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briefs

Judge revokes probation

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A probation violation sent one Floyd Countian back behind bars this week, following a revocation hearing on Wednesday.

Jason Branham appeared in Floyd Circuit Court with his attorney, Jerry Patton, to face a probation violation.

During the proceedings, Branham admitted to the court that he violated his probation by being in possession and by using cocaine, marijuana, methadone and hydrocodone on March 12, 23, 24, and Sept. 1.

Branham was indicted in August for two counts of second-degree trafficking in an unspecified drug and two counts of third-degree trafficking in an unspecified drug.

On Jan. 28, Circuit Judge John David Caudill handed down two concurrent three-year sentences to Branham that were suspended for two years, during which time he was to be under state and private supervised probation. Additionally, Caudill sentenced him on that day to two 12-month sentences to run concurrently with the other sentences imposed.

Following the hearing on Wednesday, Caudill reinstated these sentences, noting that Branham would not be allowed probation.

All of these sentences, said Caudill, would run concurrently.

"Try to get you some help," Caudill told him during the hearing Wednesday.

Branham was transported to the Floyd County Detention Center following the hearing.

Three sentenced on drug charges

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Three Floyd Countians indicted in April for drug trafficking charges were sentenced in Floyd Circuit Court on Wednesday.

Brandon Endicott, 21, indicted for second-degree trafficking in a controlled substance and trafficking in a controlled substance within a 1,000 yards of a school; David Green, indicted for first- and second-degree drug trafficking; and Pete Hall, 41, indicted

for first-degree trafficking in cocaine; were sentenced to 10 years collectively by Circuit Judge John David Caudill.

Endicott appeared in court with his attorney, Gerald Derossset, who requested that Caudill consider supervised pro-

bation for his client. During the proceeding, Derossset indicated that this was Endicott's first felony offense and that he had "strong family support" to encourage rehabilitation.

Caudill then stated that he "might" have considered granting

probation in the case, however, he said, referring to the commonwealth's offer on a guilty plea, Endicott "got an awful sweet deal to start with."

After refusing requested pro-

(See DRUGS, page three)



Archer Park was turned into a winter wonderland Friday evening, complete with the North Pole's number one elf. Santa was on hand Friday evening to welcome and get gift ideas from children such as brother and sister, Kelsey and Benjamin Cole.

photo by Sheldon Compton

Lawyer seeks dismissal for faulty recording

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Faulty evidence may lead to the dismissal of three drug trafficking cases — at least that's what the public defender's office is hoping for.

Public Advocate Michael P. Studebaker appeared in circuit court during motion hour on Wednesday with orders of dismissal in tow for three of his clients — Kim Mynhier, 33, Judy Hicks, 46, and Liz Goble, 38.

All three defendants were indicted on April 8 for various drug trafficking charges and are scheduled to go to trial, according to documents on file at the court house, in January and March.

Mynhier was indicted for second-degree trafficking in a controlled substance for allegedly selling Lortab. Hicks is charged with second-degree trafficking of an unspecified drug. Goble is charged with first-degree trafficking in an unspecified drug.

According to Studebaker, the audio tapes provided by the Commonwealth Attorney's office regarding the alleged drug transaction are inaudible, a fact he says will impede the jury in providing accurate verdicts in the cases.

Tapes of phone conversations provided by the commonwealth are clearly audible, he said, but the tapes of the alleged drug

(See MOTION, page three)

Three more sued by satellite provider

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — The California satellite company DirecTV filed three more lawsuits in U.S. District Court in Pikeville Wednesday against Two Floyd Countians and a Perry County resident they say purchased and used pirating devices to defraud them out of services and gainful profit.

The three lawsuits, filed against Martin residents Hubert

Vicars and Polly G. Vicars and Hazard resident Teresa Barnett, bring the total of individuals now named in complaints filed by DirecTV in Pikeville's federal court to 24.

The bulk of those 24 individuals named came from back-to-back lawsuits in February and March. The company filed its first lawsuit at Pikeville in February and included 10 Eastern Kentuckians in that complaint.

(See DIRECTV, page three)

Wright may not be able to make loan payment

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

WHEELWRIGHT — Wheelwright city attorney Tim Parker says he doubts city commissioners will see their decade-old loan withdrawn in event the city fails to meet its \$11,000 payment early next month.

And Parker feels that payment period will come and go without the city forking over the money.

"The payment is due early in the first week of December and I

just don't think they'll be able to pay it," Parker said. "I don't think [the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority] will withdraw the loan. They might let one payment go by, but after the second payment they'll want to know what's going on."

Parker, who said he experienced similar problems with water and sewer while working as city attorney in Martin, said if Wheelwright commissioners

(See LOAN, page three)



Mayor Thomasine Robinson, left, and city council members Deborah Bentley and Mahendra Varia, seated, discussed a map detailing the layout for Martin's new redevelopment site Tuesday during the city council meeting. According to Robinson, the new layout provides more space for the city school.

photo by Mary Music

Martin Community Center gets in full swing with funding

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

MARTIN — The Martin Community Center is looking forward to a full season, after receiving its part of a \$150,000 grant that will cover the costs of

expenses for the next three years.

According to Rita C. Whicker, grant writer for the city of Martin, who was present during the city council meeting Tuesday, the Martin Community Center received the Ross

Grant/Neighborhood Networks grant in partnership with the Housing Authority of Martin.

In addition to providing the salary for the program coordinator, the grant will place 20 new

(See MARTIN, page three)

3 DAY FORECAST Today Mostly sunny High: 50 • Low: 33 Tomorrow Partly cloudy High: 50 • Low: 17 For up-to-the-minute forecasts, see floydcountytimes.com

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Odds and Ends

The Associated Press

■ **EVERETT, Wash.** — They're not clerks and sales personnel, but every year they brace themselves for the onslaught that follows Thanksgiving.

Plumbers. "The day after Thanksgiving is our busiest day of the year," said David Deasis, assistant manager of the local office of Rescue Rooter. "A lot of people stuff what's left from dinner down the drain and it gets all clogged up. Then they call us."

One problem is that people assume a sink garbage disposal can grind and flush just about any scrapings from the plate, including chunky turkey bones.

"They're called garbage disposals, so people think they can stuff anything in the whole world down there," said Chris McIlrath, owner of AA Plumbing, "but they're not made for that."

"If you put the food on a plate into the garbage can and just rinse the plate off into the disposer, you'll never have a problem."

Thanksgiving also can produce plumbing problems elsewhere in the house as visiting friends and relatives overload toilets and sink and shower drains, said Robin French, a Roto-Rooter production manager in Lynnwood.

"The more usage, the more chance for them to get clogged," he said.

■ **ST. PETER, Minn.** — Call it "Operation Sweet Tooth."

Ernie and Bonnie Brandt are mailing more than a half-ton of candy to troops in Iraq where their son, Don, is serving in Mosul.

If all goes well, the candy will arrive in Iraq around Christmas thanks to the Brandts and many of their friends.

"If not, I'm sure they'll still enjoy it when they do get it," said Bonnie Brandt.

The candy project was born of opportunity. Ernie Brandt was talking with owners of the recently closed Shari Candies plant in Mankato about buying some candy to send to the troops. Company officials liked the idea

and gave him a good deal: He left with nearly two pallets of 2 1/2-pound bags of mixed candies.

The Brandts then called several military officials, seeking help in shipping the 1,100 pounds of candy to troops. Their efforts ran into government bureaucracy.

"We aren't going to wait for the government to ship it for free if they don't get it over there until next July," Bonnie Brandt said.

Mailing the 29 boxes of candy will cost \$1,000, and when word circulated among friends, other military families and business colleagues, donations began to come in.

The couple has raised nearly enough to cover the postage.

■ **FAIRFIELD, Calif.** — Maggots turn into flies — but flying maggots?

Students in a Fairfield High School literature class got a scare earlier this month when a half-dozen of the larvae fell through ceiling tiles onto their heads.

It was the "grossest experience" in the 17 years of David Day, who heard a little "boop" and looked down and an inch-long maggot wriggling on the floor.

"Then one fell on a student on the back of his sweatshirt," Day told the Fairfield Daily Republic. "And one fell on his book."

The students crowded to one side of the room before fleeing. Pigeons were to blame.

Several birds that roosted under the portable building's roof died, and flies laid eggs in their corpses, said Bill Luna, director of administrative services.

Somehow, the maggots fell through the tiles.

Maintenance has since condemned the portable building, which will be torn down during the Christmas break, said Rob Pierce, director of facilities and construction.

■ **DRIGGS, Idaho** — Officials say the grizzly bear was confused.

That's why it had been hanging out in people's doorways and garages before wildlife managers from Idaho and Wyoming finally captured it last week and moved it out of state.

By now, most bears have found a place to hibernate for the winter.

Idaho Fish and Game biologist Gregg Losinski said this could be the 2-year-old bear's first winter on her own, and maybe her denning instinct was confused. He said the homes probably looked warm and inviting to her.

The bear is being moved to a remote location near Cody, Wyo.

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Nov. 30, the 334th day of 2003. There are 31 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 30, 1782, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris, ending the Revolutionary War.

On this date:

■ In 1803, Spain completed the process of ceding Louisiana to France, which had sold it to the United States.

■ In 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens — better known as Mark Twain — was born in Florida, Mo.

■ In 1874, British statesman Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace.

■ In 1900, Irish writer Oscar Wilde died in Paris at age 46.

■ In 1936, London's famed Crystal Palace, constructed for the International Exhibition of 1851, was destroyed in a fire.

■ In 1939, the Russo-Finnish War began as Soviet troops invaded Finland.

■ In 1962, U Thant of Burma was elected Secretary General of the United Nations, succeeding the late Dag Hammarskjöld.

■ In 1966, the former British colony of Barbados became independent.

■ In 1981, the United States and the Soviet Union opened negotiations in Geneva aimed at reducing nuclear weapons in Europe.

■ In 2001, Robert Tools, the first person in the world to receive a fully self-contained artificial heart, died in

Louisville; he had lived with the device for 151 days.

Ten years ago:

President Clinton signed into law the Brady bill, which requires a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers. Authorities in California arrested Richard Allen Davis, who confessed to abducting and slaying 12-year-old Polly Klaas of Petaluma.

Five years ago:

Quebec's separatist premier, Lucien Bouchard, was returned to power but with only 43 percent of the vote, setting back the Parti Quebecois' goal of seeking independence from Canada. Deutsche Bank AG officially announced it was acquiring Bankers Trust Corp. for more than \$10 billion.

One year ago:

International weapons hunters in Iraq paid an unannounced visit to a military post, previously declared "sensitive" and restricted by Baghdad. A nightclub fire in Caracas, Venezuela, killed 50 people.

Today's Birthdays:

Movie director Gordon Parks is 91. Actor Efram Zimbalist Jr. is 85. Actress Virginia Mayo is 83. Former Rep. Shirley Chisholm, D-N.Y., is 79. Actor Robert Guillaume is 76. TV personality and producer Dick Clark is 74. Radio talk show host G. Gordon Liddy is 73. Country singer Teddy Wilburn is 72. Country singer-recording

(See HISTORY, page six)

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Drugs

bation, Caudill noted that the probation and parole officer who prepared the pre-sentence investigative report, "was not satisfied" with Endicott's "truthful-

ness" regarding his "substance abuse problem."

He sentenced Endicott to one year for the second-degree trafficking in a controlled substance

charge. Additionally, he dismissed the trafficking within 1,000 yards of a school charge. Endicott was given 45 days credit for time already served.

"Mr. Endicott, you've got a problem," said Caudill. "You better tag it or you're gonna go away for a long time."

In addition to Endicott's hearing, Caudill presided over two other drug trafficking sentencing hearings on Wednesday.

Green, indicted for first-degree trafficking cocaine and second-degree trafficking in an unspecified drug, appeared in court with his attorney, Bobby Williams.

When asked by Caudill to provide to court with any comments regarding the case, Williams requested that the court follow the recommendation of the Commonwealth, who provided an offer in return for a guilty plea in October.

Following that request, Caudill sentenced Green to two concurrent three-year sentences. In accordance with the Commonwealth's plea agreement, the first-degree cocaine trafficking charge was amended to a lesser charge of second-degree trafficking in a controlled substance.

Caudill further ordered that the sentences be suspended after one-year, at which time Green is to be put on supervised probation for a period of two years. Additionally, Green was given 45 days credit for time served.

Green was also informed during the hearing of an outstanding bench warrant against him in district court regarding a \$290 fine against him.

Sentencing was also imposed on Wednesday for Pete Hall, who was indicted for first-degree trafficking in cocaine.

According to Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner, Hall appeared in court prior to Wednesday's scheduled motion hour.

He was indicted in April along with Connie Owens, 45, of Garrett, who allegedly assisted Hall in selling Oxycotin.

The Commonwealth Attorney's Office filed an offer for a guilty plea in October.

According to Turner, Hall received a three-year sentence during the proceedings.

All three men were transported to the Floyd County Detention Center following the hearings.

Continued from p1

Loan

Continued from p1

failed to make the payment to a certain point, the state would most likely send at least an initial threat.

"They probably won't send somebody down at first, but they'll threaten to," Parker said. "After that they'll send somebody and start asking for updates on the financial problems."

Parker said the state is more interested in loaning and borrowing money when it comes to dealing with cities, rather than having an interest in coming in and taking control of a city.

"It's not as if they'll be coming in and trying to run the city or anything like that, but they won't let the payments go for very long either," Parker said.

Through the Department for Local Government, Wheelwright borrowed approximately \$1 million roughly a decade ago in order to begin and finish sewer projects throughout the city, according to Mayor Marlee Sammons. As part of the agreement, the city signed on to pay back half of that amount.

Presently, the city still owes nearly \$200,000 on that loan, Sammons said.

A good portion of the city's growing financial dilemma can be traced back to a trend in paying less for gas than they had been selling it. However, commissioners Don "Booty" Hall and Rodney Hall voted to increase commercial gas rates by \$4, hoping to cure that problem. Commissioner Bruce Johnson abstained from the vote, while Sammons voted against the increase.

With the new gas rates in place, city residents will now see only a one-cent increase to their past rate of \$6.94 per unit with the increase to \$7, but commercial customers, such as Otter Creek Correctional Center, saw their rates climb to \$15 per unit. Sammons says the prison constitutes about 50 percent of the city's commercial gas use.

Motion

Continued from p1

transactions were not.

Studebaker said during the hearing that he would accept enhanced tapes in which the

alleged transactions could be heard more clearly, but as they stand, he said, "all you can hear are people mumbling."

Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner argued during proceedings that Studebaker's accusations regarding the tapes "provided no basis" to dismiss the cases. Noting that the Commonwealth feels that the tapes provided are audible, he continued by saying that the tapes provided to the public defender's office are not the original tapes, and therefore would sound differently than those that would be used during trial.

"The tape they get is a copy of a copy," he said.

As proceedings continued, Circuit Judge John David Caudill declined the Commonwealth's offer to allow Studebaker to listen to the tapes at the Commonwealth's Attorney's office where enhancement equipment is available.

Instead, Caudill, who noted he couldn't make an appropriate decision without hearing the tapes himself, opted to set a hearing in order for all three of the men to listen and consider "the same tape at the same time."

"I want to be able to listen to what the jury listens to — that's the key," said Caudill.

The hearing is scheduled for Dec. 22 at 9 a.m.

Martin

Continued from p1

computers in the center, said Whicker, bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, pay for broadband internet service, assist with insurance and cover the cost for monitoring the security system.

According to Whicker, 16 teams with 135 kids ranging in age from 3 to 12 currently participate in the AAU basketball league, which uses the center. Games began last week, she said, and will continue every Friday and Saturday. According to her, concession stand proceeds for these games go to the AAU league and money received at the door goes to the community center to support the payment of referees. The center is currently looking for sponsors for these teams, she said.

In addition to providing a place for the AAU basketball, the center has also opened its computer lab to the public, with volunteers in place on Mondays and Tuesdays for assistance. The center also serves as a rental place for birthday parties, gatherings, and serves as gym for Piarist School basketball games and practices.

"The convention center is in full swing right now," said Mayor Thomasine Robinson during a city council meeting Tuesday. "It's really got started on the right foot."

According to Robinson, though the community center was opened earlier this year, it couldn't be utilized by the public because the Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency used it for services following this year's floods.

During the meeting, city council members also discussed this year's planning of the "Christmas with a Cop" program, which will be held at the community center on Dec. 14. Twenty needy children in the community have been chosen to spend the day with a cop on that day. Personal and business donations have contributed donations and gifts for the chil-

dren, but the city still needs \$1,500 to finish funding the program, said Robinson.

Other upcoming events at the center include a fire department Christmas party on Dec. 6 and a Tap Enterprise tool sale on Dec. 5.

During the meeting, members also:

- Discussed the appropriations of more than \$14,000 in funds from a sewer reserve bond. According to Robinson, \$4,200 of the funds will be allocated to the city's general fund, \$5,000 will go to the water fund, and \$5,000 will go into the city's savings.

- Reviewed the new layout of the city's redevelopment site. According to Robinson, the new layout provides more land and parking space for the local school.

- Approved a cost-of-living raise for city employees.

- Approved Veterans Day as a holiday for all city employees.

All city council members were present for Tuesday's meeting.

DirecTV

Continued from p1

The following month, the company again filed suit in Pikeville against seven additional people.

Since that time, and including the three filed Wednesday, DirecTV has filed seven additional lawsuits. Complaints against two individuals have been settled for undisclosed amounts, while two other defendants were slapped with default judgments — one for \$8,350 and the other for \$37,350.

All the lawsuits, including Hubert and Polly Vicars and Barnett's, have asked for compensatory, statutory and other damages, including injunctive relief.

In the suits filed Wednesday, it is alleged that Barnett purchased pirating devices designed to permit viewing of DirecTV programming normally reserved for paying customers. Barnett

was, according to the suit, linked through Derek Trone, whom the government says sold the devices to Barnett, based on records of purchases seized from Trone on Nov. 29, 2001.

The company is asking for \$10,000 in damages, as well as attorney fees and other costs, listing four separate claims of federal offenses against Barnett.

Likewise, the company is seeking the same relief from Hubert Vicars and Polly Vicars, saying they, like Barnett, also bought pirating devices and used them to alter programming, both for themselves and others.

The government alleges that both Hubert Vicars and Polly Vicars also purchased their devices from Derek Trone, saying they were connected to Trone through purchase records as well.

Hubert Vicars and Polly Vicars made their purchases in July and May 2001, respectively, the government claims, while alleging that Barnett bought her devices later that year in August.

As with past lawsuits, the company claims the three violated both the Federal Communications Act of 1934 and the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, also known as the Federal Wiretap Laws.

DirecTV's method of encrypting, or electronically scrambling, their satellite transmissions is a process they say provides customer security which they have invested more than \$1.25 billion to develop.

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— Felix Frankfurter

Guest View

Fletcher shouldn't follow Patton's example

Speaking at a statewide conference Tuesday on the future of education, Gov. Paul Patton denounced partisanship as a reason for so many of Kentucky's problems and a threat to the state's future prosperity.

He said if he had it to do all over again, he probably would have made a greater effort to break the political gridlock and reach out to leaders of the Republican Party.

But apparently Patton must feel he's too far down that road of partisanship to turn around now. Even while seemingly understanding that mistakes were made, he only continues to widen the gaps between Republicans and Democrats in Frankfort — and increase the public's distrust of government.

Two weeks ago, Patton filled 10 of the 11 seats on the Kentucky Racing Commission, including reappointing chairman Frank Shoop, who is a Democratic fund-raiser. Last week, he appointed more than 20 people to various state boards and commissions. And he apparently plans to fill seats on at least 29 more boards before he leaves office next month. The obvious goal is to deny the incoming administration the ability to fill these key positions.

To be clear, what Patton is doing has become somewhat of a tradition in the political realm. Leaders have long maximized the rules of the system to benefit their political party and to "pay back" those who've been supportive of their administrations.

But that doesn't make Patton's actions right. And it's this type of cronyism that has infuriated the public and led to the anti-government sentiment that continues to grow.

It's also the type of action that, at least partially, led to Ernie Fletcher's being elected as the state's first Republican governor in 32 years. Fletcher ran on a campaign of change and "cleaning up the mess" in Frankfort. It was a message voters overwhelmingly endorsed.

The only trouble is that one of Fletcher's first actions as governor-elect looks a lot like what would be expected of the previous administration.

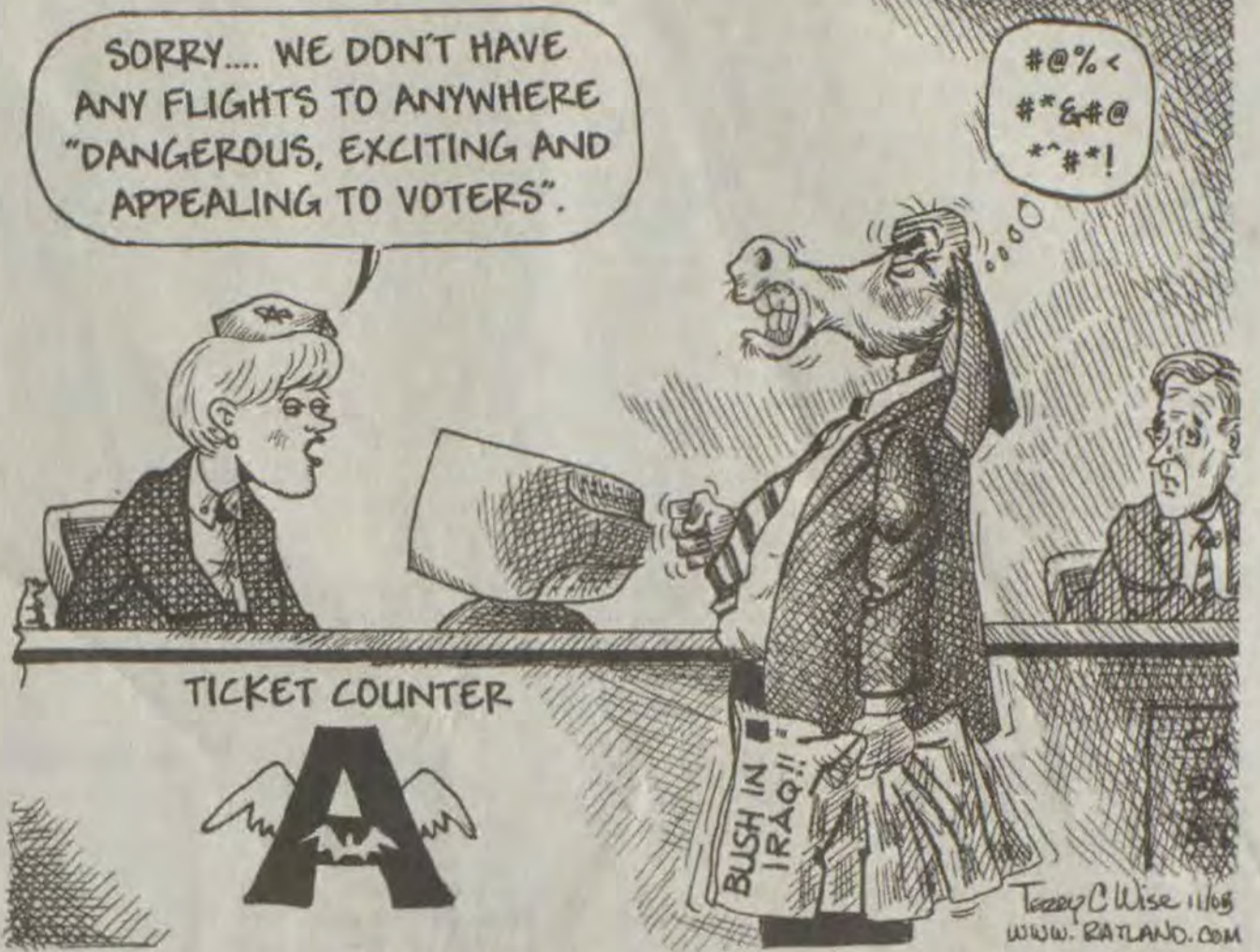
Fletcher's transition team — charged with the responsibility of examining various government agencies — contains 25 state lobbyists. The Associated Press reported that in some cases, these lobbyists are being asked to examine agencies with which they either do business or are involved in lawsuits.

While the Fletcher administration says this transition team will have no influence on personnel or policy decisions and will receive nothing for their efforts, there's clearly at least the perception of a conflict of interest.

Fletcher has set the bar so high for bringing change to government that even this perception should be unacceptable. Kentuckians likely didn't view the "change" that Fletcher promised as simply a transfer of influence and political favors from "friends" of the Democratic Party to those of the Republican Party.

Gov. Patton seems committed to partisanship and abusing the system until the day he leaves office. Governor-elect Fletcher has promised better and shouldn't follow his lead.

— *The Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro*



Getting serious about teaching character

A while back I got an unsigned letter from a reader that made me mad. This reader was responding to a column I had written several months ago titled, "There are no winners in a school shooting." Here is what this person said:

"Two lines in your column says it all. Congress has proven over and over again that they are not going to do anything about mind pollution. There is far too much money there. Money is more important than life. Sounds callous maybe. In your columns you often speak of truth, honesty, integrity, fairness and justice. I believe these words are obsolete."

The last line is what really made me mad. The words truth, honesty, integrity, fairness and justice are not obsolete. They are just as relevant in today's society as they have ever been, but unfortunately too many people have never been taught what they mean and the tremendous impact they will have on their lives as long as they live.

What I am saying is that we must teach character, not only in the home,

but we must also teach it in all of our schools and colleges just like we teach math, science, history and computer skills. But obsolete? Hardly!

It is with this in mind that I want to tell you about a college that is making a concerted effort to teach character to all new students who attend there. This is the College of the Ozarks, located in Branson, Mo. At the beginning of each school year they hold an intensive 10-day "Character Camp" and they have an agenda that makes it obvious they are serious about teaching character to their students. The camp is named for Willard and Pat Walker, who gave an endowment to fund the Character Academy, which encourages young people to develop their character while gaining an education of the head, heart and hands.



It was my good fortune to learn about this Character Camp from a fine young man whose name is Andy Baldwin and he is attending this college on a basketball scholarship. One of the things that makes this camp so special is that they utilize the volunteer services of moms and pops who come to the campus and serve as peer counselors. What

better way to learn than to share some time with mature adults who have been out in the real world for many years?

To my way of thinking, people in education are missing a real bet if they don't take advantage of people's experience who are willing to invest a little of their time in this way.

In order for you to have a little more insight into what I have been saying I would like to give you some of the goals of the Character Camp and then highlight a few of the sessions in the ten day total experience.

- n 1. Help students understand the college's expectations.
- n 2. Assist students in understanding the purpose of higher education.
- n 3. Develop familiarity with the physical surroundings.
- n 4. Provide information and exposure to institutional services.
- n 5. Provide information concerning academic policies, requirements and programs.
- n 6. Introduce students to character development and reinforce how vital it is to success at College of the Ozarks and in life after college.
- n 7. Convey the importance of good character, respect for yourself, others,

(See DAVIDSON, page five)

— beyond the beltway

Republican leaders deserve smiting

by DONALD KAUL

The Republicans are saying that Democrats are being mean to them, that Democratic presidential candidates are being less than patriotic in not joining them in support of Mr. Bush's war. They're even complaining that liberals are writing nasty books making fun of them.

Except for the patriotic part (John Kerry has three Purple Hearts and that bunch of conservative draft dodgers has the nerve to call HIM unpatriotic?) I agree with all of that.

And I'm for it. For too long have Democrats and liberals lived like cowardly curs, trying not to make any noise for fear Republicans would kick them again. And what did it get them? A lot of kicks.

Now that Democrats are getting up on their hind legs and growling a bit, Republicans are offended. They staged a snit-in in the Senate the other day to protest the fact that Democrats were blocking a few of the president's right-wing judicial appointments. Never heard of such a thing, they said. (In the hypocrisy sweepstakes, that one just

might take the Oscar.)

They jam their help-the-insurance-companies health program, their pollution-is-good-for-you environmental program and their let-our-kids-pay-for-it tax policy down the throats of Democrats, then complain when they gag.

David Brooks, the moderate conservative who writes for "The New York Times," has called for a truce. He has suggested that a Democratic candidate might get traction by declaring a unilateral ceasefire in the ongoing war between Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives. He says that Howard Dean, the current Democratic front-runner, is "liberal aggression" and bad for the country. He writes (in the voice of his ideal candidate):

"I have seen Dean up close. The man hates his opponents. His kind thrives only during times of domestic war ... If he is elected, we will be a nation at war every second of his term. I don't even want to think about what our country would be like after four years of that."

That's the difference between Brooks' candidate and me. I love to think about it. Life without George Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and the rest of that crowd? Sheer heaven. Sometimes war is preferable to liv-

ing under the boot of occupation troops.

The reason it's OK to hate the Republican leadership is because it is a hateful group.

It started with Richard Nixon, naturally. He was the one who adopted a "Southern strategy," casting himself as the anti-civil rights candidate without actually coming out against civil rights, and engaging in a dirty tricks campaign that eventually drove him from office. Then Ronald Reagan brought in Lee Atwater, who had honed his political skills in South Carolina, where if they didn't have ugly, dirty, personal politics they wouldn't have any politics at all.

He was eventually succeeded by his protégé, Karl Rove, young Bush's Rasputin, who learned his lessons well. In the meantime you had Congress taken over by the worst the South had to offer, Newt Gingrich of Georgia and Tom DeLay of Texas, among others. All sense of fairness, all

comity was drained from our political system.

Now people like Brooks call for unilateral ceasefires? Unilateral disarmament is more like it. Fat chance, David.

It used to be that in each election I'd look for a moderate Republican I could vote for, just to prove I could do it.

Then came the Republicans' war against Clinton. Talk about hatred, I've

(See BELTWAY, page five)

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Faith Extra

Minister's Moment: "We aim to Please"

by REV. TOM BIDDLE
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES

to please." That phrase came to my mind the other day as I pondered the inevitable question of how we say thanks to God for all He has done for us. One of our greatest attempts to please God is by the things we do. After all, it says in 1 Thessalonians 2:4 we are to "please God more than man." Which, by the way, is not a good excuse for husbands to use when they forget to buy their wives a gift at an anniversary or birthday. You can't say to her, "I was

more concerned about pleasing God than you." Trust me, if doesn't work. But what does it take for us to please God? How far do we need to go? In the book of Hebrews 13:15-16, it gives a very detailed description of what we need to offer God. First of all, it says we need to give Him a "continuous sacrifice of praise." Two words catch my eye there. One of is the word "continuous". That means we are to praise God all the time. That

doesn't mean you won't have sad times or painful times in your life, but even in those we can thank God for His presence. The other word is "sacrifice". That means we are to give of our best, and even go beyond our limits sometimes. When sacrifices were made in the days before Christ, it was expected that you would take of the best of your flock or your crop and offer it to God. Now what God requires of us is our lives. Do we truly give our best? Also, in that passage it tells us that this sacrifice of praise consists of "lips that confess His name" and "lives that reveal His love." Confession is more than just a simple salvation confession at an altar. It is the language that we use from that point forward.

Does everything that comes out of your lips reveal that you are a believer in Christ? Do you share the language of love, acceptance and forgiveness? Do you offer words of encouragement to those in need? For example, I, like anyone, can get frustrate waiting in long lines at Wal-Mart during the holiday season. However, I made a decision a long time ago to never take it out on the cashier or vent my frustration on them. Why? Because I always wonder if they came to my church of Sunday and saw me, what would their impression be if I treated them harshly? The other part of that verse says we are to reveal His love through good deeds. That is not a big problem for most of us. In fact, many people do lots of wonderful things for others. The challenge, though, is that word we saw earlier — "sacrifice".

How many of us go beyond our limits to reach out to others? When was the last time your service to God altered your schedule or plans? A couple of weeks ago, I attended a commissioning service for foreign missionaries in our convention. Two of those 69 people could not sit on the stage with the other 67 because the place they were going was so

(See AIM, page six)

'Shields of Strength' provide hope, comfort for soldiers

by BOBBY ROSS JR.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

seem like trinkets to some. But for more than 100,000 U.S. military personnel and their families, they offer comfort and hope in the most trying of times. "All the men who served with my son wear the shield around their necks, as do many of the elite 75th Rangers," said retired Lt. Col. Joe Rippetoe, a Gaithersburg, Md., resident who was disabled in two tours of duty in Vietnam. His 27-year-old son, from Arvada, Colo., died in early April and was the first soldier from the Iraq war laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. On Memorial Day, the grieving father visited at the White House with President Bush, who had heard about the Christian dog tag.

son's Joshua 1:9 tag. "As luck would have it, I had Russell's original tag and one that Chaplain (Brad) Baumann had given me at the unit memorial service," Rippetoe said. Rippetoe kept the original tag, the plastic around its edges scorched in the bombing, and gave the president the other one. Bush mentioned it later that day in a memorial speech at Arlington National Cemetery. The commander in chief receiving a Shield of Strength represented a milestone of sorts for Kenny Vaughan, who first had dog tags engraved with Scriptures in 1997. Vaughan, a Beaumont native, wasn't part of the military. He was actually a water-skiing champion, who had just won his first national championship for long jumping after overcoming fears that had hampered his performance for years.

A "Shield of Strength" hung on the chain around Capt. Russell B. Rippetoe's neck when the Army Ranger and two other soldiers were killed in a car bomb explosion at an Iraqi checkpoint. The 1-by-2-inch shield, which Rippetoe wore along with his military dog tags and a Christian cross, displayed a U.S. flag on one side and a quote from Joshua 1:9 on the other: "I will be strong and courageous. I will not be terrified, or discouraged, for the Lord my God is with me wherever I go." Produced by a Beaumont, Texas, group, the shields may just

The first question Bush asked was whether Rippetoe had his

His girlfriend Tammie, now his wife, had painted Scriptures on the handle of his tow rope, including this one from Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." "I wanted a daily reminder of God's word, but I figured I would look silly carrying my water ski rope handles," Vaughan said. "So I bought a few military dog tags and engraved the Scriptures." Relatives and friends liked the idea — so much so that Vaughan kept giving his tags away and going back to get more engraved. By the time he paid for each letter he had engraved, it cost him about \$20 a tag. He decided it would be more cost-effective to make his own. So, he started an organization called Athletes for Christ and began producing Shields of Strength for athletes, police offi-

(See HOPE, page six)

Beltway

Continued from p4

never seen such hatred directed at an American president as the right wing spewed at Clinton. He was sleazy, admittedly, but to attack him in the manner the Republicans did was, to me, close to treason. They were trying to destroy him for the sake of destroying him without any regard to consequence. Right then I decided that I would never vote for another Republican. And I haven't and I never will. Even the best of Republicans is hostage to the rancid right wing controlling his party. To those who say that attitude risks a partisan war, I say: Fine. Bring it on.

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. donald.kaul2@verizon.net.

Davidson

Continued from p4

your school and your country. Here are just a few of the highlights: "What is Character Camp?" "Talk on Character," "Campus Family Time," "Character case studies," "Campfire talks," "Character Development & Leadership Training Workshop," "Etiquette class," "Binge Drinking Video," "Challenge course," "Honor Induction/Etiquette Banquet." One of the keys to student success is to create high expectations with regard to character in the learning environment. A final question: Could you use some of this information to do a better job of teaching character to those you love?

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

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Regional Obituaries

Floyd County

Arnold Akers, 65, of Grethel, died Saturday, November 22, at the Saint Joseph's Hospital, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 26, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Arlis Bates, 77, of Bevinsville, died Thursday, November 13, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, November 15, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Charles Norman Brown Sr., 60, of Jacksonville, Florida, formerly of Kentucky, died Wednesday, November 12, at St. Augustine, Florida. Graveside services were conducted Sunday, November 16, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Henry Bryan Burchett, 39, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, November 22, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, November 25, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Willard D. (Bud) Edmonds, 64, of Harold, died Saturday, November 22, at Kings' Daughter's Hospital in Ashland. He is survived by his wife, Jewell Crum Edmonds. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, November 25, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Rebecca (Reba) Halbert, 65, of Langley, died Tuesday, November 25, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, in Martin. She is survived by her husband, Virgil Halbert Sr. Funeral services were conducted Friday, November 28, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Edward James Hall, 82, of Bevinsville, died Monday, November 24, at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Friday, November 28, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Ernest J. Hall, 64, of Melvin, died Wednesday, November 19, at Jenkins Community Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, November 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Gertrude Bentley Harris, 82, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, November 23, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 26, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

John Woodford Howard II, a native of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, November 16. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, November 20, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Dallas Dean Hunter, 58, of Banner, died Sunday, November 23, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 26, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Nola C. Long, 90, of Martin, died Monday, November 24, at Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 26, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Robert L. Martin, 62, of Butler, Indiana, formerly of Wayland, died Friday, November 21, in the Dekalb Memorial Hospital, in Auburn, Indiana. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, November 25, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Earl Martin Jr., 73, of Umatilla, Florida, formerly of Kite, died Thursday, November 21, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Gertrude Bentley Martin. Funeral services were conducted Monday, November 24, under the direction of Beyer Funeral Home.

Alice Allen Stone, 73, of Estill, died Saturday, November 22, in Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, Charles Ray Stone. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, November 25, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Herman Stone, 78, of Vernon, Alabama, formerly of Topmost, died Sunday, November 23, at the Care Center of Vernon, following a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Irene Mosley Stone. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 26, under the direction of the Chandler Funeral Home.

Marguerite Stapleton Sparks, 76, of Somerset, formerly of Floyd County, died Thursday, November 20, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Monday, November 24, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Johnson County
David Winfrey Burchett, 83, died Friday, November 21, at Hardin Memorial Hospital in Elizabethtown. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, November 25, under the direction of Hager Funeral Home.

Clara Cantrell, 88, a Johnson County native, died Thursday, November 20, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, November 23, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Martha Griffey Duty, 79, died Tuesday, November 18, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Cleveland Monroe Duty. Funeral services were conducted Friday, November 21, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Gerald Lloyd "Buddy" Delong, 67, of Van Lear, died Wednesday, November 5, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Helen McKenzie DeLong. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, November 8, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Girden Maggard Joseph, 84, of Paintsville, died Friday, November 14, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, November 18, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Roger Price, 54, a Johnson County native, died Wednesday, November 19, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center in Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Sandy Picklesimer Price. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, November 22, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Velma "Toots" Blanton Tackett, 81, died Tuesday, November 18, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Friday, November 21, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Frances Thacker, 75, of Meally, died Sunday, November 23. Funeral services were conducted

History

Continued from p2

executive Jimmy Bowen is 66. Movie director Ridley Scott is 66. Singer Rob Grill (The Grassroots) is 60. Movie writer-director Terrence Malick is 60. Singer Luther Ingram is 59. Rock musician Roger Glover (Deep Purple) is 58. Playwright David Mamet is 56. Actress Margaret Whitton is 53. Actor Mandy Patinkin is 51. Musician Shuggie Otis is 50. Singer June Pointer is 50. Country singer Jeannie Kendall is 49. Singer Billy Idol is 48. Rock musician John Ashton (The Psychedelic Furs) is 46. Comedian Colin Mochrie is 46. Football and baseball player Bo Jackson is 41. Rapper Jilili (Whodini) is 40. Actor-director Ben Stiller is 38. Country singer Mindy McCready is 28. Singer Clay Aiken is 25. Actress Elisha Cuthbert ("24") is 21.

Thought for Today:

"Classic": a book which people praise and don't read."
— Mark Twain (1835-1910).

Wednesday, November 26, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Knott County

Kenneth Ray Collins, 53, of Pippa Passes, died Wednesday, November 12, at UK Medical Center, Lexington, from injuries received in an auto accident. He is survived by his wife, Gloria Jean Collins. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, November 15, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Martin County

Freda Elkins Crigger, 75, of Crum, West Virginia, died Friday, November 21, at Williamson Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Monday, November 24, at Golden Springs Church in Stonecoal, and burial was in the Marcum Cemetery.

Vemeda Crum, 60, of Union City, Ohio, died at Good Samaritan Hospital, Daytona, Ohio. She is survived by her husband, Michel Crum. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, November 20, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

T.J. Fields, 64, of Inez, died Wednesday, November 12, at Martin County Health Care Facility. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, November 15, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Cleburn "Clay" Mills, a native of Tomahawk, died Sunday, October 26, in Weatherford, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Mills. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, October 30, at First Methodist Church, Weatherford. Burial was in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Weatherford.

Monroe Young, 65, of Inez, died Thursday, November 14, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Connie Guss Young. Funeral services were conducted Monday, November 17, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Lawrence County

Robert Burgess, 96, of Louisa, died Saturday, November 15, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday,

Hope

cers, firefighters and other professions. Within three years, the shields had spread to Christian bookstores in all 50 states. The tags sell for about \$5 each retail.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jacqueline R. Clay, in an e-mail from Baghdad, said she "cannot even begin to count how many soldiers are wearing them."

"It also has a spiritual camaraderie impact," Clay wrote, "for example, when you meet another Christian or military member and they have the shield on their ID tags ... it bonds you, even though you may not know them."

Ironically, Vaughan never marketed the product to the military. He worried that people serving their country might be upset by what he was doing. After all, he was a civilian and had not earned the right to wear a dog tag.

His concern vanished after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks when he received an e-mail from Fort Huachuca, Ariz. A soldier had come across a Shield of Strength at a Christian bookstore and shown it to Lt. Col. David Dodd, who wanted some for troops leaving for the war in Afghanistan.

The e-mail was sent on a Monday.

"By Wednesday, he had FedExed 500 of them," recalled Dodd, now stationed at the Pentagon after serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Dodd said his wife, Sharon, keeps a Shield of Strength on her key chain. His daughters, Caitlin, 15, and Grace, 9, wear them around their necks.

"When you're over there and the only thing you have with you is your equipment," Dodd said, "it's an environment where people really start thinking about what's important."

"Most people start seeking some kind of spiritual fitness. So these were comforting words," he

said.

Rhoda Livingston, 78, of Columbus, Ohio, formerly of Blaine, died Thursday, November 20, at her home. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, November 25, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Charlie Lyons, 67, of Louisa, died Wednesday, November 12, at Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa. He is survived by his wife, Zeola Mae Spears Lyons. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, November 15, under the direction of Young Funeral Home.

Jack Rutherford, 64, of Blaine,

died Sunday, November 16, at Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Mullins Rutherford. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 19, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Magoffin County

Dudley Nickels, 77, of Valparaiso, Indiana, formerly of Magoffin County, died Sunday, November 16, at Porter Memorial Hospital, Valparaiso. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 19, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Leonard C. Risner, 55, of

Salyersville, died Wednesday, November 5, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Elsie Ross Risner. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, November 8, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Knott County

Kenneth Ray Collins, 53, of Pippa Passes, died Wednesday, November 12, at UK Medical Center, Lexington, from injuries received in an auto accident. He is survived by his wife, Gloria Jean Collins. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, November 15, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Callene Click

Callene Click, 74, of Martin, died Wednesday, November 26, 2003, at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington.

Born May 4, 1929, in Prestonsburg, she was the daughter of the late Calvin and Gussie Shortridge Osborne. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ray Click.

Survivors include one son, John Alex Weddington of Martin; one sister, Justine Adkins of Salyersville; one step-brother, Carl Click of Warsaw, Indiana; three step-sisters, Ada Thrasher and Dixie Miles, both of Warsaw, Indiana and Ellen Ratliff of Martin.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, November 30, at 1 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin, with Jimmy Brown officiating.

Burial was in Ray Click Cemetery, Stephens Branch, Martin.

Arrangements by Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Joe H. Arnett

Joe H. Arnett, age 92, of Prestonsburg, passed away, Thursday, November 27, 2003, at the Highland Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg, following an extended illness.

He was born September 7, 1911, at Dotson, the son of the late Daniel Boone and Minerva (Fitzpatrick) Arnett.

He was married to Susan Rebecca (Wallen) Arnett, who survives him.

He was a retired Kentucky and West Virginia Gas Company employee, and a member of the New Bethel Assembly of God Church at Salyersville.

He is survived by two sons and one daughter, Joseph Jackson Arnett of Mt. Washington, Glenn Phillip Arnett of Reston, Virginia, and Lolita King of Prestonsburg; one brother and one sister, John E. Arnett of Wheelersburg, Ohio, and Mary Johnson of Prestonsburg; nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, November 30, at 2 p.m., from the Burke Funeral Home in Prestonsburg, with Rev. Arthur Sam Smith officiating.

Burial will follow in the Jack May Cemetery at Prestonsburg, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Linda Rae Braddock

Weathers

Linda Rae Braddock Weathers, 62, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, November 25, 2003, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg.

Born December 2, 1940, in Martin, she was the daughter of the late William E. Braddock and Evelyne (Grace) Martin Braddock. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Eugene Weathers.

Other survivors include sons, Dusty Weathers, wife, Shelley, of Owingsville, Carl Brian Weathers of Salt Lake City, Utah; daughters, Cathy Weathers Matteini, husband, Vince, of Lexington, Cindy Mortensen of Salt Lake City, Utah; brother, William R. (Buddy) Braddock, wife Joanne of Reston, Virginia; grandchildren, Elizabeth Catherine Weathers of Owingsville, Marinda Lee Weathers, Stormie April Weathers, Christina Mortensen, and Marie McDaniels, all of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, November 28, at 2 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Yvonne Lafferty and Tommy Reed officiating.

Burial was in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, at Ivel, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Curtis Boyd Mosley

Curtis Boyd Mosley, age 81, of Baltimore, Maryland, died Wednesday, November 26, 2003.

Born January 17, 1922, at Emma, he was the son of the late John F. and Lula Boyd Mosley.

He was a 1940 graduate of Prestonsburg High School and attended Georgetown University. He served in the Army Infantry Division during World War II, and engaged in combat on the Island of Palau.

He is survived by his wife, Lilly Helton Mosley; daughter, Lillian Nuckolls, son-in-law, Robert T. Nuckolls; granddaughter, Ashley-Marie; grandson, Andrew Boyd, all of Baltimore, Maryland; sister, Berdell Cecil and niece, Quetta Sue Longo, both of Erlanger; nephew, Larry Cecil, of Prestonsburg.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Dorothy Blevins and Audrey Mosley.

Funeral services will be 3 p.m., Sunday, November 30, at Carter Funeral Home, Prestonsburg.

Visitation will be Sunday from noon until time of service.

Final resting place, Richmond Cemetery.

Carter Funeral Home is serving the Mosley family.

(Paid obituary)

Patricia (Trish) Crace

Blackburn

Patricia (Trish) Crace Blackburn, 48, of Allen, died Tuesday, November 25, 2003, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg.

Born December 12, 1954, in Floyd County, she was the daughter of the late Estill Crace and Edna Adams Crace Sammons. She was a homemaker, saved and baptized at Irene Cole First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg and was a member of the Daniels Creek Fellowship Church of God.

She is survived by her husband, Frankie (Tom) Blackburn.

Other survivors include her step-father, Bennie Sammons of Martin; two brothers, Dennie Crace of Dwale, and Bill Joe Crace of Martin; three sisters, Rita Blackburn of Prestonsburg, and Judy Kidd and Linda Bentley, both of Allen.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and one son, Frankie Thomas Blackburn Jr., and one brother, Estill Jr. Crace.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, November 28, at 1 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin, with Henry Lewis and Larry Adams officiating.

Burial was in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, at Ivel, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

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Regional SPORTS

Sunday, November 30, 2003

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TIMES Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

PROFILE

Former Blackcats end college grid careers

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

Jeremy Caudill at Kentucky. Nathan Leslie at Marshall. John Ortega at Centre. Seth Crisp at Campbellsville.

Four former Prestonsburg Blackcat football players have now ended their careers on the collegiate gridiron at four respective schools. All four leave their respective collegiate gridirons with an impact made. Caudill, Leslie, Ortega and Crisp each made early impacts on the college football scene.



Caudill



Leslie



Ortega



Crisp

■ Caudill, who played his final game at the University of Kentucky Saturday against rival Tennessee, came in as a true freshman and started on the defensive line in the tough Southeastern Conference. Caudill started in each of his four seasons at Kentucky and prior to the start of his senior season made a smooth transition from the interior defensive line to defensive end. A highlight of Caudill's career was the Wildcats' 7-5 season in 2002. A ban kept the Football Wildcats from going to a bowl game in Caudill's junior season. The Martin native is expected to be picked in April's NFL draft.

Caudill will leave the Kentucky grid program with wins against Florida, Georgia and Tennessee behind him.

■ Leslie went into the University of Marshall football program after choosing the Thundering Herd grid program over Louisville and a few other schools. Leslie's stay on the Marshall gridiron was a very interesting one. He may quite possibly be the most versatile athlete to ever put on a Herd football jersey. During his freshman season, following a redshirt campaign, he saw time as a tight end. As a member of the Thundering Herd, he spent most of his career on the defensive line and also played on special teams. Like Caudill, prior to the start of his senior season, Leslie also made a position move, moving to offensive line. At Marshall, Leslie has had the

(See CAREERS, page two)



photo by Steve LeMaster

South Floyd will join Pike Central, another 15th Region boys' basketball team, in this year's Defenders of the Station tournament.

H.S. BASKETBALL

SFHS, Pike Central scheduled for play in Bryan Station tourney

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

LEXINGTON – Two 15th Region teams – South Floyd, Pike Central – are among 16 teams in this year's Defenders of the Station Invitational. The tournament, played annually,

features talented teams from across the state. Games will be played at Bryan Station, Henry Clay, Scott County and Tates Creek high schools. First-round games will be played at various sites.

(See TOURNEY, page two)

H.S. BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK



photo by Steve LeMaster

Allen Central senior Rossi Samons looked for a pass during Wednesday night's scrimmage game against Portsmouth Clay, Ohio.

H.S. HOOPS back in spotlight this week

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

With all the panoramas and scrimmages now history, it's time for regular-season high school bas-

ketball games. At least in the early stages, it appears as if some teams are more prepared than others.

■ South Floyd High head coach Henry Webb says this year's Raiders are the most defensive

bunch he's had since the 2000 team. The Raiders lived up to that billing Wednesday night by limiting scrimmage opponent Pikeville.

(See HOOPS, page two)

TIGER HOOPS CLASSIC

East Carter, Morgan County in Paintsville tournament

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE – The field for the inaugural Tiger Hoops Classic includes four 16th Region teams. Teams hailing from the 16th Region in the first-ever Tiger Hoops Classic include Morgan County, East Carter,

Rowan County and Greenup County. Of the four, Morgan County is most likely the strongest squad. This issue, Morgan County and East Carter will be previewed.

Morgan County, coached by Matthew Perry, had an excellent season on the hardwood last season and will rely on the play of six-foot-three

senior guard Ryan Phipps and sophomore Blake McCowan to provide scoring. Also returning to the mix for Morgan County is Whitney Perry and Whitney Allen (6-2), a senior forward. Morgan County posted a 24-7 record last season. The Cougars

(See PAINTSVILLE, page two)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Centre men's team has Floyd ties

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

DANVILLE – Two Floyd County natives are strong ties that now help bind the Centre College men's basketball program. Stacey Hall, a Floyd County native who graduated from McDowell High School and most recently served as the head coach at Mercer County High School where he had a regional championship team in his first season, is an assistant coach on the Centre College staff. Centre is coming off an 18-9 record and a second-place finish in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament.

This is Hall's first college coaching job.

With four starters returning and one of the best athletes in the history of Centre College still around, expectations for the 2003-04 season are extremely high. Returning starters include seniors Rob King,

(See TEAM, page two)

H.S. BASKETBALL

Piarist will field boys' basketball team

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

MARTIN – After a one-year absence, the Piarist School in Martin will field a boys' basketball team and play a schedule that'll feature many opponents from the Three Rivers Conference. The last person to coach a boys' basketball team at the Piarist School was Gary Kidd in 2001. The Martin-based school did not field a boys team last season but did have a girls' basketball team. Anthony Ward

(See PIARIST, page two)

PROFILE

Spurlock has 14th Region favorite

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

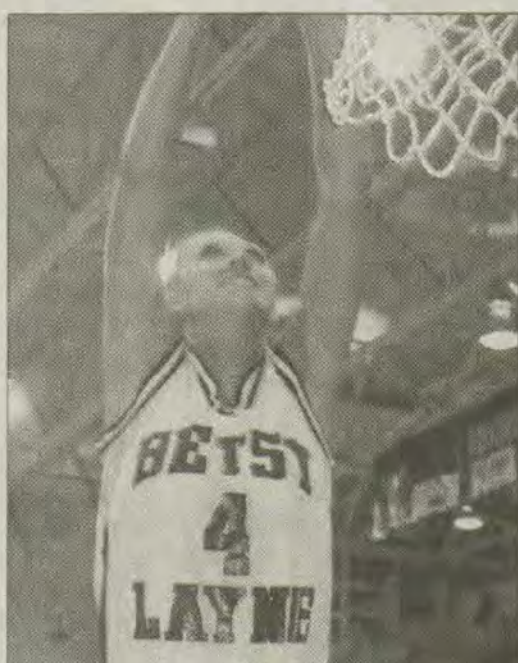
HAZARD – Floyd County native Kevin Spurlock is one of the hardworking high school coaches that can say he's served as a head coach in each of the "big three" prep sports. While at his high school alma mater, Allen Central, Spurlock served as head coach of both the Rebel baseball and foot-

ball teams, while putting in time as the top assistant on the boys' basketball bench. Spurlock took his first head coaches job as a boys' basketball coach at Trimble County where he spent one year before returning to Eastern Kentucky to become the head coach at Hazard. Now, Spurlock, set to begin his second season at Hazard, has the 14th

(See SPURLOCK, page two)



Hazard Coach Kevin Spurlock played and coached at Allen Central High School.



file photo

Betsy Layne junior guard Kim Clark and her Ladycat teammates begin defense of the 15th Region title this week. The high school season arrives for most all teams this week.

Reds push naming new manager into next week

by ED TAYLOR
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Day with your families and friends.

We certainly do have a lot to be thankful for.

I am thankful that someone else had to take all the insides of a turkey and dispose of it. I am thankful for those comfort-

able recliners that are so nice to try and watch football from on this special day.

I am thankful for DirectTV which affords me the chance to watch some of the UK basket-

ball games. I am thankful that not all our youth have gone sour but we still have some pretty fine young men and women.

It may be next week before we are told who the new field boss for the Cincinnati Reds will be. I am getting to feel like a person who has been wondering for the past four months if his wife was going to come back to him or not — at this point, I just don't care.

I still contend the Reds are waiting for some overture from the office of major league baseball on the reinstatement of Pete Rose. Oh, I know the Reds are not going to be able to hire major league baseball's all-time hits leader for the 2004 season but if he is reinstated and allowed to return to managing in 2005, then the Reds will hire Dave Miley, who they can reassign after the 2004 season.

■ OTHER MLB NOTES — The Boston Red Sox are court- ing Arizona's Curt Shilling and looks like they are willing to give up some pretty good young prospects to close the deal. I understand that the decision is Shilling's to make.

Meanwhile, the Houston Astros are showing a lot of interest in New York's Andy Pettite, a 12 game winner last year for the Yankees.

■ BASKETBALL — The high school basketball season opens next week and it should be an interesting season. From sources in Floyd County, coach Bret Rose should have a strong contender up at Betsy Layne

this season. Likewise, on the girls front, the Lady Cats of Betsy Layne are a clear favor to repeat as 15th Regional champions.

Mark Martin will lead the Allen Central Lady Rebels as one of the new varsity coaches on the scene this season. Tony Isaac will be at the helm at South Floyd. Megan Ousley will return for her senior season for the Lady Raiders. I remember watching Megan when she was just a sixth-grader and you could tell she was

going to be a good one in high school. The Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats will have a new

(See REDS, page three)



Megan Ousley

ALICE LLOYD COLLEGE

Bulldogs go to 2-0 in AAC

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIPPA PASSES — Union College improved to 2-0 in Appalachian Athletic Conference play thanks to an 83-77 win at Alice Lloyd College on Tuesday. Freshman Chris Mullins posted a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds, while freshman Russ Bramlage led the Bulldogs in scoring with 17. Junior Aaron Troutman added 13 points with sophomores Josh Andrews and Paul Herald each knocking in 11.

Union led 39-32 at the half, and despite shooting 62.5 percent (15 of 24 shots) from the floor and a perfect 5-for-5 from 3-point range in the second half, Union was outscored 45-44 during the final 20 minutes. However, it wasn't enough for the Eagles to overtake the Bulldogs as Union netted the 83-

77 victory.

For the game, Union connected on 30-of-58 shots (51.7 percent) and hit 42.1 percent (8 of 19 shots) from long range.

Alice Lloyd's Jeremy Daniels led all scorers with 18 points, while Micah Oden scored 16 and Jeremy Jackson 10.

Union soars past Lady Eagles in 99-65 AAC win

Lack of offense was not a problem of Union College on Tuesday as the Lady Bulldogs posted a 99-65 Appalachian Athletic Conference victory at Alice Lloyd.

Fourteen different Lady Bulldogs cracked the scoring column with sophomore Andrea Whitehead's 23 points leading the way. Senior Chasity Nunn chipped in 20.

Union led 47-31 at the half before outscoring the Lady Eagles 52-34 in the second half.

Team

Continued from p1

Jason Atwell, James Booker, and sophomore Coy Zerhusen. One of the returnees is a Floyd County native.

All-conference football and baseball player John Ortega also returns for the Colonels. The Prestonsburg High graduate grabbed all-tournament honors last basketball season. He is one of six seniors.

Atwell, a first team all-conference selection last year, led the Colonels in scoring with a 14.3 average. Centre head coach Greg Mason said, "Jason is a phenomenal shooter, and I feel hopeful that he will even be better going back to his natural position at the wing." Atwell has led the Colonels in scoring the last two years and should join the 1000 point club this season.

Also returning is leading rebounder (7.1), shot blocker, and steals leader, Rob King. King averaged 9.3 points a game last year and was honorable mention all-conference. Defensive specialist James Booker gives the Colonels an experienced defender who usually draws the opponent's best scorer. Booker can score, too, averaging nine points a game in 2002-03 and shoots 83 percent from the free throw line. Hardworking Coy Zerhusen (10.3 points per game) gives the Colonels another good scorer and rebounder (6.6). Zerhusen also averaged three assists per game to lead the team.

The Colonels will play a 25-game schedule including three tournaments. The season will culminate with the SCAC Tournament in Memphis, Tenn., on February 27-29.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Shawnee wins battle of Lady Bears

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — Shawnee State hit all its first half free throws and dominated the glass to run past Pikeville College 80-57 Tuesday night.

Shawnee, 7-0 and ranked 10th in NAIA Div. II, hit 17-of-17 from the line before the break to jump out to a 45-32 lead. They finished 22-of-26 (84.6 percent).

It also clearly won the rebounding battle, 50-38, and survived 22 turnovers to win.

Pikeville (4-3) was led by freshman center Heather Dillon, who had 13 points, 11 of which came in the first half. Freshman forward Ramanda Music tossed in 12 points while junior Amelia Cody added a dozen off the bench.

Pikeville also got eight points and a team-best eight rebounds from junior guard Selena Williams.

Shawnee State was paced by junior forward Cassie Hackworth, who flipped in 21 on the night to go along with six rebounds. To round out her night, she had five steals and four assists, both leading the team.

Senior center Mandy Goin

had 13 and paced the team with seven rebounds, as four players had at least five



Ramanda Music

boards in the game. Junior guard Nikki Tucker finished with 11 points thanks to hitting three three-point baskets.

Pikeville will now be off for a week to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday, returning to action next Tuesday when it visits Knoxville College.

Hoops

At press time, South Floyd was on the Raider Arena hardwood against Morgan County in a final pre-season tuneup for both teams.

■ Hazard head coach Kevin Spurlock, a Floyd County native, could have the best team in Eastern Kentucky. Period. Hazard boasts seniors Steven Sizemore and Lamar Williams, two of the state's most talented athletes. Both are Sizemore and Williams are three-sport athletes. Sizemore is leaning toward the sport of football at the next level. Williams is getting attention from many football coaches as well, but still holds a spot in his heart for baseball. Both can get things done on the basketball court.

"I can say Lamar, 'hold that guy to 10 points, any player,' and he'll hold them to 10 points," said Spurlock.

The Hazard coach was somewhat concerned about his team's play Wednesday night against Prestonsburg. Many players, including Sizemore and Williams, were still shaking off the recent football season. The senior pass-catch duo, Sizemore the quarterback and Williams the receiver, led Hazard to a Class A, District Eight title.

Hazard will open its season with Betsy Layne, a team in which Spurlock holds in high regard.

"I've heard they're pretty good," said Spurlock. "(Coach) Brent (Rose) does a good job up there."

■ Prestonsburg, like Hazard, is still getting many players adjusted to the hardwood from the gridiron. The two teams played at Allen Central Wednesday night with a dominant Hazard team running away with the win.

■ The Betsy Layne boys are ranked in the top-five in the 15th Region in many pre-season rankings. Seniors Brandon Hall and Jordan Kidd are each ranked among the top players in the 15th. The Bobcats, playing a Belfry team which was without some its talent due to an extended football season, won easily. Many of the Betsy Layne Ladycats were at Allen Central Wednesday night to cheer on their male counterparts.

■ Shelby Valley was ranked 25th in the Lexington Herald-Leader pre-season boys' basketball poll that was published Friday. The Wildcats are two-time defending 15th Region champs. The Herald-Leader pre-season high school basketball section also ranked Shelby Valley guard Seth Kiser as the top player in the region.

Junior Kris Bentley, who transferred from Prestonsburg to Shelby

PIKEVILLE COLLEGE

Bears claw Cavs

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — The Pikeville College Bears scored 15 of the final 17 first-half points to begin a roll that resulted in an 88-46 win over the Highland Cavaliers of U.Va.-Wise Tuesday night.

The Bears completed the outburst by scoring 35 of the first 54 points after the break, turning a 26-20 lead into a 76-41 rout.

Pikeville (6-0) hit 54 percent from the field, getting a huge game from senior Teon Knox. The center from Baltimore recorded his fifth double-double of the season, hitting 9-of-13 from the floor to finish with 22 points and pulling down 13 rebounds. On the season, he's averaging 15.4 points and 11.6 rebounds per game.

Senior point guard Kevin Gaines also recorded a double-double, finishing with 15 points and handing out 10 assists. In addition, he had only one turnover in a game that saw the Bears give the ball up only seven times.

Senior Greg Davis hit three three-pointers to finish with 17

markers.

The one shortcoming for the Bears came at the line, where they managed only 11-of-21 for 52.4 percent. But handling the ball, dominating the glass and a pair of double doubles more than made up for it.

U.Va.-Wise (3-6) was paced by seniors Jeremy Houseright and Bobby Hedrick, who scored 10 points each. Houseright, a Gate City, Va., product, led the Cavs with six rebounds.

Tourney

Continued from p1

In addition to South Floyd and Pike Central, another area team, Hazard, will play in this year's tournament, which is scheduled to run Dec. 19-23. Other teams in the invitational tournament include host Bryan Station, Woodford County, Ohio County, Henry Clay, Taylor County, Pleasure Ridge Park, DeSales, West Jessamine, Scott County, Bates Creek, Manual, Cawood and Lone Oak.

Pike Central will play Pleasure Ridge Park in a first-round game. South Floyd drew Scott County, one of the state's top teams. First-round pairings and a schedule for the tournament follows.

Defenders of the Station Invitational

Dec. 19 at Bryan Station — Bryan Station vs. Woodford County, 6:30; Hazard vs. Ohio County, 8.

Dec. 19 at Henry Clay — Henry Clay vs. Taylor County, 6:30; PRP vs. Pike Central, 8.

Dec. 19 at Scott County — DeSales vs. West Jessamine, 6:30; Scott County vs. South Floyd, 8.

Careers

Continued from p1

opportunity to play against such top-notch programs as Florida and Virginia Tech.

Leslie entered his senior season with bowl games and MAC (Mid-America Conference) titles already to his credit.

■ Ortega initially attended the University of Kentucky and played on the UK junior varsity football team with then head coach Hal Mumme at the top of the Wildcat program. When UK didn't offer a scholarship, Ortega moved on to Centre College where he has become a legend. Gathering honors in football, basketball and baseball, Ortega is the first Centre College Colonel to compete in all three sports in 50 years. Much like he did as a student at Prestonsburg High School, Ortega stands out in all three sports. The recent grid season saw Ortega help Centre to a share of the SCAC (Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference title). Ortega has also drawn the attention of some professional football franchises and scouts.

■ In his freshman season at Campbellsville University, Crisp, a quarterback in high school, went under center for the Tigers as a starter and performed like a veteran college quarter-

Paintsville

Continued from p1

lost to Rose Hill Christian in the second round of the 16th Region Tournament.

East Carter didn't have as good a campaign as Morgan last season, but did win 19 games. The Raiders finished 19-11 and were in the middle of the 16th Region boys' basketball pack. East Carter ended the 2002-03 season with a loss to Russell in the first round of the 16th Region Tournament.

Seniors Richie Savage and Nathan Davis, both six-foot-three, return inside for East Carter. Marc Messer is a talented sophomore who returns for East Carter. The Raiders are coached by Brandon Baker.

Piarist

Continued from p1

will coach the Piarist boys.

Andrea Preston takes over for Damella Bradley and will coach the Piarist girls. Both teams were busy this past week with practices. Some practices have been held at the Martin Community Center. Each team will begin regular-season play this week with Three Rivers Conference Tournament games.

By playing last season, the Piarist girls' basketball program likely benefited. The team returns several experienced players from last season's squad, including Tommie Sue Tussey and Bethany Tackett. The Lady Knights will still play a 58th District schedule. The Piarist boys will not.

Spurlock

Continued from p1

Region favorite and a loaded team that resembles a small college team in many regards.

Spurlock is excited about the upcoming season.

"We're looking forward to the upcoming season, we've got some great athletes," admitted Spurlock. "We'll play a tough schedule"

Steven Sizemore, the 14th Region's top player, returns for a Hazard team that will give Perry Central and all others in the region a stiff challenge.

Sizemore, a center, will be joined by 6-5 forward Lamar Williams, his favorite target in football, and guards Parker Carter (6-2) and J.J. Housley (6-2). Hank Gabbard is a 6-3 point guard who can move the ball and shoot.

The talent on this year's Hazard Bulldogs team goes up and down the lineup. The Bulldogs boast a deep team. Spurlock says he'll play eight

players. Spurlock's team will run up and down the floor.

Eric Mullins has transferred in from Harrison County and automatically makes the Bulldogs even better. Spurlock says Mullins has accepted his role on the Hazard team and will help the Bulldogs.

Senior forward Robert Lytle, a player who played very well last season, junior guard Chase Patrick and sophomore guard Durrell Olinger add depth to a team which features several scoring threats.

The 2003-04 Hazard High boys' schedule is a tough one as it includes a December visit from national power Oak Hill Academy.

Spurlock was back in Floyd County Wednesday night for the Allen Central Panorama. The Hazard boys will open their season at home against Betsy Layne at home on Tuesday, Dec. 9.



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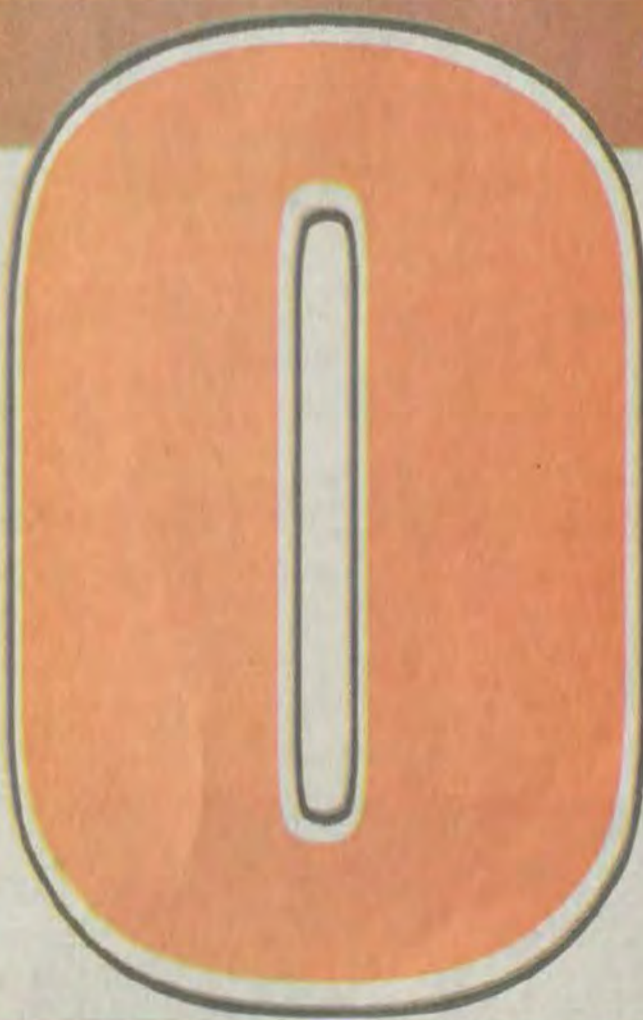
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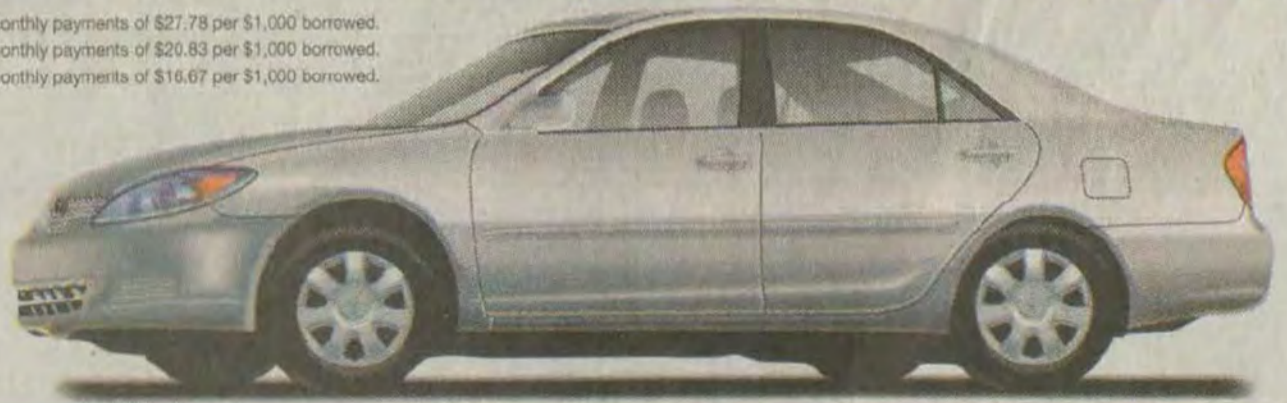
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