

OVER 18,000 READERS, THREE TIMES A WEEK

Friday, January 2, 2004

The Times

*****ALL FOR ADE 301
12/27/2024
LEWIS BINDERY
190 LANDOR DR
ATHENS GA 30606-2428

Get your **FREE**
DIRECTV System* today!
Home Satellite Systems
1-800-349-4388
www.homesatservices.com
*Some restrictions may apply. DIRECTV

Member AP, KPA, NNA

Serving the Citizens of Floyd County since 1927

Volume 75, Issue 1 • 75 Cents

TOP 5 STORIES OF 2003

STORY OF THE YEAR



file photo

The city of Martin more closely resembled Venice after February flooding left that city's streets under water. The flood was one of two major ones during 2003 that left Floyd County residents and governments alike feeling a financial pinch.

Mother Nature gives Floyd a one-two punch

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

Already painfully accustomed to dealing with flooding, Floyd Countians could not have anticipated the batch of devastating rains that coated the county not once, but twice in 2003, bringing the floodwaters of February and June to the top of the list for prominent stories of the past year.

The year was still young when, on Feb. 14, it began to rain.

Four days later, on Feb. 17, the rain would stop, leaving behind approximately four inches of down-fall and destruction perhaps unparalleled in a county historically prone to such disasters.

Some of the areas hardest hit were Maytown, Martin, Betsy

Layne, Harold and much of Mud Creek, while, at the southern end of the county, places like McDowell, Hi Hat and Wheelwright were spared.

The Big Sandy River swelled to 39.88 feet, just shy of the 40-foot cutoff point at which the city of Prestonsburg would have needed to deal with floodwaters. But although downtown was left essentially unaffected, Archer Park rested under several feet of floodwater with only the tips of the memorial flags visible for those adventurous enough to take boats through the flushed out park.

In Martin, a town hit harder than most in Floyd County during times of flooding, Main Street was transformed into nothing less than a canal, passable only by large, mili-

tary trucks attempting to access damaged areas.

It was Floyd County Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson's fourth flood in as many years, and lack of reimbursement from the previous floods presented problems in trying to approach repairs for the latest.

At the time of the flooding in February, the county was still owed \$270,000 from 2001 floods and an additional \$450,000 from 2002, money Thompson said would have been used to start work on the recent flooding.

In all, 115 homes and businesses actually endured floodwater within the structures, while an additional 300 homes reported damages from

(See FLOODS, page three)

Gunnels pleads guilty to murder

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

The trial for former Floyd County resident James Austin Gunnels ended before it began this year, when he gave a full confession to the 2001 murder of local convenience store clerk Bonnie Jean Fraley Hall.

Gunnels, who originally pleaded not guilty to various charges stemming from the July 11, 2001, murder, changed his plea Jan. 31 in Floyd Circuit Court, just days shy of his scheduled trial date.

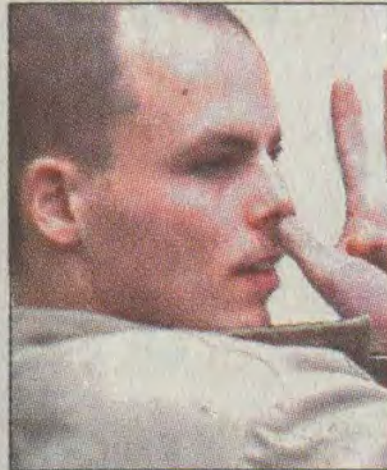
With his confession in Floyd Circuit Court, Gunnels admitted to raping and murdering Hall, 36, during a robbery at the Watergap Cardinal Mart. Additionally, he confessed to stealing a 1991 Buick Regal on July 10, 2001, a .32 caliber revolver on July 11, and to using them in the robbery. During his confession, he also admitted to

leaving the scene and taking with him a .22 Magnum and a 1995 Ford contour, both belonging to Hall. Additionally, he also confessed to possession of a gun by a convicted felon and being a persistent felony offender.

His trial was moved to Montgomery County Circuit court in Mount Sterling, pursuant to a request filed by his attorneys, public advocates Danielle Johnson and James Barrett in July 2002. The trial was then slated to begin on Feb. 10, but Gunnels confessed in Floyd County prior to that time.

In doing so, he negated the possibility of a death penalty, an option brought to light by the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, which filed a notice of intent to seek the death penalty in the case on May 10, 2002.

In its filing, the commonwealth based its decision to seek the death penalty on three aggravating cir-



James Austin Gunnels

cumstances — robbery, rape, and burglary — which Gunnels committed during the murder.

Although he originally pleaded not guilty in court to 12 felonies

(See GUNNELS, page three)

Stumbo state's top Democrat

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

Republican ticket, and independent candidate Gatewood Galbraith.

Floyd County voters spoke loudly in November, sending Prestonsburg native Greg Stumbo to the center of the ring with his election as attorney general.

More than that, with Republicans taking power in nearly every other office in the November election, Stumbo's name was thrust to the fore of Democratic circles as the party's top-ranking officeholder.

Facing allegations regarding his personal life during the campaign, Stumbo, 42, ran against and defeated former prosecutor and District Judge Jack D. Woods, who led the

Stumbo, running for a position that stands as the state's top child-support enforcement official, faced questions during his campaign involving a lawsuit filed in May 2001 by former lover Travis Fritsch, of Lexington, regarding a child support dispute with his 14-year-old son.

Stumbo, who began paying hefty child support payments in 2002, following DNA confirmation, responded by filing a countersuit in 2001 against Fritsch and her lawyer, G. Edward Henry, alleging harassment and

(See STUMBO, page three)

Board regains some autonomy

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

board would have been reevaluated by state inspectors and would ensure, among other aspects of new independence, that

This past summer, the Floyd County Board of Education broke loose from state management, moved into a status referred to in Frankfort as "state assisted" and gained ground that was lost nearly six years before.

The Kentucky School Board of Education took control of Floyd County's school board in 1998, but loosened its grip on Aug. 7, after members voted to amend the county's status.

The decision came just six months before the school

Kentucky Commissioner of Education Gene Wilhoit would no longer have veto power over decisions relating to the Floyd County Board of Education.

Another significant change would be the absence of a state manager, who oversaw Floyd Supt. Dr. Paul Fanning and the sitting school board and made periodic reports back to

(See BOARD, page three)

Fiscal problems plague county jail

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

fall that resulted in a decline in state prisoners housed at the facility. Adding more stress to the already dismal situation was the fact that an influx of county prisoners was taking beds and leaving little space for what state prisoners the jail was managing to bring in.

In March, members of the Floyd County Fiscal Court announced they would need to transfer more than \$1 million from their general fund to offset a drop in income for the Floyd County Detention Center.

The transfer was made with the ominous speculation that the jail might need to be closed, if the problems continued.

Jailer Roger Webb explained shortly after the March decision that the drop was due to a statewide short-

With a good deal of reluctance and, at times, outright disapproval, the full fiscal court refused to pass its budget, including the transfer of \$1,230,000 to the jail. When balanced, the court had taken \$580,000 of its coal

(See JAIL, page three)

Chris Neeley

Section • C1

briefs

Charges filed for assaulting police officer

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

A Mousie resident was arrested after she threatened to kill a local police officer during an alleged drunken brawl at the Holiday Inn last week, according to documents filed in district court Monday.

Theresa Marlene Ritchie, 37, is now facing four charges relating to an incident which occurred Dec. 26 at the Holiday Inn.

According to the arrest citation, filed Monday in district court by Prestonsburg Police Officer Brian Walker, Ritchie assaulted and threatened to kill him during the arrest.

She is now facing charges of alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct, third-degree assault of a police officer and terroristic threatening.

According to the arrest citation, Ritchie was "very irate" and "very loud" at the

(See ASSAULT, page three)

inside

Local News

Odds and EndsA2
ObituariesA6
For the RecordA6

Sports

Coca-Cola TourneyB1
Fan of the WeekB2
PC BowlerB3

Lifestyles

Through My EyesC1
PostscriptC1
School CalendarC2

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 55 • Low: 47

Tomorrow



High: 48 • Low: 43

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

•Residential & Commercial (New & Old)
•All Metal Ductwork
•Heat Pump-Gas Furnaces-A/C
•Geothermal
•Financing Available
•Licensed & Insured M04205
•www.bigsandyheating.com

Serving: Johnson • Floyd • Pike
Martin • Magoffin • Lawrence

BIG SANDY

HEATING
COOLING

Toll Free! 1-888-297-HEAT (4328)

LENNOX

WE SERVICE MOST BRANDS

FREE ESTIMATES

24 HOUR
EMERGENCY
SERVICE



Odds & Ends

■ JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — Hoping to stop state Rep. Gary Haluska from winning a sixth term, local Republicans have taken the unusual step of placing a classified ad in a newspaper seeking state House hopefuls.

Republicans have about a month to gather the 300 signatures on nominating petitions, spurring county GOP Chairman Robert A. Gleason Jr., to cast a wide net for candidates.

Enticements include \$62,000 a year, leased car, mileage paid and a pension.

"It's not a bad job, and it's well paid for a little bit of work," said Gleason.

The hardest part of the job may be unseating Haluska, a Democrat who has held the seat in the county of 152,000 — where Democrats outnumber Republicans 2-to-1 — since 1994.

While it's not unusual for party leaders to solicit people to run, canvassing through the classifieds isn't a typical tactic, said G. Terry Madonna, a pollster and political science professor at Millersville University.

"I've never seen that, but nothing surprises me anymore," Madonna said.

■ POINT PLEASANT, W.Va. — If West Virginia National Guard Sgt. Shari Wright gets homesick while serving in Iraq, she won't have to look far for support.

Her father, Sgt. James Gheen, also serves in her unit, which

will be deployed in January. "I think it will bring us closer together," said Wright. "Whenever we get lonely or miss home, we can talk to each other."

Gheen, 40, and Wright, 23, both of Middleport, Ohio, are members of the 3664th West Virginia Army National Guard maintenance unit and are undergoing training at Fort Dix, N.J. In Iraq, Gheen will help repair vehicles while Wright will serve as an administrative clerk.

Gheen spent 10 years in the Army before joining the National Guard eight years ago. Wright, a student at Marshall University, joined the guard in 2001.

"It was just something that she said she wanted to do," Gheen said about his daughter's enlistment. "I didn't want her to think that she had to join because of me or anything. She said she wanted to do it and serve her country."

■ WESTBROOK, Conn. — Jackie Gleason got a bus depot when he died, so why shouldn't Art Carney get a sanitation facility?

Carney, a Westbrook resident who played Gleason's sewer-working sidekick Ed Norton on "The Honeymooners," died last month. Since then, one local resident has been lobbying to name the nearby waste and recycling center after the Emmy-winning actor.

Richard Fleming said the Ed

Norton Sanitation Facility would be a fitting memorial to the television star. He has begun a letter and e-mail campaign to persuade people to support the name change.

But First Selectman Tony Palermo, who received one of Fleming's e-mails, said he's not convinced. He wants to talk it over with other town officials and Carney's wife, Jean.

"I don't know if naming the town dump for him is appropriate," he said. "I mean, he did a play a character that became one of the most popular characters in American history, but he did other things, too. He was very good to us here in town, so I'm not sure."

■ LINCOLN, Neb. — It wasn't the fact that Melissa J. Harrington appeared naked on the Internet that got her in trouble with police. It was where she got naked.

The 21-year-old Web designer was busted for violating Lincoln's public nudity ordi-

nance by posting pictures on her Web site that apparently showed her naked in a downtown bar.

"It's unlawful to be naked in public in Lincoln," said Police Chief Tom Casady.

Casady said it was obvious to him that the photos were taken inside the Marz Intergalactic

Shrimp and Martini Bar.

The owner of the bar, Jerry Luth, told Omaha television station KETV he is extremely upset by the pictures and did not give Harrington permission to shoot the pictures at the bar.

Harrington was to be arraigned in Lancaster County

Court on Jan 29. If convicted, she faces a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

"They're not going to stop me from doing what I'm doing. I enjoy what I do and they really don't have any grounds now" to prosecute the case, she said.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 2, the second day of 2004. There are 364 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 2, 1900, Secretary of State John Hay announced the "Open Door Policy" to facilitate trade with China.

On this date:

■ In 1492, the leader of the last Arab stronghold in Spain surrendered to Spanish forces loyal to King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella I.

■ In 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

■ In 1921, religious services were broadcast on radio for the first time as KDKA in Pittsburgh aired the regular

Sunday service of the city's Calvary Episcopal Church.

■ In 1929, the United States and Canada reached agreement on joint action to preserve Niagara Falls.

■ In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann went on trial in Flemington, N.J., on charges of kidnapping and murdering the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was found guilty, and executed.)

■ In 1942, the Philippine capital of Manila was captured by Japanese forces during World War II.

■ In 1960, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

■ In 1965, the New York Jets signed University of Alabama quarterback Joe Namath for a reported \$400,000.

■ In 1974, President Nixon signed legislation requiring states to limit highway speeds to 55 mph (however, federal speed limits were abolished in 1995).

■ In 1983, the musical play "Annie," based on the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip, closed on Broadway after a run of 2,377 performances.

Ten years ago:
The new Republican mayor of New York City, Rudolph Giuliani, delivered his inaugural address in which he called for unity while promising to crack down on crime and tackle the city's budget problems.

Five years ago:
A U.N.-chartered cargo plane carrying nine people was downed in Angola's central highland war zone; there were no survivors.

One year ago:
President Bush, seeking to counter Democratic criticisms that his economic policies favored the rich, said the economic-stimulus plan he was going to unveil the following week would focus on jobs and the unemployed. Sydney Omarr, the astrologer to the stars whose horoscopes appeared in more than 200 newspapers, died in Santa Monica, Calif., at age 76.

Today's Birthdays:
Actress Anna Lee ("General Hospital") is 91. Former television evangelist Jim Bakker is 65. Actress Wendy Phillips is 52. Actress Gabrielle Carteris is

(See FRAUD, page five)

(See HISTORY, page five)

Prosecutors: Man charged with vote fraud was paid \$25,000 by supporter

The Associated Press

PIKEVILLE — An Eastern Kentucky judge-executive awaiting trial on vote fraud charges has told prosecutors that a political backer gave him \$25,000 before state and local elections in 2000 and 2002.

Knott Judge-Executive Donnie Newsome received cash three times from Pikeville lawyer Ross Harris, according

to a motion filed Dec. 26 by federal prosecutors. On two of those occasions, the money was passed along by the former campaign treasurer of state Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, The Lexington Herald-Leader reported in Tuesday's editions.

Harris, 56, and nine others, including former state Sen. John Doug Hays, D-Pikeville, are scheduled to stand trial on Jan. 12 in London on separate vote-fraud charges stemming from a Pike County district judge's race last year.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth R. Taylor filed the motion asking Judge Karen Caldwell to allow the new evidence in the Pike County case.

Newsome claimed in the motion that in the spring of 2000, Harris asked Newsome to support Johnny Ray Turner, a Democrat from Drift, in his race against incumbent state Sen. Benny Ray Bailey, D-Hindman, and handed him \$5,000 in cash.

Then in 2002, when Newsome was seeking re-election, a person who said he was from Harris' office called and "said that he knew Newsome was having a tough time of it and that Harris wanted to help him out," Newsome said in the motion.

Newsome said he and his brother, Bobby Newsome, met a man at Watergap in Floyd County who handed Donnie Newsome an envelope containing \$8,000, the motion said.

Newsome said he received another \$10,000 to \$12,000 several weeks later in similar fashion after meeting with a man at

Reno's steakhouse in Prestonsburg.

Newsome said he deposited the money in his campaign account and reported it as personal contributions.

The motion said Newsome's brother, Bobby Newsome, has identified the man with the money as Glenn Turner, who was treasurer of Johnny Ray Turner's campaign in 2000.

Harris is charged in a federal indictment with giving illegal campaign donations to Hays in an unsuccessful race for Pike County district judge last year.

In the motion, Taylor, the federal prosecutor, suggested Harris could be tried separately from other defendants in the Pike County case.

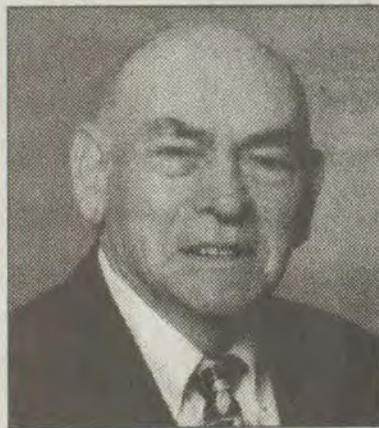
Newsome, 52, a former state legislator, was convicted in October of vote-buying in 1998 when he won his first term as Knott judge-executive. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Monday.

The motion from federal prosecutors said Harris went to see Newsome in the Pike County jail and offered to help, which Newsome understood to be a reference to his appeal.

"Newsome was starting to get a bad feeling about Harris because he couldn't understand why he would fund his appeal," the motion said. "He then got a letter from Scott Cox which referred to 'our friend' funding his appeal, provided Cox was kept as his attorney. It was then that Newsome decided to obtain another lawyer," the motion

WANTED:
Oil and Gas property to buy or lease in Eastern Kentucky and Mingo County, West Virginia.
For more information, please contact
C&N Land Co., P.O. Box 1564
Pikeville, Ky. 41502

In Loving Memory



John Ed Shepherd

(1923-2003)

Resolution

Commemorating the Service of John Ed Shepherd

WHEREAS, John Ed Shepherd, of Prestonsburg, has served the members of Big Sandy Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation faithfully as a director since 1967; and

WHEREAS, he served for many years as Chairman of the Board, as well as serving in other officer positions; and

WHEREAS, he served at various times as Big Sandy's representative on the board of directors of East Kentucky Power Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, he also served at various times as Big Sandy's representative on the board of directors of Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, all who knew and worked with him prior to his death, December 3, 2003, came to respect him as both an individual and a leader in Kentucky's rural electric program;

NOW, THEREFORE, the directors and management of Big Sandy Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation wish to express their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of John Ed Shepherd.

Wade May
Chairman of the Board
Sammy J. Waller
Vice Chairman of the Board
Joe Hancock
Secretary of the Board

M Pro-Fitness MULTISPORTS

TWO LOCATIONS: NEW STORE IN PIKEVILLE!

South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg
886-8604

Weddington Plaza Pikeville
437-4292

www.multisports.net

Lift, cycle, run, climb & paddle your body to great health and fitness.

BICYCLES / KAYAKS / FITNESS EQUIPMENT / FITNESS CENTER
PERSONAL TRAINING / CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

Bicycles by Cannondale & Trek
Kayaks by Dagger & Perception
Fitness Equipment by Schwinn,
Body Solid & Troy Barbell;



WEIGHT LOSS:
XENADRINE, HYDROXYCUT, THERMAL CUTS, RIPPED FORCE

BODYBUILDING:
CREATINE, SWOLE, WHEY PROTEIN, ECLIPSE, TWINLAB, SCI-FIT, CYTOMAX,
ACCELERADE, PROTEIN SHAKES

INTERVALS CIRCUIT TRAINING PROGRAM FOR WOMEN
\$20 SIGN UP FEE / \$25 PER MONTH

ASK ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS

Jail

severance taxes and nearly \$700,000 in natural gas taxes to make the adjustment. It was money that had been earmarked for the purchase of road materials and to fund park projects throughout the county.

With the loss of more than \$25 each day for each state inmate not held at the jail, Webb soon began talking of expansion as an answer.

Webb approached the fiscal court with the idea of expanding

the jail to include the top floor of the building that had once functioned as the county's juvenile detention center, directly adjacent to the jail. He argued this could be used to house up to 50 state inmates, projecting a possible daily income for the jail of more than \$1,300.

One month later, in early April, Floyd County Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson gave his response to Webb's idea, saying the proposition was

too much of a risk to undertake.

"It would take anywhere between \$500,000 and \$1 million to fix the old juvenile center," Thompson said at the time. "The problem is that we have no guarantee of getting the state inmates."

With Thompson's early refusal to Webb's idea, tensions mounted, and the two men would meet two days later, on April 3, in a meeting closed to the public.

The meeting had been scheduled and was, therefore, open to the public. But Webb refused to speak with members of the press in attendance, saying the situation had been "trashed out in the paper" and that both needed to "get the politics out of this." Thompson then canceled the meeting and the two retired to a back room for a private discussion.

Thompson later divulged what took place at the meeting, saying it had been agreed to cut \$180,000 from the more than \$1 million asked for in Webb's jail budget.

The two also discussed the possibility of charging county inmates a daily fee.

During a second attempt to see the county's budget passed in following weeks, Thompson again failed to muster even a single vote from the sitting magistrates, none of whom even offered to approve the hiring of a handful of new employees at the jail.

As the standoff continued, the payment received for housing state inmates dropped, adding more tension to the situation. What had been a daily payment of \$27.51 for each state prisoner, was dropped to \$26.51.

At the time the rate dropped, the jail was housing 110 county inmates as opposed to only 41 state inmates.

Shortly afterwards, the fiscal court reluctantly passed its budget, including the transfer to the jail with a vote from magistrate Gerald Derossset that was seconded by fellow court member Larry Stumbo.

"It's got to be done," Stumbo said just before casting his vote

during the special-called meeting. "I'm reluctant, but I'll second the motion."

In the end, \$40,000 was all the court could effectively trim from the \$1 million-plus jail budget.

By mid-July, Thompson had all but abandoned the idea of implementing a daily housing fee on county inmates. The move would be useful in a metropolitan area, but not for Floyd County, he said at the time.

Approximately one month later, however, a plan would be set in place that is still in effect.

To cure overcrowding of

county inmates, a home incarceration program was put in place. The idea had been brought up as early as April and given more consideration following an Oct. 1 deadline to fix the problem levied by the state following roughly two dozen violations found during inspection.

The home incarceration is gaining participants as the weeks pass, but, despite steps in what most agreed were the right direction, a conclusion to the financial problems at the jail has still yet to be reached even now nine months later.

Man charged with mischief after outburst

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

ALLEN — A Floyd County man was arraigned this week in District court after he allegedly destroyed property in his room at the Community Connections Center in Allen.

The center, recently moved from a former Prestonsburg location on Riverside Drive, provides assistance and rehabilitative services for mentally disabled individuals.

Luther R. Turner, 21, of Martin, charged with first-degree criminal mischief, appeared in district court before Judge Eric Hall on Dec. 29, where he pleaded not guilty to the charge against him.

According to the arrest citation filed Monday in Floyd District Court, KSP Trooper Donald Shearer responded to a call at the Community Connections Center on Christmas day.

Upon his arrival, Shearer

reported that Turner had allegedly destroyed property in his room, including a dresser and his bed. Additionally, Shearer alleged that Turner put numerous holes in the wall, on the bedroom door, and also broke a bedroom window.

The citation indicated that Turner was treated and released at a local hospital following the Christmas day incident.

After staff with the community connections center brought him back to the center, Shearer stated that he received another call regarding another outburst. Shearer noted in the citation that Turner had destroyed more property and had to be restrained again.

Property damage, according to Shearer, "clearly totaled" at least \$1,000.

No other injuries were reported in the incident.

The Christmas day incident is not the only run-in Turner has had with the law.

According to his criminal his-

tory record, Turner was found guilty of fourth-degree aggravated assault in November 2000 and was sentenced to 43 days in a Breathitt County jail.

Additionally, he was found guilty of contempt of court in July, a charge that landed him a 90-day jail sentence in Floyd County. He was also arrested for disorderly conduct in July and received a 60-day sentence that was probated under the condition that he attend anger management counseling.

Following his arraignment Monday, Turner was placed under a \$5,000 cash bond. According to district court documents, he is slated for a preliminary hearing on Jan. 5.

Tammy Gannon, director of the Community Connections Center, refused to comment.

Floods

Continued from p1

the drenching rains and the county estimated suffering \$5 to \$6 million in damages, as well as another \$1.5 million in damages to roads, culverts and bridges. Water lines destroyed during the flooding would eventually cost upwards of \$250,000.

The flooding also pushed back completion of water line extensions, a plan Thompson had placed the lion's share of his intention toward finishing. The project was pushed back at the time for six to eight months, with a reported \$151,250 in damages to the Southern Water and Sewer District alone.

By the beginning of June, recovery was within grasp. Although the county was still owed from previous floods, the aftermath of February had been dealt with as best as possible.

Then, on June 14, and unlike the steady rain that came in February, flash flooding poured onto the county.

The county declared a disaster and appealed to the state to do the same, which was later granted. Before it was over,

President Bush would declare a major disaster for Kentucky about a month later. Federal disaster agencies returned to Floyd County, many still on a first-name basis with county officials and various volunteers.

Also in July, Congressman Hal Rogers secured \$8.9 million in federal money for flood projects in Floyd County. The bill contained a total of \$33.4 million for flood control efforts throughout the 5th Congressional District.

However, relief was still being sought by the county to give attention to immediate problems with flood repairs that could not wait until funding was secured.

To cure the problem, the fiscal court members offered a majority vote to take out a \$1 million line of credit aimed at bringing flood relief to area citizens.

The county was still owed \$2.7 million in reimbursements from other floods at the time the loan application was submitted.

Stumbo

Continued from p1

extortion.

But personal matters had no substantial influence to Kentucky voters, who overwhelmingly voted Stumbo into office on Nov. 11. According to election review statistics, he took 81 percent of the Floyd County voters, a fact which resonated in a speech he gave at his home following the May primary, where he told attendees that his "hometown's friendship and support" would "serve as a beacon that would bring him home."

"It started here and it ends here," he told them. During the May primary, Stumbo gained 36.4 percent of the votes, overtaking Democratic candidates Ed Hatchett, former state auditor, who received 34.1 percent of the votes, and Chris Gorman, former attorney general.

Of the voters who turned out in Floyd and Pike counties during the May primary, Stumbo received 78 percent and 69 percent of the votes, respectively.

Stumbo, a former lawyer, came to the attorney general's office with 24 years under his belt as state representative for the 95th district. He began his career as the House majority floor leader in 1980, where he remained until his election to the attorney general's seat.

During his campaign, Stumbo focused his platform on the drug

problem in Kentucky, proposing ideas to punish the "pushers" of the illegal drug trade while providing rehabilitative services to the victims of their tyranny. He introduced a bill earlier this year which, among other things, seeks to prevent judges from granting shock probation to drug traffickers.

Additionally, Stumbo promised during his campaign to streamline criminal investigations through his proposed Kentucky Bureau of Investigation, which he announced would gain funding through avenues such as an increase in the cigarette tax. His platform also showed favoritism to combating predatory lending, providing protection to children and senior citizens, and ways of improving the environment.

Stumbo has a bachelor's from the University of Kentucky and a law degree from the University of Louisville. In addition to being a member of the Kentucky and American Bar Associations, he was also formerly a member of the Drift-McDowell Jaycees, past vice president of the Floyd County Young Democrats, assistant Floyd County attorney (1977), district trial commissioner (1978), and Martin city attorney in 1978-1980.

He resides at his home on Stonecrest with his wife, Mary Karen.

Assault

Continued from p1

Holiday Inn, where Walker reported that she appeared to have a "loss of balance" and "slurred speech."

Walker noted in the citation that Ritchie wanted to "fight anyone" at the hotel.

According to the citation, Ritchie grabbed Walker's left leg and tried to strike him in the groin

with her fist.

Following the arrest, Ritchie was released from custody on a \$500 cash bond. She is scheduled for arraignment in district court on Jan. 13.

Repeated attempts to reach Walker were unsuccessful Tuesday.

Board

Continued from p1

Wilhoit.

Floyd County has seen its share of state managers, but the presence of a state manager sitting firmly at all board meetings became a thing of the past.

But Fanning said shortly after the decision that he realized the move from state-managed to state-assisted was just one in a series of steps toward complete autonomy.

"This is a sign of great faith by the state board," Fanning said then. "Now we have to prove to them that their faith is well placed ... A normal relationship with the state board will be maintained. You could say that we're at the one-mile marker now and we'll have to press on toward another one, that of independence."

State officials said at the time the vote to loosen the grip from Frankfort was due in part

to an increased improvement shown from Floyd County's school board, but reserved the right to return to control if the improvement did not continue.

Perhaps as a surprise to his fellow board members, District 1 representative Earl "Mickey" McGuire voted against accepting the board's newly-acquired freedom when the school board gathered for discussion on July 28, just before the decision became final.

McGuire, a Prestonsburg attorney, said at the time that he felt the move would essentially "let the state off the hook," adding that by going from managed to assisted before achieving the level of proficiency desired throughout the school district was not completing the task which was first considered during the takeover in 1998.

Gunnels

Continued from p1

against him on July 18, 2001, Gunnels repeatedly confessed to the crimes throughout the extension of the investigation.

In an apparent attempt to manipulate the media coverage of his case, Gunnels reportedly admitted to committing the crimes in a letter that he sent to Floyd County Times reporter Sheldon Compton in 2001.

In preparing for trial this year, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office issued a subpoena for Compton's testimony regarding the letter, which threatened Compton's life if he didn't print that Gunnels "did it."

"I just did what I did to have a little fun and pass a little time, or should I say I was just 'killing time,'" Gunnels wrote in the letter. "I did murder Bonnie Hall and I can't say how good it did feel to kill someone that did nothing to me."

In the letter, Gunnels also attacked Commonwealth

Attorney Brent Turner, blaming his office for the time-consuming court process. He also noted that he'd confessed the murder to Turner, but that nothing had been done about it.

In the letter, he said that he wanted the death penalty, a wish that, in this case, didn't come true.

Following his guilty plea in circuit court, the commonwealth recommended five-year sentences for four theft charges against Gunnels, a 10-year sentence for two charges of possession of a firearm, and a 20-year sentence for the combination of charges of rape, robbery and being a persistent felony offender charge. He was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole plus 20 years by Judge John David Caudill.

Reportedly, the only crime that Gunnels was "hesitant" about confessing was that of the rape of Hall.

Continued from p1

PEOPLE AGAINST DRUGS
"Come Walk With Us"

Refinance NOW and SAVE Before Rates Go Up!!

No Attorney or Appraisal Fees **With A Fixed Rate Loan as low as** **No Closing Costs**

6.49%

A.P.R.

Come by and see Gayle Stewart, Tracy Patton or Retha Shepherd and apply for a 15-year fixed rate mortgage.

(Doublewides With Land Also Qualify)

Example: \$50,000 fixed rate mortgage at 6.49% A.P.R., or \$435.27 per month for 180 months. Based on loan to home appraisal value of 80% or less. Rate is current as of December 9, 2003, but can change without notice.

Five Star Service Guaranteed

415 North Lake Drive,
Prestonsburg, KY 41653
606-886-2924

FDIC Insured

Viewpoint

Worth Repeating ...

"A game of pretense; for the essential loneliness is an escape from an inescapable God."

— Walter Farrell

Amendment 1

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

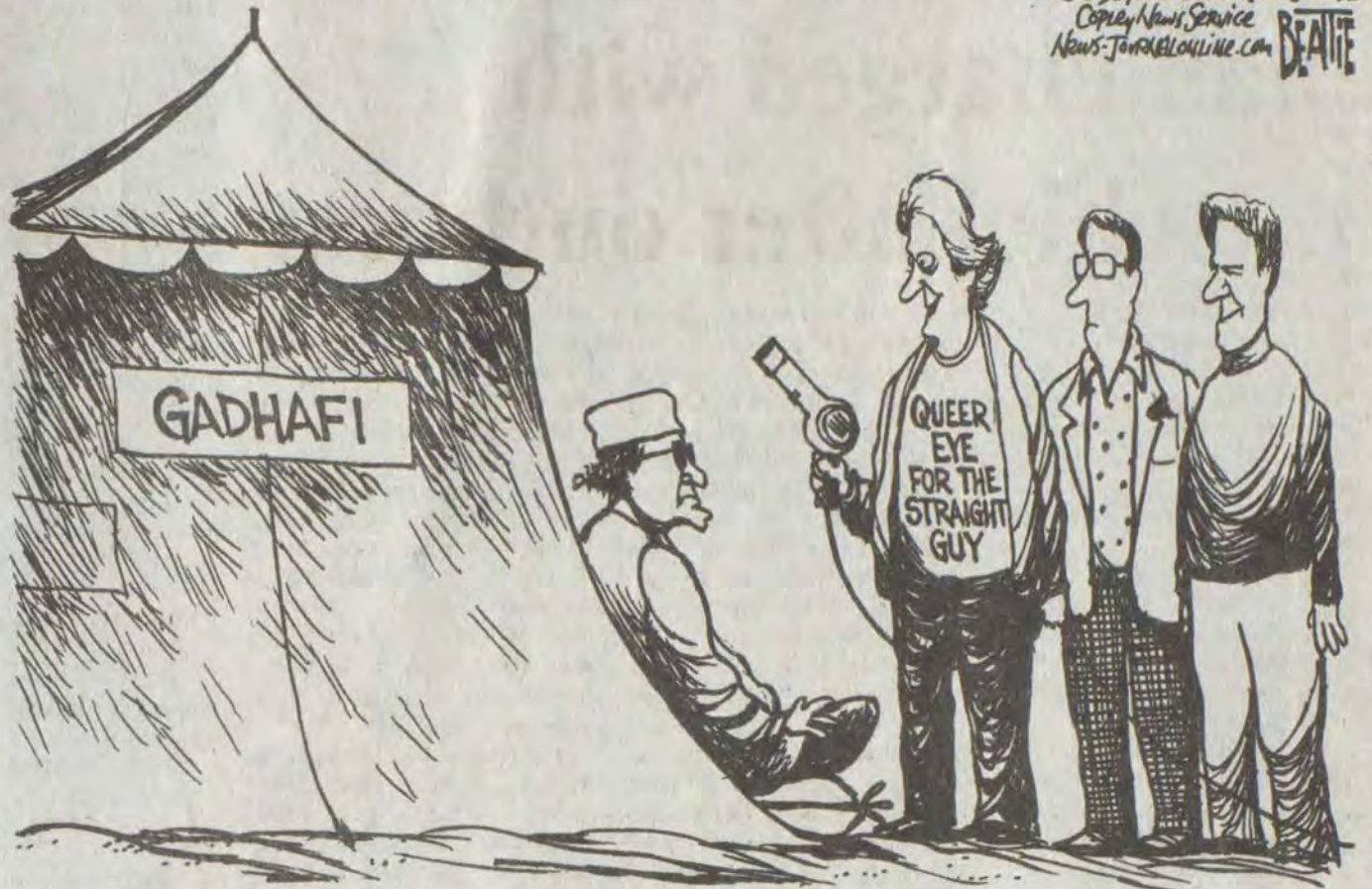
Guest View

A healthy tension

Policy disputes between states and the federal government are hardly new. The states and the federal government, spurred by sharply different policy visions, have been jostling each other of late over certain hot-button issues. Liberal-leaning state lawmakers and attorneys general have earned the ire of conservatives in Congress and the White House by taking action in several areas: encouraging reduced prices for prescription drugs, prosecuting Wall Street investment firms, even suing the federal government over its policies concerning air pollution in the industrial Midwest. Thus do liberal state policy-makers in Sacramento, Albany and elsewhere work to skirt policies pursued by staunch conservatives in the congressional leadership and at the White House. Some policy-makers in Washington are complaining about the states' actions. But there often is ample latitude for the states to act in these areas. That doesn't necessarily mean the states have proceeded wisely. But their rights as sovereign governmental entities often give them considerable leeway. Consider the historical record. State governments often have taken the lead in addressing issues of public concern. Before the federal government took recent action, 39 states had passed don't-call-lists against telemarketers. In the 1980s, 25 states had background checks in place for gun purchases before the federal Brady bill went into effect. Long before that, states had passed antitrust laws, welfare programs and child-labor laws prior to federal actions on those fronts. In some cases, federal power indeed trumps that of individual states. That's the job of courts to adjudicate. But sometimes the courts provide the states with a green light. In May, for example, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Maine law that punishes drug companies that don't sell discounted prescription drugs to the uninsured. When states do take action, it is generally best if state legislatures take the initiative. That way, the policy process will be subject to debate and accountability. Otherwise, the lead falls to state attorneys general. Lamentably, in many instances state AGs have launched lawsuits that result in questionable court-mandated regulatory schemes that leapfrog over the normal legislative process. Overall, however, the tug-of-war between the states and the federal government is no great cause for alarm. In a federal system, such jockeying is unavoidable — and, as often as not, healthy.

— The Omaha World-Herald

©2003 DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL
Copley News Service
News-JournalOnline.com **BEATIE**



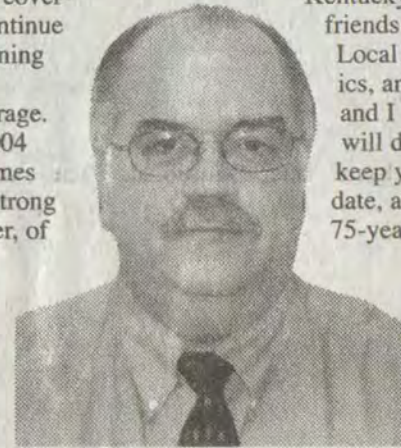
"OK, you've done the foreign policy makeover thing . . . now how about a few changes in your wardrobe?"

From the Publisher

New year's greetings

Happy New Year! As you read this, New Year's Eve has come and gone, with each of you celebrating in your own way — at a big bash somewhere, an intimate gathering with close friends, or just a quiet celebration at home with family. In fact, by this time, you (if you are like most of us) have probably already broken a resolution or two! Never fear — it's not too late to get back on track. We have made some resolutions here at The Floyd County Times, too. In 2004, we resolve to be more "user-

friendly" for our readers, our advertisers, and our community. We resolve to provide more local news coverage. We resolve to continue to provide award-winning local, regional, and statewide sports coverage. Most important, in 2004 The Floyd County Times resolves to remain a strong member, and supporter, of the community.



DAVID BOWYER

I also want to take this opportunity to tell you how excited I am to embark on this new year in a new position as the publisher of The Floyd County Times. I have lived and worked in this area for the past dozen or so years, and I con-

sider this to be my home. I have children in school here in Eastern Kentucky, as well as relatives and friends that live and work here. Local and regional news, topics, and events affect me, too, and I want to assure you that I will do everything possible to keep you informed and up-to-date, and continue the excellent 75-year tradition of The Floyd County Times. I would love to hear from you — good, bad, indifferent — and welcome any ideas or suggestions you have to make this an even better newspaper. My door is always open. David Bowyer is the publisher of The Floyd County Times. He may be reached at dbowyer@floydcountytimes.com.

Guest Column

Liberty vs. security

Reprinted from The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

After a bomb exploded outside Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer's home in Washington in 1919, the government rounded up about 5,000 people, mostly immigrants. None was tied to the crime. America was no safer for the sacrifice of liberty. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized concentration camps for 110,000 immigrants and American citizens of Japanese descent. The U.S. Supreme Court ignominiously upheld the detentions. But America was no safer. When the threat of communism frightened America in the 1950s, the government imprisoned citizens merely for membership in the Communist Party. The Supreme Court said that was OK, but America was no safer. During the Vietnam War, the FBI spied on war critics and the Nixon White House created an in-house unit to commit espionage and burglary against

political opponents. The black-bag jobs didn't make Americans safer, just less free. These shameful memories seemed like the discarded baggage of an obsolete era before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. But a frightened nation was again willing to trade some liberty — especially someone else's liberty — for hope of greater security. There have been no internment camps or black-bag jobs. Admirably, President George W. Bush has gone out of his way to stress that the war on terrorism is not a war against Muslims or the faith of Islam. But Bush and Attorney General John D. Ashcroft have traded people's liberty for phantom security gains. In the days after the 9-11 attacks, Ashcroft rounded up 1,200 immigrants whose names still are secret. Among them, about 750 aliens "of interest" were held for months without bail, even though there was nothing linking them to 9-11 or terrorism. There is no evidence that the round-up or secrecy made Americans safer. Two American citizens — Jose Padilla and Yaser Hamdi — have been held incommunicado for 18 months. But Americans are no safer than if the men had been questioned and then given a lawyer and a day in court. More than 600 prisoners from Afghanistan and the Middle East have been held incommunicado at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. But are we any

safer than if they had been given a chance to claim prisoner of war status before a military court, as the Geneva Conventions require? The FBI sent an intelligence bulletin to police in October about upcoming antiwar demonstrations, warning that even "peaceful techniques can create a climate of disorder." But looking for terrorists in the wrong places isn't making us safer. This month, Stephen J. Schulhofer, a New York University Law School professor, told the Kean commission investigating 9-11 that the choice between liberty and security is "simply a false choice the public tends to assume that if we are giving up liberty, then we're getting security often that isn't the case." Civil libertarians have focused their criticism on the USA Patriot Act. In response, Ashcroft toured the country this fall arguing that "hysterical" critics had spread false fears. The attorney general wasn't terribly persuasive because he spoke to hand-picked audiences of police and prosecutors. But he's largely correct. Most of the law makes sense. It lets criminal investigators and intelligence agents share evidence more easily than before and permits roving wiretaps that help agents keep tabs on suspects on the move. The most hotly contested provision

(See GUEST, page five)

Letter Guidelines

Letters to the Editor are welcomed by The Floyd County Times. In accordance with our editorial page policy, all letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author.

The Times reserves the right to reject or edit any letter deemed slanderous, libelous or otherwise objectionable. Letters should be no longer than two type-written pages, and may be edited for length or clarity. Opinions expressed in letters and other voices are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper. Send letters to: The Editor, The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 391, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653.

The Times

Published Sunday, Wednesday and Friday each week

263 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
PRESTONSBURG, KENTUCKY 41653
Phone: (606) 886-8506
Fax: (606) 886-3603
www.floydcountytimes.com

USPS 202-700
Entered as second class matter, June 18, 1927, at the post office at Prestonsburg, Kentucky, under the act of March 3, 1879. Periodicals postage paid at Prestonsburg, Ky.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
In Floyd County: \$53.00
Outside Floyd County: \$63.00

Postmaster: Send change of address to:
The Floyd County Times
P.O. Box 390
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653

PUBLISHER David Bowyer publisher@floydcountytimes.com	ext. 18	MANAGING EDITOR Ralph B. Davis web@floydcountytimes.com	ext. 17
FEATURES EDITOR Kathy J. Prater features@floydcountytimes.com	ext. 26	ADVERTISING MANAGER Kim Frasure advertising@floydcountytimes.com	ext. 12
SPORTS EDITOR Steve LeMaster sports@floydcountytimes.com	ext. 16	CLASSIFIED MANAGER Tammy Conn	ext. 15
CIRCULATION MANAGER Patty Wilson	ext. 19	BUSINESS MANAGER Joy Baldrige	ext. 20
PRODUCTION MANAGER Johnie Adams	ext. 30	DISTRIBUTION Theresa Garrett	ext. 31

Entertainment Extra

From MJ to RK, Arnold to Nemo, Da Vinci to King: A look back at 2003 in arts and entertainment

The Associated Press

It was a year of extremes — huge Hollywood box office for an animated movie, overnight lines for the latest "Harry Potter" book and record art auction sales for Modigliani and Klimt. But Broadway struggled to find a hit and the "Matrix" franchise tumbled.

It was a year of American idols, a body-building action star turned governor and a bizarre superstar who faced child molestation charges. A year of stolen antiquities and fake millionaires. A year of gay stylists and a little lost clownfish. A year of an exquisite ballerina and a singing ex-drug dealer.

The ailing economy contin-

ued to threaten opera and dance companies, symphony orchestras and Broadway. But entertainment and the arts showed their resilience.

ART:

Inspired exhibits and rising prices for high-end works characterized 2003. But art's biggest story was the looting of priceless antiquities from the Iraqi National Museum.

When U.S. troops left the Baghdad museum unguarded after ousting Saddam Hussein, raiders carted off 14,000 treasures from Mesopotamia's cradle of civilization. Only about 4,000 objects have been recovered despite a worldwide alert.

Acclaimed retrospectives were mounted during the year

despite the soaring costs of insuring and transporting loaned works after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks — estimated at \$10,000 or more per masterpiece.

Galleries Nationales du Grand Palais in Paris unveiled "Gauguin Tahiti" after four years of curating. London's Victoria and Albert Museum staged the biggest-ever display of art deco. Madrid's Prado unveiled Titian's biggest retrospective in 50 years, and the Netherlands celebrated van Gogh's 150th birthday.

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art awed the public with shows on Leonardo, Manet-Velazquez and El Greco. The Guggenheim Museum featured Matthew Barney's lusty

"Cremaster" happening, and pop art genius James Rosenquist. The Museum of Modern Art was the last stop — after Paris and London — for the stupendous "Matisse Picasso" retrospective, attracting 350,000 visitors to its temporary digs.

Modern works triggered lively bidding at the benchmark fall auctions in New York, where Modigliani's 1917 "Reclining Nude" sold for \$26.88 million at Christie's, and Klimt's 1917 "The Villa at Attersee" fetched \$29.1 million at Sotheby's. Both auctions set records for the artists.

— By David Minthorn, Associated Press Writer.

DANCE:

Despite a grim economy, exciting young companies such as Shen Wei Dance Arts, Akram Khan and George Piper Dances delighted in 2003 while guest dancers like the Royal Ballet's 21-year-old Alina Cojocar dazzled audiences with her American Ballet Theatre debut in New York.

But many looked back this year as the dance world celebrated pioneering luminaries. The New York City Ballet launched the two-year "Balanchine 100: Centennial Celebration" to honor the centenary of the great choreographer's birth, while smaller but no less heartfelt tributes were offered to Katherine Dunham (still going at 94), Alwin Nikolais (1910-1993) and Gregory Hines, who died in August at 57.

(See 2003, page six)

Guest

lets the government obtain a court order to obtain personal records, including library and Internet records, if the FBI says they are needed for a terrorism investigation. The FBI agent doesn't have to show that the person whose records are obtained was personally involved in terrorism. And it's a crime if the librarian tells a patron about the FBI's interest.

But the government's power to snoop on people's reading habits sounded a lot less ominous after the Justice Department disclosed it hadn't even used the authority in the months after 9-11. The American Civil Liberties Union quickly shifted its criticism. Instead of arguing that the provision had almost certainly been abused, it claimed it was unnecessary.

Another controversial part of the law is the sneak-and-peek provision. Agents can search your home and property without telling you in advance. This power extends beyond terrorism cases to all criminal cases where notice might hurt the investigation. The government went so far as to use its new terrorism power to investigate a home nursing care business.

Sens. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., and Larry Craig, R-Idaho, are pushing a bipartisan bill that would fix the potential abuses of the library and sneak-and-peek provisions, without taking away the investigative tools the government needs.

At the same time that civil libertarians have overstated the dangers of the Patriot Act, the Justice Department has overstated the success of its terrorism prosecutions.

The Justice Department has pointed to an eightfold jump in convictions in terrorism cases in the two years after 9-11 as compared to the two years before — up to 879 from 110. But a study this month by the independent Transactional Record Access Clearinghouse found that most of the increase was for minor violations that brought little or no jail time. The median sentence in terrorism-related cases was no sentence at all. In other words, these are not serious terrorists.

Ashcroft touted prosecutions of members of "cells" in Lackawanna, N.Y., Detroit and Portland, Ore. The Lackawanna cell was so high-profile that the president got briefed almost

daily.

But intelligence experts say that the "Lackawanna Six" was not a sleeper cell. The men had trained in al-Qaida camps before 9-11, but there was no evidence that any was involved in a planned attack. Ashcroft claimed the Detroit cell had prior knowledge of 9-11, but he was wrong, and a judge admonished the attorney general for speaking out of turn.

The key statute used in these prosecutions makes it a crime to provide "material support" for terrorists, but the law does not require proof that a person intended to help a terrorist. For that reason, the federal appeals court in California ruled this month that the provision is unconstitutional. The court feared the law could ensnare people who donate money to humanitarian groups, not knowing it is being channeled to terrorists.

Over the past several months the courts — and, most importantly, the Supreme Court — have begun scrutinizing the worst excesses of Bush's terrorism policies.

When Hamdi, the U.S. citizen captured in Afghanistan, tried in the Supreme Court to challenge his detention, the Justice Department refused even to respond. The court insisted that the department reply. The court also announced that it would review the claims by Guantanamo Bay detainees that they are entitled to a day in court.

Earlier this month, a federal court ruled that Bush exceeded his authority in his incommunicado detention of Padilla in a military brig in South Carolina. The Justice Department had claimed that Padilla shouldn't even be able to get in the courthouse door to present his case.

There is no way to predict how these cases will turn out. This is the Supreme Court of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who wrote a book in 1998 on civil liberties during wartime. Citing the Roman saying, in arme silent leges — "in war the law is silent" — the chief justice predicted that courts would modulate their voices during a future war.

But those challenging the Bush excesses have already won the first battle by getting inside the courthouse. That is a resounding rejection of the Bush claim that, as commander-in-

chief, he can act outside the usual boundaries of the rule of law.

Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson once said that the Constitution is not a "suicide pact." That warning carries greater force today, when a single weapon detonated in an American city could kill hundreds of thousands of people.

But not every sacrifice of freedom buys more security. When we waste money and resources rounding up innocent immigrants or spying on antiwar rallies, we have fewer resources to pursue the people who actually want to kill us.

Yes, this is a war against terrorism. But more than that, it is a war in defense of liberty and the rule of law. If we surrender our freedom and our values out of fear, we are running up the white flag of defeat.

History

Continued from p2

43. Movie director Todd Haynes is 43. Actress Tia Carrere is 37. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is 36. Model Christy Turlington is 35. Actor Taye Diggs is 33. Rock musician Scott Underwood (Train) is 33. Country musician Chris Hartman is 26. Actress Kate Bosworth is 21.

Thought for Today:

"It is the tragedy of the world that no one knows what he doesn't know — and the less a man knows, the more sure he is that he knows everything." — Joyce Cary, British author (1888-1957).

Fraud

Continued from p2

said. Cox of Louisville, hired separately by both Harris and Newsome, said he is withdrawing as Newsome's attorney. Cox declined to comment on the motion.

The motion said an offer by Harris to pay for Newsome's appeal "creates the aura of an attempt to silence Newsome. That should not be allowed to prevail."

Newsome hired former U.S. Attorney Steve Reed of Louisville to represent him.

Glenn Turner's attorney, Mark Chandler of Louisville, could not be reached for comment.

STRAND TWIN
Absher Enterprises
PRESTONSBURG, KY. • 606-886-2696
http://showtimes.hollywood.com

Wall-to-Wall Screens, Dolby Sound, and Cupholders!

STRAND 1 HELD OVER  LORD OF THE RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING MON.-SUN., 7:00 ONLY; SUN MATINEE, 1:30 PG-13	STRAND 2 HELD OVER  CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN MON.-SUN., 7:00, 9:00; SUN MATINEE, 1:30 The Dozins
--	---

SUNDAY MATINEE, — Open 1:00; start 1:30

RIVERFILL 10 • PIKEVILLE
http://showtimes@hollywood.com

94 Pike Street, Pikeville, Ky.
606-432-2957

Tickets may be purchased in advance for any show on the date of purchase. Bargain Matinees Until 6 p.m.

1/2/04 - 1/8/04

Cinema One • PG-13  MONA LISA'S SMILE Mon.-Sun. 6:30-9:10; Fri. (4-10), 6:30-9:10; Sat.-Sun. (1:50-4:10), 6:50-9:10	Cinema Six • PG-13 OPENS FRIDAY, 12/26  PAYCHECK Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:15; Fri. (4-15), 7:00, 9:15; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:15), 7:00-9:15
Cinema Two • PG OPENS FRIDAY, 12/26  PETER PAN Mon.-Sun. 7:00, 9:15; Fri. (4-15), 7:00, 9:15; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:15), 7:00-9:15	Cinema Seven • PG OPENS FRIDAY, 12/26  CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN Mon.-Sun. 7:10, 9:20; Fri. (4-20); Sat.-Sun. (2:10-4:20), 7:10, 9:20
Cinema Three • PG-13  SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE Mon.-Sun. 6:30-9:10; Fri. (4-10), 6:30, 9:10; Sat.-Sun. (1:50-4:10), 6:50, 9:10	Cinema Eight • PG-13  LORD OF THE RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING Mon.-Sun. (7:45); Fri.-Sat.-Sun. (4:00)
Cinema Four  HAUNTED MANSION PG Mon.-Sun. 6:55; Fri.-Sat.-Sun. (4:25), 6:55	Cinema Nine • R OPENS FRIDAY, 12/26  COLD MOUNTAIN Mon.-Sun. 6:45-9:25; Fri. (4-10), 6:45-9:25; Sat.-Sun. (1:30-4:10), 6:45-9:25
Cinema Five • PG-13 PG-13  ELF Mon.-Sun. 7:00; Fri.-Sat.-Sun. (4:20), 7:00	Cinema Ten • R  BAD SANTA Mon.-Sun. 7:15-9:25; Fri. (4-25); Sat.-Sun. (2:15-4:25), 7:15-9:25
 STUCK ON YOU PG-13—Mon.-Sun. 9:00; Sat.-Sun. (1:50), 9:00	

Let it stand
for all Americans still
DISTRESSED
by poverty

Once, she too needed care. And Americans united to restore her — to stand tall once again as a symbol of freedom and new opportunities. Today, nearly 35 million Americans are still working to free themselves from poverty. Answer the call. Join with others to light the way and rekindle a spirit of community with those who are in need. Poverty in America — we can end it. And everyone can do something to help. Find out how at www.povertyusa.org.

Poverty in America
WE CAN END IT.
www.povertyusa.org

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
1-800-944-4243

TRY OUR

545

OFFER!

Mikrotec's SuperFast Dial-Up has arrived. Now you can surf the web at speeds up to **5X faster*** than regular dial-up for just \$5.00 more per month (or less). And you can try SuperFast Dial-Up **FREE** for 5 days. Call your friendly Mikrotec customer service representative today to learn more!

Sign up by March 15th and get 1 year of Mikrotec's SuperFast Dial-Up for just \$20.95 a month!***

*3 to 5 times faster on average.
**12-month agreement and \$5.00 set-up fee required.
See website or call for complete details.

LOCAL | LONG DISTANCE | INTERNET | SECURITY SYSTEMS

1-866-GET-ON-IT (438-6648) www.mikrotec.com

MIKROTEC
SuperFast Dial-Up

Sports Editor
 Steve LeMaster
 Phone: (606) 886-8506
 Fax: (606) 886-3603

Members:
 Associated Press
 Kentucky Press Association
 National Newspaper Association

FLOYD COUNTY Sports

SECTION

B

INSIDESPORTS

- JC Baseball • page 2B
- 14th Region • page 3B
- NARA Series • page 4B

www.floydcountytimes.com

"The **BEST** source for local and regional sports news"

Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

15th Region Boys

Shelby Valley 8-1; South Floyd 6-4; Johnson Central 6-5; East Ridge 5-1; Betsy Layne 5-2; Allen Central 5-3; Sheldon Clark 5-3; Prestonsburg 4-4; Belfry 3-6; Pike County Central 3-6; Pikeville 2-5; Paintsville 1-7; Piarist School 0-3; Magoffin County 0-5; Phelps 0-6.

INSIDESTUFF

- Lifestyles • page 1C
- Poison Oak • page 1C
- Classifieds • page 5C

WYMT MOUNTAIN CLASSIC

WYMT pairings pit state tourney trip hopefuls

by STEVE LeMASTER
 SPORTS EDITOR

HINDMAN — Knott County Central High School will again host the WYMT Mountain Classic. The boys' basketball tournament, which annually ranks as one of the top tournaments in Eastern Kentucky, this year includes eight teams from three different area regions — the 13th, 14th and 15th. The tournament looks to feature a somewhat balanced field.

From Floyd County, Betsy Layne will make the trip to the WYMT event. The Bobcats play in the Coca-Cola Classic this week at Pike County Central High School. The WYMT tournament will be the third tournament in as many weeks for head coach Brent Rose, his staff, and the Betsy Layne boys.

The WYMT Classic is scheduled to run January 6-10. Joining Betsy Layne from the 15th Region is two-time defending champion Shelby Valley and another team from Pike County, East Ridge.

The 14th Region is well-represented with Hazard, Perry County Central and Knott County Central participating.

(See HOPEFULS, page four)

Ladycats fall to talented Tenn. team

TIMES STAFF REPORT

SCOTTSVILLE — Betsy Layne, in third round play Monday, dropped its second game in the Lady Invitational of the South tournament at Allen County-Scottsville High School. Wilson Central High of Lebanon, Tenn. topped Betsy Layne in the third round game, beating the Ladycats 73-58.

The Betsy Layne girls' basketball team, coached by Cassandra Akers, knows how to travel.

Betsy Layne came into the Lady South tournament following four-game stint in Lexington in the Fifth Third Bank Prime Time Classic. Betsy Layne, the defending 15th Region girls champ, split in the Fifth Third tournament, winning two and losing two. Wins for the Betsy Layne girls in the Lexington tourney came over Highlands and West Carter.

In the Lady Invitational of the South tourney game against Wilson Central, Betsy Layne trailed by seven at the end of the first period, 21-14, and could

(See FALL, page two)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Lady Bears fall in Challenge

TIMES STAFF REPORT

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Despite a terrific effort from Amelia Cody the Pikeville College Lady Bears lost to No. 3 Vanguard University 93-65 Monday night in the GSAC Challenge.

The classic, which sees three visiting teams travel to California to play three

teams from the Golden State Athletics Conference, will wrap up on Tuesday evening when Pikeville plays Azusa Pacific University.

Cody, a 6-2 junior from Hazard, had 16 points and pulled down a career best 18 rebounds in the loss. For Cody, it was her fourth double-double of the season. She also led the team with three assists and a

pair of blocked shots in the game.

Vanguard (8-1), a national semifinalist a year ago, turned the ball over only five times and went 18-of-22 from the free throw line (81.8 percent) to pull out the win.

Pikeville fell to 8-7.

(See CHALLENGE, page two)



■ Cody



photo by Jamie Howell
 The Betsy Layne bench looked on during Saturday's championship game of the Mountain Schoolboy Classic. Betsy Layne beat host Belfry in the title game of the tournament.

Betsy Layne enters Coca-Cola tourney playing well

by STEVE LeMASTER
 SPORTS EDITOR

BETSY LAYNE — Fresh off a championship win in the Mountain Schoolboy Classic at Belfry High School, Betsy Layne entered play in yesterday's Coca-Cola Classic at Pike County Central High School as one of a couple of favorites to win. In the Belfry tournament, Betsy Layne beat Floyd County rival Allen Central in

the opening round and turned back the host Belfry Pirates in the championship game. The Betsy Layne team that took the floor in the two Mountain Schoolboy Classic games is one Bobcat head coach Brent Rose feels confident seeing on the hardwood.

"The Allen Central game was the best we have played so far this year," said Rose. "We moved the ball well and hit shots. Some guys came in off

the bench in the second quarter and gave us a lift after a slow start."

Betsy Layne has started slow on more than one occasion this season, but such wasn't the case in the championship game against Belfry.

"Against Belfry we jumped out to an early lead and kind of lost our focus and had to really battle in the second half," added Rose. "Our over-

(See TOURNEY, page two)

STATE BOYS: Mason first, Apollo second

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE — Mason County remains the top team in the latest Associated Press high school boys' basketball poll. The Royals, defending champs, had nine wins opposed to no losses at the beginning of the week. Apollo was 10-0 at the start of the week and ranked second, but has since loss to Lexington Catholic.

Shelby Valley was ranked 10th in last week's poll, but following a loss to Louisville Holy Cross in the Tiger HOOPS Classic at Paintsville High School, falls out of the top 10.

The Louisville Sacred Heart girls also remain on top.

The top teams in the Kentucky

(See STATE, page three)

TIGER HOOPS CLASSIC

Oak Ridge takes Tiger HOOPS title

by STEVE LeMASTER
 SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE — Oak Ridge, Tenn. played its way to a Tiger HOOPS Classic title, but the tournament wasn't without some quality play provided by some area players.

The 12-player Tiger HOOPS Classic All-Tournament Team included three players from the 15th Region. Paintsville senior Peyton Conley represented the host Tigers well and for his efforts was named to the squad. Shelby Valley junior guard Seth Kiser was also named to the team. Johnson Central junior Josh Stapleton joined Conley and Kiser on the squad.

Zach Gulmire, after leading Oak Ridge, Tenn. to the title in a 55-39 win over Louisville Seneca was named the

(See TITLE, page two)

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Pike teams fall in Boyd event

TIMES STAFF REPORT

SUMMIT — Boyd County and Ashland both came away with victories in the opening round of the Boyd County Colonels Classic Monday night at Boyd County Middle School gymnasium. Belfry and Pikeville, two 15th Region girls' basketball teams, both lost.

Boyd County defeated Fleming County 73-52 while the Ashland

Kittens rolled over the Cindy Halbert-coached Pikeville team 52-29.

Ironton, Ohio edged Dunbar 52-47 and Lexington Christian defeated Belfry 52-40 in the other opening-round games.

Senior Anna Bevins scored 18 points to pace Belfry in its loss.

Tasha Henry scored 20 and Pam Farrow 11 in the Kittens' win.

Shawna Howard led Pikeville with seven points.

Brandi Mahar scored 20 to lead three players in double figures for Boyd County (6-4). Kasi Galloway added 18 points and Jennifer Swann 15.

Pikeville (29) — Dye 2, Hartsock 4, McCoy 3, Francisco 6, Sam. Howard 3, Shawna Howard 7, Shockey 2, Cross 2. PF: 16. FT: 9-

(See CLASSIC, page four)



photo by Jamie Howell
 Prestonsburg senior Nick Jamerson made a pass during a Tiger HOOPS Classic game. Jamerson and his Prestonsburg teammates are back on their home hardwood this week hosting the Jenny Wiley Invitational.

Funny Cide's high ride highlights 2003

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In horse racing, the 129th Kentucky Derby provided the best Cinderella story of the year and then one of the biggest controversies in the sport's history.

Funny Cide, owned by a group of six former high school buddies in upstate New York, became the first gelding in 74

years to win the Derby.

Less than a week after the improbable victory, a photograph surfaced that some said suggested jockey Jose Santos was carrying an unknown object in his hand during the race.

One steward called the photo "very suspicious" and the track launched an investigation. Santos maintained his inno-

cence throughout the inquiry and he was eventually exonerated.

"I am thankful this nightmare is over," he said. "A week ago, I was in the happiest moment of my life. And then this photograph came in and destroyed my career."

Santos and Funny Cide went on to win the Preakness, setting up the fifth Triple Crown try in six years at Belmont Park.

But Funny Cide finished third to pre-Derby favorite Empire Maker, who gave Hall of Fame trainer Bobby Frankel his first Triple Crown victory.

Spectacular Bid — another horse that won the first two legs of the elusive prize — was one of four Derby winners to die in 2003. The others included 1986 winner Ferdinand, 1983 winner Sunny's Halo and 1981 winner Pleasant Colony.

Ferdinand was reportedly put to death in a slaughterhouse in Japan in 2002, sparking outrage in the racing industry.

"It sickens me to think about it," said Dell Hancock, whose family owns Claiborne Farm in Paris, Ky., where Ferdinand was born.

During the summer, Kentuckian Kenny Perry seized the sports spotlight. The 43-year-old Elizabethtown native who lives in Franklin had a career year, winning three times and earning over \$4.2 million.

"I'm glad to finally get a little respect," Perry said.

In the fall, four of the state's Division I-A and I-AA football programs broke in new coaches with mixed results.

Louisville beat Kentucky 40-24 in Lexington in the first game for Cardinals coach Bobby Petrino and Wildcats coach Rich Brooks.

The victory propelled the Cardinals to a surprising 9-4 season and a sixth straight bowl appearance.

Despite a blowout loss to Miami of Ohio in the GMAC Bowl, the season "saw the promising emergence of quarterback Stefan LeFors, who threw for 2,921 yards, and 2002 Kentucky Mr. Football Michael Bush, who scored touchdowns running, passing and catching.

The biggest challenge Petrino faced happened off the field. Late in November, Auburn officials secretly met with Petrino about replacing Tommy Tuberville, who was still the Tigers' coach.

Petrino denied meeting with Auburn officials, then came clean after news of the meeting

leaked.

Louisville athletics director Tom Jurich blasted Auburn officials, voiced support for Petrino and promised to restructure Petrino's contract.

Jurich was much happier earlier in the month, when he announced Louisville was moving into the Big East in 2005.

The move was done primarily to give Louisville an opportunity to play in the lucrative Bowl Championship Series. The Cardinals will also join a 16-team basketball conference that Pitino called one of the best in the history of the game.

Kentucky, meanwhile, continued to languish near the bottom of the SEC in football.

The Wildcats finished a disappointing 4-8, although the season had its share of memorable moments.

Kentucky blew a 21-3 fourth-quarter lead on Florida, losing 24-21 in Lexington. A month

later, the Wildcats dropped an eight-overtime, 71-63 decision against Arkansas.

Quarterback Jared Lorenzen finished a productive career, breaking many of Tim Couch's school passing records. He finished among the top four in SEC history in career passing yards (fourth with 10,354), touchdowns (fourth with 78) and completions (second with 862).

Kick returner Derek Abney tied an NCAA Division I-A record with his eighth kick return for a touchdown.

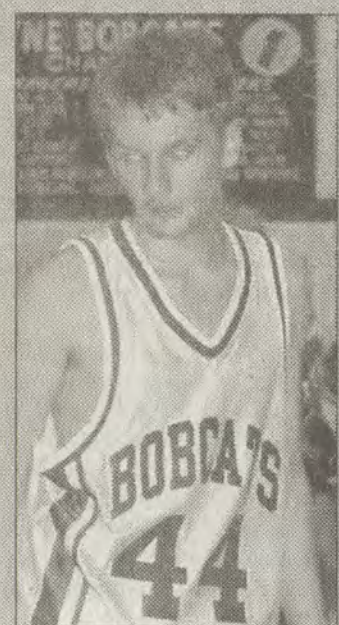
In Bowling Green, Western Kentucky and first-year coach David Elson fell two steps short of duplicating last season's championship run. The Hilltoppers went 9-4, losing to

(See FUNNY, page three)



Jockey Jose Santos rode Funny Cide to a Derby win.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Brandon Hall, Betsy Layne



Megan Ousley, South Floyd



SPONSORED BY:

Rick's Embroidery, Uniforms, Trophies & Engravings

487 Northlake Drive, Suite 104, Prestonsburg, KY 41653, behind Papa Johns

606.886.2232

Challenge

Continued from p1

The game was tight early, with six lead changes and neither team pulling ahead by more than three in the first 10 minutes. But Lindsay McClellan hit a three with 11 minutes to play to put VU ahead, and they never trailed again.

The rest of the first half was all downhill for the Lady Bears, who trailed 47-29 at the break and then got outscored 46-36 in the second 20 minutes. Vanguard led by as many as 35 before settling for the 28-point win.

In addition to Cody, Pikeville had three other players in double figures. Senior Caitlyn Ryan had

14 points and seven rebounds, while junior Selena Williams and freshman Heather Dillon added 10 each.

Williams had nine rebounds, as did freshman Ashley Wireman, as the Lady Bears dominated the glass 49-33, but 16 turnovers and 1-of-10 shooting from the arc proved costly.

Vanguard was led by freshman Kelly Schmidt, who hit 8-of-13 from the floor to finish with a game-high 26 points. Lisa Faulkner followed with 14, but dazzled the crowd with an eye-popping 16 assists.

For comparison, Pikeville had only 12 in the game.

Lindsay McClellan added 14 off the bench, while Lacey Burns and Rachel Besse contributed 11.

Neither team is very deep right now, as each went only eight deep in the game. But the Lions got 25 points off their bench compared to only five for Pikeville.



Ryan

H.S. BASEBALL

Hall adds Estep, VanHoose to staff

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE — New Johnson Central baseball coach Shawn "Pooh" Hall has added two assistant coaches to his staff.

Hall, who played and pitched at Morehead State University following an outstanding prep career at Johnson Central, has named two familiar faces to serve as assistants. Joey Estep, who after graduating from Johnson Central played baseball at Shawnee State University, is one assistant. The other assistant is Jimmy VanHoose, a longtime teacher at Johnson Central.

VanHoose's son, Jeremy, is a member of a talented junior Golden Eagle class that is set to return to the diamond.

"We're excited about the upcoming season," said Hall. "Our kids have kept themselves real busy in the off-season."

Hall, who was in town at Paintsville last week officiating in the first-ever Tiger HOOPS Classic, is a regular basketball official in the 16th Region. His brother, Mike, a former University of Louisville pitcher, is the head coach at Sheldon Clark High School.

Fall

Continued from p1

never get over the hump. Wilson Central led Betsy Layne 32-25 at halftime and 49-39 when the game entered the fourth quarter.

Senior Whitney Lykens was a bright spot for Betsy Layne as she scored a game-high 29 points. Kim Clark netted 17 points and Kristal Daniels flipped in nine. Kristen Smith

rounded out the scoring for the Betsy Layne girls with three points.

Four different players scored in double-figures for Wilson Central. In all, nine different players scored for the Wilson Central Lady Wildcats.

Betsy Layne began play in the Lady Invitational of the South event with a 76-65 loss to Washington County. Betsy Layne bounced back with a 63-45 win over Russell County after the setback to Washington County.

Title

Continued from p1

tournament's most valuable player.

Paintsville went 0-3 in the tournament while Shelby Valley and Johnson Central each posted two wins.

Others named to the all-tournament unit included Jonathan Cook (Chattanooga Christian (Tenn.); Daniel Alcorn (Bullitt East); Davey Johnson (Campbell County); Michael Firman (Louisville Seneca); Rick Daniel-Mullholland (Oak Ridge (Tenn.); Aaron White (Oak Ridge (Tenn.); Zach Gillum (Greenup County); Gerry Young (Louisville Seneca); and Jeff Wachtel (Louisville Holy Cross).

The 2003 Tiger HOOPS Classic, the first-ever, goes into the books as a success.

Sponsors who made the Paintsville tournament possible included Paintsville Tourism, Castle's Jewelry and Gifts, Giovanni's Pizza, Bob Abrams, Citizens National Bank, Pepsi, Bocook Engineering, PBC-channel 8, Action Express Mart, NetBurner, Foothills Telephone, Elm Street Resources, Ramada Inn of Paintsville, McDonalds, Appalachian Wireless, Family Bank, Redd, Brown & Williams Real Estate and WKLW.

"This tournament had 16 outstanding teams, coaches and fans," said Tiger HOOPS Classic

Event Manager Bob Lyons.

"The community support from our sponsors, volunteers and fans was overwhelming. I can't thank everyone enough. Any team could have won this tournament, that was how competitive it was. We had 18 different colleges attend the tournament, that I met, to watch these teams.

"The 2004 tournament is already being planned for Dec. 27-30 and I have 10 of the 16 teams, including a team from Canada and Australia.

"The Tiger Hoops Classic will grow and provide a great atmosphere for the fans in the area. The competition was great but the players and coaches were quality people."

Second annual Tiger HOOPS Classic already taking shape

Lyons and the Tiger HOOPS Classic Committee are already making plans for the 2004 Tiger HOOPS Classic.

The 2004 Tournament is slated to run December 27-30. Among the teams already committed for the 2004 tournament is host Paintsville, Heath, another quality Class-A team, Seneca and St. Marguerite d'Youville of Canada.

Betsy Layne Ladycats Last Two Tournaments

Dec. 20
Wayne County 29-61 (L)
(Fifth Third Bank Prime Time Classic at Lexington Catholic)

Dec. 21
Highlands 45-41 (W)
(Fifth Third Bank Prime Time Classic at Lexington Catholic)


Dec. 22
East Carter 40-51 (L)
(Fifth Third Bank Prime Time Classic at Lexington Catholic)

Dec. 23
West Carter 59-51 (W)
(Fifth Third Bank Prime Time Classic at Lexington Catholic)


Dec. 27
Washington County 65-76 (L)
(Lady Invitational of the South at Allen County-Scottsville)

Dec. 28
Russell County 63-45 (W)
(Lady Invitational of the South at Allen County-Scottsville)

Dec. 29
Wilson Central, Tenn. 58-73 (L)
(Lady Invitational of the South at Allen County-Scottsville)



SPORTS FAN OF THE WEEK



If you are the sports fan circled here... it's your lucky day!

Bring this photo to The Floyd County Times office at 263 South Central Avenue (down the street from the courthouse) to claim your Gift Certificate, which will entitle you to a free 8-inch ice cream cake of your choice, redeemable at **DAIRY QUEEN OF PRESTONSBURG**, and choice of a Times hat or coffee mug.

Features Editor
Kathy Prater
Phone: (606) 886-8506
Fax: (606) 886-3603

Members:
Associated Press
Kentucky Press Association
National Newspaper Association

Lifestyles



SCHOOLNEWS

- Allen Elementary • page 2C
- PES • page 3C
- John M. Stumbo • page 3C

INSIDESTUFF

- Happy Birthday • page 2C
- This Town, That World • page 2C
- Robinson Scholars • page 3C

FAMILY MEDICINE

"Responsible for guests"
- Page 3C

www.floydcountytimes.com

"The BEST source for local and regional society news"

Email: features@floydcountytimes.co

THROUGH MY EYES

A new year - all over again

I say it all the time - "There's always a reason to be spending money." Now that Christmas is finally over, I knew that Valentine's Day would be the next big thing out there, but I did not expect to click on my e-mail this morning and discover a solicitation for Easter shopping. I am not, I repeat, not ready to begin thinking about pastel eggs and candy-carrying rabbits.



Kathy Prater
Lifestyles editor

And let's not even broach the subject of

Valentine's Day - you all think I got grouchy during Christmastime, just come visit me around February 14th...

*** **

Woodrow the "follow-my-nose" beagle is now home, just in case you hadn't heard. You may

(See EYES, page two)

POSTSCRIPT

Happy New Year

For more years than I want to admit, at the beginning of the new year I have resolved to lose weight. It's still a valid resolution, but I don't make it anymore.



Pam Shingler
contributing writer

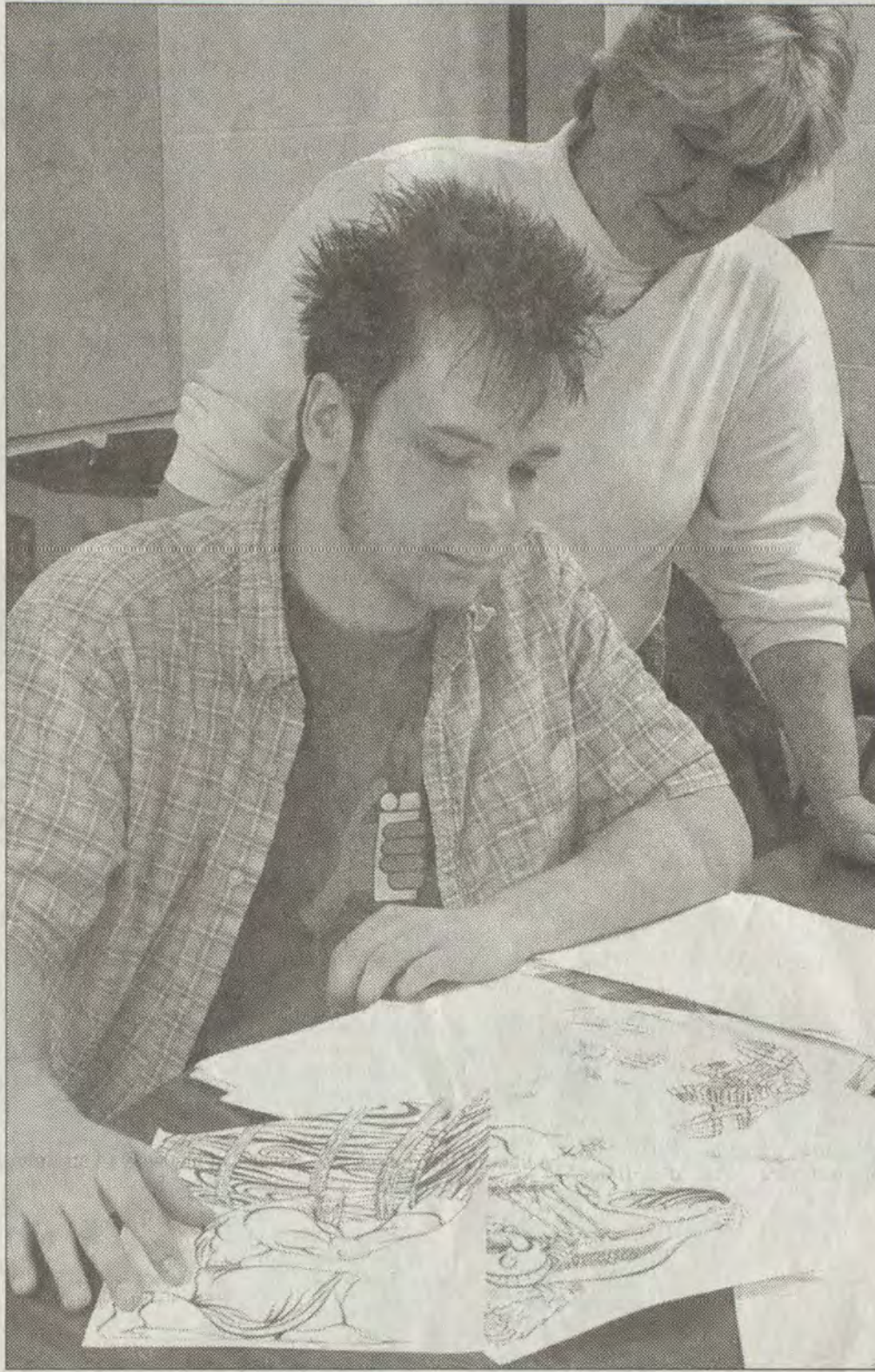
For even more years, I resolved to quit smoking. Thankfully, I don't have to make that resolution anymore. And when I did quit, it was in the fall, closer to

Thanksgiving than New Year's Day.

Other resolutions over the years have related to saving money, getting out of debt, finishing a book, going to Europe, fixing up various houses, and being more tolerant of idiots.

I haven't kept any of these,

(See POSTSCRIPT, page three)



Artwork by Chris Neeley.

photo by
Kathy J. Prater.

Chris Neeley and mother, Cathy, look over some of Chris' recent artwork.

CHRIS NEELEY

'conceptualizing' a rewarding career

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

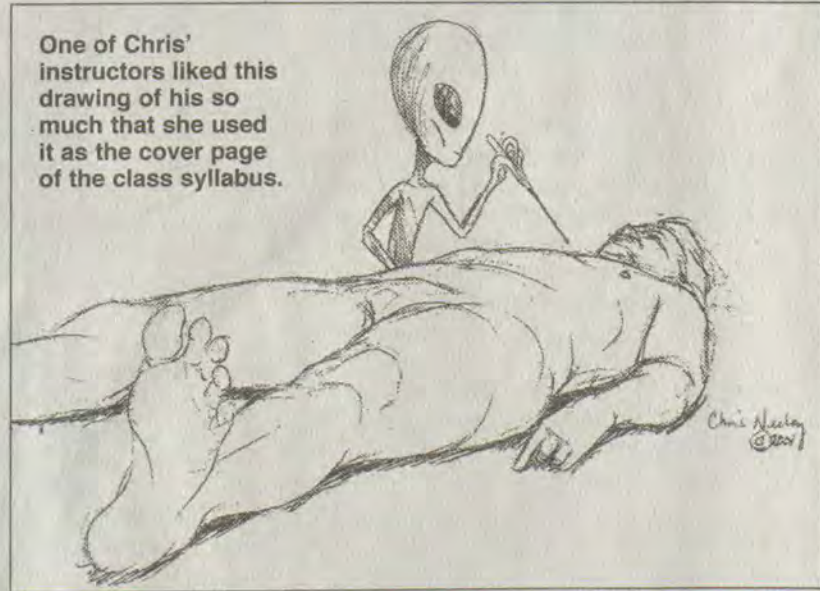
With today's fast paced world of ever forwardly moving computer technology, the term "starving artist" is, we hope, one that will soon be eradicated as a new generation of artistically inclined students embark upon new worlds of study involving computer animation techniques, motion graphics and multi-dimensional art forms.

A local young man, Chris Neeley, of Paintsville, is one such student. Neeley, 22, is about to complete his pursuit of a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Illinois Institute of Art-Chicago. For the past three years now, Chris, a graduate of Madison Central

High School, in Richmond, has been studying media arts and animation on the institute's Schaumburg campus.

Recently, the many long hours of study and hard work done in pursuit of perfecting his craft paid off when Chris was awarded first place in two-dimensional animation in the school's fourth annual film festival competition event. Over 500 entries were initially received for judging, with final cuts placing only 40 students into the actual film competition. Neeley's entry, entitled "Primal Dream," was "about a minute and a half" in length, according to the artist, and took about one year to complete. The film recounts the tale of

(See NEELEY, page two)



One of Chris' instructors liked this drawing of his so much that she used it as the cover page of the class syllabus.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Things to Ponder: Ready or Not: 2004

It seems for months, at least when the fall leaves were appearing, that the media focused on nothing but getting ready for the holidays - things to buy, places to go, and must-do activities. Finally the special days have come and gone. Next came the big white wave of sales, sales, sales, and more sales. One just had to buy to get the best price ever, especially last year's model before the thrill-of-the-century new model came on the scene. In fact, it is such a buy that they are practically "giv-

ing IT away." Then quickly, all of the talk is about making a New Year's Resolution. It is as if everyone should be aware of all the bad things in their lives at the same time, decide right away what needs to be done to wipe the bad away, and have a new slate as white as snow, on which a perfect, easy-to-do plan for the next year can be designed. Of course, the new changes are supposed to be very easy and pain free. Have you thought about your New Year's resolution or do you

even want to go through the process?

Since there is so much talk about making a New Year's resolution every year, it is important to know that it all started with ancient Babylonians. They began the tradition of celebrating each new year more than 4,000 years ago. However, they did it in late March, which might have encouraged success more with it being springtime with signs of new life, new crops, and expected change. Whatever the Babylonians had on their

list, it was likely to coincide with their belief that what a person does on the first day of the New Year would have an effect throughout the entire year. This kinda goes along with some people's superstitions that one must eat ham hock, black-eyed peas, and mustard greens for the main New Year's meal in order to have success and money in the coming year.

As with other parts of life, our goals

(See PONDER, page three)



Mable Rowe Lineberg
Ph.D.

School Happenings

ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

School is currently collecting Food City receipts! Please send them in now through March.

■ The AMS Youth Services Center is open all year to assist students and families in need. Please drop by or call the center at 886-9812 for more information on any of the above activities, or to request assistance with a family need. Center is open from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and later by appointment. Center coordinator, Michelle Keathley, assistant coordinator, Sheila Allen. Center offers services to all students regardless of income.

ALLEN CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

NOTICE School is now collecting Food City receipts. Students may bring receipts to homeroom teachers or parents/community members

may drop off at office.

■ ACMS Youth Service Center distributes school activity calendars on the first school day of each month to all students. Parents should be advised to watch for these informative materials as a means to staying informed on school happenings.

■ The ACMS Youth Service Center is open each day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or later by appointment. For more information about the center or any listed activities, call LaDonna Patton, coordinator, or Marilyn Bailey, assistant, at 358-0134.

ALLEN ELEMENTARY AND FAMILY RESOURCE YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

■ Call Allen Elementary Youth Service Center at 874-0621 to schedule your child's Hepatitis B vaccination, immunizations, and WIC appointment.

BETSY LAYNE ELEMENTARY

■ The Family Resource Youth Service Center provides services and referral services to all families regardless of income. The center is located in the middle building of the Betsy Layne Elementary School. Office hours are Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

■ Open enrollment for After School Child Care is available through the Family Resource Center. Service hours are 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Contact the center at 478-5550. Contact persons are Brian Akers and Charlotte Rogers.

CLARK ELEMENTARY

**Each Wednesday, 3:15 p.m., "Fit Club" for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.

■ We are currently scheduling Hep B immunizations and physicals for 5th grade students. Also scheduling appointments for WIC services.

These services are available to anyone in the community.

■ The Clark Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the Clark Elementary School building and can be reached by calling 886-0815.

DUFF ELEMENTARY

**School is now collecting Food City receipts. Please help our school receive new computers and technological equipment through the "Apples for Students" program. Children may turn receipts in to their homeroom teachers. Community members may also turn receipts in to the school office.

■ Floyd County Health Dept. is at the school each Tuesday. Services include 6th grade school entry physical; Kindergarten, Head Start and Well-Child physicals; T.B. skin test; T.D. boosters; and WIC services. Please call 358-9878

for appointment if you are in need of any of these services.

■ The J.A. Duff Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the tan metal building at the rear of the school. Please call or stop by to see us in our new location. Contact persons are Judy Handshoe, coordinator, and Ruby Bailey, assistant.

MAY VALLEY ELEMENTARY

■ Parent Lending Library is available to parents for video check-outs. A variety of topics are available.

■ Floyd County Health Dept. nurse at school every Wednesday. Services include Headstart physicals, kindergarten physicals, 6th grade physicals, WIC program, blood pressure checks, and more. Must call the FRC at 285-0321 for an appointment.

MCDOWELL ELEMENTARY AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

School is currently collecting Food City receipts to assist in purchasing equipment for the school. Please donate your receipts by dropping them off at the school office or sending them with a student.

■ GED classes held in the library on Monday and Wednesday of each week, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

■ Parent Support Group Calendar:

■ Feb. 17 - Communication & Children.

■ March 16 - Child Abuse awareness.

■ April 15 - No meeting. All parents invited to attend "Give Yourself a Break Day" at the Mt. Arts Center.

■ May 4 - Nutrition/Obesity.

■ Floyd County Health Department Nurse Joy Moore, is

(See **SCHOOL**, page three)

Birthdays

DeShea is 8!

DeShea Terelle Elliott, the daughter of Michelle and David Elliott, of Martin, celebrated her eighth birthday on June 22, 2003, with a "Care Bear" theme party held at the Allen Pool. Many friends and family members attended to help DeShea celebrate her special day. DeShea has one little sister, Destiny.



Destiny is 1!

Destiny Tiara Elliott, the daughter of Michelle and David Elliott, of Martin, celebrated her first birthday on August 20, 2003, with a "Blue's Clues" theme party attended by many family members and friends. Destiny has one big sister, DeShea.



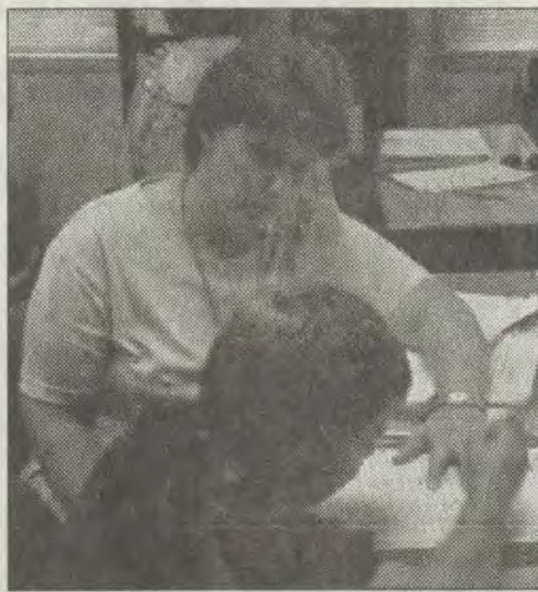
Neeley

a young monkey captured during the felling of a jungle forest and then sent away to a spaceship laboratory for further examination. "It was really only chapter one of the story," he said, "I still have to finish chapter two, but it was exciting, really, to see my work on a big screen in a large theater. It was great."

Neeley says that his future goals include becoming a "conceptual artist" in a successful animation studio, following completion of his college studies. "The conceptual artist is the guy who gets to be creative in an animation studio," said Neeley. "He gets to come up with ideas and then the

other artists sort of follow his lead. I hope to be able to work in a position that allows me to empathize with the characters I create. I think it's really important to create feeling in art and to have others relate to that feeling. During the film festival, it felt really great when people laughed at my film, and when I could tell that they were feeling sad, too. To be able to bring out that emotion from others, that was a great feeling."

Chris actually had two pieces entered in the competition, the one for which he received the first place award and another which was the only piece to be accepted



A trained parent volunteer tutors a student in the East Kentucky Tutorial Program, an after-school program sponsored by the Hindman Settlement School.

East KY Tutorial Program celebrates reading gains

The East Kentucky Tutorial Program, sponsored by the Hindman Settlement School, completed its Fall After-School Tutorial Program in late November.

EKTP offered after-school programs in four counties in southern and eastern Kentucky: Floyd, Knott, Laurel and Pulaski. During the thirteen-week after school program, enrolled students made an eight-month gain in reading decoding skills and a seven and a half-month gain in reading comprehension skills.

The East Kentucky Tutorial Program provides one-on-one tutoring for children with learning differences. Parents are trained to tutor as paraprofessionals but never tutor their own child. A recent survey of former students showed that 19 percent of the parents of the children involved in the program furthered their own educations because of their participation in the program.

A summer boarding program is also available to students. College students are trained to tutor in the six-week summer program. One-on-one tutoring in reading is offered in addition to tutoring in mathematics with a one-to-three tutor to student ratio.

Call 606-785-4044 for more information. An educational evaluation is required for entrance into the program.

Eyes

I have noticed the couple of ads that ran a few weeks back when Woodrow's distraught owner was caught up in yet another frantic search for her mischievous charge. Seems that Woodrow has an annoying little habit of wandering off from time to time. This time, though, it seemed that he might be gone for good, everyone feared. However, Dr. Carol Combs-Morris, who pens the "Critter Corner" column for us, has notified that Woodrow managed to return, all on his own, safe and sound - and just in time for Christmas. Hmm, we're wondering, did the naughty boy find nothing but coal in his stocking this year?

Wasn't really planning on bothering with any New Year's resolutions this year - like "Postscript" columnist, Pam Shingler, I often make far too many and stick to none, so why set myself up for failure?

However, after reading Dr. Mable's "Things to Ponder" column on New Year's resolutions, I found myself feeling very optimistic about the coming month. Her ponderings this week were "just what the doctor ordered" for me. Especially the advice to "Love the life you have and not the life you want."

Hit the nail right on the head, Doc - thanks a bunch!

Until next week, remember to embrace the good and throw worry to the wind! (And I'll try to do the same!)

from a beginning class student into the festival's three-dimensional category. "To just have a piece accepted in this category was an honor," he said. "There were so many entries and all."

Making Chris' achievement even more significant is the fact that he also works part-time while attending school and, even more amazing, that at this point, he doesn't even own his own home computer. "I haven't really been able to get my own computer yet," he said, "I use the ones available on campus. It probably makes it a little harder, it'd be easier to have one at home, then I'd probably have more time to learn a little more about different things. I guess that time will come, though," he said.

For now, Chris, and his parents, are all thrilled that he is on his way to a rewarding career and making such wonderful achievements as his recent first place award. "The festival was really a much, much bigger event than I had realized it would be," he said. "It was held in one of Chicago's beautiful theaters and there was a red carpet out front and everything. People were lined up around the corner waiting in line to buy tickets. It was a great feeling being involved in something

like that."

"Yes," added Cathy Neeley, Chris' mother, "I would have made a point to be there if I had known this was going to be such a big event. But," she added with a sideways glance at her son, "I didn't. I'm thrilled, though, that he won first place."

According to Chris, the festival was judged by some highly successful industry professionals. "People who were involved with the film "Shrek" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and MTV's liquid television - they had some really impressive credentials," he said.

In honor of his achievement, Chris was treated to a dinner attended by several of these industry professionals, affording him the opportunity to make valuable contacts. He was also awarded a computer mouse crafted of silver and several complete sets of high caliber computer software from companies like Adobe and Macromedia. "I have some really neat computer stuff now," he said, "Now all I need is a computer."

We already know he's got all the talent he could ever need.

Chris is the son of Cathy Neeley, of Paintsville, and Jim Neeley, of Richmond. He has one younger brother, Nick.

This Town, That World

Editor's Note: For years, Floyd County Times founder and former publisher Norman Allen wrote a weekly column that looked at Floyd County through his eyes. His columns are being reprinted due to request.

No wonder Father Time is so decrepit that he can barely carry his scythe as he moves out at the end of the year. The guy's just gone through Christmas.

A well-known Floyd County political figure was asked, the other day, if he was a candidate. "Looks like I am," he replied. "Before I left the house this morning for work, I shook hands with my wife."

Santa Claus used to play a return engagement at our house on Twelfth Night, or what we called Old Christmas. It was one such occasion that shook my faith in the old gent. Heavy rains had fallen, all the preceding day, creeks were at flood and travel was almost impossible. So it happened that my Dad informed me that conditions, were so bad that Santa might have trouble getting me anything more than a quarter this year. Then, when that exact amount turned up in the stocking, I began wondering just how close these two parties, Santa and my father, were.

The federal government is becoming more efficient by the day. Somebody got so energetic that most of us received our new income tax forms, the day after Christmas. Treating a suffering taxpayer like that, at a time like that, is much like tossing a drowning man an anvil.

A MAN'S CASTLE

I break a resolution and let this guy named Joe have a little



Happy Birthday, Michael and Skylar!

Michael Brandon Williams celebrated his seventh birthday on December 21, 2003. "Little brother," Skylar Chayse, celebrated his fourth birthday on December 23, 2003. Family members and friends joined the two brothers on Sunday, December 28, for a fun-filled birthday bash. Michael and Skylar are the sons of Linda and Terry Williams, of Little Mud. Their parents, grandparents and aunts all say that the boys are special Christmastime blessings that brighten all their lives.

900-Legals

COMMON-WEALTH OF KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed bids will be received by the Department of Highways, in the Division of Contract Procurement, and/or the Auditorium, located on the 1st floor of the State Office Building, Frankfort, Kentucky, until 10:00 a.m., EASTERN STANDARD TIME, on the 23rd DAY OF JANUARY 2004, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read for the improvement of:

FLOYD COUNTY, FDGR 04 0000049

Flood Repair on various roads.

(See proposal for additional information)

FLOYD COUNTY, FDGR 04 0000053

Flood Repair on various roads.

(See proposal for additional information)

Bid proposals for all projects will be available at the Division of Contract Procurement, until 3:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, preceding the day of the letting of Friday, JANUARY 23, 2004. Bid proposals for all projects will be available at a cost of \$10 each, and remittance, payable to the State Treasurer of Kentucky, must accompany request for proposals (NON-REFUNDABLE). BID PROPOSALS ARE ISSUED TO PRE-QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS.

Specimen proposals for all projects will be available to all interested parties, at a cost of \$10 each (NON-REFUNDABLE).

ADVERTISERS

TAKE GRASP OF THE **BEST** NEWS & ADVERTISING SOURCE IN EASTERN KENTUCKY!

The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

LOCAL:

- Odds & Ends
- Viewpoint
- Award winning articles
- Prime advertising locations

SPORTS:

- Sportsboard
- Little league News
- National College News

REGIONAL

SHOPPER STOPPER:

- Over 118,000 in Local and Regional customer readership

LIFESTYLES

- School Happenings
- Birthdays
- Weddings
- Wed. Business/Real Estate
- Award Winning Classifieds

T.V. GUIDE:

- Feature Articles
- News of the Weird
- Horoscopes
- Regional T.V. Listings
- Critic Corner

REGIONAL SUNDAY:

- Award Winning News
- Religion Extra
- Regional Obituaries
- Odds & Ends
- Critic Corner
- National News Coverage
- "SIX" County Coverage

READERSHIP:

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SUNDAY EDITIONS

OVER 18,000

REGIONAL SHOPPER STOPPER

OVER 125,000

YOUR ADVERTISING IS SAFE WITH US!

Be an Angel.

Become a Kentucky organ & tissue donor.

For information contact: 1-800-525-3456, or www.trustforlife.org

Service

IS OUR BUSINESS

Tree Trimming
Hillside, lawn care and light hauling.
Garage and Basement Cleaning.
Also Firewood for sale!
886-8350

FIREWOOD FOR SALE
Call 874-4233
OAK, BEECH & ASH
ALL SEASONED
"WILL DELIVER"

P&N Construction
Residential & Commercial
All Types of Building, Remodeling, New Construction, Roofing, Vinyl Siding, Replacement Windows, Electrical, Masonry and Concrete Work
• Free Estimates •
Phone 631-9991
Cell Ph: 477-9837

FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS!
New homes, remodeling, roofing, patios, block, concrete or siding. Have 30 years experience.
Call Spears Construction, Romey Spears (606) 874-2688.

J & L Electrical Contracting
Residential & Commercial Electrical Services Home Improvements and Repairs
Free Estimates • Reliable
Ph: (606) 886-2785
Pager: (606) 482-0229
John K. Lewis, Master Electrician
Licensed: ME8643, CE8644

Mine Safety & First Aid Training
Newly Employed
24 hr. Class (surface)
40 hr. (underground)
8 hr. refresher (surface & underground)
Also Electrical Classes
285-0999
Train at your convenience.

TRIPLE R EXCAVATING
Minnie, Kentucky
606-377-2323 • Cell: 791-6083
ANY TYPE CONSTRUCTION WORK
• Septic System • Brushing • Concrete Work
• Pond Cleaning • Home Remodeling • Block Work
• Site Preparation • Dirt Removal • Dozer Work
• Backhoe Work
NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL
We deliver and spread gravel.
Free estimates • Commercial and Residential
www.triplerfoxfinder.com

Now Open
Mill Branch Horse Boarding Stables
Located 5 miles up Kentucky 114, on Mill Branch Road.
For information, call: **606-889-9362**

TRIP'S MINE TRAINING & TECHNOLOGY INC.
• Teaching Newly Employed 24 Hour
• Annual 8-Hour Refresher Classes
• Mine Medical Technician Instructor
• American Heart C.P.R. and First Aid
Phone 606-358-9303 (Home)
606-434-0542 (Mobile)
Garrett, Kentucky
Terry Triplett, Instructor

Aiken Technology LLC
Commercial & Residential HEATING, COOLING AND ELECTRICAL
We do it right the first time!
Above-Code Work
Call 606-874-2516
M02745

J&M Seamless Guttering & Siding
Located at Weeksburg, Ky.
14 Years Experience
Free estimates, call anytime
606-452-2490
or **606-424-9858**