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briefs

Correction

A story printed in the Dec. 21 edition of The Times regarding probationary sentences given in six drug cases misrepresented Melvin couple Zane Sloan, 39, and Virginia Sloan, 38, who used false identities in August at McDowell ARH Professional Services Clinic.

As reported, both Zane and Virginia Sloan were indicted in July for theft of identity without consent (later dismissed) and falsely obtaining a controlled substance prescription, a charge which was amended to theft by deception, a class A misdemeanor.

However, the article failed to note that the Sloans misrepresented themselves at the clinic in order to obtain medical treatment for Zane Sloan.

Authorities originally believed the couple used false identities in order to obtain a prescription for Loratab. However, that assumption was later changed, according to Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner, who stated that the couple was attempting to receive medical treatment for Zane Sloan, who needed surgery for a work-related medical condition, because they had no insurance to cover the cost of that surgery.

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2 DAY FORECAST Today Mostly sunny High: 57 • Low: 42 Tomorrow Showers High: 58 • Low: 31 For up-to-the-minute forecasts, see floydcountytimes.com

Bill could end teacher dispute

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

FRANKFORT — A Christmas Eve announcement from the Senate Democratic Office gave local teachers, who have been in conflict with the Floyd County Board of Education of late, a possible end to their squabble.

According to a statement issued Dec. 24, Democratic state Sen. Johnny Ray Turner pre-filed a bill in Frankfort designed to give teachers and classified school personnel full credit for lengthened make-up days they work after schools are closed due to inclement weather.

The prolonged standard in Floyd and surrounding counties has been that snow

days means longer days for area schools, and Turner says the consequences of those longer hours don't "add up" for teachers or classified personnel within the school districts, a fact with which Dani Smith, president of the Floyd County Education Association, wholeheartedly agrees.

"I appreciate Johnny Ray Turner for doing this because the teachers are not

receiving the recognition for the work that they're doing," she said. "As it stands now, students are working one calendar and teachers are working another one, and we're not getting paid for the hours that we are working."

According to Smith, an increase of 30

(See BILL, page three)



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Adams Middle School teacher, Mrs. Reba Price, was moved to tears last Wednesday afternoon upon her return home from a shopping trip to find that fellow teachers, staff members and students of the Prestonsburg school had stopped by her home to decorate her yard with 3,000 folded paper cranes. Teachers and students had gotten the idea of making the paper birds for Price after reading the book, "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" by Eleanor Coerr, which relates the Japanese legend that if a person is ill and 1,000 paper cranes are folded, that person will receive a wish for good health. Price is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. AMS student Elizabeth Baldrige, a sixth-grader, said the students decided that if 1,000 paper cranes were good, then Mrs. Price, who is well-loved at the school, deserved even more. Each grade level at the middle school folded 1,000 cranes each for a total of 3,000 wishes for a complete recovery.

Christmas quiet for local cops

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

This holiday season proved to be a quiet one, according to local authorities.

Officials with the Floyd County Sheriff's Department and the Prestonsburg Police Department reported Friday that no arrests were made in the Floyd County area on either Christmas Eve or Christmas day, a fact that is quite unusual for this time of year, they say.

According to Sherry Phillips, dispatcher with the Floyd County Sheriff's office, family gatherings accustomed with the holiday season usually bring with them reports of domestic violence. None, however, were reported to the sheriff's department this year, a trend that also resonated with the Prestonsburg Police Department.

"Domestic violence does pick up sometimes when you get family in for holidays," said Stan Farler, assistant chief with the the Prestonsburg Police Department, who reported that no calls were received by 911 dispatchers regarding domestic violence issues.

In fact, the Prestonsburg Police Department received very few calls at all over the holidays, said Farler, and those that were investigated dealt with automobile accidents or alarms going off within city limits.

The Floyd County Sheriff's department assisted in only one accident during the Christmas holiday, said Phillips, which occurred Christmas Eve on Route 80 at Maytown when a vehicle pulled out into oncoming traffic.

Although detailed information was not available regarding that accident, no injuries were reported, she said.

According to Farler, there were fewer than five automobile accidents reported this season with the Prestonsburg Police Department.

One reason for the quiet season, said Farler, is probably the fact that most of the stores within the city close shop early during Christmas. Other policing agency officials, however, say there may be other reasons.

"Evidently, everybody got what they wanted for Christmas this year," said one dispatcher.

Boy gets special police visit

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — It was the night before Christmas Eve, and all through the house ... police officers were stirring.

At least this was the case for 8-year-old Prestonsburg Elementary student Christian Cole.

And although, in most cases, this might be cause for alarm, Christian and his family couldn't have been

happier. "I knew they were coming, but I didn't know they were going to do what they done," said Christian's mom, Ida Cole. "There were five of them, and they brought five of their police cars."

Cole said the special Christmas gift of having police officers visit her home at Indian Hills on Tuesday, the day before Christmas Eve, was something she had discussed with several Prestonsburg police officers during

their stops at the local Speedway, where she works as a cashier.

"I just talk to them all the time about what an impact they have on his life," she said from work Friday.

Christian, who his mother says has been something of an "outcast" with his family because of his high energy, suffers from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, more commonly referred to simply as ADHD, and has,

(See VISIT, page three)

Satellite customers getting local channels

West Virginia stations added, but not Hazard

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

Subscribers to Dish Network who maintain a fierce loyalty to local programming may soon be able to drop local cable access and depend exclusively on their satellite programming as a provider for local news and other

channels. The satellite provider announced Tuesday that, effective Dec. 18, eight new local channels would be offered to subscribers for a \$5.99 monthly fee.

Prior to the decision, subscribers' only options were out-of-state, distant network options, and even then through a waiver request.

The eight new channels, are ABC, channel 8; CBS, channel 13; FOX, channel 11; three PBS options, chan-

(See CHANNELS, page three)



Prestonsburg Walmart was hopping Friday with its annual fluctuation of gift-returning customers. According to Service Desk Associate Tawna Butcher, pictured here, the returns department handled a "steady" flow of customers by Friday afternoon, but no more than is usual during the holiday season. In addition to its usual customer service station, the store roped off three aisles to accommodate customers with returns on Friday.

photo by Mary Music

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Odds and Ends

■ **MINNEAPOLIS** — A naked man got stuck in the chimney of a bookstore early Christmas morning.

Don't worry, it wasn't Santa Claus.

The 34-year-old man was treated Thursday for bruises and abrasions at Hennepin County Medical Center after being found naked and lodged in the furnace flue at Uncle Hugo's Bookstore. He was expected to be charged with attempted burglary on Friday.

"He was lucky," said police Lt. Mike Sauro. "He was only stuck in that chimney for a few

hours. It's kind of a happy ending, because if he had been in there until that store opened Friday morning, it's my judgment he would have died.

"He doesn't appear to be a hard-core criminal, just stupid."

Police suspect that the man was drunk when he climbed atop the one-story building and removed all his clothes to help squeeze into the chimney. He then started to slide down the 12-by-12-inch chimney shaft, Sauro said.

"He's not Santa Claus," Sauro said. "He's a really skinny guy. And he's lucky he didn't get cooked."

n't get cooked."

The man told police that he entered the chimney about 1 a.m. Thursday to retrieve keys he accidentally dropped down the shaft.

A passer-by called police around 9 a.m. Thursday, after hearing screams for help coming from inside the store. Firefighters broke into the chimney with sledgehammers and freed the man.

"The store is pretty well torn up," said owner Don Blyly, who came in Thursday to hang up signs for a sale to begin Friday. "This is not what I came in here for today, but that's what I have to deal with."

■ MIDDLETOWN, R.I. —

The O'Connor family has its own Christmas miracle: Its cat that had been missing for two months was found clear across the country.

Jefferson, a 5-year-old orange tabby, somehow escaped from his carrier as he was being loaded on a Delta Air Lines flight at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The cat was flying with his kin, McKinley, to the East Coast, while the O'Connors were driving.

Delta crews and the family spent four nights scouring the airport. Later, workers checked animal hospitals and shelters, distributed fliers and took out newspaper ads.

Around mid-October, a woman spotted Jefferson in a tree near the airport, but the cat's collar came off when she tried to grab him.

About a month later, the family had gotten desperate. Kelly O'Connor decided to fly back to the Seattle area to look for the cat. She posted brightly colored, laminated fliers offering a \$200 reward.

"A lot of friends, frankly, thought we were crazy," Will O'Connor said.

Finally, on Dec. 15, a daugh-

ter of a Delta Air Cargo manager told the O'Connors that Jefferson had turned up in a house basement near the airport. A veterinarian confirmed the cat's identity through an implanted microchip. Delta flew him to Rhode Island.

Jefferson had lost about 40 percent of his 13-pound body weight when he arrived, Will O'Connor said.

"He kind of stunk a little bit," Will O'Connor said.

The normally adventurous feline is slowly regaining his desire to go outdoors, perching himself on the window sill.

"He's starting to turn into his old self," Will O'Connor said.

■ DAYTONA BEACH SHORES, Fla. —

A man robbed a bank, then took a cab to a liquor store, where he got drunk before he was arrested two hours later, police said.

William F. Nutley, 56, was picked up trying to leave through the back door of the liquor store, Daytona Beach Shores Department of Public Safety Sgt. Mike Fowler said.

Nutley had robbed a Bank of America branch Tuesday by telling a teller that he had an accomplice who would shoot her if she did not give him money, Fowler said.

He then walked across the street to wait for a taxi to take him about 10 miles to the New Smyrna Beach liquor store where police found him and a portion of the stolen money, Fowler said. Police would not say how much was stolen.

Nutley was charged with robbery.

■ ANDOVER, Mass. —

Bridge players at the Andover Senior Center say the deck is stacked against them.

Seniors are threatening to boycott the center after town officials abolished a \$4 weekly prize at the afternoon bridge club, saying it violated gambling laws.

The ban inspired players to heckle town manager Reginald Stapczynski when he came to discuss the new policy two weeks ago. One dared him to compare war records.

Last week, volunteer Eve Perry quit after organizing the group for nine years.

"We were having a good time. Everybody was happy," player Donald Hayes said. "But then they made a big fuss about it."

Stapczynski said officials decided they could not condone illegal gambling of any amount.

"I think the issue goes way beyond the \$4," he said. "We want to sponsor programs and we want to follow the law. Cash on the table is just not something we want to promote."

Bingo games offer cash prizes at senior centers with a special permit, but no special permits exist for bridge games, he said.

Andover police said they weren't behind the crackdown on cash prizes and don't envision any busts on the senior center.

"I don't think the intent is gambling," said Lieutenant Kevin Winters. "I think the intent is to give them excitement."

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Dec. 28, the 362nd day of 2003. There are three days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 28, 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

On this date:

■ In 1694, Queen Mary II of England died after five years of joint rule with her husband, King William III.

■ In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down over differences with President Jackson.

■ In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

■ In 1856, the 28th president of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, was born in Staunton, Va.

■ In 1897, the play "Cyrano de Bergerac," by Edmond Rostand, premiered in Paris.

■ In 1917, the New York Evening Mail published a facetious — as well as fictitious — essay by H.L. Mencken on the history of bathtubs in America.

■ In 1937, composer Maurice Ravel died in Paris.

■ In 1944, the musical "On the Town" opened on Broadway.

■ In 1973, Alexander Solzhenitsyn published "Gulag Archipelago," an expose of the Soviet prison system.

■ In 1982, Nevell Johnson Jr., a black man, was mortally wounded by a police officer in a Miami video arcade, setting off three days of race-related disturbances that left another man dead.

Ten years ago:

Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary told CNN that people wrongfully exposed to radiation through federally funded experiments more than 40 years ago deserved to be compensated. Journalist William Shirer, author of "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," died in Boston at age 89.

Five years ago:

American warplanes exchanged missile fire with Iraqi air defenses; President Clinton said there would be no letup in American and British pressure on Saddam Hussein. Four people were killed, two gone missing and presumed dead, when fierce gales struck during an Australian yacht race.

One year ago:

The U.N. nuclear watchdog decided to pull its inspectors out of North Korea by New Year's Eve, a step demanded by the North. Mwai Kibaki and his opposition alliance won a landslide victory in Kenyan elec-

tions, breaking the ruling party's 39-year grip on power.

Today's Birthdays:

Actor Lou Jacobi is 90. Bandleader Johnny Otis is 82. Former United Auto Workers union president Owen Bieber is 74. Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 69. Rock singer-musician Charles Neville is 65. Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 57. Rock singer-musician Alex Chilton (The Box Tops; Big Star) is 53. Actor Denzel Washington is 49. Country singer Joe Diffie is 45. Country musician Mike McGuire (Shenandoah) is 45. Actor Chad McQueen is 43. Country singer-musician Marty Roe (Diamond Rio) is 43. Actor Mauricio Mendoza is 34. Comedian Seth Meyers is 30. Actress Mackenzie Rosman is 14.

Thought for Today:

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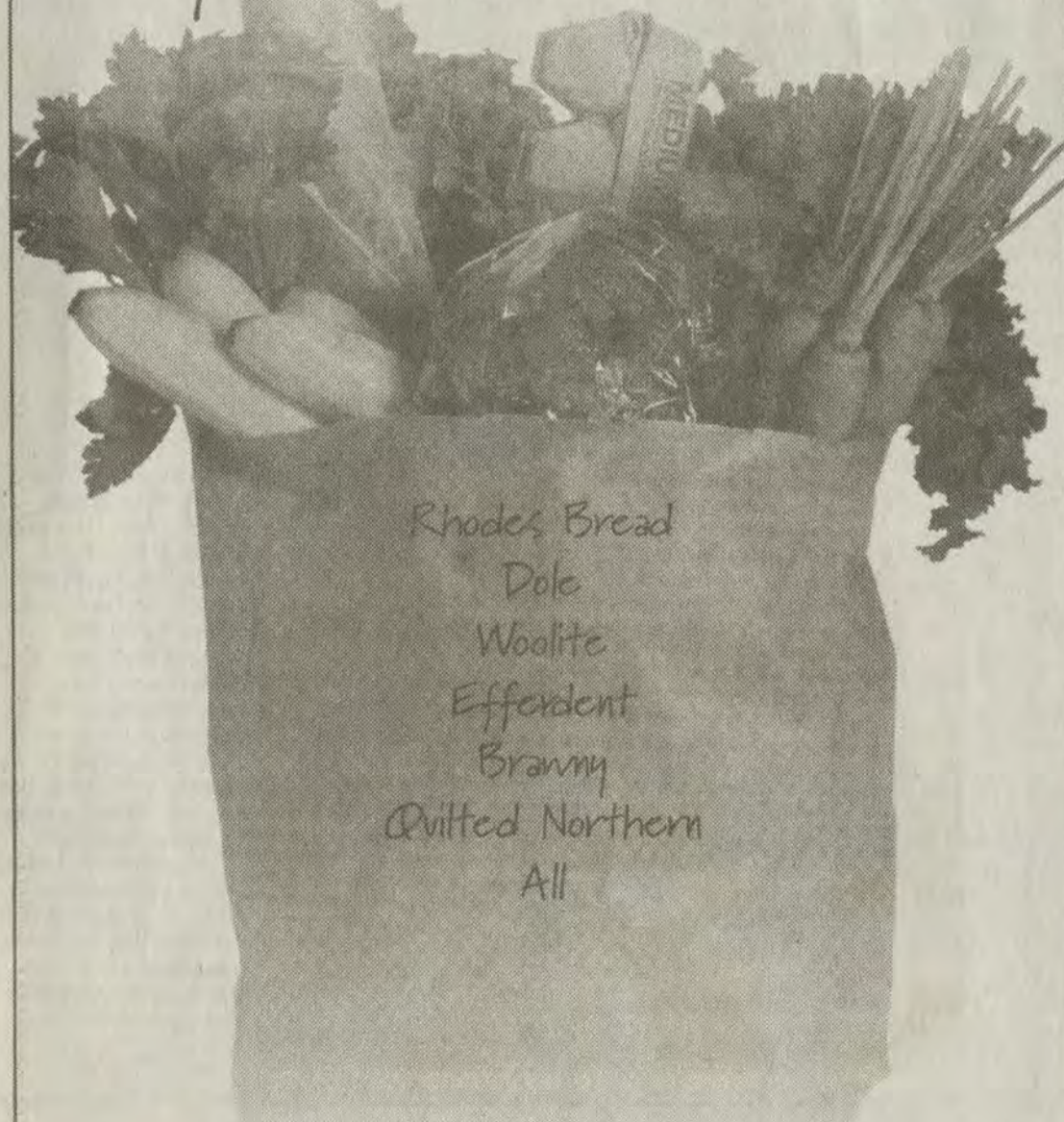
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College educates poor with huge endowment from out-of-state donors

The Associated Press

BEREA — Berea College, nestled in Appalachia, has been educating poor students without charging them tuition for nearly 100 years.

The tiny college of about 1,500 students covers the tuitions with an extraordinary endowment that exceeds even the University of Kentucky's, the state's largest university.

Berea's endowment hit a peak of \$876 million in 2000, and it is steady at about \$741 million, nearly twice as much as UK's, which has 35,000 students.

The success story of the college is in many ways grounded in its appeal to donors who never attended the school, but are attracted to its mission of educating Appalachia's poor.

"Because our mission is compelling, we appeal to a broad range of people," said President Larry Shinn.

Alumni account for just 20 percent of donations. Much of it comes from people who aren't from Kentucky and didn't attend Berea. Legendary philanthropist Andrew Carnegie funded one of the campus buildings in the 1920s.

In the past five years, Shinn said, the school has raised between \$6 and \$8 million from people in New York City who didn't previously know of Berea College.

And last year, 17,000 people gave money to Berea, which exceeds the number of graduates for its entire history.

Berea engenders enormous loyalty because it changes so many lives so dramatically, says

Robert Lawson, a Berea graduate and two-time dean of the UK law school.

"It meant everything to me," said Lawson, who grew up as a coal miner's son in Logan, W.Va. "If I hadn't found it, I probably would have ended up a coal miner like some of my brothers. I feel like I owe it practically everything."

When Berea first opened its doors in 1855, its mission was to educate poor Appalachians and freed slaves together. In exchange for working at the school, students' fees were reduced to \$5 or \$10 a year. The trustees eventually decided to eliminate tuition, and the school almost went out of business.

In the 1920s, the trustees set a policy of putting every unrestricted donation the college received into the endowment. So, while most schools took big donations, and maybe built a new dorm, Berea socked the money away to keep the school tuition-free.

"We're just about the only college that's always done that," said financial director Ron Smith. "We've always saved the majority of money that comes in here."

The most dramatic growth in Berea's endowment came from a new direction in investing that involved the stock market in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The board's investment committee, advised by board member Jim Bartlett, a Cleveland venture capitalist, looked to the investment strategies of some of the schools with the biggest endowments: Yale and Harvard.

Berea officials invested 70 per-

cent of the school's endowment in the stock market and 15 percent in fixed income vehicles, such as bonds and money markets. They put the rest into private equities, including venture capital, distressed debt funds and hedge funds.

The endowment started to grow. Between 1992 and 1998, it surged from \$353.7 million to \$586.7 million, an increase of 65 percent. In the next two years, 1998 to 2000, the total fund ballooned to an all-time high of \$876 million.

"We happened to hit a home run that year out of venture capital," Shinn said. "At the time, most

colleges wouldn't have dreamed of doing this."

Berea wasn't immune to the market downturn — its endowment fell nearly \$200 million in the three years that followed, but has since rebounded.

"The downside was well-managed," said trustee Jim Gray of Lexington, who has been on the board 13 years.

"But Berea didn't just wait for someone in Lexington or Louisville to tell them how to manage this thing — we got ahead of the curve and began managing the endowment along the lines of the best in class in the country," Gray said.



photo by Sheldon Compton

Christian Cole, 8, and his brother, Noah, 5, play with a replica police cruiser given to Christian during a surprise visit from members of the Prestonsburg Police Department. Christian's mother says she has seen improvement with her second-grader's attention deficit disorder since he became interested in law enforcement.

Visit

Continued from p1

since age 2, wanted nothing more than to be a police officer, Cole says.

The passion for a uniform and authority could be what draws her second-grader, said Cole, but in the past few years, it has proven to be more important than any could have imagined.

It began when a simple plan while the family was living in Paintsville. Cole said she visited the Paintsville Police Department with her son and he was given a junior police badge as a gift from the officers.

"They explained to him that if police officers do anything wrong, they have their badges taken from them," said Cole.

The casual advice would become a key to helping Christian, who has been on medication for the disorder since he was 4.

"Now when he does something wrong, or when his medicine wears off, we just remind him that he'll lose his badge if he does anything wrong," said Cole. "They use this at his school from time to time and it helps."

On Tuesday, the day before Christmas Eve, just after local police had finished their "Shop with a Cop" program, Christian's admiration of law enforcement reached its peak as five local officers showed up at his Indian

Hills apartment.

"We knew about it and he didn't, but none of us realized there would be so many of them," said Cole.

When five officers arrived in five separate vehicles to present Christian with a die-cast replica of a police chief cruiser, Cole said her son's reaction said it all.

"He was so shocked that he didn't get excited like he usually does," she said. "He just went around and shook everybody's hand. Then, after they left, he was on the phone calling everybody and telling them what had happened."

A typical 8-year-old, Christian didn't describe the visit as "great" or "neat."

"It was cool," Christian said. "I got presents and a police car with all the stickers. The police chief's car."

The replica was set on a shelf in the living room of the Coles' apartment Friday, but only for a short time before Christian and his 5-year-old brother, Noah, had it in the floor, opening the doors and popping the hood.

"I just like to see the police get involved with this," Cole said as she watched her sons playing in the floor. "I want Christian to know he can do anything he wants to do and these kinds of things help with that."

Bill

Continued from p1

minutes to the instructional day in Floyd County allows students to "bank" 14 days of the school year, which means they don't have to make those days back up at the end of the school year. Teachers, however, are required to do so.

State code dictates that students in Kentucky are required to attend 185 days or the equivalent in hours of school each year. However, teachers are required to teach a full 185 days of school each year, which often means they, along with other school administrators, must continue to work in the classroom even when school is not in session in order to make up the time lost due to school closings.

According to Turner, this extension of their work day is not currently counted toward the fulfillment of their employees' contracts or their retire-

ment.

Students get "credit" for being in the classroom, Turner said, but teachers are not fully credited for the longer day.

"We need to do everything we can to support our schools and that means supporting the people who work in them, as well as the children who attend them," said Turner.

As noted in the press release, Turner says that allowing teachers and school personnel full credit for time spent during those lengthier make-up days is "particularly important" in Eastern Kentucky, where inclement weather can close schools for weeks at a time.

Turner is a former teacher and coach.

The legislative session begins Jan. 6, at which time Turner's bill will be taken into consideration.

Beef producers in Kentucky uncertain of effects from apparent mad cow case

by JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Fallout on Kentucky's cattle industry from the country's first possible case of mad cow disease was uncertain, some beef producers said Wednesday.

They urged consumers not be worried about the safety of beef products.

"I'm going to eat beef for Christmas," said Dave Maples, executive director of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association.

The federal government announced late Tuesday that a cow from the state of Washington had tested positive for the disease. Tissue samples from the cow, which was slaughtered Dec. 9, were sent to England for further testing.

In Kentucky, there are about 40,000 farm families that produce beef cattle, Maples said.

"Kentucky is a very large, beef-producing state and there's a lot of concern with our producers ... that it will have an effect," Maples said. "Hopefully it will be temporary. The big thing is the consumers have to be confident in our product."

Currently, there are about 1.2 million cows in the state, Maples said. Most of the cows in Kentucky are sold to farmers in western states where they are eventually slaughtered, he said.

Mad cow disease — which destroys the brains of infected animals — cannot pass through muscle tissue, Maples said. The nation's food supply should be safe, he said.

Nelson Curry, a Bourbon County beef producer, said the effects on his business were still uncertain. He manages a 2,200-acre farm that ranges between 500 to 1,500 heads of cattle at different times of the year.

"As producers, the first thing we want to do is reassure the consumers that our product is safe," Curry said.

Still, many consumers may not know all the facts about the disease and that could result in at least a short-term drop-off for beef prices.

"Most likely we're going to be looking at some down markets over the next couple days or weeks," Curry said. "In my

mind, it's not the short term severity so much but the long term. How long does it take people to get the confidence back to eat a hamburger or eat a steak?"

Doug Thomas, a spokesman for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, said consumers should not be affected by the fallout, but cattle producers might be if people stop eating beef or if beef exports drop.

A drop in the beef industry probably wouldn't help pork

producers, said Mike Ovesen, executive director of Kentucky Pork Producers. The state has about 1,000 pork producers that generate about 800,000 market hogs a year, Ovesen said. While they have benefited from recent popular diets, the same may not hold true in a mad cow scenario, Ovesen said.

"Anything that relates to food security won't help at all," Ovesen said. "It's not even going to help the apple industry."

Continued from p1

Channels

channels 33, 25 and 42; WB, channel 30; and WSAZ, channel 3.

The channels have been made accessible to Dish Network customers in Floyd, Johnson, Pike, Magoffin, Martin, Boyd, Carter, Elliot, Greenup, Lawrence and Lewis counties in Kentucky, in addition to 16 counties in West Virginia and another seven counties in Ohio.

Charleston-based WSAZ News Channel 3, one of the more prominent local news channels, released a statement Tuesday saying the station is pleased to be included as one of the eight new channels.

"This will put WSAZ in a lot of homes in our market that have some type of satellite or alternate delivery service," said the

station's vice president and general manager, Don Ray. "Now all a Dish Network satellite subscriber has to do is purchase the local channel option and they will receive WSAZ NewsChannel 3. No waiver is needed."

In the past, subscribers were required to utilize a waiver based on the federally mandated Satellite Home Viewers Act, said WSAZ marketing director Jack Deakin.

But left out of the mix was Hazard's WYMT, which, although considered to be in the Lexington market while Floyd County is considered to be in Huntington-Charleston market, is a station watched by many residents in the areas benefiting from the change.

But WYMT executive vice president and general manager Ernestine Cornette says the station has plans to someday be included in local viewing options.

"We definitely want to be one of the options for satellite viewers," Cornette said. "We are doing everything we can to see that that happens. In the Lexington market, which is what we're in officially, I think we're considered secondary, but hopefully we may be able to be an offering."

Although no official forms are sent to customers, Cornette says the station is currently prompting its viewers to "put in requests" to have the station added to the list.

"We encourage people to contact their satellite providers and request that WYMT be put on to hopefully speed up the process."

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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

Guestview

Editorial roundup

The Times-Picayune, New Orleans, on Iraq's debts:

Given how long and how badly average Iraqis suffered under Saddam Hussein's regime, it hardly seems just to burden them with all his outstanding debt — now estimated at more than \$120 billion.

... It seems highly unlikely that Iraq will be able to repay all of its obligations to France, Russia, Japan, the United States and a host of other nations. Fortunately, the United States is finally making some progress toward convincing Iraq's creditors of the need to cancel substantial amounts of debt. ...

In the future, an international agreement on rules for canceling debt could well dissuade rich nations from propping up dictatorships with loans. ...

An accepted mechanism for canceling odious debt could help promote the spread of democracy around the developing world. If Saddam Hussein's creditors knew years ago that they were running the risk of losing any money they lent him, they might have cut him off long ago — and his regime might have fallen long before this spring.

The Greenville (S.C.) News, on changing the dime:

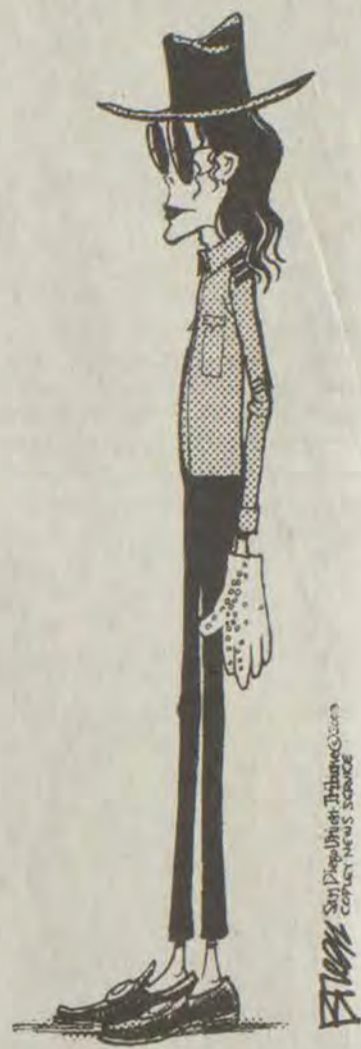
Some Republican lawmakers — including U.S. Rep. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. — want to put the image of Ronald Reagan on the dime. They'd get rid of the dime's current occupant, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

This is a bad idea. Reagan is uniquely loved by many Americans, but even Nancy Reagan, speaking for her husband, has come out against the proposal.

... That should be reason enough to drop the proposal. Beyond that, Roosevelt has a special connection with the dime. Stricken himself, Roosevelt created the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in 1938 to help victims of polio. Radio comedian Eddie Cantor urged Americans to help in the effort by sending President Roosevelt their loose change in "a march of dimes to reach all the way to the White House."

That campaign was the forerunner of the March of Dimes, dedicated to healthy babies. A grateful nation put FDR on the dime in 1946, a year after his death. And the March of Dimes helped Jonas Salk develop a polio vaccine.

Roosevelt should remain on the dime. There are many other ways to honor Ronald Reagan.



— Jim Davidson

When duty call, volunteers respond

The English poet Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) once said, "Duty is to serve society; and after we have done that, we may attend wholly to the salvation of our own souls."

While some people may disagree with this quotation, most of us can agree that duty to one's fellow human beings does rank somewhere near the top of the list. There is a large group of men and women all across this great nation who deserve our appreciation and thanks, sometimes much more than we give them.

I'm talking about the men and women who give their time, talent and resources as volunteers who improve the quality of life and who make our communities a better place to live.

Have you ever thought about where your community would be, were it not for the countless individuals who volunteer their services to help others? If you have never been on the giving end, you are missing one of the greatest blessings that life has to offer you.

I was reminded of this truth in a very

special way back on Nov. 16 of this past year when I was the featured speaker for the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner in Baxter Springs, Kan. This annual event is sponsored by the local Lions Club and features men and women who serve as volunteer firefighters, fire auxiliary, police and EMS volunteers. It is a special evening when community leaders, the mayor, state officials, ministers and members of the Lions Club pause to say thank you for a job well done.

The people in this community of 4,500 located in the corner of southeast Kansas really know what it means to serve.

There were over 60 names of non-paid volunteers listed in the program and most of them were there. My purpose in sharing this is to highlight the great job these people do. If your community does not have such an event, it might be worth thinking about doing something along these lines.

My appearance was underwritten in part by Larry and Sharon Hiatt, who publish the Baxter Springs News. These are very fine people and are very supportive of various activities in their community.



My column has run for several years in this fine newspaper, but before going over there I did not know much about Baxter Springs. This is a very unique small town with a lot of rich history and I thought that you might be interested in learning something new about Baxter Springs, Kan.

You know there are thousands of small towns all across the United States of America and I wish it were possible to visit each one. To me, the people who live in these communities are very special and most of our national leaders and heroes have come from places like this. Baxter Springs has more than its share of these people and I will tell you about a few of them in a moment.

Here are some of the things I learned about Baxter Springs. As the original Western railroad for the railroad, Baxter Springs was the first place cattle drivers from Texas met the train with their cattle herds. Thus the town celebrates its moniker as the "First Cow-Town In Kansas" with Cow-Town Days.

Baxter Springs was the kind of town you see in the movies before Abilene and Dodge City. Unfortunately, some cattle disease and the dangers of driving cattle through the Indian Territory sent

(See DAVIDSON, page five)

— beyond the beltway

Naughty Saddam, naughty war

by DONALD KAUL

In an operation that resembled cops collecting a homeless vagrant from his burrow, American troops picked up Saddam Hussein without so much as a shot being fired. It was a great day for our troops, for the Iraqi people and, not incidentally, for the Bush administration.

To have staged consecutive invasions of sovereign nations with the primary purpose of arresting or killing two men and to have twice struck out was a continuing embarrassment to Mr. Bush. Half of that embarrassment — the lesser half perhaps, but still — has been lifted.

I suppose my critics, and there are one or two, will be eager to wave their forefingers in my face and say: "Nyaa, Nyaa. Aren't you sorry you didn't support the war? Won't you now admit that you made a mistake in opposing it?"

The short answer to those questions is "No" and "No."

Do you really think my opposition to

the war was based on finding or not finding Saddam? Don't be childish. No, I was sure that we'd catch up with him sooner or later. I was pretty skeptical about taking him alive, however — and I'm glad we did — but my opposition to the war was based on more complex and wider grounds.

The main objection was that we were doing it almost alone, aided in a substantive way only by Great Britain. This not only made our motives for the invasion suspect in the eyes of the world, it virtually assured that we would not have the help of the international community when it came time to put Iraq back together after the war. Those fears have been justified, I think, by subsequent events.

Furthermore, I distrusted President Bush's rationale for the war (and it was the major one, we tend to forget), that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction at hand and was ready to use them. I thought that the U.N. inspection teams could ferret out those weapons and, in the meantime, our troops at the edge of Iraq could confound the dictator's worst impulses. As it turned out, there were no weapons of mass destruction, except in the dreams of Saddam (and the White House).



So, despite the fact I had no inside information, no access to CIA intelligence and really have a hard time finding Iraq on a map, I was right, or more right than the White House anyway. That says more about this White House than it does about me. (The White House position, by the way, is that they have already found the weapons of mass destruction. To those people, to say something is to make it real.)

Perhaps the most powerful argument being brought against the opponents of the war right now is that had we waited for the international community, had we paused until the U.N. inspectors had done their work, we'd still be waiting and Saddam would still be in power instead of in prison where he belongs.

While it's good to have Saddam out of power, to those who say we've done a monumental deed, one that justifies the war, I reply: War should not be confused with social work. War is a murderous exercise in which the line between the innocent and guilty is all but obliterated. It is very difficult to use it surgically.

To move in and help a people which has risen against a tyrant is one thing. To move in on one's own and try to punish the bad guys while sparing the good is very nearly impossible, as we are finding out.

(See BELTWAY, page five)

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Faith Extra

Minister's Moment: A world of deference

by REV. TOM BIDDLE

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES

It was Dec. 31, 1979. Gathered in our youth leader's home were about 15 excited and enthusiastic teenagers. It was about midnight, and soon we would face a new decade as the year changed from 1979 to 1980.

Before the time came for the ball to drop in Times Square, we went around the room sharing our hopes and vision for the next decade. I don't remember any of what was said that night, but I can bet it sounded like we were going to set the world on fire and make a real difference.

That was 24 years ago. A lot has changed in our world since then, and we were probably not responsible for any of those changes. In fact, I would dare say the world has changed us more than we changed it.

Of those 15 teenagers, only a few still remain active in church. Some have been married and divorced. Some have turned to drugs and alcohol. At least one

committed suicide. All have suffered our various ups and downs of life. In the end, you wonder if we made any difference at all.

That is why, as I approach 2004, I continue to ask myself about the difference one person can make. You see, I think we can make a difference. I also think we here in Eastern Kentucky can make a world of difference if we put our minds to it, and I would like to offer a few suggestions on how we can make it possible.

The best part: It all begins in our back yard. For example, the other day my wife was visiting an elderly lady who simply needed the ice and snow removed from the ramp that leads into her house. It was a job that took very little time and effort, but made a world of difference in that person's life for that day.

If I had one wish for the coming year, it would be that more of us would take a look around our communities and see the neighbors to whom we can lend a helping hand now and then. I often hear many Christians talk about sharing the love of God to

all the world. What can be a greater way to share His love than through a simple act of kindness?

We often look at the great miracles Jesus did to reveal His love, but we forget the simple things He did to share His love. He went to Zacchaeus' house and had dinner with him. Do you know of a single person or widow that just needs a friend to share a meal with him or her?

Jesus was willing to have a conversation with the woman at the well when no one else in town would even speak to her. Is there someone that you could call on the telephone every once in a while and talk to them to brighten their day?

This doesn't have to be complicated. It is simply a matter of being a servant of God, taking the language of His love, and putting it into action.

So, as you approach this new year and make all of your resolutions about the changes you are going to make in your life, try to think of the changes you can make in other people's lives.

I encourage you to decide that

this year you are going to make a difference by serving God in tangible ways. I urge our pastors and churches to think beyond the walls of their churches. Look at your communities and see ways

that you can be effective servants of God by helping your neighbors. Actively develop mission projects within your community.

So often we see the mission field in lands far away; when the

greatest need may be within sight of our door. What will you do to make this year different from the others? What will you do to make a world of difference in someone's life today?

Protestants turning more attention to Virgin Mary

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — A renewed interest in the Virgin Mary appears to be sweeping through Protestantism.

Articles featured in this month's issues of several Protestant magazines suggest that the mother of Jesus has been neglected as a biblical heroine for too long.

"The Protestant church has thrown the baby out with the bath water," said Joel Green, a Methodist minister. "Protestants have had a knee-jerk reaction as a result of veneration of Mary in the Catholic tradition, and for that reason have not taken seriously enough the resources available to us in the stories of Mary."

Green, dean of the School of Theology at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, contributed to the book "Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives of Mary." It was published by the Westminster John Knox Press last year.

Beliefs about Mary, the teenage peasant whom the Bible says was chosen by God to give birth to Jesus, have traditionally divided Protestants and Roman Catholics. Protestants continue to reject two doctrines popes have declared infallible — that Mary was conceived without sin and that God took her body directly to heaven at the end of her life.

Some Protestant scholars say that while they still disagree with elevating Mary to the status of a sinless object of veneration, people should be taking a closer look at her. They describe her as a model who accepted her divine mission without question, urged others to obey Jesus and followed her

son to his execution after his male disciples shrunk away.

"The fact is, evangelicals often say less about Mary than the New Testament does," writes Timothy George in Christianity Today's cover story titled "The Blessed Evangelical Mary." The former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville is now dean of Beeson Divinity School in Alabama.

Articles about Mary are also on the covers of The Lutheran and Good News, a Kentucky-based publication for Methodists.

At St. Meinard Archabbey in southern Indiana, Protestant visitors have shown more curiosity about Mary, said the Rev. Joseph Cox, a Benedictine monk and the archabbey's librarian. Some even keep statues of Mary in their homes, typically a Catholic practice, he said.

"Rather than passing over the several (biblical) references to the Blessed Mother, they are looking at it and asking, 'What is this saying? How can Mary lead me more and more to her son Jesus Christ?'" Cox said.

Mary Burks Price of Louisville is a Baptist, but visited a retreat run by the Sisters

of Loretto in Marion County. At the time, she was angry with God over the death of a friend. Then she encountered a moonlit statue of Mary while taking a walk.

"When I looked into her face, I saw a kind of mercy," she said. "I felt reconnected with God through her outstretched hands and just her presence. It's very affirming to me to know that God used this woman as a means of coming to Earth in the most profound way."

Charles Wright, a former Catholic who is a member of Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral in Louisville, said he thinks Catholics used to treat Mary too much like a goddess but now have a more balanced view.

His church recently commissioned a painting of Mary for its chapel.

"She is in heaven," Wright said. "I feel she watches over us as her children. I don't feel any more discomfort in asking her to pray for me than I would one of my relatives or one of my fellow church members."

Still, Protestants are careful about the treatment of Mary in their churches.

(See MARY, page six)

Moonshine enjoys new popularity in Appalachia

by ROGER ALFORD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRENCHBURG — Anna Childers doesn't look like the typical moonshiner.

But, then, she isn't making the typical moonshine.

The mother of four is adding a special touch to the potent corn whiskey to make what she calls moonshine jelly, a product that is quickly snatched from shelves in gift shops at tourist hotspots across Kentucky.

"Oh, yes, it's popular," she said, holding a small jar of the smelly jelly that goes for about \$2 per half pint. "People buy it up about as quickly as we can make it."

Childers, manager of Barton's Fine Foods in Frenchburg, is taking advantage of what some have described as a moonshine craze that is sweeping through Appalachia again, this time fueled in large part by tourists intrigued by the liquor's mystique.

Tourism officials say many urban visitors to Appalachia tend to equate mountains with moonshine, which has pushed the price of the black-market elixir to \$20 to \$30 a quart. Some believe the demand has grown because communities suffering from job losses in the coal industry have begun to concentrate on heritage tourism as an economic base.

Larry Webster, an attorney who helps organize the annual Hillbilly Days Festival in Pikeville, said many tourists unfailingly ask locals where they can find moonshine. And often, he said, locals can point

them in the right direction.

"They're looking for the essence of hillbilly culture," Webster said. "And there's nothing that more symbolically captures that essence than moonshine liquor."

Some, against the best advice of local authorities, drink the homemade brew. Others simply take it back home in Mason jars as a keepsake, occasionally unscrewing the lid to impress friends with a whiff of fumes.

"The golden age of moonshine is now," Webster said. "The government has quit hunting it. They took their manpower and started using it on firearms and explosives, deciding it was a waste of time to search through the hills for stills. As a result, you can get better moonshine now than you could during the Depression."

Lawrence County Sheriff Garrett Roberts said the homemade whiskey can be dangerous. If not made correctly, he said, it can kill.

In his Louisa office, Roberts has 33 quart jars filled with homemade whiskey, much of it as clear as spring water and as flammable as gasoline. A disassembled moonshine still, which he confiscated earlier this month when he impounded the moonshine, is stored in a corner. Along with the spiral copper tube and tubs are crude instructions on how to assemble and

use it.

Roberts said an anonymous tipster reported the still after a relative drank some of the moonshine and got sick.

"You can tell by looking that some of these jars we have here are low grade moonshine," Roberts said. "You can see stuff floating in some of them. I sure wouldn't recommend that anyone drink this."

Moonshine whiskey's popularity isn't limited to rural communities. An Emory University study found that nearly 9 percent of 581 emergency care center patients surveyed at an Atlanta hospital had consumed moonshine in the past five years.

The researchers, assisted by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, analyzed 100 moonshine samples and found 10 percent of the samples contained high enough levels of lead to make drinkers sick.

Despite the dangers, the mystique remains.

Like Barton's Fine Foods, companies across the South now offer moonshine jelly, which they say is both legal to sell and safe to eat.

Bryan Allphin, president of Southern Dream Foods in Louisville, said the corn whiskey evaporates in the jelly making process, leaving a

(See MOONSHINE, page six)

Davidson

Continued from p4

the trail further west to other towns that became more widely known.

The town is named for the first storeowner, John Baxter and some mineral springs which flowed freely and are thought by Indians and settlers alike to have healing powers. A hotel was built to house visitors, thus Baxter Springs.

Baxter Springs is located on the famous Route 66. There are only 13 miles of the famous Mother Road in Kansas and it passes through only two of its towns.

As a side note, Larry had reserved me a room in a great bed and breakfast called "The Little Brick Inn" with adjoining restaurant called "Caf On The Route."

From my second-story room I could look out on Military Street and see the historic area of downtown Baxter Springs. It felt kind of eerie when I learned that Jesse James and his gang had robbed the First National Bank of Baxter Springs which was located nearby, back in

1876.

Baseball legend Mickey Mantle played Little League here on a team known as the "Whiz Kids." The town lays claim to having one of the best Little League parks in the nation. In addition to Mantle, golfer Hale Irwin, Wal-Mart president Lee Scott and Mr. Clean inventor Hubert Byrd also claim Baxter Springs as their hometown.

It was a wonderful experience to be able to also express my appreciation to the many volunteers in Baxter Springs, Kan., and it is something I will never forget. To me, this is very important and I would like to pay tribute to all of you men and women who do volunteer work in your local community.

It is true, when duty calls, volunteers respond.

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

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Beltway

Continued from p4

I still think the odds of Iraq disintegrating into civil war are better than 50-50. And if that happens, what good will we have done with the blood and treasure we are expending on the project?

For my money, we should have put Iraq on pause and concentrated on what was already on our plate: reconstituting Afghanistan and fighting international terror.

The capture of Saddam hasn't changed my mind.

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 e-mail address is donald.kaul2@verizon.net.

Regional Obituaries

Floyd County

Hilda Bishop, 68, of Teaberry, died Sunday, December 21, at the Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Sam Crittendon, 60, of Melvin, died Tuesday, December 23, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Mary Louise Johnson Crittendon. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 27, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Osie (Shepherd) Foley, 71, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, December 17, at Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg, following a brief illness. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Euka Turner Hicks, 84, of Minnie, died Saturday, December 20, in the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 24, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Edith Larthene Allen Howell, 80, of Harold, died Friday morning, December 19, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Robert Howell. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 22, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Billie Bert Kidd, 72, of Lorain, Ohio, formerly of Floyd County, died Tuesday, December 16, at the E.M.H. Memorial Hospital in Elyria, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Sandy Gilliam Kidd. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Morris Ray Miller, 75, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, December 21, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 24, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Donna Sue Mullins, 25, of Hi Hat, died Friday, December 19, following an automobile accident at Hi Hat. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Mollie Murray, 78, of Jackson, Ohio, a native of Langley, died Monday, December 22, following a brief illness at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 24, under the direction of Eisnaugle-Lewis Funeral Home, Jackson, Ohio.

Laymon L. Shepherd, 65, of David, died Friday, December 19, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Jewell Smallwood, 80, of Harold, died Wednesday, December 24, at her residence. Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, December 28, at 11 a.m., at the Lower Toler Church of Christ, at Harold. Burial will be in the Howell-Roberts Cemetery, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Rufus Stephens, 93, of Dinwood Road, Martin, died Sunday, December 21, in the Riverview Health Care Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Abe Vanderpool Jr., well-known retired car salesman in this area, died Saturday, December 20, at the Riverview Health Care Center following an extended illness. He is also survived by his wife, Brenda Hughes Vanderpool. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Dr. Gary Dwight Williams,

36, of Martin, died Friday, December 19, on U.S. Hwy. 23, North, Prestonsburg, the result of an automobile accident. He is survived by his wife, Laura Sommer Williams. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Pike County

Oma Canterbury, 73, of Beech Creek, West Virginia, a native of Pikeville, died Tuesday, December 16, at the Logan Regional Medical Center, Logan, West Virginia. She is survived by her husband, Earl Jr. Canterbury. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 19, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Chapel.

Ronald Lee Casey, 54, of Phelps, died Saturday, December 20, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Eula Stevenson Casey. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

Phoebe Salyers Dema has died. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 18, under the direction of Strang Funeral Home, Grayslake, Illinois.

Walter Andrew Hall, 78, of Jonancy, died Friday, December 19, at Parkview Manor Nursing Home, Robinson Creek. He is survived by his wife, Pauline Hall. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 22, under the direction of Hall and Jones Funeral Home.

Judean Morley Harris, 42, of Dry Branch, died Sunday, December 21, the result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She is survived by her husband, Billy Harris. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 26, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Clifford Holbrook, 68, of Vamey, died Saturday, December 13, at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Alice Holbrook. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 16, under the direction of J.W. Call and Son Funeral Home.

Lauren Carol Holbrook, infant daughter of Kerby Holbrook and Hope Nicole Duty of Lookout, was stillborn, Tuesday, December 16, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Graveside services were conducted Friday, December 19, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Nannie Holland, 75, of Robinson Creek, died Monday, December 22, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 27, under the direction of Hall and Jones Funeral Home.

Virgil Blake Justice, 59, of Pulaski, Virginia, a native of Pikeville, died Monday, December 22, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Betty Sue Ferguson Justice. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 27, under the direction of Stevens Funeral Home.

Claire Kelly, 87, of Greasy Creek, died Sunday, December 21, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

Janice Sue Looney, 63, of Marrowbone, died Thursday, December 18, at Mountain View Health Care Center. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

William Junior Maynard, 73, of Harolds Branch, Pikeville, died Thursday, December 18, at his home. Funeral arrangements, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Robert Porter Morrison, 88, of Zebulon, a native of Floyd County, died Saturday, December 20, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen

Iris Blackburn Morrison. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Justice Funeral Home.

Mike Mullins, 48, of Salt Lick, formerly of Pikeville, died Tuesday, December 23, in Salt Lick. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Jimmie Foster Ratliff, 59, of Millers Creek, died Tuesday, December 16, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Janet Fuller Ratliff. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 19, under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

Agnes Jean Ray, 56, of Robinson Creek, died Saturday, December 20, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

Doshie Ellen Robinson, 82, of Mouthcard, died Wednesday, December 17, at Mountain View Health Care Center. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Willis Staton, 93, of Forest Hills, a native of Canada, died Tuesday, December 16, in the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital's Skilled Nursing Facility. He is survived by his wife, Greetice Hensley Staton. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 19, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Jonathan Daniel Thacker, infant son of John Douglas and Christina Renae Robinson Thacker of Red Creek, died Saturday, December 13, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Graveside services were conducted Tuesday, December 16, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Hazel Lou Thacker, 58, of Raccoon, died Saturday, December 20, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington. She is survived by her husband, Harold Dean Thacker. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Golda Thacker Williamson, 91, of Canada, died Sunday, December 21, at the Mingo Manor Nursing Home. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Flo Ella Bingham Wolford, 76, of Belcher, died Saturday, December 20, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Johnson County

Frank Delanore Davis, 68, died Monday, December 15, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center in Paintsville. Arrangements are under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Moonshine

strong odor of alcohol in a non-intoxicating breakfast food.

Allphin said his company distributes about 25,000 jars of the jelly each year. Most of it is sold in gift shops at state parks and airports.

"It's a novelty item," Allphin said. "The word moonshine sells. It has a mystique that intrigues people."

Dale Quillen, a Nashville, Tenn., attorney who once worked as a state revenue agent, said very little home-made whiskey is being made now compared to the good old days of moonshining.

"There's always been a trickle of it," said Quillen, 78. "There's some fellows out there who make a little moonshine to have around. Just enough is going on to keep it from becoming a lost art."

Knott County

Shawn Center, 26, of Pinetop, died Thursday, December 18, at the Hazard ARMC. He is survived by his wife, Jessica Centers. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 21, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

James Lenoard Fannin, 68, of Vest, died Wednesday, December 17, at Appalachian Regional Hospital, Hazard. Graveside services were conducted Friday, December 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Callie Gibson, 90, of Huber Heights, Ohio, formerly of Knott County, died Wednesday, December 17. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 22, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

Gladys Hall Gibson, 75, of Sassafras, died Sunday, December 14, at the Hazard ARMC. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 16, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

Jean Isaacs, 67, of Topmost, died Tuesday, December 16, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 19, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

Marvin Jacobs, 69, of Pippa Passes, died Friday, December 19, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 22, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

Hassie Hicks Martin, 92, of Hindman, died Saturday, December 20, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

Hazel Reynolds Ritchie, 74, of Mallie, died Saturday, December 13, at the Hazard ARMC. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 18, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

John Kelly Slone, 60, of Hyden, formerly of Knott County, died Tuesday, December 16, at the Hazard ARMC. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

Elder Lawrence Jonas Slone, 71, of Raven, died Monday, December 8, at home. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine Slone. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 11, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Ruby Mae Cook Stanfield, 79, of Topmost, died Saturday, December 20, at her home.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Thomas Waddell, 87, of Larkslane, died Tuesday, December 16, in Knott County. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 18, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

Lawrence County

Dorothy Dixon Brown, 57, of Louisa, died Monday, December 15, at Three Rivers Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 18, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Martin County

Ernest A. Mollett, 40, of Tomahawk, died Monday, December 22, at Community Hospital, Springfield, Ohio. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 26, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Magoffin County

Charles Bailey Jr., 62, of Salyersville, died Wednesday, December 17, at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital, Ashland. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Janet Howard Bailey. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Hattie Reynolds

Hattie Reynolds, age 95, of Ligon, passed away, Tuesday, December 23, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg.

She was born April 8, 1908, in Ligon, the daughter of the late Jim Reynolds and Francis Henson Reynolds.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Hattie Reynolds were conducted Saturday, December 27, at 11 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, at Martin, with Regular Baptist ministers officiating.

Burial was in the Burton Cemetery, at Ligon, with the Hall Funeral Home, caring for those arrangements.

Visitation was at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

Mary

Continued from p6

"We don't worship Mary," said the Rev. William Bowling, pastor of Annunciation Catholic Church in Shelbyville, which has a sizable Hispanic membership accustomed to devotion to Mary. "She is a member of the saints of God. We honor her for her role. But the only one we worship is God."

Elder Delmas R. Johnson

Elder Delmas R. Johnson, 58, of Wheelwright, died Thursday, December 25, 2003, at the Pikeville Methodist Hospital.

Born February 20, 1945, in Halo, he was the son of the late Willard M. and Disia Slone Johnson. He was a disabled cutting pressman for Weyerhaeuser; and a member, assistant moderator, and clerk of the Little Rock Old Regular Baptist Church, at Halo.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Caldwell Johnson.

Other survivors include four sons, Delmas Eugene Johnson (Christy) of Hi Hat; Bruce Alan Johnson (Jennifer), Gregory Darrell Johnson (Jessica), and Willard John Johnson, (girlfriend, Melissa Sexton), all of Wheelwright; seven brothers, Willard May Johnson and Tommy Johnson, both of Howe, Indiana; Herald Wiley Johnson of Wheelwright; David Richard Johnson, Fredrick Gregory Johnson and Timothy Darrell Johnson, all of Bevinville; and Kenneth Eugene Johnson of Weeksburg; five sisters, Minnie Louise Lackey of Howe, Indiana; Louhettie Smallwood, Mary Elizabeth Moore, and Ruby Jewel Preston, all of Wheelwright; and Ruth Ann Johnson of Somerset; grandchild, Dakota Del-Brice Johnson; and grandchildren of the heart: Joshua Kyle Hall, Kasey Donovan Hall, David (Scooter) Cordial Jr., and Megan Leann Hamilton.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Eric David Johnson, and Derek Scott Johnson.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, December 28, at 1 p.m., at the Little Rock Old Regular Baptist Church at Halo, with Old Regular Baptist ministers officiating.

Burial will be in the Johnson Family Cemetery, (Frozen), at Bevinville, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation is at the church. (Paid obituary)

Vera Vinson Ford

"The Chocolate Cake Lady"

Vera Vinson Ford, 82, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, December 24, 2003, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

Born October 18, 1921, in Christian County, Ky., she was the daughter of the late Thomas Vinson and Bertha Blalock.

Vinson. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Prestonsburg, a member of the Kiwanians PEO Chapter G, Prestonsburg, a member of the State Board Girl Scout Council, a former board member of Highlands Regional Medical Center, and served on various boards and the Sewing Circle of First United Methodist Church.

She operated the Prestonsburg Western Union Office until 1943; then was employed as secretary-treasurer of the Winston Ford Construction Company.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Winston Ford on January 24, 1961.

Survivors include one son, Winston "Sonny" Ford Jr., of Prestonsburg; one brother, A.L. Vinson of Danville; two sisters, Flose Smith of Danville, and Avis Newell of Logan, Ohio; three grandchildren, Leslie Ford Howell, Winston Ford III "Winn," and Kelli Ford Allen; four great-grandchildren, Jenna Fannin Platt, Mikeal Ford Fannin, Taber Allen and Kison Allen; two special nieces: Jane Carol Verley and Janice Curtis; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by one great-grandchild, McKinley Allen; one brother, and two sisters.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, December 28, at 2 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, with Rev. Mark Walz and Rev. George Love officiating.

Interment will be at Porter Cemetery, in Prestonsburg.

Carter Funeral Home is serving the Ford family.

Contributions: First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, or Boy Scout Troop No. 27, c/o David Barber. (Paid obituary)

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Regional SPORTS

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TIMES Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

ONLINE

NASCAR.com unveils Fan Miles rewards program

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

ATLANTA – Loyal viewers of NASCAR.com will now be rewarded for that loyalty, thanks to NASCAR.com's new Fan Miles program.

Since Dec. 16, viewers began to register to become a Fan Miles member, allowing them to earn Fan Miles to redeem for valuable goods and services. It's the first phase of a multi-phase program designed to allow benefits to loyal viewers.

"We wanted to reward our customers for their continued loyalty to our site and our sport," NASCAR.com interim product manager Chris Jeffries said. "Fan Miles is similar to frequent flier programs, hotel loyalty programs and the like. We reward customers for their loyalty to NASCAR.com. The more they participate on the site, the more they can receive as a reward."

Right now, viewers can add to their Fan Miles total by signing up

(See REWARDS, page three)

H.S. BASKETBALL

Hazard Invitational set to tip off

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HAZARD – Hazard High School has once again revived the Hazard Invitational Tournament and hopes to eventually make it one of the most attractive tournaments in Eastern Kentucky as once was. The renewed tourney will tip off again on Thursday and run through Saturday.

Teams in the tournament include host Hazard, Allen Central, South Floyd, Somerset, Mercer County, Christian Academy of Louisville, Covington Holy Cross, and McCreary Central.

Hazard High head coach Kevin Spurlock, a Floyd County native, and team, are fresh off a great stay in Central Kentucky and ready to resume play. The Bulldogs beat DeSales 66-58 this past week in the championship game of the Bryan Station holiday tournament.

Hazard is 6-1 on the season. Its only setback of the season came back on Dec. 12 against national power Oak Hill Academy or Mouth of Wilson, Va. "The Hazard Invitational is something we wanted to get going again," said Spurlock. "We feel we have a good field of teams in place."

First-round Pairings for the tournament have been set. The first-round games follow.

Somerset vs. Christian Academy of Louisville

South Floyd vs. Covington Holy Cross

Hazard vs. McCreary Central
Mercer Co. vs. Allen Central

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Raiders down Pike Central

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

LEXINGTON – South Floyd salvaged an appearance in the Defenders of the Station boys' basketball tournament by pouncing an old 15th Region rival. The Raiders held Pike County Central to just nine points in each of the final two periods to win easy, 72-53.

The Raiders trailed 16-9 at the end of the first period. South Floyd had its offensive woes in the first half. Coach Henry Webb's team trailed 19-14 at halftime before mounting a very impressive comeback.

South Floyd outscored the Hawks 26-9 in the third period and 23-9 in the final quarter

(See SOUTH FLOYD, page four)



photo by Jamie Howell
South Floyd senior Jack Stone, pictured in pre-season action, helped South Floyd to a win over 15th Region foe Pike Central.



TIGER HOOPS CLASSIC ON CENTER STAGE

photos by Steve LeMaster
BASKETBALL AT PAINTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL:
Four boys' basketball teams from the 15th Region and 12 others squads – two from the state of Tennessee – make up this year's Tiger HOOPS Classic tournament field. Prestonsburg and Shelby Valley each played in the morning session Friday. Host Paintsville and Johnson Central – two other 15th Region teams – are among the other teams in the inaugural tournament. In first round action, Shelby Valley beat Silver Grove and Prestonsburg pulled off a 77-75 overtime victory over Chattanooga (Tenn.) Christian). A complete wrap-up with game summaries from the entire tournament will appear in Wednesday's edition.



BOYS' BASKETBALL

Tiger HOOPS Classic continues today

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE – The first-ever Tiger HOOPS Classic will resume play this morning at Paintsville High School. A champion is scheduled to be crowned Monday night.

The Paintsville tournament features some of the best collective talent ever assembled in one Eastern Kentucky prep tournament.

Area teams in the event include from the 15th Region, Paintsville, Johnson Central, Prestonsburg and Shelby Valley.

A schedule of today's games follows.

Bullitt East vs. Campbell Co., 9:30 a.m.; Silver Grove vs. Louisville Holy Cross, 11 a.m.; Johnson Central vs. Bourbon County, 12:30 p.m.; Oak Ridge (Tenn.) vs. Rowan County,

(See HOOPS, page two)

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Betsy Layne beats West Carter

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

LEXINGTON – Three Betsy Layne players scored in double figures, led by Whitney Lykens's 16 as the Ladycats finished play in the consolation bracket of the Fifth Third Bank Prime Time Classic with a 59-51 win over West Carter.

Kim Clark scored 11 points for Betsy Layne and Kristal Daniels added 12. Kristen Smith finished with nine points.

West Carter, a longtime state power, trailed the Ladycats 14-12 at the end of the first period. The two teams were tied at 27 at the half.

(See BEAT, page two)

OUTDOORS FEATURE

Raccoons flourishing, maybe to excess

by STEVE VANTREESE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PADUCAH – The prosperity enjoyed by Kentucky's raccoons may have been too much for their own good while infringing on the well-being of other wildlife.

For several years, populations of the familiar

ring-tailed mammals have inflated well beyond what previously was seen as normal, said Jim Lane, a Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources biologist who coordinates management of both furbearing mammals and turkeys.

And the good times enjoyed by critters have cre-

(See RACCOONS, page four)

photo by Jamie Howell
Allen Central senior Sharee Hopkins got out on a runout ahead of the Johnson Central defense during the seventh place game of the Lady Eagle Holiday Classic. Allen Central beat the host Lady Eagles Tuesday, winning 43-40.



Browns could wreck Bengals' plans again

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — The last time the Bengals played an historic game at home, Tim Couch and the Cleveland Browns came to town and made a shambles of the moment.

Are they up to doing it again? The Bengals (8-7) need to win at Paul Brown Stadium on Sunday to clinch their first winning season since 1990 and stay in playoff contention for at least a few more hours.

If Cincinnati wins and Baltimore loses in the night

game, the Bengals would win the AFC North and host a first-round playoff game.

"If we win, then we give ourselves a chance to get into the tournament," quarterback Jon Kitna said. "Once the tournament starts, you never know what is going to happen."

Standing in their way is an old nemesis with a knack for inflicting heartbreak.

The Bengals were counting on a turnaround when they opened their new stadium in 2000. The Browns totally dashed all of those hopes with a 24-7 win in the inaugural game.

This time, the Browns (4-11) are reeling and the Bengals are the up-and-coming team — motivation enough for Cleveland to put up a fight.

"We're not going to the playoffs this year, so this is our playoff game," said Couch, who led the Browns to that inaugural win. "It's going to be a playoff-type atmosphere as far as the crowd and the Bengals' energy on the field. They are playing for the playoffs."

Who would have guessed it? The NFL's worst team since 1990 was an afterthought when Marvin Lewis took over as coach. After a 1-4 start, Lewis has the Bengals on the verge of one of the league's most remarkable turnarounds.

They went 2-14 last season, the league's worst record. With a win over Cleveland and another by Pittsburgh in the night game, they'll be in the playoffs and the transformation will be complete.

"It's a big step in a matter of months," receiver Chad Johnson said. "From 2-14 to 8-7, and it could be 9-7 and 10-7 or 11-7 (in the playoffs). Who knows? That's impressive for any coach, especially in this type of organization that's been down for 13 years."

The Bengals were in control of the division until a 24-10 loss in St. Louis last Sunday dropped them a game behind Baltimore and set up their long day: Play

an afternoon game, then watch another that will decide their fate around midnight.

Much of the locker room talk all week was about the Steelers' chances of knocking off the Ravens.

"It's ironic," linebacker Kevin Hardy said. "I keep talking about that game, but our focus has to be Cleveland. Then we can turn on the TV when we get home."

Most fans just assume the Bengals will fulfill their half of the equation and easily beat the Browns, who have lost five in a row and are coming off a 35-0 drubbing by the Ravens.

Tiger-striped players condi-

tioned by years of disappointment know different.

"Cleveland knows what's at stake," offensive tackle Willie Anderson said. "They know they can knock us out. I keep telling people, this is still Cleveland-Cincinnati, the same as Auburn-Alabama or Ohio State-Michigan. No matter what the record is, it's a rivalry."

It'll be a significant upset, even by NFL standards, if the Browns pull it off. Injuries will force them to start their eighth combination on the offensive line.

There's also the matter of Couch's future. The one-time building block on an expansion

team lost his starting job to Kelly Holcomb at the start of the season, but Holcomb struggled and got hurt.

The quarterbacks wound up sharing the job — Holcomb has started eight games, Couch has started seven.

Couch has one year left on his contract and isn't sure what the future holds as the season winds down. He's adamant the Browns must pick one quarterback and stick with him next season if they hope to rebound.

"There's really nothing worse than a quarterback debate on your team," Couch said. "I

(See BROWNS, page three)

PRO FOOTBALL

Dillon might be playing final game in Cincinnati

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Running back Corey Dillon is approaching the Bengals' last regular season game with a sense of peace that his career is about to take a major turn.

He wouldn't say it directly Wednesday, but the running back made it clear once again that he's ready to move on.

He said he has no sentimental feelings about the game Sunday against Cleveland, and joked that he'll be rooting for backup Rudi Johnson to have a big day, providing more evidence that Dillon is expendable.

"If that's the case, Rudi, would you please get 400 yards?" Dillon said. "You guys ain't going to be the only ones chanting, 'Rudi!'"

The 29-year-old Dillon is completing his most disappointing season in the NFL. A severe groin injury has limited him to 491 yards and given Johnson the chance to show he can be the featured back.

The injury also left Dillon in a grumpy mood. He told reporters in October that he felt unappreciated and wanted out of Cincinnati.

Dillon, who ran for more than 1,000 yards in each of his first six seasons, has kept a lower profile since his outburst, accepting his limited role while

the Bengals (8-7) stayed in playoff contention.

With the final regular season game at hand, he's thinking about the future.

"I've seen the light at the end of the tunnel," said Dillon, who has two years left on his contract but could be released in the off-season. "I'm ecstatic about it. Ain't nobody now that can steal my joy. You can't break me, you can't bend me. You can say whatever you want to say. ... I don't care right now, because I see that light and I'm focused on that light and it's going to come full-circle in a little bit."

Asked if he wants to come back for another season in Cincinnati, Dillon said, "Do I? What do you think?"

Coach Marvin Lewis has successfully handled his toughest challenge in the Bengals' turnaround season — keeping Dillon from becoming divisive while keeping both running backs in the game plan.

It's unlikely they'll both be back next season. Both running backs do better when they get a lot of carries. Despite his limited role, Johnson has piled up 905 yards and become the first running back in Bengals history to have three 150-yard games in a season.

Dillon said that even if the Bengals decide to keep both of

(See DILLON, page three)

WYMT Mountain Top Ten

- Girls**
1. Perry County Central
 2. Whitesburg
 3. Rockcastle County
 4. Jackson County
 5. Betsy Layne
 6. Pulaski County
 7. South Laurel
 8. Knott County Central
 9. Clay County
 10. Cawood
- Boys**
1. Hazard
 2. Shelby Valley
 3. Clay County
 4. Pulaski County
 5. South Laurel
 6. Breathitt County
 7. North Laurel
 8. Perry Central
 9. Bell County
 10. Knox Central

BUFFALO BILLS

Discouraged Bills prepare to wrap up 'surreal' season

by JOHN WAWROW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Drew Bledsoe had mixed emotions after watching game film from the last time his Buffalo Bills faced the New England Patriots.

There was evidence of how much potential the Bills had after opening their season with a 31-0 victory. Buffalo couldn't have imagined they'd be in this position 16 mostly disappointing weeks later.

"You would've probably thought the opposite," Bledsoe said. "It's surreal to me to see where we started and see where we are now."

Bledsoe and the Bills (6-9) are out of playoff contention, preparing to wrap up a frustrating season with a meaningless game at New England this Saturday. The biggest thing riding on the outcome is for the Patriots (13-2), who have an opportunity to finish with the NFL's best record.

"It feels like two seasons ago," safety Lawyer Milloy said of the season-opening victory. "At that time, you really couldn't tell us anything, because we were feeling really good about ourselves. And now, it's reversed."

The Bills' troubles began

after they followed the win over New England with a 38-17 victory at Jacksonville. Buffalo then inexplicably unraveled, losing seven of its next nine, undone mostly by a sputtering offense.

The Bills briefly recovered with two wins before dropping their last two, including last Sunday's 20-3 loss to Miami.

So much for all the talk of AFC East supremacy that preceded Buffalo's last game against New England, or references to "The Bledsoe Bowl" or "The Milloy Bowl."

Both players are former Patriots stars. New England traded Bledsoe to Buffalo in April 2002, and the Bills signed Milloy after he was released by New England days before this year's season-opener.

All that's left for the Bills is to finish out their season and wonder what changes lie ahead.

There are questions whether coach Gregg Williams will be rehired after completing the third — and final — year of his contract. Team president Tom Donahoe is expected to make a decision by the end of next week.

Bledsoe's status in Buffalo is suddenly under speculation, too, considering he's due a hefty pay raise if he's still on the Bills roster next November. The question

is whether the Bills still believe in Bledsoe, who is having one of the worst seasons of his 11-year NFL career.

In starting all 15 games this season, Bledsoe has 2,777 yards passing and thrown as many touchdowns, 11, as he has interceptions. That's a steep drop from last year when he finished second in the NFL with 4,359 yards passing, and established 10 franchise records.

The Bills' offense on the verge of finishing one of its worst seasons. In managing 4,092 yards offense, Buffalo needs 250 yards against New England to avoid matching a franchise low in a 16-game season.

Their 243 points are currently the second-fewest in an 16-game season. After combining for 69 points in their first two games, the Bills have managed just 174 in their last 13.

"It seems like you're in a bad dream," receiver Eric Moulds said. "It feels like we can't do anything right."

Moulds can't wait for the season to be over.

"I've been on teams that have been 3-13 and it's been a rough season," Moulds said. "But this season has been equally as tough because of the expectations that we had and the way we started off 2-0."

HONORS

Beechwood junior wins top prize in Good Samaritan Foundation essay contest

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

LEXINGTON — Kate Ostendorf, a junior at Beechwood High School in Ft. Mitchell, received \$5,000 for having the winning essay in the Good Samaritan statewide essay contest, according to Dr. James W. Holsinger, Jr., chairman of the board of trustees of Good Samaritan Foundation. The checks were presented to the winners by Dr. Holsinger, who is also the Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services, at the Good Samaritan Foundation office.

In addition to Ms. Ostendorf, there were three second place winners and five third place winners from Beechwood. The second place winners who received a \$1,000 are: Jason Nimersheim, Stephanie Nienaber and Mara Mudd. Third place winners receiving \$500 each are: Kim Boyle, Laura E. Salzman, Monika Schmuck, Tara Swift and Katie Jeffries.

This year's topic was "Why Do Teens Smoke?" A total of

thirty-one awards were given from 343 qualified entrants judged by a panel of health care professionals.

"Teen smoking is a major public health issue in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We selected the topic for this year's essay contest in the hope that teens could help provide the answers to this perplexing problem," Holsinger said.

Second place winners from other schools are: Chandra Foley, Whitley County High School; Devon Graves, Conner High School; Erin Fulkerson and Hao Wang, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School; Chelsea C. Brockwell, Madison Central High School; Samantha Harrod, Western Hills High School and Brad Lawrence, Henry Clay High School.

Other third place winners include: Starla Lynch, Ohio County High School; Thomas A. Greenlee and Annette Chung, Henry Clay High School; Koree Fugate, Paul Laurence Dunbar

High School; Amanda M. Hicks, Lexington Christian Academy; Patrick Helm, Casey County High School; Andrea Shackelford, Logan County High School; Kara Daughettee, Somerset High School; Vanessa L. Powell, Madison Southern High School; Kimberly Mattingly, Bullitt East High School; Josh Qualls, Boyle County High School; Shane Dyer, Boyd County High School and Kathryn French, Allison Fowler and Lauren Omer, Union County High School.

Good Samaritan Foundation is a Kentucky grant making private foundation that is both independent and completely devoted to health related issues. The foundation, dedicated to the good health of Kentuckians, has no political, institutional or other affiliations.

For other programs funded by Good Samaritan Foundation visit the web site at www.gsfky.org.

Beat

Continued from p1

Betsy Layne outscored West Carter 14-9 in the third period and 18-15 in the final frame to post the win.

The win upped Betsy Layne's record to 5-3. West Carter fell to 4-4.

Tabatha Witt tossed in six points for the Ladycats. Betsy Layne is currently among the teams playing in the Lady Invitational of the South at Allen County-Scottsville High.

HOOPS

Continued from p1

3:30 p.m.; Paintsville vs. East Carter, 5 p.m.; Morgan County vs. Prestonsburg, 6:30 p.m.; Shelby Valley vs. Greenup County, 8 p.m.

The tournament is scheduled to conclude Monday with the finals slated for 8 p.m.



Shelby Valley junior guard Kris Bentley awaited the Silver Grove offense during Friday's opening round game. Bentley and Shelby Valley, the defending 15th Region Champion, downed Silver Grove.

PLAYER PROFILE

Martin battles through another 1,000-yard season

by BARRY WILNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — The reality of not challenging for the playoffs at the end of December sank in a while ago for Curtis Martin. Now that the season finale is at hand, the star running back for the New York Jets isn't any more comfortable with the idea of going home early.

Although Martin has had his ninth straight 1,000-yard rushing season, one short of Barry Sanders' league mark, 2003 has been a struggle. There's been

criticism that he's not the same runner — although the Pittsburgh Steelers, against whom he ran for 174 yards in the snow on Dec. 14, would argue against that.

There's also a losing record for the Jets for the first time since 1996, a full season before Martin joined New York as a free agent.

"This is only the second time in my career that at the end of the season there is no hope," Martin said. "It is a feeling you don't like and it leaves a taste in your mouth and a feeling in your

stomach you don't want.

"In a personal way, in 2002 the pain was physical (from a high ankle sprain) I had to deal with. This year, with all the criticism, you hear things that affect your mind."

Martin and the Jets got off to a rough start. With Chad Pennington out with a broken wrist, they lost their first four games. The offensive line performed poorly, rarely giving Martin any room to run. He totaled 197 yards in his first four

(See SEASON, page three)

Belfry's Haywood named C-J's Coach of the Year

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE — The Courier-Journal recently named Belfry head coach Phillip Haywood as its coach of the year.

Haywood began his football coaching career as an assistant at Tates Creek High School in 1972.

Earlier this month Haywood guided Belfry to the school's first state title as the Pirates nipped Elizabethtown in overtime for the AA championship.

Haywood, who ranks ninth in state history with 256 victories, received 17 votes in a tight race. Seneca's Lonnie Oldham, Boyle County's Chuck Smith and Paducah Tilghman's Perry

Thomas tied for second with 16 votes apiece.

"That's always the ultimate compliment — to get voted by your peers," Haywood said. "Those are the guys who are out there doing the same thing you are."

Haywood played at Prestonsburg High School and went to college at Eastern Kentucky University, where he didn't play football. He took a job coaching and teaching at Tates Creek in 1972.

After one year at Tates Creek, Haywood spent the next two years as an assistant at Meade County before being named head coach at his alma mater.

He spent nine years at Prestonsburg and the past 20 at Belfry. He lost in the state final in 1985 and '86 while at Belfry.

He's built a proven winner at Belfry.

After losing its first game of the season to Boyd County, Belfry won seven straight before losing to Ironton, Ohio, in late October.

The Pirates averaged 30.2 points a game and allowed just 15.2. They beat Cawood, Prestonsburg, Middlesboro and Lloyd Memorial on their way to the state final.

"It was a great year," Haywood said. "We felt like early in the year we could make a run for it. But you never know."

"(A title) is something you strive for every year. We were just fortunate enough to be able to get it this time."

Haywood said during his long career there have been

plenty of big wins, but beating E'town was "the nicest one."

"Belfry's had football since 1925," he said. "We have a picture in the office of the first team. There's a lot of tradition there. We've had some great teams over the years, and I think this is a culmination of that."

"It's a very satisfying thing."

Everybody in the community has always been so supportive. It's been a great feeling. We've had a lot of calls."

Haywood said he's already been asked about a repeat. The Pirates have some rebuilding to do but return running backs Doug Howard and David Jones, who both rushed for more than 1,500 yards this season.

"We do have a few starters back," Haywood said. "But we also lost a lot of guys. We'll just have to build this year and work in some guys coming up."

Haywood is expected to stay on as head coach of the Pirates for at least one more season.

The Courier-Journal contributed to this article.

Rewards

Continued from p1

for the NASCAR.com Newsletter, the customized screensaver and by subscribing to the Exclusive Offers e-mail. Future plans are for the program to include one-of-a-kind rewards.

"Affinity programs build loyalty and reward viewers for doing what they normally do," NASCAR.com project manager Liz Pate said. "Just for signing up and opting in to Fan Miles earns you 1,000 points."

Jeffries hopes Fan Miles will become the premier loyalty program for NASCAR fans, and plans are in place to expand the program to all products and services on NASCAR.com and with affiliated partners.

"We're in the early stages of these programs," Jeffries said. "We're spending the next couple of months focusing on building our award catalog with one-of-a-kind experiences that you can only get from NASCAR.com. We're also looking at all the different ways in which people can collect Fan Miles."

"Part of the rollout includes NASCAR.com Member Services, a consolidated website registration for NASCAR.com. You'll be able to use a unique display name to identify you in the newsletter, message boards and chats. In the future, we'll be expanding that to all of the products and services on NASCAR.com."

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

UK fans turn their barns into statements of Wildcat loyalty

by JIM WARREN
LEXINGTON
HERALD-LEADER

BROOKSVILLE — On Kentucky Hwy. 19 in Bracken County, Tracey and Tracy Ellen Florer's old, white barn has just morphed into a brand-new "Big Blue Barn."

Sign painter Jackie Prather recently spent more than 20 hours meticulously painting huge letters on the side of the barn proclaiming "UK Go Big Blue" to every passerby.

"We've already been getting compliments on it," Tracey-Florer said.

It's part of the "Barnstorming" project that the University of Kentucky Athletics Department kicked off this summer to promote the Wildcats by painting "UK Go Big Blue" on barns across the state. The Florers' barn is the eighth to get the treatment — one grain silo also has been adorned — and UK officials hope eventually to paint at least one in every Kentucky county.

"Some other schools have put up billboards, and we have, too, in some border areas of the state," said Rick Thompson, associate athletics director for marketing at UK. "But doing the barns gives us the potential of reaching into every county and doing something that will last a long time. Besides, there's some tradition behind it."

Thompson noted that, not so long ago, barns all along Kentucky's highways bore advertising slogans urging motorists to "Chew Mail Pouch Tobacco" or "See Rock City." The arrival of interstate highways and federal sign regulations basically ended barn advertising, but UK is trying to bring it back in a new form.

The program works like this: Anyone can apply to UK to

have "Go Big Blue" painted on his or her barn. University officials then select barns that are in highly visible locations on frequently traveled roads. Finally, a sign-painting crew is sent to decorate each barn with the UK logo. The painting can cost as much as \$1,000, says Kristin Branscum, assistant marketing director for UK's Athletics Department, but there is no charge to the owner.

The project already is becoming popular among UK fans.

The Florers are typical. Though neither attended UK, both are avid Wildcat supporters.

"We're pretty big fans, particularly for the basketball team, and we thought this would be a fun thing to do," Tracy Ellen Florer said. "We really didn't

expect to be selected, being way out here in rural Bracken County. But now people are saying, 'I really like your barn.'"

Prather, who runs E Signs & Graphics in Nicholasville, has painted most of the barns and says he is "having a blast doing it."

Prather says that, with winter coming, the Florers' barn probably is the last he will do until spring. But there should be plenty for him to do. According to Thompson, UK already has a waiting list of more than 40 people who have applied to have their barns decorated.

State transportation officials caution that, because of federal regulations, an application might be required before decorating barns on certain roadways.

Season

Continued from p2

outings. Then he began coming on, including three games over 100 yards rushing in a four-week span. Heading into Sunday's game at Miami, Martin has 1,216 yards and, with a strong showing against the Dolphins, he could surpass all but three of his season totals.

Once again, anyone who doubted the strong-willed veteran learned just how resourceful he is.

"It was new territory," he said. "I always was credited with being the cause of our team to win. This year, I was the focus of why we did not win."

"But I didn't have any problem with it. I get good press nine out of 10 times, so if one time it's bad, I can't be mad, I'd be a fool."

"I knew nothing had changed and it was just a matter of us

thinking and getting together. There were a lot of different factors people don't get to see that go into it."

Martin admits the physical pain he went through in 2002, when the Jets went from 2-5 to 9-7 and AFC East champions, was much more difficult than the mental burden of dealing with critics. He "did not consider it a pain, but a challenge," Martin said.

"Even more important than what people say about you is what you say about yourself," he added. "I said something different about myself than (what others said). I believe knowing what I am and what I am capable of is more important."

No one is a bigger of Martin's than the coaches for whom he's played. That begins with Bill Parcells, who drafted him in New England and signed him away from the Patriots for the Jets.

Current coach Herman Edwards calls Martin "the ultimate warrior" and wishes he had a roster full of Martins.

"You're talking about a great player and a great leader and a man who sets a great example for everyone around him," Edwards said. "Curtis is everything you want in a football player: tough, smart, great work ethic, a leader."

But Martin couldn't lead New York back to the playoffs, and that definitely hurts.

"We feel there is no reason why we shouldn't be in a better situation," he said. "To have this season get away from us is the most frustrating."

"So we'll just go out on a winning note and that makes you feel good until you get it going next year."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

UK rolls past Eastern, 101-72

by CHRIS DUNCAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Gerald Fitch scored 26 points on 10-of-16 shooting, and Erik Daniels had 15 points, seven rebounds and a career-high eight assists as second-ranked Kentucky beat Eastern Kentucky 101-72 Tuesday night.

Cliff Hawkins had 16 points and Keleena Azubuike added 13 for Kentucky (7-0), which has won 27 consecutive regular-season games since an 81-63 loss to Louisville last Dec. 28.

Kentucky shot 64 percent (43 of 67) and had a season-high 28 assists — many of them coming on fast breaks. Their active, swarming defense was just as impressive, generating 18 steals and 25 Eastern Kentucky turnovers.

Michael Haney scored 15 points to lead the overmatched Colonels (3-5).

Kentucky was playing its first home game since Nov. 28 and dominated from the start, taking a 12-2 lead in the first five minutes. The Colonels committed four turnovers and missed seven of their first eight shots in that span, while the Wildcats started 6-of-8.

Jon Bentley (Hazard) scored on an inbound play, but consecutive 3-pointers by Azubuike and Fitch kept the Wildcats rolling.

Kentucky coach Tubby Smith pulled all five starters — Fitch, Daniels, Hawkins, Azubuike and Chuck Hayes — with 14:03 left in the opening half and the Wildcats already up 18-4.

Smith substituted freely for the rest of the half, tinkering with different lineups and getting minutes for nearly all his reserves.

The Wildcats still shot 66 percent (21 of 32) in the first half and built a 48-32 lead at break.

Kentucky's starting five opened the second half with an 11-0 burst, forcing four Eastern Kentucky turnovers in the first two minutes.

Smith yanked the last of his starters with 5:41 left and the Wildcats ahead 97-60.

Eastern Kentucky is coached by Travis Ford, who played point guard for Kentucky from 1992-94. Ford received a loud cheer from the capacity crowd during pre-game introductions.



photo by Steve LeMaster

Prestonsburg junior center John Mark Stephens (55) eyed a rebound during Friday's game against Chattanooga Christian.

BASEBALL

Average salary rise smallest since 1996, union on lookout for collusion

by RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Baseball's salary spiral has slowed, and concerned players may be crying foul.

The average at the end of the 2003 season was \$2,372,189, the players' association said Tuesday in its annual study obtained by The Associated Press.

While the amount was a record, it was just 3.3 percent above last year's average of \$2,295,649. The last rise that low was in 1996, when the average increased by just 0.8 percent in the aftermath of the 1994-95 strike.

The players' association has spent more than a year investigating whether there has been collusion among teams in their dealing with free agents, and a top union lawyer sent a memo to agents Dec. 8 asking for assistance.

The union hasn't decided whether to file a collusion grievance over actions following the 2002 season and is looking closely at the current market.

"We have shared with you our serious concerns about the clubs' conduct in last year's market," Michael Weiner, the union's No. 3 official, wrote in the memo. "Already, this signing season, we have received

several reports of troubling conduct by club officials."

The union assigned three lawyers to communicate with the agents representing free-agent players.

The existence of the memo was reported Tuesday by ESPN.com, and a copy was obtained by the AP.

A year ago, the union asked agents to keep detailed records of negotiations, and on Jan. 23 it filed a request for management documents.

"They met with us," Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, said Tuesday. "Absent their coming forward with some demonstrable evidence, we were of the sincere belief that there has been and will be no violation of the collective bargaining agreement."

Baseball's labor contract prohibits teams from acting in concert with regard to free agents. Arbitrators found the teams violated that provision following the 1985, 1986 and 1987 seasons, and the sides settled the cases for \$280 million.

Since 1990, the collective bargaining agreement has contained a provision for triple damages.

"It continues to be disappointing that the union fails to recognize a robust market when it sees one," DuPuy said. "There

is absolutely no evidence or suggestion that there has been any improper communication among clubs."

As for 2003, the New York Yankees had the highest average salary for the fifth straight season, finishing at \$4,687,002.

Los Angeles was next at \$4.2 million, followed by Boston (\$3.6 million), Atlanta (\$3.5 million), Seattle (\$3.4 million), the New York Mets and San Francisco (\$3.1 million each) and the Chicago Cubs (\$3 million).

Florida, which beat the Yankees in the World Series, was 19th at \$1.9 million, up from 24th in 2002.

Tampa Bay was last for the second straight season at \$776,775, the lowest in the major leagues since the 2000 Minnesota Twins finished at \$601,680.

Final management calculations, which are slightly different, are not yet available.

First basemen were the highest-paid players at an average of \$5.2 million, followed by outfielders (\$4.9 million), shortstops (\$4.2 million), designated hitters (\$4 million), catchers (\$3.7 million), starting pitchers (\$3.3 million), second basemen (\$2.7 million), third basemen (\$2.6 million) and relief pitchers (\$1.6 million).

Dillon

Continued from p2

them, the team's turnaround makes it more palatable to stay.

"Whatever transpires, I can't lose," Dillon said. "I'm in a great situation no matter how you look at it."

It's clear that he thinks the best situation for him is to leave. He noted that Marshall Faulk's career reached new heights when he went to St. Louis. Dillon talked to Faulk before the Rams' 27-10 victory last Sunday.

"He went to another dimension, didn't he?" Dillon said. "Hmm. Interesting."

Dillon is convinced he could do the same. When he severely strained his groin in the third

game of the season, fans wondered if years of pounding were catching up with him.

He ran for 108 yards at San Diego on Nov. 23, proving he still has something left.

"It meant a lot," Dillon said. "It silenced a lot of the critics. They said I was done, I'd lost a step, I can't do it no more. Come on, get real."

"The thing I'm most proud about this year is that I'm a warrior, I'm a survivor. Everybody tried to write me off — 'Corey's disgruntled, he's a bad apple.' I came back. You want to talk about character — I'm tougher than leather. It doesn't get any tougher."

Petrino stays busy after season ends

by CHRIS DUNCAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Louisville coach Bobby Petrino walked briskly out of his office Monday morning for a refill of coffee.

A reporter asked him about his holiday plans and Petrino smiled.

"I haven't even thought about Christmas. Too busy," he said.

Petrino and his staff hit the recruiting trail the day after their 49-28 loss to Miami of Ohio in the GMAC Bowl last Thursday.

Petrino is looking to sign offensive and defensive linemen and "a really good quarterback" this recruiting season. He may get his wish on the latter later this month when 2003 Kentucky Mr. Football Brian Brohm announces his decision.

Once the recruiting crunch ends, Petrino said he'll take more time to evaluate his first season.

The Cardinals finished 9-4 — the most wins ever for a first-

year Louisville coach — and reached a bowl game for the sixth straight season.

"Of course, you look back and you think there are a couple of games you're just inches from winning and we need to win those games," he said. "The greatest thing is the majority of our players next year will have played in those big games, whereas this year we were so new, even at the crucial positions. I think it will all pay off."

Petrino lived up to his reputation as an offensive innovator, guiding the Cardinals to 490 yards and 35 points per game during the regular season.

His scheme was aided by a much-improved offensive line, which plowed the way for running backs Lionel Gates and Eric Shelton and allowed only 10 sacks during the regular season.

"They really became the leaders of the offense," Petrino said of the line.

Shelton and Gates finished

the regular season with 1,445 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns. Both will be back next year, as will Michael Bush, the all-purpose 2002 Mr. Football who ended up spending most of his season at running back.

Bush has said repeatedly he wants a crack at quarterback, but Petrino was non-committal about Bush's future role.

"I'll get Mike in here, sit down and talk, see how winter workouts go, conditioning, all of that," Petrino said. "We'll do what's best for him and the team."

Petrino said Bush has not expressed any discontent to him.

"Every day he comes to work he has a big smile on his face, nicest guy in the world," Petrino said. "We've just kind of got to wait and see how it plays itself out."

Even if Petrino gives him the chance, Bush will be hard-pressed to unseat Stefan LeFors, who blossomed into a star his junior year. The left-hander threw for 2,921 yards and 15 touchdowns, completing 61 percent of his passes.

"If he play tomorrow, he's the starter," Petrino said.

Leading receiver J.R. Russell

and Joshua Tinch head a talented corps of returning receivers. Russell caught three touchdown passes in the bowl game and topped 100 receiving yards in six games.

Petrino's biggest concerns for next season surround Louisville's defense, which gave up at least 37 points in the final four games.

The nadir came in the bowl game, which turned into a showcase for Miami quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. The Redhaws gained 597 yards and Roethlisberger threw four TD passes.

Petrino blamed part of his defense's late-season dropoff on conditioning.

"We didn't seem to progress, we didn't seem to continue to get better," he said. "We've got to do a real good job in spring ball and in the weight room of getting stronger and more physical because I think we got worn down a little bit."

Petrino said he still had confidence in defensive coordinator Mike Gillhamer, who was also in his first season.

"We're not going to make any changes," Petrino said. "The one thing our defense needs to

understand is that we won nine games and they did a dang good job of making sure we did win nine."

The two-deep defensive depth chart for the bowl game had 10 underclassmen and Petrino said experience will be a strength of the defense next season.

One thing Petrino said the unit needs is a strong pass rusher. The Cardinals had only 24 sacks in 2003, down from 35 in 2002.

"We were small," Petrino said of the defensive line. "We've got some good players

coming back, Montavious Stanley and Bobby Leffew inside I think will really have a good year next year. Marcus Jones is a guy who has shown he can rush the passer. He needs to have a great year in the weight room. Then we need to get some other guys cranked up and going."

The biggest loss on special teams is kicker Nate Smith, who became the school's all-time leader in field goals and extra points. Petrino said two walk-ons, Art Carmody and Todd Flannery, are the frontrunners to replace Smith.

South Floyd

Continued from p1

in front of some shocked Pike Central fans.

Jack Slone paced South Floyd with a game-high 24 points. Four different Raiders scored 10 points or more. Burnett Little and Steven Stanley netted 12 points apiece. Adam Tackett netted 10. Mason Hall finished with nine points and freshman Ethan Johnson scored three. Senior Brian

Meade rounded out the South Floyd scoring with two points.

ONE YEAR AGO...South Floyd beat host Pike Central in the finals of the Coca-Cola Classic last January. The Coca-Cola tournament will again be played at Pike Central next week. South Floyd is not in this year's tournament. The Raiders will instead play in a tournament at Hazard High School.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Boyd County 67, Johnson Central 53

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

SUMMIT — Johnson Central found itself playing from behind Tuesday night against host Boyd County in the Towne Square Classic. The host Lions led 20-13 at the end of the first quarter and 36-28 at halftime en route to a 67-53 win. Boyd County (6-1) outscored Johnson Central in every quarter except the third period. The Golden Eagles managed to edge Boyd County 14-13 in the third frame.

Three Boyd County players netted double figures in the victory.

Senior Mike Walters was the only player to score over nine points for Johnson Central (4-4). Walters, who is considered

one of the top shooters in Eastern Kentucky, finished with 17 points. Josh Stapleton scored nine points while Tony Hatfield and Nick Music added eight points apiece. Kyle Rice scored four points. Tyler Whitaker added three for the Golden Eagles while teammates Sean Music and Jamie McCarty pushed in two apiece.

In the finals of the Towne Square tourney, East Carter (7-1) topped Louisville Trinity 63-54 (3-6). Richie Savage and Marc Messer combined for 42 points to lead East Carter to the win.

Johnson Central remains in the holiday tournament playing mood. The Golden Eagles are currently playing in the Tiger HOOPS Classic at Paintsville High School.

Raccoons

Continued from p1

ated a little more burden on Kentucky's wild turkeys and other ground-nesting birds, he said.

"The raccoons do take some toll on turkeys by being one of our major nest predators along with skunks and opossums to some extent," Lane said.

It is common for ground-nesting turkeys to lose clutches of eggs to foraging raccoons, a factor that mitigates each spring's new crop of gobblers and hens, he said.

More places for a shelter and a reduction in mortality factors are primarily responsible for the increase in raccoons, Lane said.

Development of additional Kentucky acreage into residential

suburbs over a period of time has suited the masked bandits just fine.

"There's more and more suburban habitat where the raccoons have moved in and found free meals and easy living," Lane said. "As long as they've got some habitat corridors to move around in and some den habitat, having people around hasn't hurt a bit. They do very well there."

Dining on human-provided sources like pet food and raided garbage cans, and absent some of the predation that might affect them in wilder habitats, raccoons have prospered right among human populations.

Raccoons living in suburbs also avoid population reductions

of sport trapping. But trapping is an element that's much in decline even out in the open woodlands and fields, too.

Lane said trapping has become only a minor factor on populations of raccoons and other furbearers because of a downturn in trapper numbers relating to lower fur prices and less economic incentive in recent years. Only recently there was a minor ripple back in the other direction.

"We actually saw some recovery in the fur market last year with prices higher across the board as demand increased with wearing furs becoming a little more fashionable," Lane said.

Calling trapping a "valuable management tool" in balancing

furbearer numbers, Lane said a recovery in fur prices could help reduce high numbers of raccoons and other furbearers that create problems.

"Raccoons are one of the major species that bring complaints for wildlife control officers," Lane said. "They cause quite a bit of trouble for home-owners, and they can do quite a bit of crop damage that often gets blamed on other species."

High animal populations make these glory days for raccoons hunters, who trail after baying hounds by night in Kentucky woodlots and forests, Lane said.

The very fact that raccoons have grown so very plentiful also poses some threat to them, however. Lane said there have been localized outbreaks of canine distemper in Kentucky this year. It is a cyclic ailment that can fatally affect raccoons, foxes, skunks, coyotes and domestic dogs, and it can be epidemic in scope.

"Canine distemper was just seen in raccoons earlier this year," Lane said. "I think the outbreak we had was just in isolated areas, but it remains to be seen how much of an impact that it had on the overall population."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Dantonio hired as Cincinnati football coach

by LISA CORNWELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Mark Dantonio was hired as Cincinnati's football coach Tuesday after helping Ohio State build one of the nation's top defenses.

Dantonio, the Buckeyes' defensive coordinator, replaces Rick Minter.

Minter was fired Dec. 1 after a decade on the job. He was dismissed three days after the Bearcats (5-7) ended their season with a 43-40 loss to Louisville. He finished with a 53-63-1 record over 10 seasons and had the most wins and losses in school history.

There was more pressure on Minter to produce a consistent winner when Cincinnati accepted an invitation last month to leave Conference USA for the

higher-profile Big East.

"I saw this as a great opportunity, because it's a program that's going into the Big East," Dantonio said at a news conference.

Athletic director Bob Goin said Dantonio has great character and integrity.

"He's one who knows how to win. He's worked with winners, and he's been under pressure at the highest level," he said.

Dantonio won't have to wait long to face his former school and longtime friend and boss, Jim Tressel. The Bearcats open the 2004 season at Ohio State on Sept. 4.

The Buckeyes spent most of the past season as the No. 1 defense against the run in all of Division I-A. Tressel said Dantonio will coach the Ohio State defense when the team plays Kansas State in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 2.

"We hate to lose him, but I'm extremely proud he has achieved this position and wish him the very best," Tressel said.

Ohio State, keyed by its defense, won the 2002 national championship, beating top-ranked Miami 31-24 in the Fiesta Bowl.

Dantonio, a native of Zanesville, won three letters as a defensive back at South Carolina (1976-78) and graduated in 1979 with a degree in education.

He served as a graduate assistant at Ohio University, Purdue and Ohio State before working as an assistant at Akron, Youngstown State, Kansas and Michigan State.

During his two years at Ohio State in 1983 and 1984, he worked on the same staff with Tressel, then the quarterbacks coach under Earle Bruce. After Tressel became the head coach at Youngstown State, he brought in Dantonio.

Dantonio spent four years at Kansas and six at Michigan State, finishing as the Spartans' defensive backs coach and associate head coach.

In his first year at Ohio State, the 2001 Buckeyes ranked first in the Big Ten in passing defense and second in scoring defense. In 2002, the defense finished second nationally in scoring defense (13.1 points per game) and third nationally in rushing defense (77.7 ypg).

In 2003, Ohio State is allowing an average of 16.8 points and 290.1 yards per game. The Buckeyes are one of the nation's top defenses against the run, yielding just 60.5 yards per game.

Minter took Cincinnati to bowl games four of the past six seasons but had come under increasing criticism for failing to create a larger fan base and national profile.

After a 3-0 start this year, the Bearcats lost seven of their final nine games for their first losing season in four years. Attendance also dwindled, with only 11,993 fans — slightly more than one-third of the stadium's capacity — showing up in inclement weather for the season finale.

Minter said at the time of his firing that he was leaving Cincinnati's football program in better shape than he found it.

"The guy who comes in next is going to find it a more desirable job than I found it," he said.

The Bearcats do have talent returning. Two juniors — defensive end Trent Cole and offensive lineman Kyle Takavitz — were selected to the All-Conference USA first team. Two other returning players were selected to the second team: junior defensive end Andre Frazier and cornerback Daven Holly. Junior middle linebacker Jamar Enzor was listed on the third team.

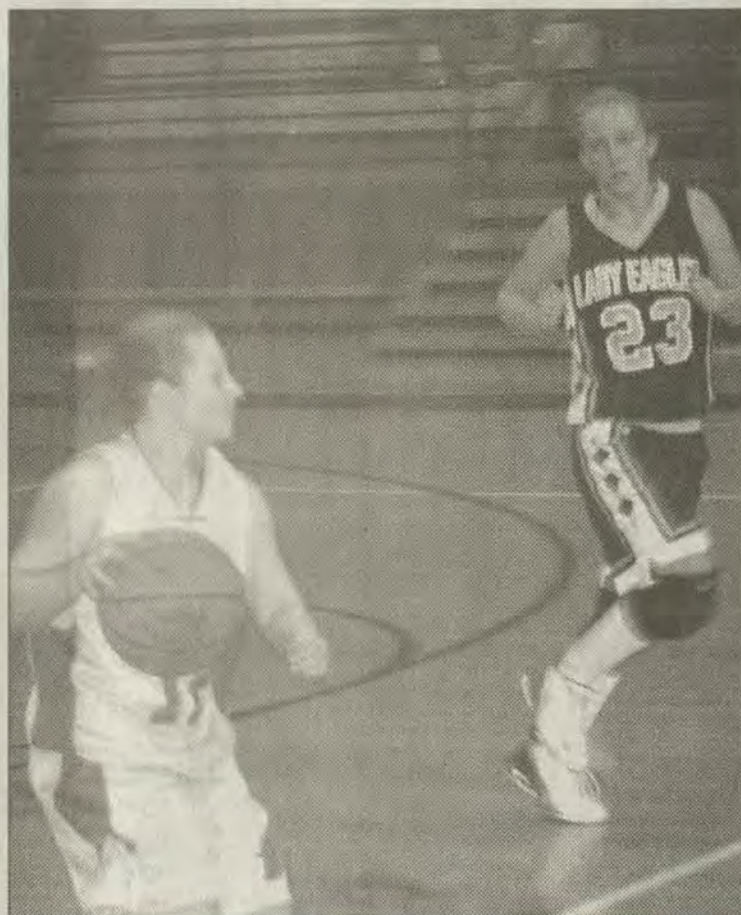


photo by Jamie Howell

Allen Central senior guard Terri Mullins slowed down her dribble during Tuesday's meeting with Johnson Central. Pictured for Johnson Central is junior Alice Daniel.

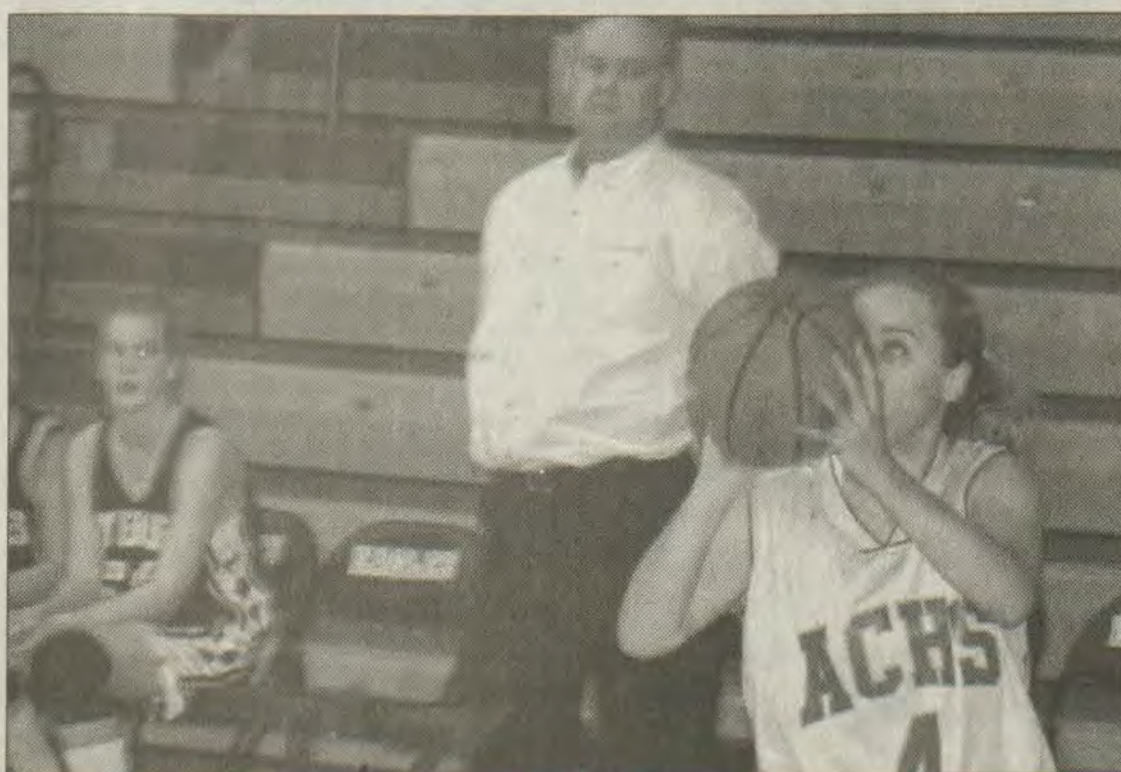


photo by Jamie Howell

Allen Central senior Tab Caudill squared up for a long-range jumper as Johnson Central head coach Phillip Wireman looked on.

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1. Mason County
2. Lexington Catholic
3. Apollo
4. Fern Creek
5. Pleasure Ridge Park
6. DeSales
7. Wayne Co.
8. Covington Catholic
9. Elizabethtown
10. Scott County
11. Warren Central
12. Henry Clay
13. Hopkinsville
14. Madison Central
15. Boone County
16. Clay County
17. Butler
18. Iroquois
19. Seneca
20. Jeffersonton

Bluegrass Preps.com Girls Top 20

1. Sacred Heart
2. Lexington Catholic
3. Christian Co
4. Mercer Co
5. Henderson County
6. Mercy
7. Rockcastle County
8. Jackson County
9. Assumption
10. East Carter
11. Newport Central Catholic
12. Clinton County
13. Elizabethtown
14. Scott County
15. Woodford County
16. Perry Co Central
17. Butler
18. Christian Academy-Louisville
19. Henry Clay
20. Boyd County

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- 480 - Miscellaneous
- 490 - Recreation
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500 - REAL ESTATE

- 605 - Business

510 - Commercial Property

- 530 - Homes
- 550 - Land/Lots
- 570 - Mobile Homes
- 580 - 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
- 690 - 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 - Timber
- 790 - Travel

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1992 CHEVY CORSA for sale. If interested call 889-0872 or 226-0062.

160-Motorcycles

1998 YAMAHA YZ80 New tires, pro-circuit pipe. \$1600. Call 452-9599 for more info.

FOR SALE: 1999 Black Fat boy, bike includes smokoey windshield, leather saddlebags and lots of chrome accessories. 15,000 miles. Interested inquires call at 886-2030.

FOR SALE: 1996 Ultra Classic, low mileage 14,000 mls, black/green motorcycle with lots of accessories. Inerested inquires call at 886-2030.

180-Trucks

FOR SALE: 2002 Chevy Tahoe, gray, with third row seat. Price \$26,500. Call 886-1779 days, or 886-2640 evenings.

Classified ads work!

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.

205-Business Oppt

FOR SALE: Laundrymat located in Salyersville. Business & equipment only you assume lease on building. Only one in town, great location. Price \$30,000. Phone 606-886-1915 after 5 p.m.

210-Job Listing

DENTIST OFFICE HAS OPENING. Computer experience preferred. Send resume to: 415 N. Lake Dr., Suite 201, Prestonsburg, Ky 41653.

SEASONAL RECEPTIONIST POSITION available. If interested call 886-3685.

AVON

Earn your own money. \$10.00 sign up fee. Free gift. Call Jancy at 886-2082.

Your ad could be here!

DELIVERY/WAREHOUSE Auxier distributor. No overnight or weekends! Immediate opening to make local deliveries year round in a 24 foot flat bed. Must be at least 21 years old, have valid driver's license and meet requirements. Must have at least 6 months verifiable experience driving a 20 foot truck or larger or a 10 wheel dump truck. Heavy lifting. Must be able to pass drug screen and post hire DOT physical. Forklift experience helpful. Full time, Monday - Friday with benefits. Fax resume with salary requirements to Corporate Office (502) 896-2928 or cell (800) 967-7473 extension 217 or 222. EOE

220-Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: Warehouse workers needed for day shift. Apply in person. Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Big Sandy Wholesale, Harold, Ky.

TAXI CAB DRIVERS WANTED: Must pass drug, criminal & driving test. \$6.00 per hour, over 40 hours \$9.00 per hour. Alternate nights & week ends. Paid weekly. 285-3140 Appalachian Transportation, Inc.

EARN HOLIDAY INCOME! \$200-\$500 weekly assembling sing-a-long greeting cards. For more information send a self addressed stamp envelope to **Holiday Greeting Cards, P.O. Box 612290, Miami FL., 33261.**

WANTED: Full-time teacher for grades K-5, 5-8, or K-8, for a small private school located in Prestonsburg, Ky. Please call Dr. Khattab at 606-789-5541 or fax 606-789-9445 for details.

MERCHANDISE

410-Animals

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Cocker Spaniel puppy, 7 weeks old. Call 439-3106.

440-Electronics

FOR SALE: PIONEER HOME STEREO Includes CD player, cassette player & recorder, 2 large speakers, turntable and stand, reduced to \$250 but will negotiate. 874-4604 after 5:30 p.m.

445-Furniture

ALMAR FURNITURE Big selection of living room, bedroom, dining room, refrigerators, stove, washers and much more. 606-874-0097

FOR SALE: Queen Anne chair & table. Chair is blue in color, table is cherry finish. Excellent condition. Also, Bow Flex machine. Call 886-8685 if no answer leave message.

ALLEN FURNITURE ALLEN, KY Furniture, used appliances, living / bedroom suits, bunkbeds, and lots more! Call 874-9790.

Classified ads work!

RAY'S BARGAIN CENTER New & Used Furniture & Appliances @ unbelievable prices. Come in today for incredible savings. Shop At The Little Furniture Store & Save!! RT. #122, McDowell. Call 606-377-0143.

480-Miscellaneous

FOR SALE: 3/4 karat diamond ring, Asking \$500. Call 874-4981 or 791-2167.

FOR SALE: Home exercise equipment: AB/lower back machine and Stepper machine. \$100 each or \$150 pair. Call 789-8380 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE: Paintball gun. 2003 Core Sharp semi-automatic, black and chrome. 12" barrel. \$130 (OBO) Call 886-8506 and ask for Kathy (day). 789-8380 evening.

FOR SALE: Give that special someone a "golden" gift that will last all year 'round! For sale now: Tanning bed-brand new bulbs. \$600. Call 874-0467.

FOR SALE: 8 ft refrigerated deli case, \$1000, small pizza oven, \$400, small juice cooler, \$150, washer & dryer, \$150 pair. Call 886-2367.

FOR SALE: 8 ft deli cooler, \$950 and Gas conduction oven, \$6500. Call 606-886-4450. Call 886-2367.

FOR SALE: Home Interior Items, full size comforters & curtains to match, Avon collectible items, collection of novels. Call after 4 p.m. 886-3326.

KAY'S WALLPAPER 205 DEPOT RD. PAINTSVILLE, KY HUNDREDS OF PATTERNS OF WALLPAPER & BORDERS All under \$10.00. Open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Sunday & Monday. 789-8584.

REAL ESTATE

530-Houses

FOR SALE: House at Wheelwright 1801 Main St., 2 BR, separate dining room, fenced yard, new furnace. Includes second lot. Call 606-452-4168 or 859-527-7646.

HOUSE FOR SALE 109 Main Street, Dwale, 3 BR, large kitchen & bath. Asking \$38,500 Call 734-483-3665 or 606-874-2446.

550-Land/Lots

LARGE LEVEL LOT convient to Martin or Prestonsburg. Call 859-749-4286 days or 859-901-1636 evenings.

FOR SALE: Almost 1 acre near Long Bow Boat docks at Cave Run Lake. Asking \$6500. Call 606-886-3836.

570-Mobile Homes

FOR SALE 12X60 Mobile Home. Underpinning & steps included, needs repairs, excellent for parts or storage, \$1000 OBO. Call after 5:30 874-4604.

590-Sale or Lease

FOR SALE OR LEASE: 16000 sq. ft. building, more or less w/apt. attached. 2 BR, 1 BA. Separate metal bldg. 40x50 & 2 + 1/2 acres of land. Large road frontage. Between Allen & Martin, close to WMDJ Call 859-512-6812.

To place an ad call Tammy at 886-8506

RENTALS

610-Apartments

2 BR DUPLEX FOR RENT central h/a, on US 23, 1 mile N. of Prestonsburg. Call 886-9007 or 889-9747.

1 BR APARTMENT FOR RENT \$250 + electric. Located in Martin area. Call 285-9976.

2 BR BACHELOR APARTMENT near Prestonsburg and J.W. Lake, A/C, private, clean. Not suitable for more than 2 people. Call 606-886-3941.

FOR RENT: 1 BR apartment, central h/a, stove & refrigerator located in town. 886-1032.

Move into your new home by Christmas

Prestonsburg-Part Place Apartments. Immediate occupancy for qualified applicants. 1 Br/\$305 mo. 2 Br/\$325 mo. Call 886-0039

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

GREETINGS FROM LIGHTHOUSE MANOR, Terry & Sharon Smith. We have apartments for rent that are efficiency apartments, all utilities paid. For more info call 606-886-2797.

FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM APARTMENTS: Central heat & air. Rent starting at \$350 month, + \$300 deposit. Located near HRMC. 889-9717.*

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

General Assignment Reporter

The Floyd County Times is currently accepting applications for general assignment reporters, either full-time or part-time. The ideal candidate will possess strong writing skills, dedication to the principles of journalism, strong people skills and a go-getter attitude. Experience is preferred, but applicants with the right mix of education and ability, will be considered. The ability to work flexible hours is a must. Benefits include a competitive salary, health insurance, vacation, 401k and mileage, for full-time employees.

If you would like to advance or continue your career in the field of journalism, you may submit your resumé and writing samples to

Managing Editor Ralph B. Davis
 The Floyd County Times
 P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653
 or
 via email to web@floydcountytimes.com

Enterprise Mining Company, LLC

Employment Opportunities

Enterprise Mining Company, LLC, will be accepting applications for all underground positions (labor, equipment operator, foreman, electrician).

Requirements are:

Applicants must have at least one (1) year of recent mining experience (one year within the last three years) and must be able to operate at least one (1) piece of equipment.

Electrical, Foreman, MET certifications are a plus.

Interested and qualified individuals may apply at the Enterprise office in Whitesburg, KY, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., on Monday, December 29, 2003. (Applicants unable to apply on December 29, 2003, will be required to apply at the Whitesburg Employment Service).

Enterprise Mining provides a competitive wage/benefit package in a safety oriented work environment.

OIL FIELD COMPANY has openings for hard working responsible drivers. Must be of age 21 or older. Must have CDL and good driving record, and some mechanical aptitude. Please apply in person.

UNIVERSAL WELL SERVICE INC.

5252 Route 1428
 Allen, Ky. 41601
 606-874-3487

Call Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY OFFICER

Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Inc., has an opening for a full-time Corporate Responsibility Officer. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree required in business, finance, paralegal, nursing or health care related field. Experience: Three or more years of progressive management experience in health care finance, operations or compliance. Strong interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills. Ability to organize and prioritize with minimal direction, and work on multiple tasks. This position demands attention to detail. Responsibilities: Responsible for ensuring thorough analysis, review and implementation of procedures and processes in compliance with local, state and federal regulatory guidelines and law. Oversees the implementation of corrective actions to address any compliance related issues that may result from review or investigation. Investigates any potential compliance issues and provides feedback to the Board of Directors. Develops and implements associate education relating to compliance matters. Responsible for additional special projects as assigned by the President & CEO. Some travel will be required for the incumbent in this position. Generous salary and benefits, commensurate with experience. Send curriculum vitae to Debi Bentley, Human Resources Department, Our Lady of the Way Hospital, P.O. Box 910, Martin, Kentucky 41649, fax: (606) 285-6422 or call (606) 285-5181, extension 2020, email: dbentley@olwh.org.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) Special Education Cooperative

The Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative is accepting resúmes for the following anticipated vacancy:

Job Title Director of Special Education Cooperative
Contract 240 day annual contract with beginning salary of \$60,000 - \$65,000 (based on rank and years of experience) plus benefits.

Report to Works with and reports to Executive Director
Responsibilities Leads team of educational consultants/diagnosticians/therapists and works closely with directors of special education in 15 public school districts. Represents southeast Kentucky regional issues to governmental leadership; is a strong interagency collaborator.

Minimum Qualifications Applicant must hold minimum of a master's degree and have at least 5 years experience in public education, part of which must have been in teaching or supervising in the field of special education; strong interpersonal skills; the ability to communicate assertively and effectively both orally and in writing with a variety of audiences; possess technology skills including use of email and word processing software and value networking capacity. Special education certification, administrative certification preferred. Extensive travel is required. Office located in Hazard, Kentucky.

Application Deadline Applications accepted until January 19, 2004. Position anticipated to begin February, 2004.

To Apply Send letter of application and resúme, including 3 professional references, copies of all certifications or licensures, a list of trainings attended and conducted, and a complete job history:

SCREENING COMMITTEE
 c/o Jeff Hawkins, Executive Director
 Kentucky Valley Education Cooperative
 325 Broadway
 Hazard, KY 41701

For more information, contact:

Jeff Hawkins, Executive Director
 Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative
 325 Broadway
 Hazard, Ky 41701
 jhawkins@hazard.k12.ky.us
 (606) 439-2311 x. 26

KVEC is an equal opportunity employer.

1 EFFICIENCY APARTMENT, \$300 mo. + \$250 dep. Lease and references required. Utilities paid. Also 1 BR apartment, \$325 mo, \$300 dep. 886-3154.

630-Houses

2 BR HOUSE, equipped kitchen, near schools, Prestonsburg area. References required. Call 886-0825 before 5 p.m.

RENOVATED 2 BR HOUSE FOR RENT located in residential section of Martin. \$375 mo. Call 285-3025 or 285-9812. for appointment.

FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT: Just outside city limits, suitable for 2 people. Call 886-2474.

650-Mobile Homes

FOR RENT: 14X70 2 BR mobile home. HUD approved. Call 886-3541 Cell 791-3727.

670-Commercial Property

FOR RENT: MODERN SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT Approx. 900 sq. ft. Furnished kitchen. Will also consider renting apartment for office space. Located 1 mile south of Martin on Rte 122 across from the Floyd County Technology Center at Garth. \$500 per mo. plus utilities. Call 285-3625 or 285-9112.

SERVICES

705-Construction

ALL TYPES: Remodeling & additions, garages, decks, etc. Also concrete work. Robie Johnson, Jr., call anytime, 886-8896.

NOTICES

805-Announcements

HELP THE KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY. We are looking for donations for new & used computers to distribute to the kids community facilities. For pick up call Scott 889-9551 and to deliver call Scott 889-9551.

812-Free

FREE PALLETS: Can be picked up behind The Floyd County Times.

FREE FILL DIRT right fork of Bull Creek. call 606-874-2444.

815-Lost & Found

LOST: Dog in Rockfork of Knott Co. Red & brown shitzu mix. Green collar, answers to the name "Hootie". Long hair on ears & tail. \$300 reward. Call 946-2871.

Classified ads Work

Be an Angel.
Become a Kentucky organ & tissue donor. For information contact: 1-800-525-3456, or www.trustforlife.org

ATTENTION, THERAPISTS PT, OT, SLP
Salyersville Health Care Center is expanding its therapy department and is seeking qualified therapists to join our team. We offer excellent benefits package and competitive salary. If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of our residents, please contact us.
Salyersville Health Care
571 Parkway Drive • (606) 349-6181
E.O.E.

Register For Ky/Federal Disaster Assistance
1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
(TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing- and speech impaired)

STOP!
You've cleaned out your attic, your basement, your garage and now you're ready to host a garage sale. Before you proceed, follow these signs for placing the type of classified ad that will help turn your event into a best-seller.
Be sure to include in your Garage or Yard Sale ad...

- 1 WHAT.** Describe the type of sale you're hosting. Is it mostly household goods? Nursery furniture? Apparel?
- 2 WHEN.** Give dates and time of sale, and rain date information.
- 3 WHERE.** Where the sale will be held, with directions or phone number for directions.
- 4 WHY.** Reason for sale, especially if it is a "moving" sale, since these tend to attract more customers.

Let one of our "ad-visors" help you with your ad. Call **886-8506**

The Floyd County Times

Find your calling
in the heart of the mountains.
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES
MORGAN COUNTY ARH
WEST LIBERTY, KY
Applications are being accepted for full time LPN opportunities available on the 2nd and 3rd shifts at Morgan County Appalachian Regional Hospital in West Liberty, KY, a 45 bed facility of the Appalachian Regional Healthcare system. These positions will be responsible for patient care services with the Medical and Skilled Nursing units.
Requirements include High School Diploma or equivalent with completion of an approved licensed practical nursing program and unrestricted KY LPN licensure.
ARH offers a generous salary and benefits include low cost single or family plan health insurance coverage; paid vacation, sick and holiday leaves; noncontributory retirement plan; life insurance at group rates, etc.
Please send resume or call for an application: Rhonda Gevedon, Human Resources Department, Morgan County ARH, 476 Liberty Road, West Liberty, KY 41472; e-mail: rgevedon@arh.org, FAX: 606-743-9604, Telephone: 606-743-3186, Ext. 105 or Kathy Walter, Community Chief Nursing, kwalter@arh.org, Telephone: 606-743-3186, Ext. 277. EOE

ARH
Appalachian Regional Healthcare
The Medical Centers of the Mountains
www.arh.org

Find your calling
in the heart of the mountains.
RESPIRATORY THERAPY TECHNICIANS
Morgan County ARH
West Liberty, KY
Appalachian Regional Healthcare, a not-for-profit system of hospitals, clinics and home health services, is seeking candidates for full time Respiratory Therapy Technician positions at the Morgan County Appalachian Regional Hospital in West Liberty, Kentucky, about 1 1/2 hours east of Lexington.
Duties of the Respiratory Therapy Technicians include administering respiratory therapy treatments and emergency respiratory therapy care. Requirements include high school diploma or equivalent and successful completion of a formal respiratory therapy course.
ARH offers a very competitive salary dependent upon possession of certification and registration and ranges from \$14.27 per hour to \$16.96 per hour. Benefits include very low cost single or family plan health insurance coverage; paid vacation, sick and holiday leaves; noncontributory retirement plan, life insurance at group rates, etc.
Please send resume to or contact: Rhonda Gevedon, Human Resources Department, Morgan County ARH, 476 Liberty Road, West Liberty, KY 41472; e-mail: rgevedon@arh.org; fax: 606-743-9604; telephone: 606-743-3186, Ext. 105 or Michelle Whitt, Respiratory Therapy Supervisor; e-mail: mwhitt@arh.org; telephone: 606-743-3186, Ext. 259 or Ext. 270. EOE

ARH
Appalachian Regional Healthcare
The Medical Centers of the Mountains
www.arh.org

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2002 Ford Explorers \$21,995	2003 Ford Escape \$19,995	2003 Mercury Gr. Marquis \$18,995	2000 Ford F-150 Ext. Cab 4x4 \$20,995	2003 Ford Ranger 4x4 \$17,995	2003 Ford Van E350 15 passenger \$23,995	2003 Ford Focus \$10,995
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A.P.R. as low as **4.99%** on Used Cars, Trucks, SUV's & Vans

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1999 Ford Taurus \$8,995	2001 Ford Taurus \$11,995	2003 Ford Taurus \$14,995	2002 Lincoln LS. LOADED \$21,995
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BROWN'S AUTO SALES
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