "A series of events in nature that has been observed to occur with unvarying uniformity." In other words, if the circumstances are exactly the same in all respects, then the outcome or result will always be the same.

For example, if you step or fall off a tall building you will always go down. You

will never go up. It's the same with all other natural laws, they always work whether we understand or know about them or not.

Here is the point I hope you won't miss. If you operate or perform on the right side of all natural laws, they will always work for you. If you operate or perform on the wrong side, they will always work against you. It's complicated but yet very simple.

The misuse or misunderstanding of the natural "LAW OF CHANCE" keeps far too many people from achieving real financial success. I might add here, being in debt for an extended period of time creates stress and other serious problems for millions of people in our country. The English biographer and philosopher Sir Leslie Stephen said that "Chance is a name for our ignorance." This is a pretty strong statement but it is nevertheless true, as many people took a foolish chance, physically and financially, and left us far too soon.

Here is the key to using this law to your advantage. When you take a chance with your hard-earned money, make sure the odds are in your favor. This is not the case with the lottery, the casinos, sports gambling or the racetrack. The wise person understands that making an investment is far better than taking a gamble.

Jim Davidson is a motivational speaker and syndicated columnist. You may contact him at 2 Bentley Drive, Conway, AR 72034.



— beyond the beltway —

The president is a great artist

by DONALD KAUL

Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to recognize that for the past year and a half we have been privileged to be witness to — and led by — one of the great flim-flam artists of this or any other time. They called 'ol Al Gore a liar because he intimated he'd invented the Internet and they pilloried Bill Clinton because he shook his finger at us and told us he'd never had sexual relations with "that woman," even though he had.

They were pikers, mere schoolboy fibbers, when compared to George W. Bush. There hasn't been anybody like him since the Wizard of Oz packed up his smoke machine and went back to selling snake oil. The only time President Bush tells the truth is by accident — and he is not accident-prone.

It has become increasingly apparent, for example, that Mr. Bush whipped this great peace-loving nation into a war frenzy using nothing more than hot air. Nada. Zip. On re-examination, his arguments contain more foam than a skim latte at Starbucks.

He told us that Saddam presented a clear and present danger to our national security because he had weapons of mass destruction and means of delivering them. He even gave us figures to back that up.

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush said Iraq had 30,000

warheads, 500 tons of chemical weapons, 25,000 liters of anthrax, 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin and a nuclear weapons program. None of which was used by Iraq to defend itself and none of which we can find now. In other words, the French were right. But wait! We also went to war to combat terrorism, didn't we? What about 9/11 and all that?

Well, what about it? No credible links between Saddam and 9/11 have been found, except in the fevered minds of right-wing nuts. And as for harboring terrorists, Iraq was no worse than a half-dozen other countries in the Middle East, where it's easy to find people who hate us. And if the war was supposed to frighten terrorists into inaction, who were those people who blew up Saudi Arabia the other day?

OK, but at least we brought freedom to the Iraqis. That's a good thing, isn't it?

It would be if we had. What we've actually brought to Iraq thus far is chaos. Museums have been looted, schools and hospitals destroyed, there is a looming cholera epidemic in Basra, and Baghdad is experiencing a level of street violence that is all but indistinguishable from civil war. We're on our second team of overseers for the place and counting.

At this point we've got a better chance of having achieved a humanitarian disaster in Iraq than of establishing a viable democracy there. Some freedom. Bush the Illusionist reached a kind of

zenith a couple of weeks ago when his plane landed on the deck of a carrier, then walked out wearing a flight suit and a Tom Cruise smile, just as though he'd flown it himself. This from a fellow who hid out in the Air National Guard during the Vietnam War, at least until he went AWOL for the final year of his enlistment. The gall of the man is stupendous.

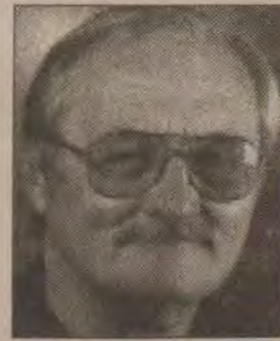
You would think he'd be laughed off the stage, as Dukakis was when he masqueraded as a tank commander. But no, not our Leader. Everybody thought it was swell — a "Top Gun" moment, they called it.

That's the thing about him — he gets away with it. The latest New York Times/CBS News poll, released just last week, found that 67 percent of the American people approve of the job he's doing and 70 percent think he's got

"strong qualities of leadership." And despite the fact that 54 percent of the people interviewed thought his policies favored the rich (where did they find the other 46 percent I wonder — Siberia?), 67 percent thought Bush cared about their needs and problems.

No doubt about it, the fellow is an artist. Then again, we should have expected no less from a man who won the presidency by finishing second.

Donald Kaul recently retired as Washington columnist for the "Des Moines Register." He has covered the foolishness in our nation's capital for 29 years, winning a number of modestly coveted awards along the way. His email is: donaldkaul2@verizon.net.



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Faith Extra

Court to say when states can pay for religious education

by GINA HOLLAND
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court says it is ready for another separation of church and state case, this one to decide if tax money can be used to pay for a student's religious education.

In a follow-up to last year's landmark ruling upholding school voucher programs, the court agreed Monday to consider whether state constitutional spending restrictions are trumped by a person's freedom to practice religion, which is guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

It sets the stage for an upcoming term heavy in religion issues.

The court also may hear an appeal from the Bush administration over the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance recited by school children. An appeals court ruled that it amounts to unconstitutional government promotion of religion.

At issue in Monday's case is a Washington state scholarship program that helps high-achieving students pay for stud-

ies in fields such as business or engineering, but not theology. About half the states, including Washington, have laws banning state spending for theology classes or constitutional restrictions on spending for religion.

Washington refused to let Joshua Davey participate in the Promise Scholarship program to help pay his tuition at Northwest College, which is affiliated with the Assemblies of God. The program allows grants to be used at that college and others associated with churches, as long as the student is not studying theology.

Davey, who wanted a grant to study theology, sued and won. Justices will hear an appeal from the state of Washington.

Washington Attorney General Christine Gregoire said in a court filing that the ban "does not impair Davey's free exercise of his religion - he is free to believe and practice his religion without restriction."

Davey graduated this month at the top of his class and is attending Harvard Law School in the fall, school administrators said. Dan Neary, a vice president at the college, said he deserved the \$1,125 scholar-

ship, regardless of his field of study.

"We're not talking about Sunday School. We're talking about a four-year accredited baccalaureate degree," Neary said.

Davey's attorney, Jay Sekulow, with the public interest law firm American Center for Law and Justice, said the restriction gives "religious studies and theology students almost second-class treatment. That's just not how the First Amendment is supposed to work."

The Supreme Court has been sharply split in recent cases involving the constitutional principle of separation of church and state, approving limited use of taxpayer money at religious schools. The latest was a 5-4 ruling in which the court held that government vouchers are constitutional if they provide parents a choice among a range of religious and secular schools.

The Rev. Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said this case gives the court a chance to rule more broadly. "This opens the possibility of new infusions of tax dollars to pay religious institutions," he said.

He said people who want to study to be preachers or clergy

should not expect to have taxpayer help.

The court was told that the states with laws, or constitutional bans, include Alabama, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland,

Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Dick Komer, with the Institute for Justice which is supporting Davey, said the court's eventual ruling could affect programs at all levels, up to college.

The case is *Locke v. Davey*, 02-1315.

Looking for the place where Islam is flourishing in the United States? It's the suburbs

by WAYNE PARRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUTH BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Just off one of the busiest highways in this rapidly growing suburb sits the new face of Islam in America.

The Islamic Society of Central Jersey's mosque is tucked away amid the pine trees and flowering pink dogwoods along the booming high-tech corridor leading into Princeton. Next door, huge concrete water main pipes lie on the side of the road, ready to be installed as part of a new housing development.

The mosque's expansive parking lots fill up with minivans and SUVs, disgorging parents and kids hurrying inside for worship between work and classes.

Scenes like this are playing out across the United States as Muslim communities spread out from the cities to the suburbs. Definitive statistics are hard to come by, but some Muslim leaders and sociologists, backed by anecdotal evidence, say the

fastest growth of mosques is occurring in the suburbs.

That was also the conclusion of a 2001 nationwide study of mosques by the Council on American Islamic Relations. "This is more and more where Muslims are living," said Ishan Bagby, a professor at the University of Kentucky who conducted the study.

As was the case with waves of European, Asian and Latino immigrants in past decades, Muslim immigrants settled in the cities. As they established businesses and prospered, they — or more commonly, their children — moved to the suburbs.

"The Muslims are following the exact same pattern," Bagby said.

Out of 800 mosques surveyed, Bagby found that 77 percent of those in suburban locations saw their congregations grow by 10 percent just from 1999-2000, while 53 percent of urban mosques saw similar growth over that same period. The council plans a second study in 2005.

The suburban growth is not exclusive to Islam; major Christian and Jewish organizations also are growing in suburban areas as populations expand

(See ISLAM, page six)

Ashland newspaper moves to morning distribution

The Associated Press

ASHLAND — The Daily Independent of Ashland will switch from afternoon to morning distribution beginning next week.

Publisher Roger F. Coleman announced the change in last Sunday's edition.

"Afternoon newspapers throughout the country have made the switch to morning delivery because of shelf-life advantages for advertisers and because readers have said in increasing numbers that it's a better fit for their daily routines," Coleman said.

The change affects only weekday editions. The newspa-

per already has morning distribution on weekends.

Coleman said the newspaper also is dropping the "Daily" from its name, becoming The Independent "because, well, keeping it just didn't seem necessary considering it's pretty common knowledge that we publish each day."

The newspaper, owned by Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. of Birmingham, Ala., has a circulation of about 20,000 on weekdays and 23,000 on Sundays. CNHI operates 106 daily newspapers with a circulation of about 1,060,000, 70 non-daily newspapers and 168 specialty publications in 20 states.

Odds

Continued from p2

the sheriff.

The youth appeared in court Tuesday on a felony charge of attempted sale of a controlled substance. He remained in custody in the juvenile detention center in Moorhead pending his next court appearance. Prosecutors plan to seek to charge him as an adult.

ELWOOD, Iowa

People in this tiny eastern Iowa town say elections won't be the same now that the woman whose garage was the local polling place has died.

Ruth Cain, 86, of Elwood, died Saturday after surgery at University Hospitals in Iowa City.

For almost 20 years, 150-200 voters would file through her three-stall garage for a general election, said Clinton County Auditor Charlie Sheridan.

Cain's husband, Roy, set up the arrangement after Elwood's school closed in the 1980s and the township lost its polling place, Sheridan said.

A local church wasn't handicapped accessible and the post office didn't have enough room for voters, said son Don Cain.

Roy Cain died several years ago, but Ruth Cain kept the tradition going. She even added a wall, insulation and heaters to keep people warm on chilly election nights, Sheridan said.


The county paid the Cains a small fee to use the garage, but family members said they were more interested in helping the community.

"She got paid for it, but she enjoyed it," Don Cain said. "She looked forward to it."

Family members said the polling place will stay open as long as the property is owned by their family.

"As long as they have it, they will accommodate us," Sheridan said. "That's the Cains. They're that type of people."

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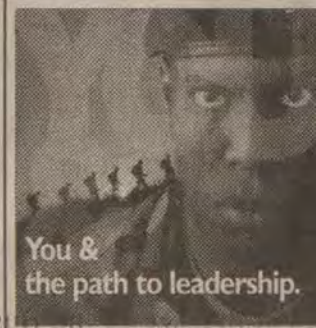
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The Floyd County Times

Regional Obituaries

Floyd County

Emogene Wright Castle, 67, of Ivel, died Monday, May 19, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Frank Coburn, 88, of Garrett, died Tuesday, May 20, at Prestonsburg Health Care. Funeral services were conducted Friday, May 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Linda Sue Duff, 56, of Langley, died Friday, May 16, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Willie Duff. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, May 18, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Maggie Dye, 52, of Sandy Hook, a native of Grethel, died Monday, May 19, at the Elliott County Medical Clinic at Sandy Hook. She is survived by her husband, Phinas Dye. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Karon Kay Patrick Goble, 58, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, May 16, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, May 18, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Joshua Terrence Hall, 7-week-old infant son of John Hall and Jamie Howard Hall, of Ivel, died Sunday, May 18, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, May 21, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Darrell Jarrell, 39, of Lucasville, Ohio, a native of Prestonsburg, died Friday, April 18, at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Shanda Evans Jarrell. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, April 22, under the direction of Don Wolfe Funeral Home.

Thomas N. Kuss Sr., 82, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, May 16, at his daughter's residence in Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, May 20, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Martha Nelson, 79, of Wabash, Indiana, native of Prestonsburg, died Monday, May 19, at her residence.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 22, under the direction of McDonald Funeral Home Eddingfield Chapel, Wabash, Indiana.

Roger Reed Sr., 89, of Hueysville, died Monday, May 19, at Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

William H. "Bill" Scutchfield, 69, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, May 14, at St. Mary's Medical Center, Huntington, West Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Vivian Thacker Scutchfield. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, May 17, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Beecher Layne Scutchfield, 91, of Martin, died Saturday, May 17. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, May 20, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

David "Midget Man" Shepherd, 37, of Hueysville, died Tuesday, May 20, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Judy Owsley Shepherd. Funeral services were conducted Friday, May 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Arvie Spears, 77, of Bevensville, native of Boons Camp, died Saturday, May 17, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Virble Burke Spears. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, May 21, under direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Knott County

Woodrow Bowling Jr., 59, of Combs, died Saturday, May 17, at Hazard Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Combs Bowling. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, May 20, under the direction of Engle-Walker Funeral Home.

Louis Calhoun Jr., 71, of Auburntown, Tennessee, a native of Hindman, died Monday, May 5, at Auburntown. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 8 under the direction of Woodbury Funeral Home.

Susanna Everage, 87, of Emmalena, died May 12, at Appalachian Regional Medical Center, Hazard. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 15, at her residence.

15, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

Madie Caudill Gibson, 79, of Lexington, a native of Knott County, died Tuesday, May 13, at Mt. Vista Health Park, Denton, North Carolina. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, May 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Jimmy D. Owens, 58, of Port Orange, Florida, a native of Garner, died Tuesday, May 13, at Halifax Medical Center, Daytona, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Sue Banks Owens. Graveside services were conducted Saturday, May 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Earl Patrick, 75, of Sidney, Ohio, a native of Vest, died Sunday, May 18, at Upper Valley Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 22, under the direction of Baird Funeral Home.

Jenny Mae Ritchie, 58, of Hazard, a native of Knott County, died Wednesday, May 21, at Saint Joseph Hospital, Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, May 24, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Simeon Kit Watts, 58, of Oklahoma, a native of Pine Top, died Monday, April 28, in Oklahoma City. He is survived by his wife, Susan "Suz" Watts. A memorial service was conducted Wednesday, April 30, at Smith Kernke Chapel, Oklahoma City, and a burial service will be conducted on Monday, May 26, Memorial Day, at 11 a.m., at Watts Park Cemetery, at Nealy, Pinetop, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

Auda (Audrey) Whitaker, 81, of Hazard, died Wednesday, May 14, at Appalachian Regional Medical Center, Hazard. She is survived by her husband, Floyd W. Whitaker. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, May 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Pike County

Edgar Carroll, 44, of Richmond, a Pikeville native, died Saturday, May 17, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Kristene Carroll. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Marlene Maynard, 68, of Pinsonfork, died Friday, May 16, in the Skilled Nursing Unit of South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Monday, May 19, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Fanny Evelyn Preston, of Pikeville, a native of Johnson County, died Tuesday, May 13, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital in Pikeville. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, May 17, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Yvonia Thomas Ray, 77, of Island Creek, died Saturday, May 17, at her home. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, May 20, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Laverna Scott, 76, of Hardy, died Friday, May 16, at St. Mary's Hospital, Huntington, West Virginia. Funeral services were conducted Monday, May 19, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Carl Douglas Varney, 52, of Ransom, died Thursday, May 15, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Martha Coleman Varney. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, May 18, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Johnson County

Clyde Oakley Anderson, 75, of Oil Springs, died Monday, May 12, at King's Daughters' Medical Center, Ashland. He is survived by his wife, Garnett Fairchild Anderson. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 15, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

James Harold Ratliff, 70, a native of Johnson County, died Saturday, May 17, at home. He is survived by his wife, Loraine Ratliff. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, May 21, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Marie Stamper, 73, of Paintsville, died Friday, May 16. She is survived by her husband, Charles Stamper. Funeral services were conducted Monday, May 19, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Dencil Lee "Beechnut" Tackett, 77, of Van Lear, died Friday, May 16, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, May 18, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Sina Thornton, 67, of Flat Gap, a native of Dema, died Wednesday, May 14, at Med Central Medical Center, Shelby, Ohio. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, May 18, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Lawrence County

Ruth Ferguson Dean, 86, of Maynardville, Tennessee, formerly of Huntington, West

Virginia, a native of Blaine, died Thursday, May 15, at St. Mary's Hospital, Knoxville, Tennessee. Funeral services were conducted Monday, May 19, under the direction of Reger Funeral Home.

Amos Gilliam, 61, of Martha, died Sunday, May 18, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Norma Jean Gilliam. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, May 21, under the direction of Eldridge Funeral Home.

Harold Winston "Tommy" Jenks, 73, of Louisa, died Thursday, May 15, at Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Roberts Jenks. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, May 18, under the direction of Heston Funeral Home.

Nellie Juanita Kidd, 80, of Louisa, died Thursday, May 15, at Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa. Funeral services were conducted Monday, May 19, under the direction of Young Funeral Home.

Martin County

Carson Goble, 64, of Inez, died Sunday, May 18, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Betty Jean Goble. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, May 20, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Otto Earl Perry, 72, of Tomahawk, died Wednesday, May 14, at Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, May 17, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Inez Chapel.

Jesse Lee Perry, 80, of Beauty, died Monday, May 19, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Anna Francis Fitch Perry. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 22, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Opal C. Preece, 93, of Inez, died Friday, May 16, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, May 18, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Frances (Pitts) Moore

Frances (Pitts) Moore, 76, of Sebring, Ohio, died Thursday, May 22, 2003, at her residence.

Born December 6, 1926, in Dock, she was the daughter of the late R.E. Pitts and Maggie (Howard) Pitts.

Survivors include three daughters, Cathy Swanson of Lectonia, Deb Walker of Sebring, and Pat Gray of Beloit; two sons, Tim Moore of Beloit, John Moore Jr. of Alliance; one brother, Don Pitts of Winchester; five sisters, Dora Cappello of Jackson, Michigan, Myrtle Rinehart of Sebring, Jurlean Brogan, Juanita (Peachie) Clark and Alberta Porter, all of Columbus; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, John T. Moore; second husband, Ed Grimm; and one son, Donny Moore; two brothers, John L. (Bud) Pitts Jr., Bill Pitts and one sister, Ester Counts.

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday, May 27, at 11 a.m., at the Gednetz-Ruzek Funeral Home, with Rev. Ken Price officiating.

Interment will be in the Highland Memorial Park.

Visitation is Monday, May 26, from 2-9 p.m. with the family and 7-9 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice. (Paid obituary)

Irene (Basiey) Samons

Irene (Basiey) Samons, 69, of Martin, died Thursday, May 22, 2003, at the Prestonsburg Health Care Center.

Born January 12, 1934, in Floyd County, she was the daughter of the late William and Gertrude Gillespie Samons. She was a retired waitress and a member of the Church of Christ, (Arkansas Creek), Martin.

Survivors include sons and daughters-in-law, Jackie Dalton and Debby Samons of Hippo, and Michael Keith and Kathy Samons, of Harold; brothers, J.R. Samons and Earl Samons, both of Martin; sister, Dorothy Samons of Martin; grandchildren, Dalton Keith Samons, Amanda Ann Samons and Noah Keith Samons; and a great-grandchild, Trey Miles Samons.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by four brothers, Frank Samons, Fred Samons, Aspy (Squire) Samons, and Link Salmons.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, May 25, at 2 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Ronnie Samons and others officiating.

Burial will be in the Samons & Family Cemetery at Hippo under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

(Paid obituary)

Kentucky Getaways

Summer blockbusters

by ANN LATTA

SECRETARY OF TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT

Kentucky's repertoire is filled with more than 700 annual festivals and events, and even more recreational, historic and cultural attractions. Sound like a major production? It's paid off — literally — for the state's third largest revenue producing industry, which topped \$9.1 billion last year.

This summer, the action continues when Kentucky hits the big-time during the state's busiest travel season. From summer premieres to sensational stage performances to suspense-filled "cliffhangers," get into the act this summer by traveling the commonwealth, where, of course we'll roll out the red carpet for you.

The Stages of Summer

This summer, several outdoor theatres entertain under the stars as they share the summer spotlight and some of the state's best performances.

The musical inspired by the state song takes the stage June 7 to August 23 for its 45th summer season at My Old Kentucky Home State Park in Bardstown. Stephen Foster - The Musical tells the life of America's first great composer through a professional cast of more than 60 singing its signature song "My Old Kentucky Home" and other Foster standards. Also catch The Music Man at the state park this

summer, each Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday July 9-August 21 (800-626-1563 or www.stephenfoster.com).

Kentucky's oldest outdoor theatre has a past as storied as the plays it presents. Pioneer Playhouse in Danville was built with sets left behind after the 1956 local filming of "Raintree County," starring Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift. Since then, the playhouse has played a role in the lives of several actors who went onto stardom. Among the famous who have graced the playhouse summer stage: Lee Majors; Jim Varney and a 15-year-old John Travolta, who portrayed a famous Kentucky surgeon in a play written by playhouse founder Col. Eben Henson. Reportedly, Travolta can still repeat his one line.

Catch dinner and a show June 14 to August 23 when Pioneer Playhouse celebrates its 54th season with five great plays: "An Absolute Turkey" (June 14-28); "A Little Family Business" (July 1-12); "Hound of the Baskervilles" (July 15-26); "You Can't Take It With You" (July 29 to August 9); and "Academia Nuts" (August 12-23). For more on the summer play schedule and ticket information, call 859-236-2747 or visit www.pioneerplayhouse.com online.

Nearby in Harrodsburg, Kentucky's frontier history unfolds June 6-August 16 in a 41-year-old production at the Old Fort Harrod State Park

amphitheatre. Daniel Boone — The Man & the Legend tells the exciting tale of Daniel Boone and Jim Harrod on a thrilling adventure to settle the sacred Shawnee hunting grounds, now known as Kentucky (800-85-BOONE or www.boonedrama.com).

Among other summer theatrical highlights: the Jenny Wiley Theatre, which stages must-see musicals against the beautiful mountain vistas of the state park in Prestonsburg. One of the few rotating repertory theatres still in existence, this summer Jenny Wiley Theatre will present four performances on a rotating schedule from June through August. Included in this summer's roster are: "Driving Miss Daisy" (June 6-August 13); "The Wizard of Oz" (June 20-August 26); "Big River" (July 4-August 15); and "Hooray for Hollywood Cabaret" (July 19 and August 3).

For more information or to reserve your tickets, contact the box office at (877) CALL-JWT or go online to www.jwtheatre.com.

In Louisville, there's much ado about the 43rd season of the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, the nation's oldest, independently operating Shakespeare festival that's free to the public. This summer the outdoor festival presents two plays in Central Park: "The Merchant of Venice" and "Much Ado About Nothing." Rotating performances begin

(See SUMMER, page eight)

Islam

farther from the urban core. But the growth among Muslim congregations has been dramatic.

At the Islamic Society of Central Jersey, many members are engineers, researchers or medical professionals who settled in the area in the 1970s and '80s to be close to well-paying jobs.

Now the \$1.2-million mosque has about 500 families as active members, most of them recent immigrant professionals who chose the suburbs over more established Muslim communities in New Jersey, such as Paterson or Jersey City. Its school has more than 200 students and a long waiting list.

"Not everyone wished to live and educate his kids in Jersey City," said the center's imam, Hamad Ahmad Chebli. "They spread out to different areas. Suburban Muslim families knew each other and put their money together and started local mosques."

Overall, no one knows exactly how many Muslims are in the United States — estimates vary dramatically, from roughly 2 million to 6 million.

CAIR's study of mosques found 63 percent were still in urban areas.

The urban-suburban contrast is beginning to draw the attention of religious scholars and academics studying the growth of Islam in America.

Professor Sulayman Nyang, chairman of African studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C., noted several principal differences between urban and suburban mosques.

While there are exceptions, he said the inner-city mosques tend to be predominantly African-American, more inward-looking and focused more intently on addressing neighborhood concerns like poverty, drug abuse and employment.

Those in the suburbs are more likely to be populated by immigrant Muslims from the Middle East or south Asia, with a keener interest in world affairs, particularly conditions in their countries of origin, he said.

Imam Johari Abdul-Malik, of the Dar Al-Hijrah mosque

outside Washington in Falls Church, Va., said the growth of the suburban Muslim population in America was greatly influenced by State Department's decisions on which immigrants to accept as U.S. residents over the last three decades.

"They identified raw talent in the information technology industry, and quotas went out the window," he said. "As the Islamic experiment became successful, they wound up moving into the suburbs."

Abdul-Malik said the next logical step for the suburban Muslim community is one that has happened with other waves of immigrants — assimilation.

"America has become the crucible for Islam," he said. "The crucible is a container where you put an element, place it in the fire and heat it so that you burn away all but the pure element."

"The Pakistani and Sudanese and Somali and Afghan parts get burned off and you're left with American Muslims all standing in the same mosque, all praying together."

Continued from p5

In Loving Memory

Remembrance of military, freedom

On Memorial Day, we join together in honoring the memory of the more than half million Americans in uniform, who have given their lives for our country. I would ask that each of us take a moment in remembrance of those military men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For today's military, their mission to defend freedom lives

on, strengthened by our eternal memory of American patriots who gave their lives to preserve peace and democracy for future generations. They defended the future of freedom at places like Bunker Hill and Yorktown, Gettysburg and Antietam, the trenches of France, Guadalcanal and Normandy, the Korean peninsula, Vietnam, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq.

As we pay homage to our

nation's fallen soldiers, let us reaffirm our national commitment of keeping the freedom torch burning for tomorrow. Let us support the American soldiers who are defending freedom as we go about our daily business. In places like Afghanistan and Iraq, our troops are putting their lives on the line to protect our freedom and liberate people from oppressive regimes.

To be sure, it's sometimes easy to forget the significance and symbolism of Memorial Day, when the All-American traditions of summer are beckoning. After all, who can resist a day off from work, a picnic in the park, a dip in the pool, or

hamburgers, hot dogs and apple pie? But, the fact remains that Memorial Day is more than a holiday—it is a day when our nation should express gratitude to the military, who give real meaning to the phrase "All-American." Sadly, the unpro-

voled terrorist attack on America on September 11, 2001, was a reminder that we must never take our bountiful blessings or our freedom for granted.

(See **FREEDOM**, page eight)

9/11 witness remembers Iraqi casualties

by THOMAS WILLIAM O'CONNELL JR.

WASHINGTON—(Special to Army News Service, May 20, 2003)—For some, this Memorial Day weekend will mean watching parades or gathering for the season's first family picnics. Some will go to parks, while others will go to the beach. A lot of us will be having fun and eating our fill. And some will even remember what this weekend is really about. This Memorial Day, a lot of families across this nation will be remembering their loved ones who went off to war, and died in some distant land. They will be visiting national cemeteries to place a flag upon the grave, next to a weathered headstone. But... Some of them won't be able to, for the graves are too new. Instead, they will see their loved ones' graves marked only with a small stake and a piece of paper that is hard to read through tear-filled eyes. This is because their loved ones served in "Operation Iraqi Freedom" and the names of the

fallen have not yet been engraved upon a white stone. These fallen ones died for my freedom. Theirs is a gift that is hard for me to return. After all, I did not have to put my life and everything I hold dear on the line. I did not have to make the supreme sacrifice. As a young man, I registered for the draft, but my cerebral palsy prevented me from being called to serve.

Today, I'm too old to serve in uniform, anyway. And so, I do what I can do: I support our troops. For those who care, this is truly easier said than done. When I had heard of our first casualty, I felt as if someone from someplace just hit me square in the head. I did not know whether to cry or deny a

(See **MEMORIAL**, page eight)

Mary E. Charles
9/8/1934 - 5/9/2002

Mom, it's been one year, today, that the Lord took you home. It just isn't the same here without you.

We all know you're better off, where you are, but we miss you very much.

I hope that someday we will all meet again, so we can walk hand-in-hand down those Golden Streets of Glory.

Sadly missed by
Your Family & Friends
By Beverly Setser



Corporal Jesse B. Smith Jr.
Served in Korea
December 15, 1950 - September 17, 1952
H&S Co. 79th Engineer Construction Battalion

In Loving Memory
Martha Alice Burke




We miss not having you with us. We remember the things that you did for us and said to us.

Our comfort is in knowing that you are in Heaven with Jesus, and that you are looking down on all of us.



We love you!
Your loving husband and children

In Memory of Marie Cole Woodrum
11/18/34 - 12/20/92
Bertha Tackett Cole
10/13/13 - 4/21/89
James Austil Cole
11/14/13 - 8/18/94




Corporal Charles Johnson
Served in Korea
January 5, 1951 - October 5, 1952
7th Infantry Division Fort Knox, Ky.

In Memory of Dallas Garrett
Sept. 25, 1928 - Aug. 1, 2000

Safely Home
I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.
Did you wonder I so calmly
Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh! But Jesus' love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade
And He came Himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?
Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still,
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's will.
There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth—
You shall rest in Jesus' land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!

Buford Huff
Oct. 28, 1937 - Oct. 24, 1997



The Bridge Builder
An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide—
Why build you a bridge at the eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today,
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

Sadly missed by
Ruth, Your Children, and Grandchildren

*How do you explain the pain
You feel in your heart
When someone you love is dying,
And you know you have to part?
Everything bellows up inside you,
And it seems you can't get out
The things you want to say.
And you pray for God to give them
Just one more day.
You try not let yourself believe,
What in your heart you know.
Time is running out for them,
And you'll have to let them go.
Even though you see they're in so much pain
Knowing that when God calls them,
Heaven will be their gain.
Sometimes it seems selfish to
Pray for them to live,
But being able to let go, seems
More than you can give.
Where do you place your anger?
Who can you blame?
What do you do with those scrambled feelings,
Now that death has come?
Like pausing rain, memories flood your mind,
Finding strength to go on,
seems so hard to find.
Will your broken heart ever mend,
Will you ever be the same?
Where do you find answers to these questions,
Now that death has come?*

We Love you, Daddy!
Sadly Missed
by Family & Friends

In Memory of Willis Edward Hall
July 5, 1929 - May 30, 1986



God's Garden
God looked around His garden
And found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth,
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough,
And the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids,
And whispered "Peace be thine."
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.


In Memory of Jim and Sadie Slone



You have been gone for a few years, but the memories of you are still with us. We know that you are in Heaven, together with Jesus.

We love and miss you very much.
Your children

Jeff Boyd Jr.
11-11-01



Honey, you may be gone, But your memory remains strong.

Jeff, you were my life, my love!!!

Love always,
Shelvie

Dedicated to Herbert Prater, "Papaw"
October 29, 1911 - March 6, 1997



"Never Forget"
By Emily Katelyn Baldrige

I will never forget the way I felt when I held your hand in mine,
And touched your soft and silky skin, as smooth as aging wine.
I will never forget your laughing smile,
You always made me laugh, even on your last mile.

I will never forget your funny faces,
And how you made me believe I would go to great places.
I will never forget how you were always sitting in your red porch chair,
I could always count on you to be there, regardless if the weather wasn't fair.
I will never forget all the dollars you slipped me for an ice cream cone,
Your love for me never failed to be shown.
I will never forget the twinkle in your eye,
And how you always mumbled and strained to say, "Hi."

I will never forget your silky white hair,
And your baby blue eyes that gazed with a stare.
I will never forget your final dying day,
It never hit me until I saw your lifeless body there to lay.

I will never forget the way your stone cold face felt against my young, nine-year-old fingertips.
And how I kissed your cheek one last time with my tender lips.
I will never forget the pictures, flowers and handmade cards I placed beside your hands,
Or the way I felt when they closed the lid and covered you with dark sands.

I will never forget the pain that filled my heart,
When I realized that for awhile, we must part.
I will always keep your picture close by,
Until the day we are together once more and free to fly.

Summer

Continued from p6

June 19 and run on various nights through July 13. For a more complete schedule, visit www.kyshakes.org or call (502) 583-8738.

Summer Premieres

From the much-anticipated opening of the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea (July 30) to the premiere of exhibitions and anniversary celebrations honoring the state's claims to fame, several major attractions across the commonwealth are sharing center stage this summer.

While the soon-to-be released movie "SeaBiscuit" may mark Keeneland's debut on the silver screen, another Lexington horse attraction is celebrating a silver anniversary this summer. The Kentucky Horse Park turns 25 in 2003 and to mark the occasion the park is presenting its newest crown jewel. All the Queen's Horses: The Role of the Horse in British History is the most comprehensive exhibition ever to explore the rich equestrian heritage of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. See articles never before exhibited in

America — a collection valued at more than \$100 million and covering nearly 12,000 years — during the exhibit's exclusive run at the horse park, continuing through August 24 (www.kyhorsepark.com or call 800-678-8813).

One of Kentucky's own also is playing a starring role in a major summer event. In June, get your motor running to Bowling Green — that's the only place in the world where the Corvette is manufactured — for the 2003 golden anniversary of America's sports car. The Corvette has spent 50 years in the fast lane, and in June, thousands will be making a pit stop at the National Corvette Museum (NCM) as part of a week-long anniversary celebration (June 23-30). The party will shift into high gear with a host of scheduled festivities, among them: the 2003 National Corvette Caravan which will make a cross-country trek ending at the Bowling Green celebration (www.corvettemuseum.com or call 800-53VETTE).

A new Kentucky theme park will make its opening debut

Memorial Day weekend and travelers along Interstate 65 can't miss it, literally. A life-size, 20-foot-tall Tyrannosaurus Rex model overlooks the highway, marking the entrance to Dinosaur World, a new attraction to Cave City — which these days looks a bit more like "Jurassic Park." The Rex is one of more than 100 actual-size dinosaurs that will eventually inhabit the grounds.

Activities to be offered at the new park include a fossil dig, in which children can dig for authentic fossils; a giant dinosaur-themed jigsaw puzzle; replica caves for exploring; and educational programs about the animals and plants on display in the park. Regular single-day admission to the park will be \$9.75 for adults and \$7.75 for children (www.dinoworld.net).

Cliffhangers

This summer gear up for a series of adventure hikes along some of the state's most scenic trails. "Trekking Kentucky State Parks," a new summer-long series designed by the Kentucky Department of Parks, kicks-off June 7 (National Trails Day) and runs through mid-November.

Participants, escorted by accomplished guides along the three to six hour-long trails, are welcome to hike one, or the entire series of eight treks offered by the participating state parks. Those completing the series will receive hiking-related souvenirs, as well as become eligible for a grand-prize drawing.

Fees for the individual hikes range from \$10 to \$20, or a hiker can sign up for the entire series of eight treks for \$96. Registration forms are available at state parks, or go online to www.kystateparks.com for more details on registration, scheduled hiking dates and trail descriptions. Beyond the scheduled, public hikes, the Department of Parks also encourages groups to arrange their own treks at state parks this summer. Bookings can be made through park naturalist staff or by calling Kentucky State Parks at 502-564-8110.

Trekking Through Caves & Karst - Carter Caves SRP, Olive Hill (six-hour hike) Dates: June 7, Aug. 23, Sept. 20, Oct. 4, and Nov. 1

Blue Bend of the Cumberland - Cumberland Falls SRP, Corbin (four-hour hike)

Dates: June 7, Sept. 20, Oct. 11 and Nov. 1

Michael Tygart Trail - Greenbo Lake SRP, Grayson (five-hour hike) Dates: June 7, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, and Nov. 1

In the Footsteps of Jenny Wiley - Jenny Wiley SRP, Prestonsburg (four-hour hike) Dates: June 7, July 19, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, and Nov. 15

Creatures of the Night Trek - John James Audubon SP, Henderson (three-hour hike) Dates: June 7, July 12, Aug. 9, and Aug. 23

Heading Up Hood's - Natural Bridge SRP, Slade (four-hour hike) Dates: June 7, July 5, Aug. 2 and Sept. 1

Pennyrile Forest Foray - Pennyrile Forest SRP, Dawson Springs (two, three-hour hikes per day) Dates: June 7, July 19, Sept. 27 and Oct. 25

Explore Blanton Forest - Pine Mountain SRP, Pineville (five-hour hike) Dates: Aug. 23, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, and Oct. 25

For a true summer thriller

that will leave you hanging on edge, visit Torrent Falls, Kentucky's new outdoor climbing adventure park and family resort. Based on the European sport called Via Ferrata ("iron path"), the outdoor attraction takes Kentucky to new heights with 42 acres of climbing adventure in eastern Kentucky's Red River Gorge Geologic Area, just seven miles from the Natural Bridge State Resort Park. Beyond rock-climbing and hiking activities (suitable for all levels of experience), the park also offers Bed and Breakfast and cabin accommodations. For more information, call 606-668-6441 or visit www.torrentfalls.com.

For an encore listing of travel ideas throughout Kentucky, visit www.kentuckytourism.com or call 800-225-TRIP (8747). Ask for the 2003 Great Kentucky Getaway Guide — it's free. Travel the commonwealth and find out why it's that friendly!

Memorial

Continued from p7

military action I fully supported. I knew I had to do something for these men and women who marched to battle with my support and encouragement. You may ask, why? No one in the military has ever heard of me, but that is not the point. Whether you are a private citizen or a public official, whatever you say and do has an impact. I had to do something to bring about recognition to all those military people who lost their lives protecting my freedom. I found that the best way I could honor our troops and give them the recognition they

deserve, was by posting the names of the fallen in the Iraqi campaign in a lobby display at my New York City building. It is my small way of letting them know I appreciate their sacrifices on my behalf. When Memorial Day comes this year, I will spend some time thinking of the families left behind. I will pray in my own way that all will be comforted. That their grief may be short lived. And their memories will be many, and live forever. And, when a slight breeze passes me by, I will think of it as one of the fallen ones just passing through on his or her way home.

(Editor's note: Thomas William O'Connell Jr., an employee of Empire City Subway Company, Ltd., evacuated from his workplace near the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, and witnessed the collapse of the Twin Towers.)

Freedom

Continued from p7

Today, thousands of U.S. servicemen and women remain in Afghanistan, Iraq, Southwest Asia, Bosnia, and over 120 countries around the world, where the mission to stamp out terrorism and inhumane atrocities continues, supported by the resolve of the American people.

In addition to honoring the memory of those who gave their lives for this country, I urge you to reach out to their families, to our living veterans, and to the service men and women who continue to defend our freedom. Hold our fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines close to your heart. Share an act of kindness with the men and women who have, or who continue to serve their country.

The words that adorn the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, where many of our

heroes are interred, also speak volumes about the bravery and valor of the men and women who risked their lives for our nation.

"Not for fame or reward, not for place or rank, not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity, but in simple obedience to duty as they understood it, these men suffered all, sacrificed all, dared all and died."

May the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country live forever in our memories. And may we honor them by doing everything we can to protect freedom for future generations, whenever, and wherever, it is threatened.

God bless you, and God bless America.

Jerry Fannin
Mayor
City of Prestonsburg

Prestonsburg Health Care Center awarded 2002 Facility of the Year by corporate

Home Quality Management Inc., one of the largest, privately held long term care companies in the United States, recently announced its 2002 Facility of the Year Awards.

In recognition of exceptional performance and providing the highest level of quality nursing care, the Prestonsburg Health Care Center was awarded Facility of the Year 2002: 100 beds or less. Presentation of the awards was conducted by Elizabeth Fago, chairman, and Joseph Steier, president.

Prestonsburg is a 56-bed skilled nursing facility and was acquired by HQM 18 months ago and has done a 180-degree turnaround.

After her visit to Prestonsburg, Elizabeth Fago, chairman, stated, "Prestonsburg truly embodies the moral attributes, clinical expectations and

human characteristics of a superb long term care facility. I am honored and encouraged by the excellent performance of the department heads, licensed nurses, certified nursing assistants, dietary staff, and housekeeping and laundry aides for the beautiful facility they have created."

Also present at the awards ceremony was HQM President, Joseph Steier, who noted, "the quaintness of Prestonsburg represents the warm, country home atmosphere of the facility. We love the community of Prestonsburg and the care provided by the staff in the building."

For more information regarding Prestonsburg Health Care Center, or to schedule a tour, please contact Elaine Hunter, administrator at 606-886-2378, or e-mail Elaine at admin-preston@hqmmail.com.

★ In 1889, Eufaula native Jamie Rhodes was making plans to marry his girlfriend, Mamie Harwell. He had taken into account most of the details to make the event a special day. What he hadn't counted on was winning the New Orleans lottery. But that's exactly what he did. Wanting to make the most of his good fortune, Jamie used the money to build a Victorian cottage in which the couple could begin their new life together. And he ended up with a place where his lucky numbers made him feel like the luckiest man in the world. ★ The Rhodes-Purcell home is still standing today. And its story is just one of hundreds you can experience on an intimate walking tour of Eufaula.

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WASN'T DRAWING UP THE PLANS.

★

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			Montgomery		

FOR A FREE VACATION GUIDE CALL 1-800-ALABAMA OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.TOURALABAMA.ORG

Also included are the Couric-Smith house, the ancestral home of The Today Show's Katie Couric, the historic Shorter Mansion and the barbershop in the Bluff City Inn which dates back to 1885. ★ Alabama's history is filled with unique tales that are both entertaining and enlightening. And one of the best ways to learn about things like the historic district in Huntsville or the Civil War legacy of Selma, is on our free walking tours. More than 30 tours take place all across the state, every Saturday at 10:00 a.m., from May 24 through July 5. For tour locations, directions and other information, go to www.alwalkingtours.com. Or call 1-800-ALABAMA and ask about our walking tours. ★

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HERALD Email: hazardherald@setel.com

TIMES Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

Recruits pack punch for PC softball program

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PIKEVILLE – Robert Staggs is hot on the recruiting trail of new softball talent for his program at Pikeville College. Staggs, who just recently wrapped up his first season at the helm of the PC fast-pitch softball program, landed Johnson

Central's Brianne Daniels and East Ridge's Heather Swiney earlier this week. And he plans to sign more players from the area.

In Daniels, Staggs gets a player who has over 1,000 strikeouts in her high school varsity career and should be able to contribute early in college.

"Brianne is an excellent

pitcher who has had a fine career," said Staggs. "I don't think it's any coincidence that softball at Johnson Central has gotten better as she came along. She'll be very good for us as we continue to build our softball program at Pikeville College. We look forward to having her around for four years."

Swiney is a versatile player

and solid performer for East Ridge. With Swiney, Staggs sees many options.

"Heather brings a lot to the table for us," Staggs admitted. "She's an excellent first baseman who can hit the ball, and that's something we need to continue to improve on. Plus she can

(See PUNCH, page two)



photo by Rick Bentley

East Ridge senior Heather Swiney is one of the newest Pikeville College signees.

AUTO RACING

All things equal, Hendrick teams flourishing

by JENNA FRYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONCORD, N.C. — The perception of Hendrick Motorsports used to be that superstar Jeff Gordon got all the best parts and pieces and everyone else got the leftovers.

Car owner Rick Hendrick tried for years to disprove that, but few believed him.

Now he's got proof: A different Hendrick car has won three of the past four races and his fourth Winston Cup car won a pole.

For the first time in a long time, it looks as if Hendrick's teams are almost equal from top to bottom.

"We try and preach the chemistry, that if we work together and try to learn from each other, we'll be better off," Hendrick said. "Based on the level of competition, this is the best that all four have been."

Gordon scored his first win of the

(See TEAMS, page two)

H.S. FOOTBALL

Coaches named for Hatfield-McCoy game

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

MATEWAN, W.Va. — This year's Hatfield-McCoy Senior All-Star game is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 26. The game will be played at Tiger Stadium in Matewan, W.Va.

Logan (W.Va.) High School's George Barker will coach the West Virginia team and

Pikeville College assistant coach Butch Joplin will guide the Kentucky unit. Last year's Kentucky team was coached by former South Floyd head

(See COACHES, page two)

Lady Panthers need games

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PIKEVILLE — Regardless of who heads the Pikeville High School girls' basketball program next season, games must still be scheduled. And Pikeville needs games in December 2003 and/or January 2004.

Pikeville is looking for two games. Available dates include Dec. 18, Dec. 19, Dec. 20, Jan. 5, Jan. 12, Jan. 13 or most Saturdays.

To schedule a game, email Coach Maria Shockey at mshockey@pikeville.k12.ky.us. Rumors regarding the coaching job at Pikeville have swirled

(See GAMES, page two)

— ALICE LLOYD SIGNING —

"He has the talent and athletic ability to individually take over a game," — said Gibson.



Powell County senior Jeremy Jones recently signed to play college basketball at Alice Lloyd College.

JONES INKS WITH ALICE LLOYD COLLEGE

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PIPPA PASSES — A Powell County Pirate will continue playing basketball at the next level in college at Alice Lloyd College.

Jeremy Jones, one of the top basketball players in Eastern Kentucky signed recently to continue his bas-

ketball career with the Alice Lloyd College Eagles. And he has ties to both ALC and Floyd County. He is following in the footsteps of his father, Monroe Jones, a graduate of Wheelwright High School, who finished his career with the Eagles in the early 1980s.

Jeremy Jones had an outstanding career for the Powell County Pirates

that included a trip to the State Tournament in March. The 14th Region star narrowed his college choices to ALC and Union before choosing the Eagles.

The 6-foot-2 shooting guard was one of the top scorers in the state averaging around 24 points per game

(See JONES, page two)

COLLEGE BASEBALL

ALC signs area players

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIPPA PASSES — The Alice Lloyd College baseball program is getting restocked as you read this. Eagles baseball coach Scott Cornett has announced several recent signees from area high schools.

The signees include Jesse Keith Smith for Lee County.

Smith stands 6-foot-5 and already throws in the mid-80s. He has an accomplished curve and change-up to go along with his fastball.

Cornett says that Smith is one of the top players in the 14th Region and in the Mountains. He is expected to have an immediate impact on the Eagles pitching rotation.

Dustin Barnett, a shortstop and pitcher from Breathitt

County has also signed with the Eagles. Barnett is 6-foot-one with a good arm and good hands. He is very athletic and has the potential to be a good college infielder.

(See ALC, page two)

KHSAA

Belfry's Dotson elected BoC President

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

LEXINGTON — Paul Dotson of Belfry was elected Board of Control president for the upcoming 2003-04 schools year when the Board met this past week. Jim Sexton of Louisville, current Eastern High School principal, was elected vice-president.

Dotson and Sexton each have a long history of working with the KHSAA and its student-athletes and coaches.

In other action, the City of Owensboro and Jack Fisher Park were awarded the 2004 and 2005 State Fast

(See DOTSON, page two)

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Isaac named new South Floyd girls coach

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HI HAT — A familiar face around South Floyd is the new head girls' basketball coach. South Floyd Middle School

boys' basketball coach Tony Isaac has been named the new South Floyd High girls' basketball coach. He replaces Melinda Osborne, who stepped down after three seasons of calling the shots for the program.

Isaac has also served as an assistant coach in the South Floyd High boys' basketball program under current head coach Henry Webb. He coached grade school girls at Melvin. The opportunity to coach a high

school basketball team is one Isaac is very excited about.

"I'm looking forward to getting started," said Isaac. "It's not too often you get to be a head

(See ISAAC, page three)



Tony Isaac

BASEBALL

Larkin's days as everyday player are winding down

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Barry Larkin knows that he's not going to be the Cincinnati Reds' starting shortstop much longer.

Another leg injury has put the Reds' captain back on the disabled list and reminded him that at age 39, it's time to

expect a diminished role.

"I'm going through a transition period," Larkin said Thursday, after going on the 15-day disabled list with a strained calf. "I think this just points out the obvious, that I'm not going to be out there playing every day.

"Truth be told, I didn't expect to be

(See PLAYER, page two)



Leslie



Stapp

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Marshall announces Football TV schedule

TIMES STAFF REPORT

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — A Friday night nationally-televised home game with the University of Toledo highlights Marshall University's 2003 seven-game television schedule that was announced today by Director of Athletics Bob Marcum.

The Thundering Herd will meet the Rockets on Friday, Sept. 12th at Marshall University Stadium before a nation-

(See MARSHALL, page two)

Eastern Kentucky signs three players

by MURRAY EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mamadou Diakhate of Manhasset, N.Y.; 6-5, 200-pound forward Julian Mascoll of Clearwater, Fla.; and 6-6, 205-pound swingman Terrez DeWalt of Bowling Green, a transfer from St. Catharine College.

The trio signed with Eastern Kentucky during the recently completed spring signing period. DeWalt, Mascoll and

Diakhate join two players who signed with the Colonels during the fall signing period — Michael Brock of Independence, who attended Simon Brock High School, and Brandon Moore of Huntington, W.Va., who was that state's prep player of the year.

"This class is very versatile," Ford said. "We have defenders, shooters, specialty-type players and people who are very athletic."

"These guys were very good, young, high school basketball players and made a name for themselves in high school in different states. I believe this kind of excellent play will carry over into their days at Eastern. I am very excited about this recruiting class."

At least one national recruiting expert agrees with Ford.

"This recruiting class is easily the best recruiting class that Ford has landed during his three years at the helm of the Colonels," said Clark Francis,

editor and publisher of HoopScoop.

"The addition of Mascoll gives Travis Ford the nucleus he not only needs to turn the pro-

gram around in a hurry, but a good group of young players in the program," Francis said. Diakhate averaged 22.8 points, 8.8 rebounds and 6.3

assists last season for St. Mary's High School. He led St. Mary's to the New York Class B

(See SIGNS, page three)

Jones

his senior year. He also averaged 6 rebounds and three assists while shooting 76-percent from the free throw line and 56-percent from the field. According to ALC Coach Gary Gibson the Pirate recruit is very athletic.

"He has the talent and athletic ability to individually take over a game," said Gibson.

"We are very pleased that he has chosen to continue his career at ALC."

Raleigh also signs

Ryan Raleigh, a 6-foot-3 forward, has also signed to continue his basketball career with the ALC Eagles.

Raleigh averaged 15 points, seven assists and six rebounds during his senior year at Breathitt County. The Bobcats were one of the top teams in the 14th Region this past season behind Powell County and Perry County Central.

Teams

year April 13 in Martinsville, Va. Two races later, Terry Labonte won the pole in Richmond and teammate Joe Nemechek won the race.

Jimmie Johnson then capped the run Saturday by passing Gordon to take the lead and go on to win The Winston, NASCAR's \$1 million all-star race.

Headed into the Coca-Cola 600 on Sunday, all four Hendrick cars are considered legitimate contenders.

"As an outsider looking in, I don't know how I felt about who got what," said Nemechek, who celebrates his first anniversary at Hendrick this weekend. "Now being here, I know what resources are made available and we should all have an opportunity to win every week. All the teams are equal, everybody talks, and the communication between the teams is really good."

The teams are able to work together despite being separated at Hendrick's sprawling Charlotte racing complex. Gordon and Johnson's teams are housed in one shop atop a hill that overlooks the two separate buildings Nemechek and Labonte are in.

Gordon has always believed the car owner wanted all his teams to work together. But now that he has equity in the organization, he's positive the data, ideas and technology flows down the hill to everyone else.

"Rick has always made it clear he wants us to share all of our information," Gordon said. "And I think it's happening because right now, everybody from top to bottom is on the same page. Everybody gets

along, everybody respects each other and everybody operates with an open-door policy."

There were whispers things weren't always that way, dating back to 1996 when Gordon and Labonte battled for the Winston Cup championship. They finished 1-2 in the standings, but the spirit of cooperation among teammates wasn't there for the crew chiefs.

Gordon doesn't think the secrecy of those years was intentional; rather, it was a difference of styles.

"The 24 car was fairly new and was open to trying new things," Gordon said. "And I think (Labonte's team members) just had their own way of doing things."

"Now, times have changed, and everyone has to be open to everything to be successful in this sport."

Johnson, in only his second season at Hendrick Motorsports, says he has noticed an improvement in teamwork since last year.

Hendrick has always given all the teams the same access to resources, then left it up to each crew chief to apply them. So if the crew chiefs all differed in how they set the cars up, it was possible the Hendrick cars started each race running completely different setups.

But Johnson said Hendrick has been careful with his recent hires, only adding people who could fit in with the crews already in place.

"I think you saw that with (Nemechek's) crew when Peter Sospenzo was hired last year as the crew chief," Johnson said. "They brought in someone who could work with the guys who were already assembled, some-

one with a similar personality to the people we already have in place."

"It just makes it a lot easier to stay within the spirit of team work."

But there's still times when it's every driver for himself, proven in April at Talladega when all four Hendrick cars were running up front in the waning laps of the race.

But rather than hook up and push each other to the front, the four spread out all over the track.

As a result, Johnson, who had the strongest car, had no teamwork to help him win the race. "Talladega is just a very different place," Gordon said. "It's easy to work together when you are running 1-2, but in traffic, it's hard to get four guys together at a place like that and all of you have the same approach."

Regardless, Hendrick's operation is as close to being even as it's ever been and will probably trickle down to his Busch Series teams, where heralded teenagers Brian Vickers and Kyle Busch are being groomed as Hendrick's future stars.

Vickers, 19, has already proven to be a threat in every race and Busch, 18, has won both ARCA races Hendrick entered him in and will make his Busch debut Saturday at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

"This is an incredible organization all the way down the line," Busch said. "We have tremendous equipment and resources and for a young guy like myself, having those four Winston Cup drivers to turn to for help and advice is incredible."

Swoosh!! Nike gives LeBron James mega deal

by TOM WITHERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AKRON, Ohio — LeBron James went to school Thursday with enough lunch money for everyone.

The hyped high school senior and expected No. 1 pick in next month's NBA draft, signed a multiyear endorsement deal with Nike worth over \$90 million, a risky move by the shoe and sports apparel giant that helped make Michael Jordan famous.

Nike won a heated bidding war against sneaker rivals Reebok and Adidas to sign the 18-year-old James, considered a

possible successor to Jordan on the floor and on Madison Avenue.

"It truly came down to which company LeBron was most comfortable with," said Aaron Goodwin, his agent. "Up until the end, I thought we were going

with Reebok." Terms of the deal were not released, but a source close to James, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press the deal was

(See JAMES, page three)

Coaches

coach Nathan Jones. Area coaches who were assistants under Jones for the game included James DeRossett (Prestonsburg) and B.J. Ward (Paintsville).

Rosters for this year's game are expected to be announced some time in June.

Matewan High School Coach

Yogi Kinder, the game's director, is busy planning the annual game. Kinder, just this past week, resigned from Rocky Mount (N.C.) High School where he had taken a position as head coach a few weeks back. Instead of going to North Carolina, he will simply stay and coach at Matewan.

Games

for the past couple of months.

The name of current Allen Central head coach Cindy Halbert has been mentioned with the Pikeville program.

No official word has been announced by Pikeville school officials on any type of coaching change.

Marshall

al television audience on ESPN at 7 p.m. In addition to the Toledo contest, Marshall will make at least two other national television appearances. The Thundering Herd's November 12th contest at Miami and November 19th game at Central Florida will be carried by ESPN.

WSAZ-TV will broadcast four contests live. WSAZ will carry the August 30 home opener with Hofstra, the September 27th game at Troy State, the October 18 game at Buffalo, and the October 25th tilt at Western Michigan.

Three Mid-American Conference home games, contests with Kent State, Akron, and Ohio, will not be televised.

Prestonsburg High School graduate Nathan Leslie and Sheldon Clark High grad Joey Stepp will each enter senior seasons in the fall. Both came out of spring drills as offensive line starters.

Season tickets, available for as

Dotson

Pitch Softball Tournaments. Owensboro has hosted the event four previous times, twice at Fisher Park and twice at Panther Creek Park. The first two KHSAA State Fast Pitch Tournaments were played

at Jack Fisher Park back in 1995 and 1996.

Hopkinsville, site of this year's State Fast Pitch Tournament and Jeffersontown, also a previous host, also submitted proposals to host the event.

The Board approved a \$2.7 million operating budget for the Association for 2003-04 that included the continuation of the catastrophic insurance program for its member school students-athletes during the playing season at a cost of nearly \$140,000.

Player

doing that after this year, anyway."

Larkin is in the final year of a three-year, \$27 million deal. Nagging injuries have limited him all three years and prompted the Reds to trade for young shortstop Felipe Lopez in the offseason.

Manager Bob Boone planned to play Larkin five days a week during the season, giving Lopez a chance to develop slowly as the backup. More leg problems have scuttled the plan.

Larkin strained his left calf and went on the disabled list from April 15 to May 5. He returned and hit a game-ending homer on his first swing, the highlight of his season.

A few games later, he aggravated the left calf, knocking him out of the lineup temporarily. He strained the other calf Wednesday night while running the bases. Medical tests found no tear, but the Reds can't afford to keep carrying an injured infielder.

Larkin, Boone and general manager Jim Bowden met late Thursday afternoon and decided the disabled list was the best option. Doctors told Larkin he should be fully healed in two weeks.

"This is in Barry's best interest," Boone said. "If Barry wants to play in the future, he's got to show the world that he can still play. And when you're out there on one leg trying to do it, you're going to look like you can't play."

Larkin has spent his 17-year career with the Reds, who made him their first-round draft pick in 1985. When Ozzie Smith's

career wound down, Larkin became the National League's premier shortstop, winning three Gold Gloves, nine Silver Slugger awards and the 1995 league MVP.

He hasn't been the same since tearing groin muscles and developing a hernia that required surgery in 2001, limiting him to 45 games. He played in 145 games last year, but hit only .245 because of a toe injury, strained rib cage muscles, spasms in his shoulder and neck, and a sore calf.

Larkin has intensified his conditioning drills to prolong his run as a starter, but hasn't been able to avoid muscle injuries. Former Reds outfielder and coach Ken Griffey Sr. warned him years ago that he'd come to this point.

"I remember Mr. Griffey would tell me: You're going to be old one day," Larkin said. "You're going to get there one day, and all of the little things will catch up with you. That's what I'm going through now."

The Reds called up infielder Ryan Freel from Class Triple-A Louisville to take Larkin's place. Freel also filled in while Larkin was on the disabled list the first time.

Lopez will take over at shortstop, the position he's expected to get on an everyday basis next season. Larkin expects to share the position with Lopez when he returns from the disabled list.

"I know I'm in a transition period, and that's fine," Larkin said. "I've accepted it already. I'm definitely not in the mode of going out there and trying to play seven days a week. It's just something that I've had to accept, and I have."

Larkin, who grew up in Cincinnati, would like to stay with the Reds in a reserve role next season. The series of injuries has made him wonder whether he should just retire.

"There's been plenty of times when I've asked myself that question," Larkin said. "The day when I say I don't want to go through the rehab, that's the day I stop playing. I haven't gotten there yet."

Punch

pitch, and you can never have enough quality pitching around. Being left-handed helps her there also. She has a lot to offer and we're glad to add her to our program."

In his first season at the helm of the Bears fast-pitch program, Staggs was able to register a dozen wins.

IT'S TIME TO PLAY BALL!

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The Floyd County Times
P.O. Box 390
Prestonsburg, KY. 41653

— REGIONAL SPORTS CALENDAR —

Golf

606/353-7230.

Blackcat Touchdown Club Golf Scramble

The Blackcat Touchdown Club Golf Scramble will be held on Saturday, May 24 at Beaver Valley Golf Course at Stumbo Park. The entry fee for each team is \$200. First place will pay the winning team \$1,000; second-place \$750; third-place \$500; fourth-place \$250.

Longest drive, longest putt and closest to the pin will also win cash prizes. Tee-off is scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

To pre-register call any of the following people: Gerald DeRossett - 886-6090; John DeRossett - 886-6639; Bobby Hackworth - 886-2301; Rodney Ousley - 874-0317.

Belfry Golf Scramble

The Belfry High School football team will hold a golf scramble June 6 at the Mountain Pub Links. Registration will be at noon and the scramble starts at 1 p.m. The fee is \$50 per person and \$200 per team and includes a free meal after the event. For more information, call 606/353-7239 or

Morehead State Golf Camp

The 2003 Morehead State University Golf Camp will be held June 8-13 at Sunny Brook Golf Course in Morehead. Call 606-783-2500 for more information. Information on the recent Morehead State University all-sports banquet appears inside today's edition.

Basketball

Runnin' Rebel Basketball Camp

The Runnin' Rebel Basketball Camp will take place June 9-13 at Allen Central High School. The camp will run from 8:30 a.m. until noon, daily. Cost of the camp is \$60. The camp is for children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

The camp will cover all aspects of the game and include many contests.

Free breakfast and lunch will be served daily. Each participant will receive a T-shirt, basketball and trophy. For more information, call 358-9217.

Coach Crisp Blackcat Basketball Camp

The second annual Coach Crisp Basketball Camp will be held June 4-6 at the Prestonsburg High School Fieldhouse from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost of the camp is \$40 per player or \$70 for two players in the same family. The camp is for ages 5-12. The camp will include contests, drills, game and prizes. Each participant will receive a camp T-shirt. Concessions will also be available each day.

For more information or to pre-register contact Kim Compton by calling 886-1206.

And 1 Skills Camp

Pikeville College will host the And 1 Skills Camp, directed by former University of Kentucky star Rex Chapman, June 30-July 2. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and lunch is included. Registration costs \$220 and includes lunch daily, instruction by former NBA and UK players, three-point and free-throw contests, gift packs and T-shirts. For more information, call 859/231-1244.

Pike Central Basketball Camp

Pike County Central High School will host the annual Hawks Basketball Camp June 9-12. The camp is co-ed and will run from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Registration costs \$60; each additional child from the same family can register for \$30. To pre-register or for more information, contact David Rowe at 606/432-7044 or 606/432-5137.

Shelby Valley Basketball Camp

The annual Shelby Valley Boys' Basketball Camp will be held June 2-5. The camp will run from 9 a.m. to noon and is open to boys in kindergarten through ninth grade. The fee for each camper is \$40. To preregister or for more information contact Coach Rodney Rowe at 606/639-9816 or 606/639-0033.

Panther Basketball Camp

The annual Panther Basketball Camp will be held June 2-6. The camp will run from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. for boys and girls ages 6-10 and 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. for boys and girls ages 11-14. The fee for each camper is \$50. Preregistration is recommended. To register or for more information contact Coach Dave Thomas or Coach Bart Williams at 606/432-0185.

YMCA Summer League

The Pikeville Area Family YMCA will accept registration for its men's and women's summer basketball leagues through Friday. Referees are also needed for those leagues. Referees will receive a complimentary YMCA membership. For more information, contact Carl Johnson at 606/433-9622.

Cheerleading

UCA Camp

A UCA camp is scheduled for Pikeville and Pikeville High School. Any student in grades K-8 looking for a camp to attend this summer can attend the UCA Youth Individual Cheerleading Camp. Attending campers will learn the basics of cheerleading from America's best cheerleaders. The camp will be held July 21-23 at Pikeville High School, beginning at 9 a.m. and running through 3:30 p.m. The cost of the camp is \$100. For more information or to register, call 1-800-238-0285. Locally, contact Lisa Wheeler by calling 606/432-0185.

ning at 9 a.m. and running through 3:30 p.m. The cost of the camp is \$100. For more information or to register, call 1-800-238-0285. Locally, contact Lisa Wheeler by calling 606/432-0185.

Soccer

Pikeville Boosters Meeting

The Pikeville High School Soccer Boosters meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

in the Commons Area of the high school.

Baseball

Youth league

The Pikeville Area YMCA has several youth baseball leagues open for registration. The league includes T-ball for ages 3-6, coaches' pitch for ages 5 and 6, coaches' pitch for ages 7 and 8, and coaches' pitch for ages 9-11. For more information call Greg Boggs at 606/433-9622.

Baseball & Softball Rankings

State Fast-Pitch Softball Poll:

1. Christian County; 2. Owensboro Catholic; 3. Greenwood; 4. Elizabethtown; 5. Manual; 6. Middlesboro; 7. Ballard; 8. North Laurel; 9. Dunbar; 10. Grayson County; 11. Boone County; 12. Mercy; 13. Henderson County; 14. Eastern 15. LaRue County; 16. North Hardin; 17. Hopkinsville; 18. Lone Oak; 19. Madison Central; 20. Reidland; 21. Lafayette; 22. Conner; 23. Russell; 24. South Laurel; 25. Sacred Heart.

State Baseball Poll:

1. Dunbar; 2. Lexington Catholic; 3. Pleasure Ridge Park; 4. Elizabethtown; 5. West Jessamine; 6. LaRue County; 7. Trinity; 8. Covington Catholic; 9. Pulaski County; 10. Boone County; 11. Lafayette; 12. Glasgow; 13. Ballard; 14. Eastern; 15. Christian County; 16. Nelson County; 17. Rockcastle County; 18. Sheldon Clark; 19. Boyle County; 20. St. Xavier; 21. Green County; 22. Lone Oak; 23. Taylor County; 24. Greenwood; 25. Male.

H.S. BASEBALL

AC falls to East Ridge

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LICK CREEK — Allen Central couldn't come up with the answers Tuesday evening in a road game.

Tyler Ratliff picked up the win and Brandon Ratliff took the save as the East Ridge baseball team won its fourth straight game with an 8-3 victory over Allen Central at Warrior Field.

East Ridge (11-8) fell behind 2-0 after the first inning before scoring three runs in the

bottom half of the frame when Tyler Ratliff drove in T.R. Adkins and Brandon Sawyers knocked in Nick Clevinger and then Sawyers crossed the plate himself.

Allen Central (11-9) scored two runs in the top of the first inning and added another in the fifth, but East Ridge scored twice in the bottom half of the fifth and three more times in the third. John Hall, Dustin Hammonds and Alex Patton, were among those who contributed at the plate for Allen

Central in the loss.

Adkins went 3-for-4 and scored three runs for East Ridge and Brandon Ratliff had three RBIs and scored twice at the plate. Sawyers, Clevinger and Matt Puckett each scored once for the Warriors and Tyler Ratliff and Sawyers each had an RBI.

Neil Allen took the loss for Allen Central.

Allen Central topped Prestonsburg 9-1 Wednesday at Drift Park during the Rebels' final regular-season game. Allen Central, the defending 58th District Champion, enters this year's district tournament again as the No. 1 seed and the Floyd County Conference champ.

James

Continued from p2

for seven years and valued at more than \$90 million.

On Thursday night, the Cleveland Cavaliers won the NBA draft lottery, and with it the right to select James. Cavs owner Gordon Gund held up a Cleveland jersey with James' name embroidered on the back and his No. 23.

James' choice of Nike, a \$10 billion company and the market leader in athletic shoes, closed a frantic final week of negotiating by Goodwin with representatives for all three companies bent on signing the 6-foot-8 St. Vincent-St. Mary star.

Despite the huge deal, James didn't miss classes after signing the contract, driving his pewter-colored Hummer to school and parking it in the lot.

"Nike is the right fit and has the right product for me," James said. "They are a great group of people who are committed to supporting me throughout my professional career, on and off the court."

James' deal dwarfs any of the previous initial contracts given to a young, unproven player who is skipping college and has yet to shoot his first jump shot in the NBA.

"There's no question about it, there is a tremendous risk here," said John Horan, publisher of the Sporting Goods Intelligence newsletter.

Nike's package includes a personal shoe and apparel line for James, who will have artistic input into his sneaker model, Goodwin said.

After Adidas pulled out of negotiations early Wednesday, Goodwin said representatives from Reebok and Nike pushed hard, hoping the other would buckle. Reebok reportedly offered \$75 million.

James' deal is believed to be the richest ever given as an initial endorsement contract. It is also nearly on par with the five-year, \$100 million deal Nike gave Tiger Woods in 2000.

When Jordan signed his first contract with Nike in 1984, it was for \$2.5 million over five years. Shaquille O'Neal received \$3 million from Reebok in 1992. Four years

later, 17-year-old Kobe Bryant skipped college and got \$5 million from Adidas.

Reebok signed Allen Iverson to a \$50 million lifetime deal in 1996, and Tracy McGrady, another player who went to the NBA straight from high school, signed a six-year, \$12 million contract with Adidas in 1997.

Combine those five, and they still don't equal James' deal. Before his first dunk, he's already soaring over some of his peers.

Bob Williams, president of Burns Sports & Celebrities, a marketing group which matches athletes with advertisers, said Nike had no choice but to extend itself.

"This was a full-blown, all-out price war," he said. "Nike won it. I think that Nike is the leader in the industry, and the leader in the industry cannot have a player with the potential of LeBron James sign with a competitor."

Nike signed Carmelo Anthony to a shoe and apparel deal on Tuesday. Anthony, who led Syracuse to the national championship in April, is a close friend of James and projected to be taken second in the June 26 draft.

James also signed an exclusive multiyear contract with Upper Deck trading cards Wednesday. That deal includes a \$1 million signing bonus.

Of the three companies, Nike got the final chance to make a lasting impression with James, his mother, Gloria, and Goodwin. The group spent last weekend at Nike's corporate headquarters in Beaverton, Ore., where the company made its final presentation.

James had previously seen offers from Reebok and Adidas, whose final push included putting up billboards and placing messages on buses in Akron directed at James.

Goodwin denied that getting the shoe deal signed before the draft lottery was a priority.

"That had nothing to do with it," Goodwin said. "We just wanted the right fit, and it turned out to be Nike."

GOLF

Golf tournament for scouting planned for Letcher Co. course

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

The grand-opening of the 18-hole Raven Rock Course in Jenkins is planned for Friday. The grand opening will be held in conjunction with the First Annual Raven Rock Boy Scout Golf Tournament. The tournament is a four-man scramble with prizes going to the top

three teams. Prizes will also be available for the closest to the pin and longest drives. Door prizes will also be awarded.

Lunch will be served at noon. Tee-off time is 1 p.m. Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Lonesome Pine District Boy Scouts of America.

For more information, call James Howard at 606/874-4457.

H.S. BASKETBALL

Belcher signs with Asbury College

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

LICK CREEK — East Ridge High School has its first male athlete headed to college on a full athletic scholarship. He is Matt Belcher, and he's going to Asbury College.

Belcher and his East Ridge teammates finished 19-10 and captured a 59th District championship with a win over defending 15th Region Shelby Valley this past winter.

Belcher was one of six East Ridge players to average double figures scoring during the 2002-03 season.

Asbury, a National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association (NCCAA) and National Association of Intercollegiate

Athletics (NAIA) member, is located just south of Lexington.

Belcher averaged 14.8 points per game and grabbed nearly five rebounds per contest to lead the Warriors to instant respectability in the 59th District and 15th Region.

Asbury is ranked among the top 10 regional liberal arts colleges in the South by U.S. News & World Report and listed as a character-building institution in The Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development. In its second century of providing Christ-centered, liberal arts education, Asbury annually enrolls approximately 1,300 students from 43 states and 14 foreign countries.

Isaac

Continued from p1

high school basketball coach."

The new coach has some shoes to fill.

With Osborne at the helm, South Floyd won a district title and finished runner-up in the 15th Region All "A" Classic, both in 2001, her first season.

Last season, Osborne's third campaign, South Floyd finished 8-

19. Leading players who'll return for Isaac's first season at the top of the Lady Raider program include seniors Ashley Johnson and Megan Ousley.

Names rumored for the job besides Isaac included Jack Pack, April Bradford, Paul Cline, Ronnie Patton, John Martin, Susan Damron, and Greg Johnson.

HORSE RACING

Funny Cide goes for first jog since Preakness win

by RICHARD ROSENBLATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Funny Cide returned to the racetrack for the first time since winning the Preakness, jogging once around Belmont Park's 1 1/2-mile track Wednesday morning.

"You can't keep him in the stall forever," trainer Barclay Tagg said outside his barn in a light rain. "I think he's doing great. He came out of the race very good."

Funny Cide, who Saturday added the Preakness to his May 3 Kentucky Derby victory, will try to win the Belmont Stakes on June 7 and become the first Triple Crown champion since Affirmed in 1978.

A win would earn Funny Cide's owners — a 10-man partnership called Sackatoga Stable — a Triple Crown bonus of \$5 million from Visa USA.

Tagg said Funny Cide will jog or gallop the next five or six days before his next timed workout. The 3-year-old son of Distorted Humor seems to be getting stronger with each race.

The first gelding to try for a Triple Crown, Funny Cide finished a half-length behind Empire Maker in the Wood Memorial on April 12, then beat Empire Maker by 1 3/4 lengths in the Derby. Funny Cide won the Preakness by a near-

record 9 3/4 lengths last Saturday.

"He's really coming into his own," Tagg said. "Each race has been better, and he's getting more focused."

So is jockey Jose Santos.

"He has been getting more and more used to him," the trainer added. "As soon as he and the horse got a hang of everything, it's come together like magic."

Also Wednesday, the Belmont gained a starter in Colita and lost one in Most Feared.

Colita won a 1 1/16th-mile allowance race at Belmont, and Team Valor's Barry Irwin said his colt "will go in the Belmont Stakes. We think he can go that far."

Trainer Ronny Werner said Most Feared, second behind Dynever in the Lone Star Derby, is headed elsewhere.

"There's been a change in plans," Werner said. "He'd have some pretty tough company to keep in the Belmont."

Ten Most Wanted breezed through six furlongs at Hollywood Park as he prepares to head East for the final leg of the Triple Crown. Trainer Wally Dollase said his Illinois Derby winner had a sore back after his ninth-place finish in the Kentucky Derby. Ten Most Wanted did not run in the Preakness.

Signs

Continued from p2

Federation state title in 2002. George Washington, Manhattan and St. John's also recruited Diakhate.

Ford called Diakhate "one of our most skilled recruits and predicted he "should play right away" for the Colonels.

Mascoll, who also considered Tennessee, Western Michigan and South Florida, averaged 23.8 points, 5.9 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game last season at Countryside High School. Also a standout soccer player, he will enter the Ohio Valley Conference as one of the league's most athletic players, Ford said.

"His passing and ball-handling are two of his better skills," Ford said. "As he works with our coaches, I look for his total game to improve greatly.

He also is an outstanding jumper who will excite our fans with his leaping ability."

St. Catharine coach Kevin Burton said DeWalt, who played his prep ball at Bowling Green High School, can play any guard or forward position. Ford thinks DeWalt also is an excellent defender.

"He can guard any player on the court," Ford said. "This is something we didn't have last year, somebody who can defend well on the perimeter. He also does a great job on the fast break and can finish on the break after making a steal on defense."

DeWalt will have two seasons of eligibility remaining.

Eastern Kentucky finished 11-17 last season, including a 5-11 mark in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The Floyd County Times Classifieds

Weekly Rates: (4 line minimum)
 \$1.75 per line for Wednesday and Friday Paper
 \$2.25 per line for Wednesday, Friday and Shopper
 \$3.25 per line for Wednesday, Friday, Sunday & Shopper
 \$4.00 per line for Wednesday, Friday, Sunday, Shopper & Internet

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- Wednesday Paper, Noon Mon.
- Friday Paper and Shopper, Wed. 5 p.m.
- Sunday Paper, Thurs. 5 p.m.

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- 120 - Boats
- 130 - Cars
- 140 - 4x4s
- 150 - Miscellaneous
- 160 - Motorcycles
- 170 - Parts
- 175 - SUVs
- 180 - Trucks
- 190 - Vans

200 - EMPLOYMENT

- 210 - Job Listings
- 220 - Help Wanted
- 230 - Information
- 250 - Miscellaneous
- 260 - Part Time
- 270 - Sales
- 280 - Services
- 290 - Work Wanted

310 - Business Opportunity

- 330 - For Sale
- 350 - Miscellaneous
- 360 - Money To Lend
- 380 - Services

400 - MERCHANDISE

- 410 - Animals
- 420 - Appliances
- 440 - Electronics

445 - Furniture

- 450 - Lawn & Garden
- 460 - Yard Sale
- 470 - Health & Beauty
- 475 - Household
- 480 - Miscellaneous
- 490 - Recreation
- 495 - Wanted To Buy

500 - REAL ESTATE

- 505 - Business

510 - Commercial Property

- 530 - Homes
- 550 - Land/Lots
- 570 - Mobile Homes
- 590 - Miscellaneous
- 590 - Sale or Lease

600 - RENTALS

- 610 - Apartments
- 620 - Storage

Office Space

- 630 - Houses
- 640 - Land/Lots
- 650 - Mobile Homes
- 660 - Miscellaneous
- 670 - Commercial Property
- 680 - Wanted To Rent

700 - SERVICES

- 705 - Construction

710 - Educational

- 713 - Child Care
- 715 - Electrician
- 720 - Health & Beauty
- 730 - Lawn & Garden
- 735 - Legal
- 740 - Masonry
- 745 - Miscellaneous
- 750 - Mobile Home Movers
- 755 - Office
- 760 - Plumbing

765 - Professionals

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- 780 - Timbar
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800 - NOTICES

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- 815 - Lost & Found
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- 850 - Personal
- 870 - Services

The FLOYD COUNTY TIMES does not knowingly accept false or misleading advertisements. Ads which request or require advance payment of fees for services or products should be scrutinized carefully.

AUTOMOTIVE

110-Agricultural

JOHN DEERE 345 Lawn garden tractor w/ 48" deck, also, Club Car golf cart, gas powered, 19" sony color tv, Sigma mandolin. 886-1167

120-Boats

Boat FOR SALE: 1994 Marada Runabout Inboard, white with burgundy and gray stripes. Excellent condition. Garage stored. Very low hours. Call: Mobile 424-2828 or 606-285-9704 after 6p.m.

2000 YAMAHA 1200 WAVE RUNNER only 14 hours \$5900. 1996 Yamaha waverunner 1100 three seater 93 hours \$2900. Trailer and both for \$8900. Call 886-9640.

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1995 BUICK LASABRE Call 886-3486.

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140-4X4s

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FOR SALE: 93 Custom Fatboy, custom paint job, custom wheels, too much chrome to list, S&S Carbs, Asking \$16,000 or obo. Call 606-478-2849.

180-Trucks
FOR SALE: 1977 F100 pick-up, green ext., new tires & battery. Good condition. Call 874-0467 after 5 or leave message.

190-Vans

FOR SALE: 1985 Dodge 350 15 passenger van. Asking \$795. Call 886-3726.

EMPLOYMENT

When responding to Employment ads that have reference numbers, please indicate that entire reference number on the outside of your envelope. Reference numbers are used to help us direct your letter to the correct individual.

210-Job Listing

PRESTONSBURG HEALTH CARE CENTER has an opening for a full time LPNS and a full or part-time Physical Therapist; PRN positions are also available. We offer competitive wages and excellent benefits. If interested please call 606-886-2378 (ask for Lynn Fletcher or Elaine Hunter) or send a resume to 147 N. Highland Ave., Prestonsburg KY 41653.

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AVON

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PROPERTY FOR SALE: Located on Abbott and also property on Jenny's Creek. Call 478-5173.*

570-Mobile Homes

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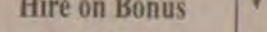
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- 3 WHERE.**
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The Floyd County Times

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