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briefs

Housing authority gets awards

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky State Office of Housing and Urban Development has chosen The Floyd County Housing Authority as the "Best Mid-Sized Authority" of the year, a high performer under the Performance Housing Assistance System with a score of 97.

The authority has consistently been a high performer under other scoring systems. The average score for the past five years is 95.5.

Art Wasson, Kentucky State director of public housing, presented the award at the February Kentucky Housing meeting with the following comments, "The authority maintains a high occupancy record and turns units around in less than eight days, keeps the grounds and apartments very attractive. The agency is managed in an excellent manner and gets very good value and results from its capital funds, it is financially sound and books and records are maintained in good order."

The authority was also commended for the recently established non-profit corporation that allowed them to develop a 12-unit Section 202 complex that provides housing solely for the elderly on

(See AWARDS, page three)

inside

Local News

- Odds & Ends.....A2
- Expressions.....A4
- Beyond the BeltwayA4
- Faith Extra.....A5
- Regional Obituaries.....A6

Sports

- Bears fallB2
- RedsB3
- Adams Volleyball.....B5
- LifestylesB6
- Classifieds.....B9

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 72 • Low: 47

Tomorrow



High: 66 • Low: 40

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

Local courts counting down to 'rocket docket'

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Floyd County criminals will soon be flying through the criminal court process, officials said, with the implementation of a new "rocket docket" process.

Last month, Attorney General Greg Stumbo suggested that Floyd County jump on board with other Kentucky counties that have already implemented the program, which could process some criminal cases in less than two weeks. Current criminal proceedings can last anywhere from 90 days to six months.

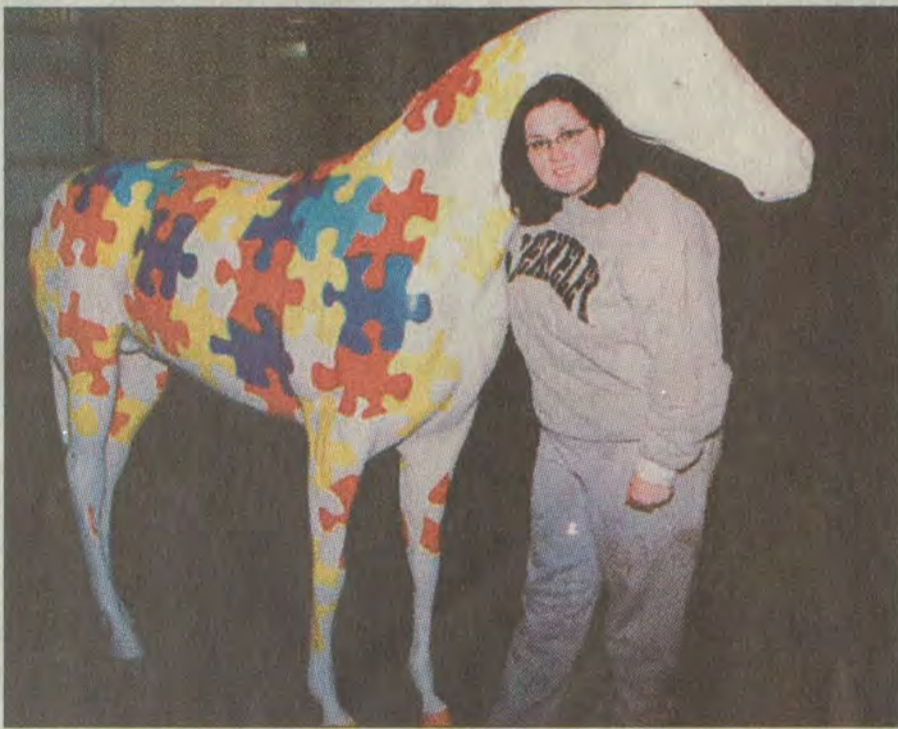
Both the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office and the County Attorney's Office, which have been reviewing statistics regarding the program, now report that they are in the preliminary planning stages of implementing it.

"We're in," said Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner, noting that the pro-

gram would not only ease financial burdens at the jail, but also provide quicker solutions for victims of certain crimes, such as theft.

County Attorney Keith Barley said he and Turner are currently working with all

(See COURT, page three)



Vanessa Sheppard, of Louisville, a graduate of Allen Central High School, poses with "Assault," her creation for the Kentucky Derby Festival's "Gallopooza" public art project. Hers and 219 other fiberglass representations of past Derby winners will be on display throughout the city of Louisville after Derby Day.

Native's art featured in Derby display

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

LOUISVILLE — Allen Central graduate Vanessa Sheppard, class of 1997, will be one of 220 national artists, Kentucky painters and even amateurs represented in "Gallopooza."

The program is part of this year's Kentucky Derby celebration and will see the city of Louisville decorated with over 200 life-sized representations of past Derby winners. The horses will be placed all over the city after Derby Day. The program is being sponsored by a nonprofit organization called "Brightside."

Each horse will be of fiberglass construction and all of them will be grouped at Waterfront Park for Derby weekend. After the weekend, they will be distributed all over the city for a period of six months before being sold at auction to benefit charitable

(See ARTIST, page three)

Knott teacher sues over drug tests

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — While Floyd County ponders implementing a drug-testing policy for students in public schools, a similar policy for teachers in Knott County has landed in federal court.

Knott County schools have instituted a new drug-testing policy for teachers which began Wednesday but one area teacher was granted a restraining order from participating.

Carol Crager, who has taught for 18 years in Knott County, chose to fight the testing and has

enlisted legal minds to fight the measure in U.S. District Court. Her lawsuit was filed Thursday, the same that that drug testing ended.

Attorney J. Follace Fields, of Lexington, has been enlisted to fight the testing policy which, as it

(See TEACHER, page three)

Fortner receives eight years for drug charges

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Floyd County man charged with drug trafficking after selling cocaine from a motel room where he was a regular visitor, was sentenced to eight years Friday in circuit court.

Robert Alan Fortner, 67, charged with two counts of first-degree drug

trafficking, one count of first-degree drug possession, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and four counts of falsely obtaining a controlled substance prescription, will serve a total of eight years on those charges following sentencing Friday by Judge John David Caudill.

Fortner was indicted last year for

(See SENTENCE, page three)



Robert Fortner, who was sentenced Friday to eight years on drug trafficking charges, speaks with his attorney, public advocate Michael Studebaker, following the hearing.

photo by Mary Music

Mother killed, child injured in ATV wreck

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

SPURLOCK — A McDowell family was torn apart this week when a mother died and her 3-year-old son was critically injured in an all-terrain vehicle wreck in Floyd County.

Lashonda Hamilton, 23, of McDowell, was killed Thursday afternoon when she lost control of the ATV she was driving in Spurlock.

According to KSP Trooper Rick Conn, lead investigator in the accident, Hamilton, riding with her husband, Billy, 24, and 3-year-old son, was pulling from Hancock Road onto the westbound lane of Route 2030 when she lost control of the vehicle and

reacted by overcorrecting the ATV to the right.

The ATV ran off the roadway and struck a tree on the shoulder, ejecting Hamilton from the vehicle, Conn said.

Billy Hamilton was ejected from the ATV prior to the collision, he said.

"It was a freak thing," Conn said Friday. "What it basically boils down to is that there were too many people on the ATV and I don't know what her ability was to operate that vehicle. It's an unfortunate thing."

All three family members were transported to Our Lady of the Way Hospital in Martin, where Hamilton was pronounced dead by emer-

(See MOTHER, page three)

Two go jail, one stays free after hearings

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Two men were incarcerated and one will walk away after revocation hearings were held Friday in circuit court.

Daniel Bell, 19, David Lee Ward, 34, and Billy Shepherd, 30, each stipulated in court that they violated the terms of their probation by failing either to report to the probation and parole office or pay restitution in their cases.

Following the hearings,

Bell and Ward were taken back into custody, whereas Shepherd was given the promise of freedom Friday by Judge John David Caudill.

Bell, who was indicted last year, pleaded guilty in August to a misdemeanor theft charge, three counts of second-degree forgery and three counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument.

He was picked up in January, after failing to report to the probation and parole

(See HEARINGS, page three)

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Odds and Ends

■ WEST POINT, Utah — A woman has accused a northern Utah city of trying to sweep her topless maid business out of town.

The West Point City Council has revoked the home business license of Dee Dee Derian, saying she misused it by sometimes running the business from a cell phone outside her home.

The license allowed her to do scheduling and bookkeeping for Black Rose Maids, her topless maid service that also operates in Arizona and California.

Derian, 44, accused the city of discriminating against her because she's not a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the dominant religion in Utah.

West Point officials say they are bound by law to prevent Derian from operating the business if it violates her license, and the decision had nothing to do with the nature of her business.

Since January, she has been operating without a license, and she filed a lawsuit this month accusing the city of wrongfully failing to renew it.

Derian received national attention in 2001 when her neighbors complained about

her doing yard work in a bikini. Prosecutors declined to press charges after determining she hadn't broken the law.

■ MOSCOW, Idaho — Two men may wish they hadn't called police after a burglary at their home.

They reported that their TV and VCR had been destroyed and their video game console was missing on Wednesday, said Latah County Sheriff's spokeswoman Darla Buckley.

But as deputies checked the perimeter of the home for suspects, they allegedly spotted some pot plants growing in a doorless shed.

Jason Wellman, 19, and Matthew Beyer, 18, were each charged with manufacturing marijuana with intent to deliver. They were taken into custody.

Investigators had no leads on the home burglary, Buckley said.

■ CARBONDALE, Ill. — Administrators at Southern Illinois University have inadvertently found a way to interest students in campus politics — take away their late-night snacks.

When students heard the school did not plan to renew

"Munchie Man" James Rochman's permit to sell food out of the back of his truck on campus, the news inspired a new political party devoted to reversing the decision.

Headed by student government member Rob Taylor, the Munchie Party planned to distribute fliers on campus supporting Rochman.

When students vote in campus elections April 13 and 14, one ballot question will ask whether Rochman should be allowed to continue his campus business after May, when his permit expires. The referendum doesn't hold power against the will of the administration, but if enough students support Rochman, it might influence the administration's final decision, Taylor said.

Rochman, 37, parks his truck in a lot between two residence halls and sells chips, candy and cigarettes. The business was started by his father when he was a university student in 1964.

Administrators said they are trying to control traffic in the area and worry that Rochman's business could cause safety concerns, though Rochman says crowd control and student safety have never been a problem.

■ ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Even a baby orangutan is deserving of a noble name.

Out of more than 2,000 suggestions, the Seneca Park Zoo chose "Datu" as the name for its new orangutan, an ape found only in swampy, coastal

jungles in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Zoo officials said Datu means nobleman, or chief, in the Iban language, and was a title held by Malay rulers in the 19th century.

The winning entry earned a

University of Buffalo student Jason Grubb a year's supply of doughnuts, a zoo membership and a bicycle.

Grubb said he found the name, pronounced dah-too, after checking out an Iban dictionary from the library.

Today In History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, March 28, the 88th day of 2004. There are 278 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 28, 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred inside the Unit Two reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pa.

On this date:

■ In 1834, the U.S. Senate voted to censure President Jackson for the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States.

■ In 1854, during the Crimean War, Britain and France declared war on Russia.

■ In 1898, the Supreme Court ruled that a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrants was a U.S. citizen.

■ In 1930, the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

■ In 1939, the Spanish Civil War ended as Madrid fell to the forces of Francisco Franco.

■ In 1941, novelist and critic Virginia Woolf died in Lewes, England.

■ In 1942, during World War II, British naval forces raided the Nazi-occupied French port of St. Nazaire.

■ In 1943, composer Sergei Rachmaninoff died in Beverly Hills, Calif.

■ In 1953, athlete Jim Thorpe died in Lomita, Calif.

In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington at age 78.

Ten years ago:

More than 50 people were killed in violence that erupted in Johannesburg, South Africa, during a march by Zulu nationalists. Absurdist playwright Eugene Ionesco died in Paris at age 81.

Five years ago:


NATO broadened its attacks on Yugoslavia to target Serb military forces in Kosovo in the

fifth straight night of airstrikes; thousands of refugees flooded into Albania and Macedonia from Kosovo. The Baltimore Orioles beat a Cuban all-star team 3-2 in Havana. Venus Williams beat kid sister Serena 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 to win the Lipton Championships in the first all-sister women's final in 115 years.

One year ago:

American-led forces in Iraq dropped 1,000-pound bombs on Republican Guard units guarding the gates to Baghdad and battled for control of the strategic city of Nasiriya. President Bush warned of "further sacrifice" ahead in the face

(See HISTORY, page six)



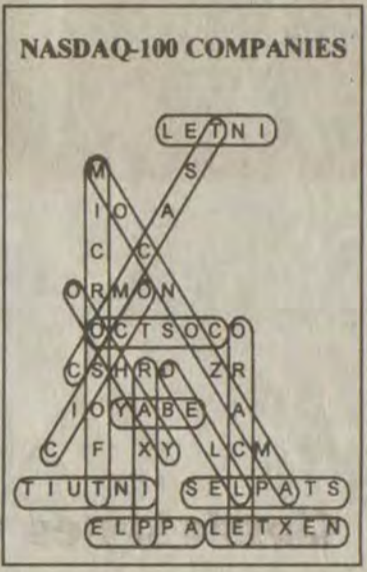
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Hearings

office on Dec. 2, officials said. During the hearing, his attorney, public advocate Micheal P. Stuebaker, who represented all three men, asked the court for leniency in light of Bell's 2-year-old daughter. Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Wayne Taylor disagreed with granting probation to Bell, telling the court that the man reported to the probation and parole office the first time he was ordered to do so, but never came back. Caudill agreed with Taylor Friday, sentencing Bell to the sentence he would have served

had he not received probation last year on the charges. Forgery charges against Bell were merged with the criminal possession charges, and he was given a sentence of five years on each count to run concurrently with a 12-month sentence on the misdemeanor theft charge. During motion hour Friday, Caudill also revoked probation for David Lee Ward, who was indicted in May 2002 for flagrant nonsupport. After pleading guilty to the charge, Ward was given a three-year suspended sentence in

November, and was slated to be on probation for seven years, during which time he was ordered to pay \$292 per month in restitution in the case. Ward was arrested on a probation violation charge last April for failing to make appropriate payments, a misdeed, Stuebaker said, caused only because the man lost his job. After brief consideration, Caudill sentenced Ward to serve the three-year sentence that was previously probated in the case. Although Bell and Ward walked back into their cells fol-

lowing court proceedings, a revocation hearing for another man ended on a happier note Friday. Billy Shepherd, who got a two-year suspended sentence last year for auto theft, stipulated to a probation violation, agreeing with the court that he failed to report to probation and parole last September. In Shepherd's defense, Stuebaker asked Judge Caudill to consider the fact that the

man, who left in September to look for work in Indiana, currently holds a job in Paintsville. "He's on the upswing," Stuebaker said, noting that the man has gotten back together with his estranged wife. "He's given up drugs and is trying to get his life together." Prior to sentencing, Shepherd, who owes \$1,700 of the original \$2,200 required restitution in the case, spoke on his own behalf, telling the court that he moved to Indiana because he couldn't find work in this area and that he'd been working two jobs in an attempt to pay restitution in the case.

that Shepherd wanted to live in Indiana with his estranged wife, but that he left before the process to transfer out of state was completed. Saying that Shepherd "hasn't done what he's been asked to do," Caudill said he would agree to allow Shepherd to return to probation if he'd agree to extend probation three years and waive applicable jail credit for time already served. Shepherd, after briefly consulting with Stuebaker, who voiced his disagreement with the Caudill's condition, accepted Caudill's offer. "Thank you, John David," Shepherd said, before being led out of the courtroom. "You're welcome, Billy, since we're on a first name basis," Caudill said, amid chuckles from individuals in the courtroom. As he was escorted to a holding cell, Shepherd blew a kiss and whispered "I love you" to his wife, who was waiting, smiling, in the audience. He will be released Monday, upon the completion of necessary paperwork, Caudill said.

Continued from p1

Court

four district and circuit judges to put together a plan for the process, which gives the commonwealth the ability to make plea arrangements in district court for certain felony cases during the first court appearance for the accused. "We're going to take a shot at it," Bartley said. "It sounds it's a win-win for the county." Turner said the commonwealth, working with the public advocate's office, would screen cases in district court to see which would apply for the program. Those "cut-and-dry" cases, specifically, ones dealing with small theft claims, child support or felony DUIs, could be resolved without the need for a grand jury, he said, if the accused agrees to be indicted on the charge "by information," or

without a grand jury hearing. That person then agrees to plead guilty in circuit court, where he or she can waive the need for a pre-sentence investigative report, normally compiled by the probation and parole office, and be sentenced the same day. Turner said only cases with completed investigations will be considered for the program, and every individual involved will go through a thorough background check before any arrangement is offered on their behalf. Though the vast majority of cases will not be considered for the rocket docket program, those that do will get their "best offer" in district court. "We'll make them our best offer," Turner said. "If they

don't do it, it's off the table. They may get some kind of deal later on, but the best offer they will get will be there." The state does not pay jails to house county inmates, a fact Turner and Bartley both agree is a good reason to implement the plan. The rocket docket, officially called the Progressive Criminal Justice Program, was implemented in Jefferson County 10 years ago as a way to clear out backlogged cases, and has since saved money in counties across the state. Stumbo estimated that it could save 20 percent on jail budgets. Bartley speculated that Floyd County would implement the rocket docket within the next month.

Sentence

first-degree trafficking, possession of cocaine and two counts of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, after being arrested Nov. 5 at the Alpike Motel in Ivel, when a search of his room resulted in the confiscation of two ounces of cocaine and other drug-related paraphernalia. According to his indictment, filed in circuit court Nov. 19, Fortner allegedly sold cocaine from that motel room, where he was a regular visitor. A search warrant filed by KSP Trooper John Hunt prior to his arrest indicates that a confidential informant alerted police that Fortner was going to Ohio to pick up a quantity of cocaine and would return to the hotel, where he was later arrested. A separate indictment, filed Dec. 18, indicates that Fortner falsely obtained prescriptions at the Medzone Pharmacy on July 18, 2001. Caudill gave Fortner eight years for both trafficking charges, five years for possession of cocaine, 12 months for two possession charges and five years on each count of fraud, with all sentences to run concurrently. During the hearing, Caudill granted a request from Fortner's attorney, public advocate Michael P. Stuebaker, to allow the man to be transferred to the La Grange State Penitentiary, where he will be evaluated for "serious health issues."

"When they locked me up the last time, they took my daughter," Shepherd told the judge. "I know it was not right what I did, but I couldn't make it down here." Taylor said the commonwealth saw no reason to grant Shepherd probation, because, in addition to violating his probation, Shepherd's accusations in court toward the probation and parole officers "spoke for them self." A probation officer on hand for the hearing told the court

He will be released Monday, upon the completion of necessary paperwork, Caudill said.

Continued from p1

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Mother

Continued from p1

gency room doctor Prim Verma. The child was later transported to Cabell-Huntington Hospital, and remains in critical condition with several broken facial bones, according to Conn. Billy Hamilton was uninjured in the accident. Conn said the family, who lived in McDowell, had possibly driven the ATV from their home to Spurlock, where relatives of the family resided. Alcohol or drugs do not appear to be a factor in the accident, he said. Hamilton's funeral will be under the care of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home in Martin, where visitation began yesterday at 1 p.m. Her funeral will be held at 1 p.m. tomorrow at the funeral home.

Awards

Continued from p1

land next to one to their family developments, donated by the authority's Board of Commissioners. Executive director Patsy Ryan says that this achievement is a result of the support of the Board of Commissioners, Charles Hale, Jake Halbert, Morris Hylton, Brian Hunter and Barbara Shepherd, and a dedicated staff. The authority also received certificates for high performance in administering the Section 8 Program.

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expression

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

Photo: San Diego Union-Tribune/2004
Cover News Service

GuestView

Quit stalling, start leading

Only a few days remain in the Kentucky General Assembly's regular session, yet its major items of business — a state budget and a tax reform plan — remain unresolved while lawmakers dither over side issues.

Dither Central is the House, where majority Democrats' principal course of action appears to be finding excuses for inaction.

On Monday, they complained they didn't want to go first in considering Gov. Ernie Fletcher's tax reform package, saying they feared the GOP-controlled Senate then would double-cross them by voting down the Republican governor's proposal. Right.

On Tuesday, after Fletcher took the unusual step of appearing before the House budget committee, Speaker Jody Richards complained that Fletcher filed his 261-page plan too late, making it "virtually impossible" for the House to analyze it. That led Senate President David Williams to offer to send someone over to "put it in big print."

Richards doesn't have much of a beef. Fletcher began talks with the House on tax reform in early February, but lawmakers slowed the process by refusing to discuss his proposals. And the governor's appearance Tuesday was meant to offer compromises on the plan, as well as to pledge he wouldn't use tobacco and alcohol tax hikes as an issue against them in the fall election.

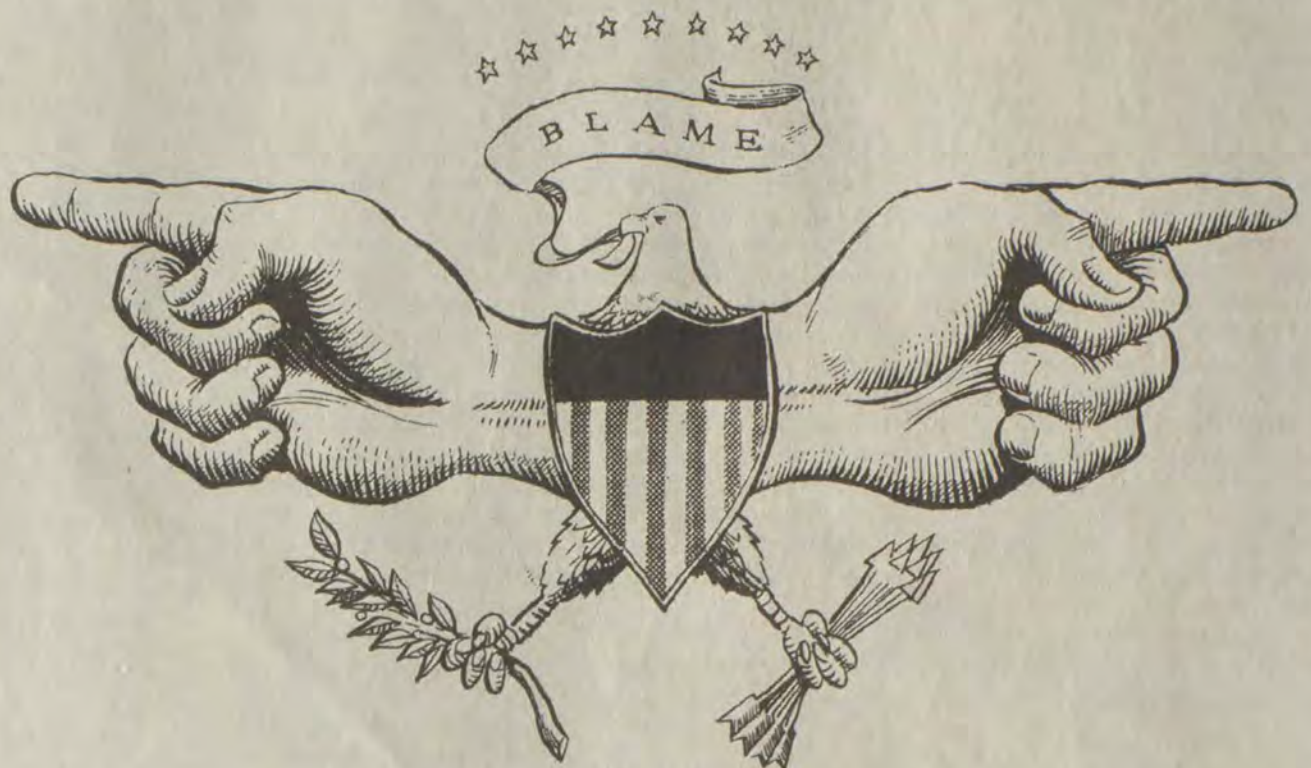
House leaders may not want tax reform. Even though all tax bills must originate in the House, they insist the Senate consider it first by tacking it onto the budget bill — which would further complicate a crucial piece of legislation that is slated, as is typical, for a last-minute vote. They're rebuffing Fletcher's offer of a special session to give the House more time to study the tax reform bill.

Too bad. Fletcher has offered a prudent, revenue-neutral reform that most analysts see as good for long-term economic growth. It's no quick fix, however, so there's little political payoff for incumbents this fall.

Democratic leaders also remain miffed that six of their members stood with Fletcher when he unveiled his reform plan — and could swing a floor vote his way. They should get over it. Kentuckians deserve better than government by hissy fit. Lawmakers should stop bickering and start legislating.

— *The Kentucky Enquirer, Fort Mitchell*

THE 9-11 HEARINGS...



— Jim Davidson

We become proficient at what we practice

Several years ago I remember hearing the late Earl Nightingale make the statement, "You can do anything you really want to do, if you are willing to practice."

He went on to say, "You can learn to juggle six eggs while standing on one leg in a hammock, if you really want to do it."

This explains why I am not any better at golf than I am. While I enjoy playing the game, it's not a passion for me, and therefore I don't spend the necessary practice time to get really good.

On weekends, my wife and I usually spend some time watching a golf tournament on television and we marvel at how good these guys and gals have become. The answer, of course, is that these people are professional and in most cases started playing when they were very young and have spent untold hours practicing their craft or sport.

Before I leave this subject, you don't have to be a professional to be good at golf, you just have to have a passion for it.

The other day I saw a story about Frank Grieko, a WW II veteran who had made 11 holes-in-one on courses that ranged from the east coast to the west coast. The amazing thing about Frank's feat is that he only had one arm.

I've never made a hole-in-one and I have two arms and this probably applies to most recreational golfers like me.

Again, the word is passion. If we have a passion for something, the odds are good that we will spend the necessary practice time to get really good at it.

You may not have an interest in golf, but what I'm talking about is really a principle that applies to all the other activities that fill our days. I don't know how many truly gifted piano players have said to me, "I'm so grateful that my mother made me practice the piano when I was growing up." You could add other things like singing, dancing, speaking, acting, painting and writing.

However to be really good at these things requires more than developing a skill. To excel in these activities requires some natural talent. Ralph Waldo Emerson, the American poet and philosopher, once said, "Talent is the

power and courage to make a new road to new and better goals."

At this point you may be saying to yourself, "What does this have to do with me?" It does not have anything to do with you unless you want to use this wonderful principle to become a more successful human being. The principle is, "We become proficient at what we practice."



Here I'm going to make a statement that you may disagree with. To achieve outstanding success, most people spend too much time practicing the wrong things. For example, many young people in school spend a disproportionate amount of time thinking about and practicing one or more sports. For the most part, that's what they have on their brain.

This is not to say they should not enjoy sports or even have a passion for them, but it should be understood that these students spend way too much time on activities that will not help them achieve success over the long haul.

If you doubt what I am saying is true, just consider this fact. According to the NCAA there are over 300,000 students in America who participate in college athletics in one or more sports. Yet over 95 percent of these students

(See DAVIDSON, page six)

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beyond the beltway

Terror profits the president

by DONALD KAUL

Spain's recent rejection of its pro-American, pro-Iraqi war party in favor of its Socialist party is not good news for the United States.

Let me put it another way: It is terrible news.

Not that I have anything against the Socialist party. I myself have been accused, from time to time, of having left wing, no-growth, tree-hugging socialist leanings. And, all things being equal, I would prefer Spain to have an independent, anti-war socialist party in power rather than a conservative, big business bunch who were in the pocket of George Bush.

But, alas, all things are not equal. The election came just a few days after Madrid suffered a series of bombings in which more than 200 people were killed and 1,400 injured; bombings that increasingly look as though they were planned and carried out by Al-Qaida sympathizers in retaliation for Spain's support of the Iraqi war.

Since the pro-war party was ahead in the polls just prior to the election, it is impossible not to conclude that the Spanish people caved in to an act of terror by electing a party whose leader has

called the war "a fiasco" and has promised to withdraw Spain's forces from Iraq (not that they had many there in the first place).

This is the sort of success terrorists live (and die) for. One need not have an overly active imagination to conclude that the band of international terrorists who stalk us has been encouraged to think it can achieve a similar result here.

If I were responsible for security in this country (and I think we can all be glad I'm not) I would be very, very nervous between now and the election.

Not that I think a terrorist attack on the eve of the election would harm George Bush; quite the contrary. We are not Spain. Ninety percent of us are not now against the war, as was the case there. No, a terrorist attack between now and November would virtually assure Mr. Bush's re-election.

The president may have his faults but shyness about turning a disaster to his advantage is not one of them. Every time something bad befalls us on his watch, he and his spin-meisters make it seem like a vindication of his policies. Thus the recession became a justification for his tax cut, the 9/11 attacks for his war on Iraq, and the great forest fires of recent years for cutting down old-growth forests.

He is the Toscanini of disaster and would make a symphony of an attack of us. (Even as we speak, Dick Cheney is making a banjo solo out of the attacks in Spain.)

John Kerry is in a tough spot. To beat the president he has to criticize Bush's war policies without himself sounding like an appeaser. (To advocate withdrawing from the war unilaterally is out of the question, both from a political and moral standpoint.)

So he's left with arguing that, even though we shouldn't have started this war, we now have to pursue it to victory and that he's just the man to do it.

That's a difficult sale, particularly while the other side is picking off obscure votes he's cast over a 19-year Senate career to make him look weak and indecisive.

The best he can do is point out that, far from being a centerpiece of the war on terrorism, the Iraq invasion was a ruinous distraction that has left Al Qaida not weaker but stronger.

Kerry is doing that but it's a subtle case, especially since the Spanish attack seems to link terrorism to the Iraqi war, and the American public is not famous for embracing subtlety.

In the end, it might come down to

(See BELTWAY, page six)



Faith Extra

Minister's Moment:

They return out of love

by PASTOR MARK D. WALZ
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Passion of the Christ" movie is a huge success and will most likely be one of the largest box office draws to theaters.

The public, media, and people everywhere have debated back and forth why this is such a hit. Is it because of the violence? The "R" rating? Is it because of the prerelease controversy of anti-Semitism?

Personally I believe that the movie has drawn huge crowds simply because of the story. The story of love for sinners. It is the same story read, re-read, shared in music and drama year after year.

Churches in cities, towns, creeks, hollows all across Kentucky, and across the United States tell the same message every Easter season. Mel Gibson's movie has given the flogging,

humiliation, hitting, mocking, the death of Christ and the Resurrection an incredible avenue to tell the story to millions. This movie had given all of us an opportunity to hear the story preached week after week, to be a silent sacrificial lamb.

This past week I had an opportunity to attend such an event at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville. The church did a tremendous job of portraying the same story shared on the screen, except in a less graphic manner. This same story was told with music, flying angels and ascending Christ. Busloads of people came from Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky. My friend that invited me told me that 80,000 people watched it the previous year, and every performance was sold out for this year.

Why would people drive great

distances to see a play that the ending has been told over and over again? Why would people sit for over two hours to watch a man betrayed, beaten, mocked, denied, flogged, crucified and rise again? Why?

Because of the love for the Messiah, the Christ that did all

this for each one of us. It is a story that we love to hear, to listen to over and over, to watch but to know that all was done because of love. Love for Jesus, that is why people have seen this movie, these plays, these reenactments. They do it out of love for the one that first loved us.

Artist

organizations.

The Louisville Courier-Journal will be publishing a map, available online as well, of all of the horses and their locales throughout the city.

Sheppard got her horse, Assault, after submitting design ideas.

"I thought it was cool that my design got accepted, but now it's all about the work," Sheppard said.

One of her designs, utilizing a pattern of puzzle pieces, was grabbed up by a nonprofit group that lobbies for families with autistic children. The Families for Effective Autism Treatment liked Sheppard's puzzle design, which fit their symbol which utilizes puzzle pieces to demonstrate the difficulty of seeing the world through the perspective of an autistic individual. Assault is also the perfect horse for the cause which sees early childhood vaccinations as being linked to autism and thus an assault on the infant.

Vanessa Sheppard is now a graduate student at the University of Louisville, where she received her undergraduate degree last year in psychology and sociology. The demands of graduate school mean that she must work on the horse at odd hours and this

was very true of Sunday.

"We work open hours," Sheppard said. "You can work as late as you want. I didn't finish Sunday's work till 5 in the morning Monday."

She is working alongside many artists but calls herself "an amateur."

"I did a lot of art at Allen Central but not at college," Sheppard said. "There are a lot of artists here and a fair amount of amateurs. We are all working in an empty, former, meatpacking factory on Mellwood. The age range is all over the place, from 18 to 70."

Sheppard's mother is Anna Sheppard, who teaches kindergarten at May Valley Elementary. Naturally, she was very excited for her daughter.

"As a parent I am elated that she was chosen and that this horse will be auctioned for charity," the proud mother said. "It will always be somewhere."

Teacher

Continued from p1

stands, would allow Knott County school officials to test for the existence of any drug, including non-narcotics, and do so with no cause for suspicion, as is the case in most counties.

Fields sees the policy as being so open that it invades basic rights of privacy. It also gives all discretion over the testing and results to one person — Knott superintendent Harold Combs.

Fields pointed out all of these problems with the policy when saying, "There's no rationale for adopting the policy, no procedures in place to protect the staff's right to privacy and it isn't clear that they are entitled to conduct the testing ... The crux of our claim is that it doesn't fit in to the constitutional limits and requirements."

Crager continues to work as a teacher in Knott County, where she is too busy to even receive calls from her attorney. Fields points out, "She's fine and she's

not looking for publicity. She just doesn't think its right."

Testing was conducted on Wednesday and Thursday. All the other teachers at Crager's school were tested, with negative results.

In light of that development board attorney Ron Combs decided to agree to the restraining order and not fight it out in federal court.

The case will now go to Robert L. Chenoweth, who will represent Knott County schools at the next hearing on the case, which will be heard in Frankfort.

The temporary restraining order will remain in effect until that hearing, but Fields points out that the case could be landmark for the state.

"This could have a big impact and it will set a precedent for how school districts do things," Fields said.

Superintendent Combs could not be reached for comment Friday.

Man given 7 years to pay \$46,000 in child support

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Floyd County man who owes nearly \$50,000 in back child support payments will spend the next seven years paying restitution, following a hearing Friday in circuit court.

Jerry Wayne Hopson, 41, was given a five-year suspended sentence for a flagrant non-support charge Friday by Judge John David Caudill.

Hopson, who owes \$46,690 in child support payments, was ordered to begin paying restitution the case next month in the amount of \$300 per month.

His lawyer, Robert Cowen,

who argued that Hopson has been making payments since his release from jail in January 2003, asked Caudill to span the restitution payments over a 15-year period, a request Caudill denied, placing Hopson under seven years supervised probation.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Wayne Taylor said he did not oppose Hopson's release, noting that the "main goal" was providing the money for the children involved in the case.

Caudill waived court costs for Hopson, saying that the court "would rather see the money go to the kids."

Group plans tour of Spain, Southern France and Northern Italy

An intergenerational community group from across the state of Kentucky, and including people from other states, will be traveling through Europe June 5-20.

Organized and led by Dr. Donald Barlow, associate professor of history at Big Sandy Community and Technical College, this group will tour Spain, Southern France and Northern Italy.

The theme of this trip will be "Following the Trail of Hannibal." They will fly into Madrid and tour the capital, visit El Escorial, the palace built by Phillip II, and the Prado museum as well as many other places of interest there.

A trip to Merida, ancient capital of the OstroGoths, is off the regular tourist path. The group will visit Seville where they will tour the Cathedral and visit a typical Flamenco show that evening.

Cadiz, site of the beginning of Columbus' journey to the "New World" in 1492, and the port of origin for the attack of the Spanish Armada on England in 1588, was originally begun by the Carthaginians over 2,500 years ago. This is another historic site that only

customized tours such as this one take time to visit.

The tour will include a trip to Gibraltar and the Alhambra in Granada as the group drives along the southern coast of Spain by the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. There will be opportunities to enjoy the warm waters of this famous sea, or simply walk the streets of the cities and enjoy the view, the people and the food.

From Cartagena, another ancient city built by the people of Carthage, and the place where Hannibal started his invasion of Rome during the Second Punic War, this group will follow the path of his army and the legendary elephants as they marched on Rome. On the way they will visit Barcelona, Carcassone, Nimes and many other ancient places.

Roman temples and aqueducts will receive special attention as they pass through that area, then travel up the Rhone River to the approximate place where Hannibal turned east and crossed the Alps. This trail will lead to Milan, Florence and finally Rome.

The treasures of those cities need no introduction. From Michelangelo's sculpture of

David to the Vatican City, St Peter's Cathedral, and the Roman Forum, the tour will end with a virtual cultural feast, a fitting end to a fantastic journey.

If you are interested in joining this group for a high quality educational tour (you may earn college credit in history or continuing education credit) and to have some fun, please contact Dr. Barlow by phone at (606) 886-3863, or toll-free at (888) 641-4132, extension 67249, or send him an email at Donald.Barlow@kctcs.edu.

You may also inquire about this tour on the web at www.friendlyplanet.com/europe-barlow-2003.html.

The full payment is due by March 31. People of all ages are invited to join if they are in good health and have the ability to do a moderate amount of walking.

Introducing...

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Inside each issue of The Floyd County Times, you will find a coupon for a free item worth more than the price of the paper. It's our way of thanking our readers. Look for it on page A3 every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday.

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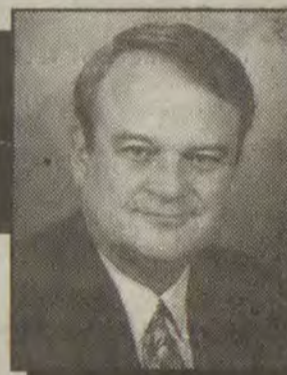
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Regional Obituaries

Floyd County

Annie Mae Branham, 88, of Seaford, Delaware, formerly of Wheelwright, died Sunday, March 21, in Salisbury, Maryland. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 27, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Ellis Castle, 69, of Auxier, died Saturday, March 20, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, at Prestonsburg, following an extended illness. He is survived by his wife, Jolene (Gibson) Castle. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 23, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Verna Mae Conn, 82, of Dana, died Friday, March 19, in the Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, March 21, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Ima Jean Hall, 70, of Prestonsburg, formerly of Dorton, died Friday, March 19, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Hall and Jones Funeral Home.

Raymond Hall, 47, of Lackey, died Friday, March 19, at Pippa Passes. He is survived by his wife, Brenda Lee Hall. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, March 24, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Clifford Hall, 74, of Minnie, died Tuesday, March 23, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Friday, March 26, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Lucy Lucas Hamilton, 88, of McDowell, formerly of Ligon, died Monday, March 22, at the

McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 25, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Russell Harman, 92, died Thursday, March 18. He is survived by his wife, Geneva Clark Harman of Sarasota, Florida. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Toale Brothers Funeral Home in Sarasota, Florida, and the Herald-Stewart Funeral Home in Mt. Sterling. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, March 23, under the direction of Herald-Stewart Funeral Home, in Mount Sterling.

Fred Johnson, 84, of Melvin, died Tuesday, March 23, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Friday, March 26, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Ethel M. Johnson, 69, of Bevinville, died Wednesday, March 24, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital emergency room. She is survived by her husband, Jay Johnson. Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, March 28, at 11 a.m., at the United Christian Church of God at Hi Hat. Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Ralph Justice, 64, of Harold, died Friday, March 19, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Eva Justice. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, March 23, under the direction of Justice Funeral Home.

Joseph "Joe" William Mills, 80, of Dale, Indiana, formerly of Prestonsburg, died Friday, March 19, at Northwood Good Samaritan Center, in Jasper, Indiana. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, March 23,

under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Jimmie Osborne, 62, of Willard, Ohio, formerly of Dema, died Friday, March 19, at the Medical Central Health Systems in Mansfield, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Jeanetta Slone Osborne. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 25, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Harry Alan Ranier, 45, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, March 21, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 25, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Millard Setser, 84, of Prestonsburg, died Monday, March 22, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, March 24, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Betty Jo Sexton, 74, of Lackey, died Friday, March 19, 2004, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin. She is survived by her husband, Dennis Sexton. Funeral services were conducted Monday, March 22, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Margie G. Shepherd, 68, of Hueysville, died Monday, March 22, at the home of her son, Randy and Jody Anglin in Kendallville, Indiana. She is survived by her husband, Mitchell Shepherd. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 25, under the direction of Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville.

Ronnie Bill Sword, 57, of Betsy Layne, died Monday, March 22, at the Pikeville Methodist Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Adkins Sword. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, March 24, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Johnson County
Keith Conley, 80, a Staffordsville native, died Wednesday, March 10, at the Veterans Medical Center in Huntington, West Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Lula Conley. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 13, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Eddie Cornett, 76, died Sunday, March 13, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Ora Mae Boggs Cornett. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, March 16, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Elwanda Holland, 77, a Johnson County native, died Sunday, March 14, at Riverside Methodist Hospital. Services were conducted Wednesday, March 17, under the direction of Bennett Brown Rodman Funeral Home.

Lawrence County

Timmy Ray Adkins, 44, of Brushy, a native of Louisa, died Wednesday, March 17, at Three Rivers Medical Center, in Louisa. He is survived by his wife, Doris Adkins. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 20, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Bessie Wright Blessner, 90, of Mt. Vernon, died Thursday, March 18, at the Rockcastle Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Monday, March 22, under the direction of Dowell and Martin Funeral Home.

Stanley Wright, 81, of Louisa, died Monday, March 15, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Gladys Wright. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 18, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Magoffin County

James Fred Rice, 60, a Magoffin County native, died Friday, March 12, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Dianna L. Rice. Funeral services were conducted Monday, March 15, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Martin County

Delores Richardson, 65, of Oliver Hill, a Martin County native, died Saturday, March 20, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Monday, March 22, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Pike County

Rev. Everett Allen Hisle, 66, of London, died Thursday, March 18. He is survived by his wife, Florence Fowler Hisle. Graveside services were conducted Tuesday, March 23, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Sola Justice, 72, of Pikeville, died Saturday, March 20, at Pikeville Health Care Center. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Deborah Lynn Martin, 50, of Varney, died Saturday, March 20, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Myrtle Alice Hopson May, 74, of Wolfpit, died Saturday, March 20, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Monday, March 22, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Anna Grace Blackburn White, 82, of Pikeville, formerly of Williamson, West Virginia, died Monday, March 15, at Riverview Health Care Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 20, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

History

Continued from 2

of unexpectedly fierce fighting. Japan launched its first spy satellites to monitor communist neighbor North Korea's missile development and suspected nuclear weapons programs.

Today's Birthdays:

Former White House national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski is 76. Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski is 71. Country musician Charlie McCoy is 63. Movie director Mike Newell is 62. Actress Conchata Ferrell is 61. Actor Ken Howard is 60. Actress Dianne Wiest is 56. Rhythm and blues musician Milan Williams (The Commodores) is 56. Country singer Reba McEntire is 49. Actress Tracey Needham is 37. Actor Max Perlich is 36. Rapper Salt (Salt-N-Pepa) is 35. Actor Vince Vaughn is 34. Rapper Mr. Cheeks (Lost Boyz) is 33. Actor Ken L. is 31. Actress Julia Stiles is 23.

Thought for Today:

"If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people." — Virginia Woolf (1882-1941).

Davidson

Continued from 4

will have a career in something other than the sport they play.

This is certainly not to discount the fact that sports teaches some valuable character traits that will be useful later on. They learn discipline, teamwork, persistence and many other valuable lessons that will be of value when they enter the world of work.

These character traits will be more useful however, when combined with an outstanding academic record. As I've said many times, the key is balance. Young people should enjoy sports and play them, but they should not bet the farm on having a career in sports because the odds are about 100,000-to-1 that it won't happen.

The real question then becomes, who is going to influence them? In many cases it's those parents who are trying to relive their own lives through their children and unfortunately it's the

children who are left holding the bag.

Whether it's your life or someone else that you can influence, here is another important aspect of the principle, "We become proficient at what we practice." It is really a two-edged sword. It not only works and has a tremendous influence over our lives as it relates to developing a talent or skill, but it also applies to our life values, as well. For example, if we begin to practice lying, we will get good at lying. If we practice cheating, stealing, falsifying and forging, we will get good at these, too.

This is a very simple yet powerful principle. Hope you will use it wisely to achieve greater success.

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

Beltway

Continued from 4

something as simple as not wanting to change horses in the middle of a stream, not even a loco horse.

The sad reality is that Iraq is an intractable mess and there is no easy way out, no matter who is president.

Donald Kaul recently retired as Washington columnist for the "Des Moines Register." He has covered the foolishness in our nation's capital for 29 years, winning a number of modestly covered awards along the way. Email donald.kaul2@verizon.net.

Obituaries

Edd Prater

Edd Prater, 77, of Prestonsburg, passed away, Thursday, March 25, 2004, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center, at Prestonsburg, following an extended illness.

He was born August 30, 1926, at Prestonsburg, the son of the late William B. and Ocie (Bayes) Prater. He was a coal miner, having worked for the Jack Carter Coal Company.

He is survived by his wife, Josephine Coleman Prater.

Other survivors include two sons: Bob Prater and Bill Prater, both of Prestonsburg and two daughters: Carole Keller and

Maggie Bigelow, both of Huntington, Indiana; 10 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by seven brothers and two sisters.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, March 28, at 11 a.m., at the Burke Funeral Home Chapel, at Prestonsburg, with Rev. Shawn Blair officiating.

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

Visitation is at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

Walker Hamilton

Walker Hamilton, 81, of McDowell, died Thursday, March 25, 2004, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital emergency room.

Born January 27, 1923, at Teaberry, he was the son of the late Robert Lee and Betty Hall Hamilton. He was a U.S. Marine and World War II veteran, a lifetime member of the Garrett D.A.V. Chapter 128, a member of the Old Beaver Regular Baptist Church, at Minnie, and a Kentucky Colonel.

He is survived by his wife, Gorment Jones Hamilton.

Other survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law: Clyde and Linda Hamilton of Jeffersonville, James R. and Marlene Hamilton of Ypsilanti, Michigan and Mark Dwayne and Sandy Hamilton of Berea; two daughters and sons-in-law: Patty S. and Stephen Qvick of Midway, Ohio and Ardenna and Andy Boyd of McDowell; two brothers: Charles Hamilton and Dempsey Hamilton, both of Ashtabula, Ohio; a step-brother, Hershel Blevins of Ashtabula, Ohio; 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Robert Lee Hamilton.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, March 28, at 1 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Old Regular Baptist ministers officiating. Garrett D.A.V. Chapter 128, will officiate with military services.

Burial will be in the Lucy Hall Cemetery, at McDowell, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation will be at the funeral home and nightly services were held at 6 p.m.

Active pallbearers: Grand-sons. Honorary pallbearers: Rudolph Jones. (Paid obituary)

Evelyn Osborne Horn

Evelyn Osborne Horn, 85, of Utica, died Friday, March 26, 2004, at the Ohio Eastern Star Home, Mt. Vernon.

Born March 24, 1919, in Eastern Kentucky, she was the daughter of the late Oakley Osborne and Carrie J. Allen Osborne. She taught first grade for 30 years, and retired from North Fork Schools. She was a graduate of Pikeville College and attended Cumberland College.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Morton Horn Sr., in 1982.

Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law: Robert and Cheryl Horn and John and Julie Horn Jr., all of Utica; daughters and son-in-law: Jennifer Taylor of Newark, Marsha and Craig Cotnam of Howard; two sisters: Eileen Conley of Laurenceburg and Marjorie Watson of Hueysville; brother and sisters-in-law: Bill and Anne Osborne of Jacksonsville, Florida, Aileen Osborne of Hueysville; grandchildren: Brent Home, Caitlyn and Courtney Horn, Simon and John Cotnam, John Christopher and Nicholas Horn, Ashley McInturff, Wesley Brown and Megan Somers, Zachery and Allison Taylor; great-grandchildren: Morgan, Olivia and Grant Somers, and Riley McInturff.

She was preceded in death by two brothers: Homer and Jack Osborne.

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday, March 30, at 11 a.m., at Utica Presbyterian Church, 9 S. Main St.

Burial will be in the Newark Memorial Gardens, with Rev. Michael Ray Rector officiating.

Visitation is Monday, March 29, from 7-9 p.m., at the funeral home.

Law-Baker Funeral Home of Utica, Ohio, is in charge of arrangements. (Paid obituary)

IN MEMORY

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Love,
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of

Adam Wright

September 12, 1977-March 26, 2003

It seems so unfair we lost you so soon.

And not a day goes by we're not reminded
of you!

Your smile, your words are forever etched
in our mind

Words for our pain, so hard to describe.

Red Roses were and are still so special
and dear,

Especially after you once told me if ever

I smelled a Red Rose

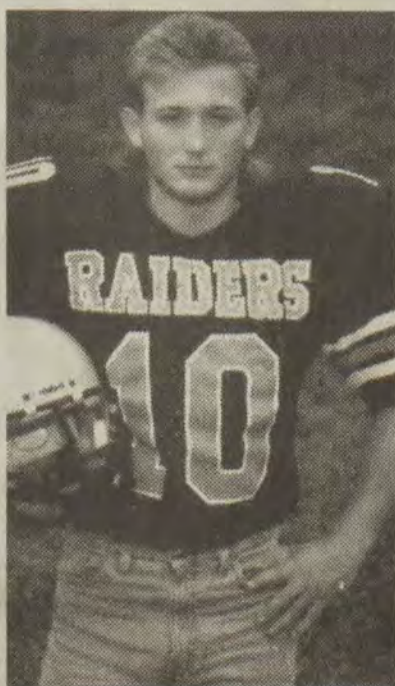
You'd be near.

That precious aroma lingers to this day,

An entire year since you went away.

Sadly missed by

Mom, Dad, Justin, and family





(A few members of Highlands Medical Staff)

1. Rodney Handshoe, M.D. - Cardiologist
2. Nolan Sakow, M.D. - Radiologist
3. Michael McDonald, M.D. - Urologist
4. Mohamad H. Alnahhas, M.D., - Pediatrics
5. Anthony Stumbo, M.D., - Internal Medicine
6. David Jenkinson, M.D. - Orthopaedics
7. William Dunlop, M.D. - General Surgery
8. Mazen Jaafar, M.D. - Pediatrics

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- Bears fall • B2
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Williams, Ray named All-American Scholar Athletes

TIMES STAFF REPORT

JACKSON, Tenn. — Over 95 women's basketball players from across the country have been named Daktronics-



Ryan



Williams

NAA Women's Basketball All-American Scholar-Athletes. Student-athletes named to the list must have achieved junior status and a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Locally, Caitlyn Ryan and Selena Williams of Pikeville College were named All-American Scholar Athletes. Both Lady Bears played for head coach Bill Watson. Williams is a junior who majors in Human Services. She is a graduate of Johnson Central High School, where she played

for head coach Phillip Wireman.

Ryan is a senior who hails from Walton.

Busch pushes toward four Bristol wins

by MIKE HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Kurt Busch loves Bristol Motor Speedway.

And why not? He's won two straight NASCAR Nextel Cup races and three of the last four on the oval — nearly half of his career total of eight victories.

"It's a fun place to race and you have to come here with a different mindset, more so than any other racetrack," Busch said. "It's just a matter of trying to keep the fenders and the doors on."

A victory on Sunday in the Food City 500 would put Busch in select company. Only three other drivers have won as many as three in a row

on the treacherous Bristol half-mile.

Three-time Cup champion Darrell Waltrip won seven straight from 1981-84, Cale Yarborough, another three-time series champ, took four in a row in 1976-77 and Fred Lorenzen won three straight in 1963-64.

(See WINS, page two)



An overflow crowd of over 100,000 strong will again be present for the running of the 2004 Food City 500.

PLAYING THE FIELD



The Prestonsburg High baseball team, in preparation for the upcoming season, got in a workout Thursday evening at Archer Park.

photo by Jamie Howell

Spring sports to take flight

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

High school baseball, softball and track and field programs around the state will get their new seasons underway this week. The girls' state basketball tournament wrapped up yesterday in Bowling Green and the basketballs are now put away in many high schools.

Here's a look at some of spring sports happenings in the 15th Region.

■ Morehead State University graduate Shawn Hall has returned home to Johnson County and Johnson Central High School where he is the new baseball coach. Hall helped Johnson Central to a regional baseball championship in 1996 as the team's star pitcher.

He replaces his former coach, Mike Collins. Hall has said in the preseason that he could use up to eight pitchers. His older brother, Mike, guides the Sheldon Clark High baseball team.

■ Debbie McCool is in the top coaching slot of the Johnson Central High softball program. McCool also coaches the Johnson

(See FLIGHT, page five)



photo by Jamie Howell

Not to be outdone, the Prestonsburg High softball team was also out and practicing Thursday.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

KABC players of the year get state invite

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BOWLING GREEN — The Kentucky Association of Basketball Coaches honored its players and coaches of the year this past week during the Girls' Sweet Sixteen state basketball tournament. All 16 players of the year automatically receive an invitation to tryout for the Kentucky All-Stars.

Leslie County senior Heather Benton was named the 14th Region Player of the Year. Perry County Central head coach Randy Napier, who won a state championship at M.C. Napier in the 1990s, received the coach of the year nod in the 14th Region.

Betsy Layne senior Whitney Lykens and Pike County Central head coach Tammy Tussey were the honorees in the 15th Region.

East Carter star Kim Stapleton took the top player honor in the 16th Region. Russell mentor Merle Kidd received the 16th Region Coach of the Year award.

Longtime Shelby Valley girls' bas-

(See KABC, page two)

Mayer, Clark up to 26th in doubles

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

LOUISVILLE — The University of Louisville men's tennis doubles team of Matt Mayer and Floyd County native Jeremy Clark has moved up to 26th in the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Association Rankings. The team moved up to 26th from 29th.

"Matt Mayer and Jeremy Clark were a doubles experiment that worked and are now one of the top 30 doubles teams in the nation," longtime Louisville tennis coach Rex Ecarma said, following the team's move up to 29th in a previous poll. "They have only played as a doubles team for half of a semester and have already accomplished more than some teams who have played four years. I am extremely proud of them."

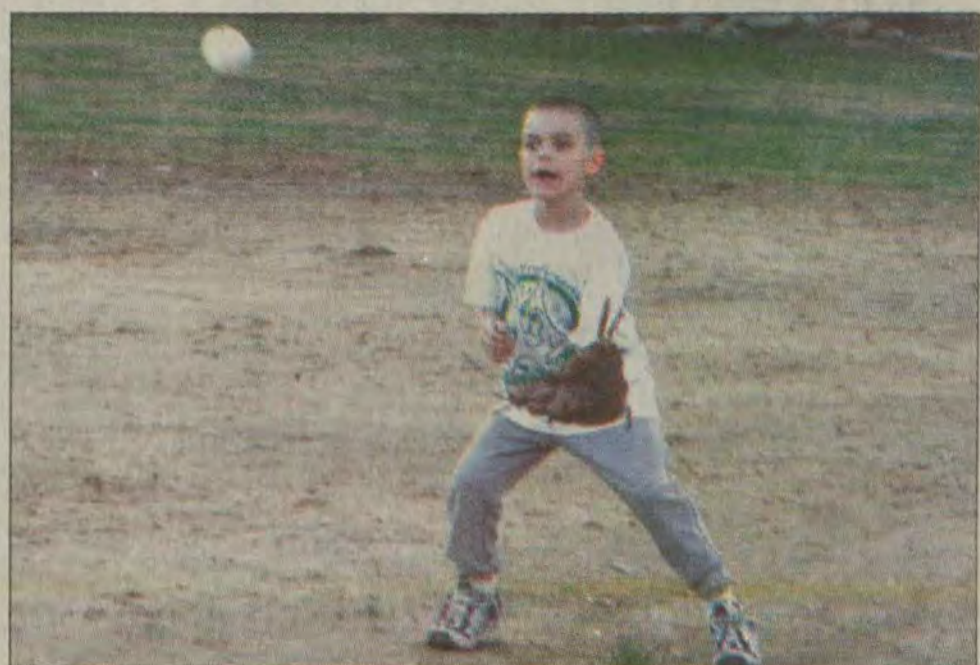
Louisville (12-7) was back on the courts yesterday, playing host to

(See DOUBLE, page two)



PLAY BALL

photos by Jamie Howell
Prestonsburg Little Leaguers were out practicing Thursday as the start of the upcoming season nears with the month of April a few days away.



Baffert has favorite in second running of \$500,000 race

by PETE HERRERA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUNLAND PARK, N.M. — Bluegrass is foreign turf around here. Sand and sagebrush is what greets the eye.

Mint juleps? Forget it. This is tequila and beer country.

But it's also horse country and for 3-year-olds that stand little chance of being in Kentucky the first Saturday in May, the last Sunday in March could be their big day.

"Our Kentucky Derby is Sunday," says California trainer Doug O'Neill, who will saddle two of the horses in Sunday's \$500,000 WinStar Derby at

Sunland Park.

The WinStar was run for the first time last year and thus hasn't yet achieved graded status. But Sunland's management is confident that with a half-million-dollar purse and trainers like Bob Baffert willing to run horses in it, the race eventually will become part of the Kentucky Derby prep series.

"Once we get graded, it will be on the road to the derby because graded stakes earnings is what gets you in," said Sunland Park general manager Harold Payne.

The idea for the WinStar Derby and WinStar Oaks, a race for 3-year-old fillies that will be run Saturday, started with

Sunland Park owner Stan Fulton.

"He wanted Sunland to be a first class track, to be noticed nationally," said Payne. "He asked me how we could draw that kind of attention. I told him, 'that's easy, all you've got to do is put up a lot of money.'"

For now, the WinStar is a race for second-tier 3-year-olds like Baffert's Consecrate, the likely favorite on Sunday.

The son of 1997 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Silver Charm has won only one of eight races, but is coming off a third place finish behind Kentucky Derby prospect Imperialism in the Grade 2 San Vicente Stakes at Santa Anita last month.

Baffert also has entered Teton Forest, a lightly raced colt who's had only three races.

Hosco, second in the San Vicente, also is in the WinStar. One of the two horses O'Neill will saddle on Sunday, Hosco has three wins and a second from four starts, including a win in the Grade 3 San Miguel Stakes at Santa Anita in January.

O'Neill won the inaugural WinStar last year with Excessivepleasure, who went on to win the Iowa and Indiana derbies.

The WinStar Oaks, a \$261,500 race for 3-year-old fillies that will be run Saturday, also provided the New Mexico track with some national publicity when last year's winner, Island Fashion, turned out to be one of the top fillies in the nation.

Island Fashion broke her maiden in the WinStar Oaks, then won Grade 1 stakes races in California and New York. Earlier this month, she ran second to Southern Image in the Santa Anita Handicap.

The WinStar Oaks and Derby have attracted some of the country's top jockeys to Sunland this weekend. Pat Day will ride Victory Light in the derby for

(See BAFFERT, page three)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Former Mr. Football Michael Bush breaks foot in practice

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Former Mr. Football Michael Bush, a multi-purpose threat on offense last season at the University of Louisville, broke a bone in his right foot during practice Thursday.

Bush, who will be a sophomore next season, broke the fifth metatarsal in the foot during a defensive drill on the first day of the Cardinals' spring practice, said Rocco Gasparro, an athletics department spokesman.

Gasparro said Bush, Kentucky's Mr. Football in

2002, was participating in a defensive drill when he stepped awkwardly.

"He stepped on it wrong," Gasparro said.



Bush

Bush should miss about four to six weeks with the injury, meaning he'll sit out the rest of spring practice, Gasparro said.

Bush, who went to Louisville Male High School, played mostly running back last season, saw time as a wideout and even

took a few snaps at quarterback for the Cardinals. He rushed for 531 yards on 81 carries and scored six rushing touchdowns last season.

KABC

ketball coach Bobby Spears was recognized as the Court of Honor coach for the 15th and 16th regions.

Donnie Gray was the Coaches' Court of Honor pick from the 13th and 14th regions.

The finals of the girls' state basketball tournament were scheduled for last night.

Players and coaches of the year

Selected by the Kentucky Association of Basketball Coaches

Wins

"Those are big names and I'm real honored to be in that group," Busch said. "There are a lot of names that have driven at Bristol and to win here is one thing, but to be able to win repeatedly requires a full team effort."

"It takes that knowledge on what to do on pit road or what to do inside the race car. Maybe we can do it again and maybe we can't, but it's just a matter of having everything go your way and having a little Lady Luck on your side."

Busch says Bristol is a place where everything happens fast, with lap speeds about 125 mph.

"You have to know what your car is doing at the beginning of a run and at the end of a run and what adjustments to make," Busch said. "But I think the biggest thing is to not get in a hurry."

Elliott Sadler has his only NASCAR win at Bristol. He loves the track, too.

"Don't get me wrong, I have had my share of bad luck on that cereal bowl of a racetrack," Sadler said, "but I have also had

Region Player, school Coach, school

1st - Stephanie Fields, Marshall Co. Allison Graham, Tilghman

2nd - Corky Stiger, Christian Co. Jeff Haile, Henderson Co.

3rd - Jade Perry, Muhlenberg North. Charlie Broughton, Daviess Co.

4th - Patricia Barlow, Barren Co. Lex Lindsey, Franklin-Simpson

5th - Amanda Miller, Central Hardin. Terry Buckles, Central Hardin

6th - Ashley Lewallen,

Butler. David Jackson, Presentation

7th - Crystal Kelly, Sacred Heart. Donna Moir, Sacred Heart

8th - Ashley Trosper, South Oldham. Chris Stallings, Bullitt East

9th - Tangie Sellers, Boone Co. Sheryl Darpel, Notre Dame

10th - Megan Gray, Harrison Co. John High, Montgomery Co.

11th - Olivia Terry, Madison Central. Greg Todd, Lexington Catholic

12th - Courtney Watts, Mercer Co. Connie Snyder, South Laurel

13th - Sarah Elliott, Jackson Co. Crysti Noble, Rockcastle Co.

14th Heather Benton, Leslie Co. Randy Napier, Perry Co. Central

15th Whitney Lykins, Betsy Layne. Tammy Tussey, Pike Co. Central

16th Kim Stapleton, East Carter. Merle Kidwell, Russell

Coaches' Court of Honor: 1st and 2nd regions - Doug Harris, West Hopkins; 3rd/4th - Bob Steenbergen, Barren Co.; 5th/6th - Bill Newton, Washington Co.; 7th/8th - Donna Bender Moir, Sacred Heart; 9th/10th - Dennis Soard, Covington Holmes; 11th/12th - Kenny Hurt, Garrard Co.; 13th/14th - Donnie Gray, Clay Co.; 15th/16th - Bobby Spears, Shelby Valley

Double

William & Mary. Results were unavailable at press time.

Look for a feature story on Jeremy Clark in Wednesday's edition.

some good times here. This is one of the most fun races for the fans."

Busch, who drives a Ford for Roush Racing, is off to a good start in 2004. He has three top 10 finishes in five starts, including a season-best sixth last Sunday in Darlington.

He is fourth in the points, trailing teammate Matt Kenseth, the defending series champion and current leader, by only 56 points.

Goodyear is bringing softer tires to most of the tracks this year at the request of NASCAR, which is hoping to eliminate two-tire and no-tire stops and fuel economy strategies.

Busch says crew chief Jimmy Fennig's decisions have played a big part in the quick start.

"Jimmy Fennig steps up each week and tells us what we're going to do with our set-up," Busch said. "It makes it a little bit tougher to drive, but I've got to adjust to it."

The new tires could make winning Sunday even more difficult.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Free throws at :02.6 beat Bears in NAIA tourney

TIMES STAFF REPORT

KANSAS CITY — Forward Dustin Endsley came up with a steal and two free throws in the final 10 seconds Thursday night to power Lewis-Clark State (Id.) College past Pikeville 67-65.

Endsley, a 6-4 senior from Billings, Mont., finished the game with right points and three rebounds, but his steal proved to be the biggest play in a tightly-contested game.

Lewis-Clark (25-5) tied the game with 36 seconds remaining on a three-point shot by Joey Ray, a sharp-shooting guard from Heltonville, Ind. Ray came off a screen and hit the shot from the left wing despite tremendous heat from B.J. Townsend, who fought through a screen to get a hand in his face.

The triple gave Ray a game-high 18 points and made him 3-of-8 from the arc.

Pikeville (26-8) had an opportunity to get the last shot and ran the clock down to 10 seconds before senior guard Kevin Gaines began to make his move. But when he lost the handle, Endsley

was in the right place to pick it up and streaked toward the basket where he drew the foul and went to the line.

After Endsley made both tosses, Gaines got off a desperation attempt from 50 feet that fell short and sent the Warriors on to the second round.



Gaines



McCoy

"I probably should have called a timeout there to set up a play," said Pikeville's Randy McCoy, who finished his fifth season 111-61 and with his third national-tournament appearance in four seasons. "We did a poor job of handling the basketball there and turned it over, and then it just got away from us."

Lewis-Clark had its biggest lead of the game early, using a 9-2 run to go up 11-4 when Ray made a field goal with 14:47 left in the first half. But the Bears battled back and used a 6-0 run to take a 20-18 lead on a basket by sophomore Martin Gerlero with 6:59 showing.

The teams traded the lead until Pikeville scored the final six of the half to lead 30-25.

Lewis-Clark tied the game at 39 with 14:25 left when junior James Idoko scored inside, but

Pikeville maintained the lead until Idoko scored inside with 4:59 left to give the Warriors a 60-59 lead.

Pikeville got back on top and led by three twice, including 65-62 after two free throws by Teon Knox with 1:09 left.

But the Warriors posted the final five points of the game for the win.

Pikeville made 38.1 percent (24-of-63) from the floor and was 5-of-20 (25 percent) from the arc. The Bears were a solid 12-of-15 (80 percent) from the line.

Lewis-Clark hit 26-of-66 (39.4 percent) from the floor and was 47.1 percent from the arc on 8-of-17 shooting. They were 7-of-13 (53.8 percent) from the line.

Junior guard Jarell Jones led Pikeville with 17 thanks to 4-of-7 shooting from the arc. He also had four rebounds, three assists and two steals in the game. Daniel Price, another junior guard, joined him in double figures with 12.

Knox, a 6-8 senior from Baltimore, wrapped up his career with nine points and a team-best 14 rebounds.

Lewis-Clark had three players in double figures, led by Ray's 18. Danny Allen and Martin Brothers followed with 11. Brothers grabbed 15 rebounds.

Lewis-Clark edged the Bears on the glass 44-42, but had 18 off the offensive end. To Pikeville's credit, it hit the offensive glass as well, pulling down 15.



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Georgetown 88, McKendree 56

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Marshall Williams scored 24 points to lead Georgetown of Kentucky to an 88-56 win over McKendree in the NAIA Division I tournament Thursday.

Georgetown started the game with a 20-7 run and never

looked back, leading by 25 at the half and pushing the lead to 30 midway through the second half.

Brian Silverhorn had 20 points for Georgetown.

Pete Krumsieg led McKendree (24-10) with 17 points. Jeff Suelman and Shawn Byrne added 10 points each.

Kansas City, here we are

by RICK BENTLEY
TIMES COLUMNIST

KANSAS CITY — Notes
slathered in barbecue sauce.

■ Last Sunday when we left Pikeville with sleet falling, we thought it'd be a good idea to drive as fast toward Kansas City as we could before the Cats played and settle in for the night and the game.

See, Bill Watson and I left for the NAIA Div. I men's basketball tournament, thinking we'd make it about halfway before we put down steaks.

But as it turned out, the Cats didn't play along very well. Turned out, UAB was a little better than most people expected and it'll be them in St. Louis tonight while Big Blue Nation sits home and licks its wounds.

In the end, this Kentucky team

turned out to be exactly what most of us thought it would be: Good enough, but by our standards, it was a Big Blue Letdown.

Sunday was a rare instance of Tubby Smith's team being outplayed, out-hustled and outworked.

Doesn't happen often, but as it turned out, Sunday was one of those rare days.

How far will the Blazer trail last? I still think they're a long-shot for the Final Four, but of all the quote-

unquote Cinderella's remaining, I like them better than the rest. And, as it turned out, the St. Louis region is the perfect one for a surprise emergence.

■ Those who follow the University of Louisville closely will recognize a couple of names playing in this week's NAIA tournament.

Fourth-seeded Robert Morris from outside of Chicago has juniors Brandon Bender and

Carlos Hurt, both of whom were onetime Cardinals.

Both were, as the Media Guide for this week's tournament reminds us, "candidates" for the NBA out of high school. The translation: Neither were very interested in college nor were they skilled enough to go to the Association.

On Thursday, Bender had 16 points and 13 rebounds in the 102-67 win over Langston, Okla.

The Eagles have now won 26 straight games.

■ This past week was the 25th anniversary of one of the most unusual games in NBA history.

On Nov. 8, 1978, the Sixers and Nets hooked up in a game that ended with Philly winning 137-

133 in double-overtime.

In the third quarter, Bernard King was involved in an altercation that saw him pick up three technical fouls, and then his coach, Kevin Loughery, got three as well.

Loughery then filed a protest on the grounds that you can only get two technical fouls in a game, and Commissioner Larry O'Brien agreed. He declared that the game should be resumed prior to a March 23 game between the schools at the point at which the mayhem ensued.

In the meantime, on Feb. 7, the teams were involved in a trade that saw the Nets send Eric Money and Al Skinner to Philadelphia for Harvey

Catchings and Ralph Sampson.

After some debate, the league ruled they'd be allowed to play for their new teams in the game.

And, New Jersey was forced to activate an announcer by the name of Phil Jackson in the interim, and he played too.

In the end, Philly won 123-117 in a game that saw three players see action for both teams, six officials work and call 11 technical fouls and an announcer play the final 14 minutes.

For the record, Sampson had eight points for Philly and none for Jersey; Catchings scored all eight of his before leaving Philly and Money had 23 for Jersey and eight for Philly.

■ This is also the 25th anniversary of the NCAA Finals credited with the rebirth of the NBA. In 1979, Larry Bird led an improbable Indiana State team against Magic Johnson and Michigan State.

The Spartans won the title and later that summer, the dynamic duo was all that was needed to send the Lakers/Celtics rivalry over the edge. The rivalry carried the NBA through the next decade and into the Michael Jordan era.

■ Revised Final Four prediction (As of this past Thursday): Georgia Tech, Oklahoma State, Duke and UConn.

Backups: UAB, St. Joe's, Texas and Syracuse.



Bentley

Yankees, Devil Rays arrive in Japan

by RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO — Looking tired and sluggish following a 19-hour trip, the New York Yankees were giving a low-key greeting as they arrived in Japan for their season-opening series against Tampa Bay.

Following Thursday's exhibition game in Florida, the Yankees' charter flew to Chicago to refuel and then made the trans-Pacific journey, the team's first trip outside North America in 49 years.

"It feels great. It's an experience I think we're all looking forward to," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "We're all curious."

The airport was closed to all but officials and media when the Yankees arrived at around 1 a.m. Saturday (11 a.m. Friday EST).

When the team's five buses pulled up to the Yankees' downtown hotel about an hour later, about 50 fans and media were on hand to greet the players and officials.

Players wondered how long it would take them to get over the jet lag.

"I came here in '96 with major league baseball and felt OK there," Alex Rodriguez said. "It's going to take a day or two."

Tampa Bay's charter flight arrived an hour later.

Even before the two-game series, Devil Rays pitcher Paul Abbott knew the score, at least as far as popularity in Japan.

"Kind of rock star-ish — I'm

sure the Yankees will be just amazing to them," he said.

After playing separate spring training games in Florida on Thursday afternoon, the Yankees and Devil Rays began the trip.

The only other time major league baseball played regular-season games in Japan was in 2000, when the New York Mets and Chicago Cubs split a pair to start the season. The Mets went on to win the NL pennant.

Is that a sign that the Devil Rays could make it to the World Series this season after six straight last-place finishes in the AL East?

"There isn't enough sake in Japan for that," manager Lou Piniella said. "Not right now. But we are better. And we are going to be competitive."

New York has won six AL pennants and four World Series in the last eight seasons, and is baseball's biggest spender. The Devil Rays will have one of the two lowest payrolls this season.

But both teams do have one thing in common — they train in the Tampa area. That's where New York owner George Steinbrenner will remain, deciding not to join his team on the trip to a ballpark 7,250 miles away.

"The trip would be fine without the 17-hour plane flight. That's the part of it that's going to be tough on everybody," said New York's Kevin Brown, slated to pitch the second game Wednesday. "I think it's been about 20 years since I've had to face a flight like that."

Maybe Torre and Yankees general partner Steve Swindal

were to spend the time working on a contract extension for the manager. They've had informal discussions throughout spring training.

Both teams figured to be surrounded by tight security in Japan. Baseball discussed the trip with the FBI, the State Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The national police in Japan are part of the plan, along with employees of the Tokyo Dome, according to Kevin Hallinan, senior vice president for security in the commissioner's office.

Last year, baseball canceled a planned series in Japan between Oakland and Seattle because of the war in Iraq. Several players were uneasy about leaving the United States.

"The world situation is changing every day, and we want to make sure we have everybody on the same page," Hallinan said.

After news conferences and workouts Saturday, the teams have two days of exhibition games. The Yankees play the Yomiuri Giants, the former team of New York left fielder Hideki Matsui, on Sunday night after the Devil Rays meet the Hanshin Tigers.

They switch opponents the following day, then start the season against each other in a caffeine special — the game begins at 5:07 a.m. back on the U.S. East Coast.

"It's really contrary to what your body is telling you," Torre said. "It's a 14-hour time change. Basically, the flight over is really where the most problems can

arrive."

Even though New York is the visiting team in both games, the Yankees received special permission from the commissioner's office to wear their famous home pinstripes. Heading to a ballpark where eel is sold at concession stands along with sushi and sake, some players were unsure what to expect.

"All I know about Japan is what I saw in 'Mr. Baseball,'" Tampa Bay center fielder Rocco Baldelli said, referring to a 1992 movie starring Tom Selleck as a major leaguer trying to revive his career in Japan.

Matsui knows a whole lot more. He was a three-time MVP of the Central League during 10 seasons with the Giants before signing with the Yankees after the 2002 season.

He'll probably get a warm reception at the Tokyo Dome before the exhibition game.

"I'm actually looking forward to playing against my former teammates," he said through a translator. "I think they are really looking forward to it, actually — especially against a major league team, and of all teams, the New York Yankees. I think they are looking to show what they have."

Warm might be an understatement.

"Just watch old Beatles' tapes," teammate Mike Mussina said. "He's the biggest sports figure in Japan. Maybe bigger than that."

AP Sports Writers Jimmy Golen in Fort Myers, Fla., and Fred Goodall in Tampa, Fla., contributed to this report.

COMMENTARY

UK short stint in NCAA becoming norm

by ED TAYLOR
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Well last year it was Marquette and this year it was UAB who eliminated the highly regarded University of Kentucky Wildcats from further competition in the 2-A tournament. I have been following the thoughts of the

Kentucky camp after the short stay and find it interesting that they are blaming the Cats defense. I have to concur with that assessment, especially in the first 15 minutes of the first half. The intensity was not there as in other games.

I also have been interested

(See STINT, page five)

Baffert

■ Continued from p2

trainer Elliott Walden, winner of the 1998 Belmont Stakes. Corey Nakatani will be aboard the Kentucky-bred Point of Flight and Javier Santiago will ride Consecrate.

Trainer Henry Dominguez, who grew up in neighboring El Paso, will saddle Speedy Falcon in the WinStar Oaks. He's among those confident the WinStar Derby's popularity will grow.

"It's a lucrative purse and five weeks before the (Kentucky) derby," he said. "This would be an ideal spot."

The mile WinStar Oaks figures to be a wide open race. Baffert's Yearly Report was the favorite, but was scratched Thursday. That leaves a field of nine that includes five fillies bred in Kentucky, two in California and one in Florida.

photo by Jamie Howell

The Prestonsburg High School softball team will see several games during the month of April. Pictured is Lady Blackcat Jerri Vance.



BOYS' BASKETBALL

Louisville Seneca's Tony Branch named coach of the year

by MALCOLM C. KNOX
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Louisville Seneca boys' basketball coach Tony Branch thought his team would be pretty good this past season, even after going 10-16 the season before. It turns out that his team was better than pretty good.

The Red Hawks won this year's Louisville Invitational Tournament, finished the season with a record of 26-6 and ranked No. 5 in The Associated Press' final poll of the season.

"There were very few times when we didn't make the right decisions," the coach said. "We

constantly question the decisions we make."

Seneca's season and Branch's decisions were good enough to help him become this season's AP boys' coach of the year. He was also voted Seventh Region coach of the year by the other coaches in the region.

Branch's award made him the second Seneca coach of the year this year. Football coach Lonnie Oldham was given the same honor at the end of the season.

"He told me, 'Now, Tony, you gotta get one,'" Branch said. "It's kind of neat that it happened."

Having seven returning seniors helps. Branch is also meticulous about losses. He can

describe what happened, from halftime scores to last-second shots, in every game they lost.

"I don't remember the victories that well," he said. "I have to know why we lost a game. I want to make sure I know the next day what we need to work on."

He also doesn't want his players to suffer a loss because he made a bad decision.

"They need a strategist who's going to put them in a position to win," he said.

A lot of his strategies worked out. But even after Branch and his team won the LIT — which

(See NAMED, page four)

BASEBALL

Reds 5, Pirates 3

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARASOTA, Fla. — Barry Larkin broke out of an 0-for-13 slump with two doubles and a homer Thursday, leading the Cincinnati Reds to a 5-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Larkin skipped a trip to Lakeland to play the Tigers on Wednesday night so he could work with hitting coach Chris Chambliss. The 39-year-old shortstop is playing what is expected to be his final season, and said recently that he didn't feel ready at the plate.

He popped out in the first, then doubled to right field and hit a solo homer to right in the fourth off reliever Willis Roberts. He doubled again in his last at-bat.

"Today was a good day," said Larkin, who is hitting .273 with two homers. "If I can take the approach I had today and apply it every day — that's the challenge there."

Oliver Perez, who has won the fourth spot in the Pirates' rotation, had his third straight poor outing. The left-hander gave up eight hits and four runs in three innings.

Perez, who was acquired in the trade for Brian Giles, has given up 12 earned runs, 17 hits and six walks in 7 1-3 innings over his last three starts.

A makeshift Reds lineup sent eight batters to the plate in the first inning for three runs, piling up four singles and a walk.

Sean Casey had three singles, and the Reds had 11 hits overall.

Reliever Todd Jones, signed to

a minor league contract before the game, pitched the eighth inning, gave up a single and struck out three batters in a brief downpour that prompted the umpires to halt the game for two minutes.

Jones, who was released a day earlier by Tampa Bay, is getting a chance to win a setup spot in the Reds' bullpen.

Notes: Ken Griffey Jr. didn't play because he felt ill. ... Reds OF Austin Kearns also was unavailable because of a stiff back. Manager Dave Miley said it was nothing serious. ... RH Cory

Lidle, chosen to start the Reds' season opener, pitched six shutout innings in a Triple-A game, giving up three hits. ... Pirates LF Jason Bay is recovering from offseason shoulder surgery more slowly than expected and is likely to open the season on the disabled list. "It's not official yet, but we're going to be hard-pressed to have him (Bay) ready for opening day," manager Lloyd McClendon said Thursday. "He continues to make progress, but it's slow." Bay has yet to play the field, going 3-for-14 as a pinch-hitter or DH.

Reds Museum and Hall of Fame coming soon

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Reds will open the new Reds Museum and Hall of Fame in September of 2004. The museum will be a year-around attraction, featuring traditional exhibits and state-of-the-art video and interactive displays showcasing the history of baseball's oldest professional team.

The museum building sits

immediately east of Great American Ball Park and is currently under construction. Exterior work will be completed in April and interior construction and exhibit installation will be phased in over the summer months.

The building, which also houses the new Reds Team Store by Majestic, includes some 15,000 square feet of exhibit space spread over two floors.

Less word play, more work is what Olympics need

by JIM LITKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

After a recent meeting with Athens Olympic organizers, the U.S. ambassador to Greece reported back to his countrymen that some optimism would be in order right about now.

"I just think," Ambassador Thomas Miller said, "it's really important to stop using words — emotional words — like 'afraid,' 'scared' or this or that" when discussing expectations for the upcoming Summer Games.

"Fine. Would 'unfinished,' 'unprepared' and 'over-

whelmed" work for you?

On Thursday, the flame that will burn in Athens during the games was lit amid ruins in the very same spot where the Olympics were born. That was 2,780 years ago. From the look of things, like too many of Greece's other Olympic venues, nobody has worked on that place in a long while, either.

Still, in what has to be considered a promising start, the torch-lighting ceremony went off without a hitch. The hosts' plan to ignite the flame by reflecting the sun's rays off a concave mirror worked to perfection when the weather

cleared, as if on cue, and the sun peered through fast-moving clouds.

The way things have been going lately, it's probably a good thing they didn't have to borrow a pack of matches. With the games just five months off, nobody seems to be sure whether Greek organizers have finally got the message — rely less on serendipity and more on hard work.

That was the theme of the brief remarks International Olympic Committee chief Jacques Rogge relayed during the torch-lighting ceremony.

"It was in Olympia that

everything began ... and today everything is going to begin again for Athens," he said.

Rogge has tried setting deadlines before. He's tried waving both carrots and sticks, and received little more than a shrug in return. After the ceremony, he told The Associated Press: "All our experts are saying now there is still enough time to finish everything for the opening ceremony."

But behind the scenes, Rogge and the rest of the IOC bosses are begging their hosts to scrap borderline projects and concentrate on the essential ones.

Exactly what this means for the most essential venue, the main Olympic Stadium, remains to be seen. The latest deadline for the roof the Greeks promised to cover the venue is April 28, and the work is far from finished. Already abandoned were plans for a roof to cover the Olympic pool. The IOC must be cringing at the thought of what gets sacrificed next.

Even before the U.S. ambassador sent back word that criticism wasn't going to help move things along any, the U.S. swim team was struggling to bite its collective lip. It's such a deep and talented squad, supplemented by the best training and technology money can buy, that few experts would have been surprised to see it deliver two dozen medals total, with an armful of golds and world records piled on top. Now, all bets are off.

"It's a disappointment, a

great disappointment," eight-time Olympic medalist Gary Hall Jr. said.

"The heat has a lot to do with physical performance. You're still going to see great swimming. At the same time, it does affect the athletes and their ability to perform."

Maybe it's not fair that the

sun will make the pool deck too hot or the water too slow, but there's no point in wasting any more energy worrying about it. The Greeks certainly won't. They've got even more worrisome preparations to finish and

(See **PLAY**, page five)

BRIEFS

Jets to get new stadium

NEW YORK — City and state officials announced a deal for a \$1.4 billion stadium on Manhattan's West Side that would be home to the New York Jets and anchor New York's bid for the 2012 Olympics.

The Jets, who now play at the Meadowlands in New Jersey, have agreed to spend \$800 million on the stadium, but the city and state would have to kick in \$600 million for a deck over the existing rail yards, where the

stadium is to be built, and a retractable roof that will allow the facility to be used for concerts and trade shows.

BASEBALL

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Kansas City Royals right-hander Miguel Asencio will have elbow ligament transplant surgery and miss the season.

Asencio had elbow surgery last June to remove a bone chip, but had some pain during spring

training. An MRI earlier this week detected a tear.

PHOENIX — The Chicago Cubs traded pitchers Juan Cruz and Steve Smyth to the Atlanta Braves for minor league left-hander Andy Pratt and infielder Richard Lewis.

The Cubs cut ties with Cruz three seasons after the right-hander made an impressive debut in Chicago, going 3-1 with a 3.22 ERA in 11 starts in 2001.

He fell to 3-11 with a 3.98 ERA the next season, pitching mainly out of the bullpen, and was 2-7 last year with a 6.05 ERA.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Larry Eustachy was introduced Thursday as Southern Mississippi coach, 10 months after his embarrassing resignation at Iowa State.

His four-year contract is worth at least \$230,000 annually with up to about \$500,000 more in incentives, Southern Miss athletic director Richard Giannini said.

Eustachy, The Associated Press' coach of the year in 2000, stepped down as the Cyclones' coach last year after photographs were published showing him at a college party holding a can of beer and kissing and being kissed by young women. — The Associated Press

throw with 1:23 to go.

The 6-foot Stapleton rebounded a Mishay Weddington miss at the other end with a minute left and the Lady Hawks didn't threaten again.

EAST CARTER 48, PIKE CENTRAL 42

East Carter (29-5)
Baldwin 5-10 2-2 12, Jackson 2-12 3-4 7, McDavid 2-6 3-8 7, Tackett 0-2 0-0 0, Stapleton 6-17 3-4 16, Kouns 1-3 2-2 4, Prichard 1-8 0-0 2. Totals 17-58 13-20 48.

Pike County Central (21-11)
P. Lowe 5-13 0-0 12, Ratliff 6-8 4-6 18, K. Lowe 0-2 0-0 0, Ward 0-0 0-0 0, Birchfield 0-0 0-0 0, Weddington 2-7 1-2 5, Thompson 0-5 0-0 0, Miller 0-0 0-0 0, Brown 3-5 1-2 7. Totals 16-40 6-10 42.

Halftime—East Carter 28, Pike County Central 19. 3-Point Goals—East Carter 1-16 (Baldwin 0-2, Jackson 0-8, Tackett 0-1, Stapleton 1-5), Pike County Central 4-16 (P. Lowe 2-9, Ratliff 2-3, K. Lowe 0-1, Weddington 0-1, Thompson 0-2). Fouled out—none. Rebounds—East Carter 34 (McDavid, Stapleton 8), Pike County Central 35 (Ratliff 12). Assists—East Carter 8 (Stapleton 4), Pike County Central 4 (Ratliff 2). Total fouls—East Carter 15, Pike County Central 18. A—4,113.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

East Carter 48, Pike County Central 42

by CHRIS DUNCAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOWLING GREEN — Kim Stapleton had 16 points, eight rebounds and four assists as East Carter staved off a late rally to beat Pike County Central 48-42 Thursday in the first round of the Kentucky High School Athletics Association Girls Sweet 16 at Diddle Arena.

Ashley Baldwin added 12 points for the Region 16 champion Lady Raiders (29-5), who scored 24 points off 27 Pike County turnovers.

Haley Ratliff had 18 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Region 15 champion Lady Hawks (21-11), who lost five of their last nine regular-season games.

The Lady Raiders ended the first half with a 9-0 run to take a 28-19 halftime lead. East Carter scored 17 points off Pike County's 18 first-half turnovers.

Pike County made the first two baskets of the second half to pull within five. East Carter answered with a 12-6 spurt to take a 40-29 lead.

The Lady Hawks then ran off 12 straight points, capped by Paige Lowe's driving bank shot with 3:59 left in the game.

East Carter retook the lead, at 42-41, on Stapleton's free throws with 2:52 remaining. Amanda Prichard made a steal in the backcourt to set up Molly Jackson's layup with 2:13 left and Stapleton tacked on a free

Named

Continued from p3

featured ranked teams Louisville Fern Creek, Louisville Pleasure Ridge Park and eventual state champion Warren Central — it wasn't until the next game that he knew that his Red Hawks were really a force.

"The LIT was big, but I didn't know if we could sustain it," Branch said.

The Red Hawks defeated Louisville Male's Bulldogs four days later 60-54.

"That really did it," Branch said. After that, he felt his team was the team to beat.

Later in the season, the Bulldogs did beat Seneca, 52-47 in the first round of the Seventh Region tournament.

While Branch would prefer to be a state champion head coach, he's still pleased about the award.

"I'm humbled, gratified, honored," he said. "You could coach for 20, 30 years and never get that."

And Branch knows how good a championship can feel. He was also a member of University of Louisville's 1980 NCAA championship team.

Recognizing that opportunities for greatness don't come often is one of the biggest lessons Branch says he learned from former Cardinals coach Denny Crum.

"You have to make the statement," Branch said. "You have to be self-motivated."

Branch received four of 16 votes from a panel of Kentucky sports writers and broadcasters to win coach of the year. Also receiving votes were Matthew Perry, Morgan Co. (3); Tim Riley, Warren Central (2); Rodney Woods, Wayne Co. (2); Tom Crews, Louisville DeSales (1); Phil Gibson, Henderson County (1); Gary Hubbard, Western Hills (1); Mike Orr, Owensboro Catholic (1); Kelly Wells, Mason County (1).

by CHRIS DUNCAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Louisville Sacred Heart coach Donna Moir still isn't sure how she became the leader of the state's most dominant girls' basketball team.

"I look back and think, 'How did they even hire me?'" said Moir, who's compiled a 295-123 record in 13 seasons.

Right now, it looks as if she knew what she was doing from the beginning.

The Valkyries (34-1) began their quest for a third straight state championship Thursday night with a 60-25 win over Marshall County in the Girls Sweet 16 in Bowling Green.

Sacred Heart hasn't lost to an in-state school since December 2001, a span of 92 games, and has a 108-3 overall record across the last three seasons.

"It's been really fun for all of us," Moir said.

Fun and rewarding. This week, Moir was named The Associated Press girls' coach of the year for the second straight year. She earned eight of a possible 16 votes from a panel of media from across the state.

Daviess County coach Charley Broughton earned three votes, South Laurel's Connie Snyder garnered two, and Henderson County's Jeff Haile, Franklin County's Joey Thacker and Rockcastle County's Chrysti Noble earned one vote apiece.

Moir never thought of coaching anywhere else. She played for Sacred Heart in the 1970s, winning the school's first state championship under coach Bunny Daugherty. She went on to play at Cincinnati, for current Colorado coach Ceal Berry.

Moir returned to Sacred Heart and coached the junior varsity for a year before taking over the varsity in 1991.



photo by Jamie Howell

The Prestonsburg Blackcat baseball team will again get coaching help from former player John Thomas Clark (not pictured).

Moir humbled by success

"I really didn't have any coaching experience," she said. "I don't think too many people would get hired today like that."

The Valkyries were 12-39 in the previous two seasons before Moir's arrival. By 1995, they were Seventh Region champions and on to their first Sweet 16 appearance since Moir's playing days.

The success was short-lived — Sacred Heart lost to Louisville Holy Cross in the first game. The humbling defeat taught valuable lessons.

"It was a learning-on-the-job-type thing," she said. "You didn't realize how much of a time commitment this became. Winning the Seventh Region was the best feeling in the world, but then came the media stuff and all the other things you had to get ready."

The arrival of Crystal Kelly before the 2001 season accelerated Moir's building process. The Valkyries went 28-6 but lost to eventual state runner-up Manual in the Seventh Region final.

This time, a stinging defeat offered incentive, not lessons.

"We heard people saying, 'Wow, Manual's got the best program,'" Moir said. "You heard that and read that, and it was a motivation for all of us that, 'Hey, we're going to do everything we can to make this program successful.'"

The Valkyries have lost only two games since. The staff and team spend almost 12 months together, taking on all comers throughout the summer.

"We've played AAU teams from all over the country, we've played against teams with four

or five Division I players." Moir said. "You basically give up your whole summer for basketball, but that's the choice I've made and that's what you need to do to be successful."

The success fuels expectations, but Moir said the pressure to keep winning dissolves amid the program's family-like atmosphere.

"We just enjoy being around each other," Moir said. "Crystal and (junior guard) Carly Ormerod could've played for an AAU team or at camps. But they wanted to stay together. They felt like any team they went to play for wasn't going to be as fun or close or as good as what we've got here."

"I think the players are comfortable with me and the other coaches. It's a big part of our success."

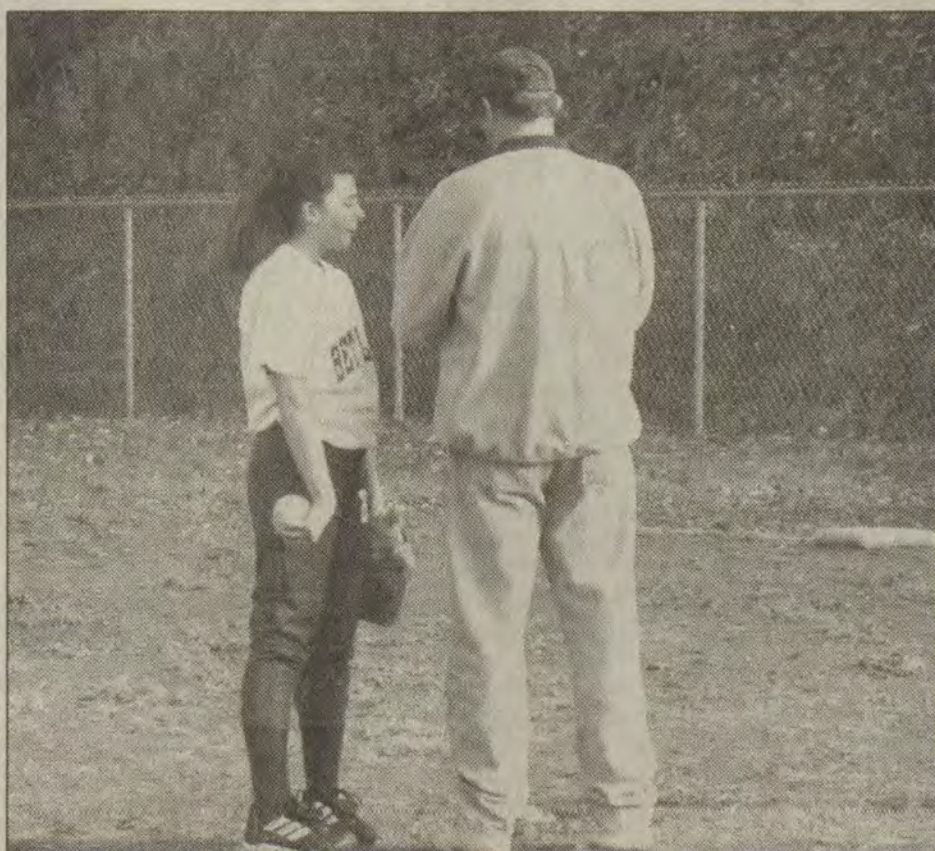


photo by Steve LeMaster

Betsy Layne softball coach Harold Tackett talked with pitcher Tiffany Bishop prior to the start of a scrimmage game against 15th Region rival Magoffin County.

Reds trade Reitsma to Braves

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARASOTA, Fla. — Right-hander Chris Reitsma was traded to the Atlanta Braves on Friday for two pitching prospects after never finding a niche with the Cincinnati Reds.

Reitsma was voted the club's outstanding pitcher last season when he filled just about every role on the staff. He went 9-5 with a 4.29 ERA and 12 saves in three starts and 54 relief appearances.

The Reds obtained left-hander Jung Keun Bong and right-hander Bubba Nelson. Both are

younger than Reitsma and are considered starters primarily.

Bong, 23, appeared in 45 games for the Braves over the last two seasons, including one start. Nelson, 22, reached Triple-A for the first time last season.

Since Dan O'Brien took over as general manager last November, he has emphasized developing young starting pitching, one of the organization's main weaknesses under GM Jim Bowden.

Reitsma, 26, was considered a promising prospect when the Reds promoted him to the majors in 2001, but soon fell

out of favor. He went 7-15 with a 5.29 ERA in 29 starts, the most by any NL rookie that year.

He bounced between Triple-A and the majors each of the next two seasons, and the Reds started trying him in relief. He became the closer after Scott Williamson was traded to Boston last July.

With Danny Graves moved

back into the closer's role this year, Reitsma's role was getting redefined again. The Reds also brought in Todd Jones to compete for a setup job on Thursday, further limiting his value.

Overall, Reitsma was 22-32 with a 4.52 ERA in 53 starts and 73 relief appearances with Cincinnati.

Flight

Central volleyball team.

■ Across town from Johnson Central, Stephanie Napier will guide the Paintsville High softball team and coaching legend Charlie Adkins will return at the helm of the Tiger baseball program.

■ Craig Kidd is in as the new head coach at Allen Central, replacing Ronnie Patton. The Rebels are defending 15th Region champs. Kidd has assembled a schedule that'll afford the Rebel baseball team the opportunity to play some of the top teams in the state.

■ John DeRossett will again manage the Prestonsburg High baseball team with the help of former Blackcat John Thomas Clark.

■ The high school baseball field at Allen Park, now home to the high school baseball teams from both Betsy Layne and Allen Central, has a new look with grass covering the infield.

Everyone is hoping the field will be playable as early as the upcoming week.

■ Jack Pack is the new softball coach at Prestonsburg High School. Pack recently finished his first season at the helm of the Prestonsburg High girls' basketball team.

■ Harold Tackett is in his first season as the softball coach

at Betsy Layne High School, where he also serves as athletic director.

■ Chris Lawson has Pikeville as one of the top teams in the 15th Region. Belfry is another topnotch team out of Pike County.

■ According to Prestonsburg track and field coach Dewey Jamerson, Prestonsburg High School could possibly host track and field meets, minus some field events. Many of the season's meets are held each year at Bob Amos Park in Pikeville and hosted by Pikeville High School.

Spring has sprung.
It's the end of March.
Batter up!

Tests

cocaine don't check for steroids, which are potentially more destructive.

At Bret Harte High School in Angels Camp, all student athletes and cheerleaders undergo urine tests for marijuana, cocaine and other illegal drugs each season, costing the district about \$9,000. Checking for steroids would cost an additional \$44,000.

That would be enough money to pay for another teacher.

"For a small district to do this kind of testing would be cost-prohibitive," Angels Camp superintendent Joseph Wilimek said. "Right now our priority is keeping staff — we've had to lay off three teachers and reduce our administrative staff already."

Steroids soared in popularity among high school students — girls as well as boys — after Mark McGwire hit a record 70 home runs in 1998 while using the supplement androstenedione, a steroid precursor.

In a recent national survey of steroid use, 3.5 percent of high school seniors responding reported they have used steroids at least once, up from 2.1 percent in 1991.

Those figures don't include users of over-the-counter supplements such as andro or the more popular creatine, which are much cheaper than steroids.

"There was a big increase when Mark McGwire broke the home run record. Of course he was using andro, but that may have been a distinction lost on a lot of the kids," said Lloyd Johnston, who led the University of Michigan survey of 50,000 teenagers. "If you're looking at a classroom of 30 boys, one of them is using steroids."

Johnston said steroid use is more prevalent among boys than girls, among whites than blacks and among non-college-bound students than those who plan to attend college.

Play

if they fail to complete those, more than the quality of the performances will be at risk.

They're on the hook for an \$800 million security tab as it is. And so, encouraging as it was to watch Greek javelin champion Costas Gatzidoudis leave Ancient Olympia with the sleek olive wood-and-magnesium torch in hand, just as reassuring is what most of us didn't see — commandos hiding nearby in the groves with binoculars and automatic weapons.

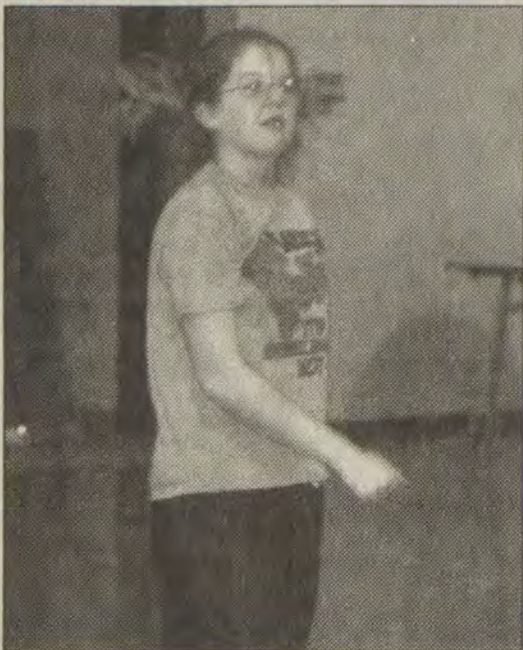
Let the games begin.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitkeap.org



photos by Jamie Howell

The Adams Middle School volleyball team practiced Thursday. Adams competes against other Floyd County teams.



Stint

Continued from p3

in what next season looks like and I like what I see coming in for the Cats. With Keleena Azubuike and Chuck Hayes returning the Cats will be hard pressed at first to win. But I look for them to get stronger as the season goes on and maybe finish behind South Carolina. Coach Tubby Smith will have an abundance of guards when the season first practice comes in October. However, word is the Cats are in the hunt for 6-10 Randolph Morris, who has indicated he will not announce his school choice until May.



Ed Taylor

Rajon Rondo and Joe Crawford are top-25 backcourt players and Ramel Bradley is not too bad either. Adam Williams, who some feel will be red-shirted next season, was West Virginia's Player of the Year. Not bad.

Ramel Bradley has already inked with UK and he is one of the top guard prospects in the country.

So Coach Smith has the players coming in and let's not forget about Patrick Sparks, who had to set out this season. He will be the two-guard for UK next season with Joe Crawford running the point.

If Morris signs with Kentucky in May, then I look for him to roam the paint area. What that adds up to is two freshmen will grace the starting line up, for Kentucky next season. I like Bobby Perry and Shera Thomas.

They could break into the line up as well.

Like I said, the Cats will take some early lumps next year but will come around and be a force in the SEC as well as the NCAA.

Until Wednesday, good sports everyone and be good sports! The Big Red Machine is about to crank it up.

AUTO RACING

Sadler can hardly wait for Sunday's Bristol race

by MIKE HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Elliott Sadler remembers being in Victory Lane at Bristol Motor Speedway as if it just happened.

"It was a feeling you don't forget and one that you want to repeat over and over," Sadler said. "Unfortunately, that hasn't happened and we think we're overdue."

The only NASCAR Cup victory for the 28-year-old Virginian came in the spring of 2001 on Bristol's fast, .533-mile oval, where he will race again Sunday in the Food City 500.

It hasn't really been the best

venue for Sadler, whose only other top-10 finish was seventh in August of 2000. In 11 races here, he has finished better than 21st only three times, yet still feels good about the place.

"I love Bristol," Sadler said. "Don't get me wrong, I have had my share of bad luck on that cereal bowl of a racetrack, but I have also had some good times here. This is one of the most fun races for the fans."

Sadler won in 2001 while driving for the Wood Brothers. If he gets back to Victory Lane on Sunday, it will be in a Robert Yates Racing Ford, and a key to the win might be spotter Brett Griffin.

"Bristol is the coolest place we

race at all year," Griffin said. "It's my favorite track to spot because you never get bored. Words really can't describe the atmosphere here and they can't describe how tough of a race it is, either."

"The spotters really have to decide what to tell, or not tell, the drivers while they are racing. Regardless of what happens, it is 15 seconds or less away because the track is so small and so fast."

Sadler, off to a good start this season with three top-10 finishes in five races, enjoys the give and take on the Bristol track and was further buoyed by a good test here last week.

"We worked on a lot of things that we've had trouble with at this track in the past," he said.

Sadler will have a plenty to worry about Sunday at a track where it's rare when any of the 43 starters reach the end of the race without big black tires marks or a series of dents on their cars.

He'll also have to beat defending series champion and current points leader Matt Kenseth and series runner-up Dale Earnhardt. Both have two wins already this year.

And, even tougher, he'll have to contend with Kurt Busch, who loves Bristol just as much as Sadler after winning the last two races here and three of the last four.

Sadler is coming off a season-best fifth-place finish last Sunday at Darlington, but still slipped from eighth to 10th in the Nextel Cup standings.

"I am still scratching my head on how we finished fifth last week in Darlington and lost two positions in the points, but that goes to show the level of competition," Sadler said. "NASCAR wanted a points race and they've got one. Our team is just happy to be up in the mix."

Sadler said he can hardly wait until Sunday.

"This week's race is going to be about as physical as they get," he said. "Turning left every 3 seconds about 2,000 times is tough both mentally and physically. It's nerve-racking, but I love it."

Frankfort to host future MSC Basketball Championships

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE — The Mid-South Conference and the Frankfort Tourist & Convention Commission recently jointly announced that the 2005 and 2007 Mid-South Conference Basketball Championships will be held in Frankfort.

The conference championships, for both the men's and women's teams, will be played at the Farnham Dudgeon Arena. The dates for the 2005 Tournament will be March 2-5, while March 7-10 will serve as the dates in 2007.

"We are very excited to be returning to a central site for our basketball championships," said Mid-South Commissioner Mike Pollio. "Having this tournament in Frankfort will be the signature event for the MSC. I'm sure that we'll have exciting basketball action for both our men's and women's teams all four days," Pollio added.

Bob Craig, Group & Convention Director for the Frankfort Tourist & Convention Commission said, "Frankfort is delighted to have been selected as the host city and tournament site for the MSC Men's & Women's Basketball Championships in 2005 and 2007. The Farnham Dudgeon Arena is an exceptional sports facility and the quality visitor attractions of our historic Capital City provides student athletes and guests a number of attractive recreational options."

"Foremost, our youth and community will have the opportunity to see championship college basketball right here in Frankfort. We look forward to extending the MSC our special brand of Kentucky hospitality," Craig added.

The MSC last held its basketball championships in Frankfort in 2001. Campus sites served as hosts for the tournament in 2002 and 2003.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Hawkins pulls ring off Internet auction site, apologizes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — The starting point guard for Kentucky's basketball team has withdrawn his 2003 Southeastern Conference championship ring from an Internet auction site.

Cliff Hawkins, whose Kentucky career ended Sunday when the Wildcats lost to Alabama-Birmingham in the second round of the NCAA tournament, put the ring up for sale on eBay on Tuesday. He withdrew it two days later, after the bidding had surpassed \$3,000.

In a statement posted on a fan Web site Thursday, Hawkins apologized for his decision.

"It was a mistake," he said. "I don't know what I was thinking. I have removed the ring from eBay. In no way did I intend to offend or embarrass the great fans of Kentucky."

Kentucky athletics director

Mitch Barnhart agreed with Hawkins' decision to not sell the ring.

"He may have erred in the public perception of this," Barnhart said. "Now he's trying to do the right thing. I respect him for that."

NCAA spokeswoman Kay Hawes said Hawkins could sell any memorabilia connected to his playing days because his eligibility to play has expired.

Information from: Lexington Herald-Leader, <http://www.kentuckyconnect.com>

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FLOYDCOUNTY Lifestyles



INSIDESTUFF

- Easter Egg Hunt • page 6B
- Diabuddies Corner • page 6B
- More Meet Appalachia • page 6B

TODAY'S FREEBIE

Look in your paper today and every day for a value worth more than the cost of the paper. **PAGE A3**

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SPECIAL COLUMN

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.

Monday, with the weather mild down in the valley, and the snow lying heavy on north hill-sides, we got the feeling of being way out west—you know, sunshine downstairs and snow-capped peaks up. Today, it's a clammy cold down here on the level, and misty-foggy up the hollows. And we think of pictures of the Scottish Highlands. You can't beat Kentucky weather—not for variety, anyhow.

DO A CHILD'S TEARS COUNT?

I hope the person or persons who have been poisoning dogs hereabouts, saw a little boy crying inconsolably, the other morning when he learned that the kindest, least demanding playmate he had ever had, was dead.

A dog may bark at you, a few will even bite you—but none will ever tempt you, or your child, with food when you are hungry, and hide a killing dose of poison in it.

That Russian cosmonaut who swung outside his capsule, way out in space, later remarked that he saw nobody he knew up there. We have news for him. It's doubtful if anybody up there ever knew him.

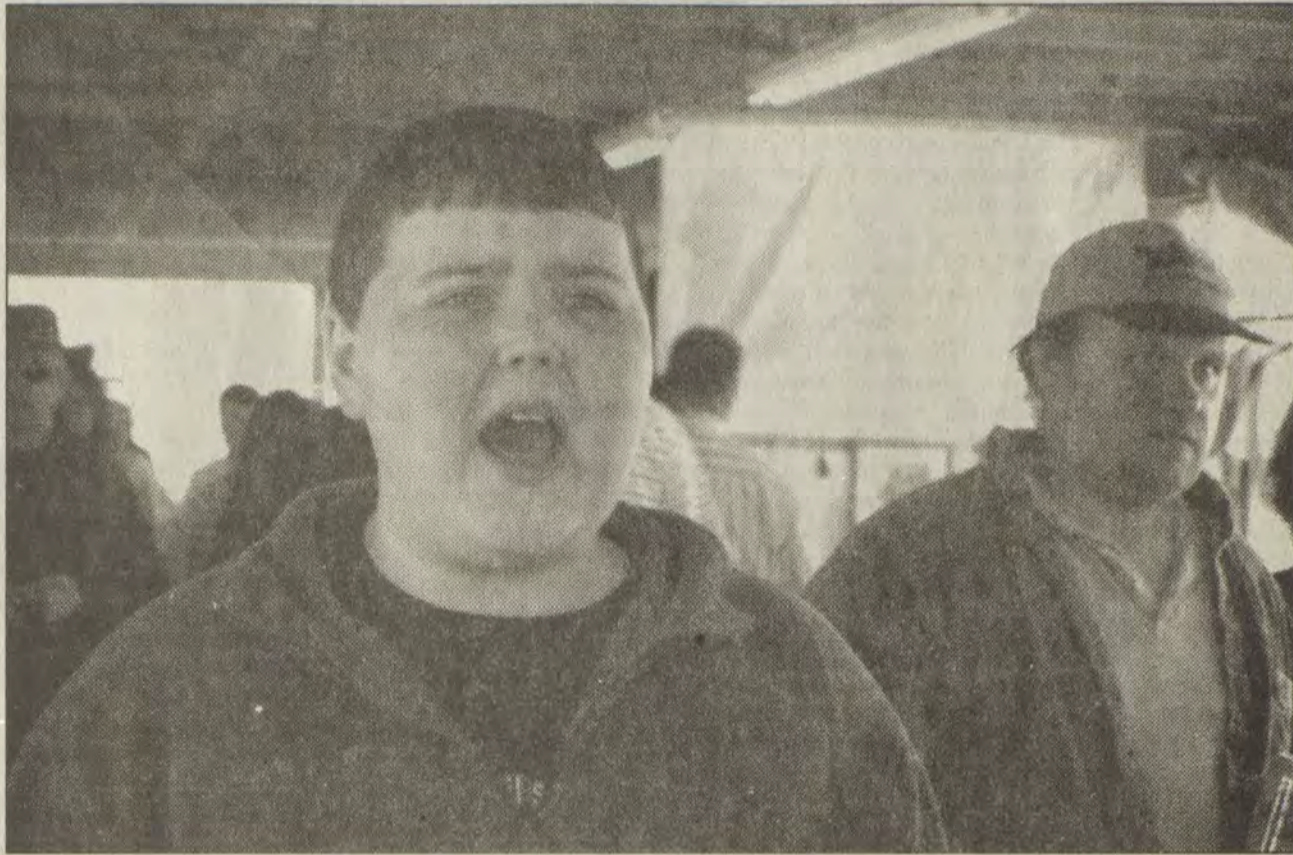
QUOTING THE JUDGE

This quote is lifted bodily from a column written by Robert Ruark on juvenile delinquency. He quotes District Judge Lester H. Lobel, of Helena, Montana, who succeeded in getting enacted a bill permitting the publication of the names of juvenile offenders, and the names of their parents as well, and who, as a result, saw the juvenile crime rate in Helena cut in half.

Said Judge Lobel: "If a youth is old enough and tough enough to topple a tombstone, wreck a church, hold up a service station, snatch a woman's purse or beat up an old man, he's old enough and tough enough to have a public trial, with his parents in the front row, and full newspaper coverage.

"The parents don't like the publicity. So when I put the kid on probation, and some Saturday night, the kid tells the old man, I'm going over to Joe's place, this old man says: Oh, no, you're not. You're not going to get ME

(See **WORLD**, page seven)



Matthew isn't afraid to step out loudly into a crowd. He says "good businessmen" can't be shy. Here, he's shouting the regular routine, selling pizzas at his grandfather's flea market.

photo by Mary Music

Meet Appalachia

Matthew Skeans, The Little Businessman

by MARY MUSIC
 Staff Writer

Matthew Anthony Skeans

Age: 12
Occupation: Student, "Businessman"
Life quote: "If you've got no one to care about, then you have no reason to do all this stuff. If I didn't care about Mom and Dad I'd probably be sitting at home not doing nothing, wasting my life away."
Education: Porter Elementary Student

About 'Meet Appalachia'

The people portrayed in this section are people I've met as I walk along the road of my life. They were on a street, in a store or restaurant. They were recommended by a friend, or the friend of a friend, as the old trend goes. All of them see life as they see it. I am only here to tell their stories as I see them. These are their hopes and challenges. These are their dreams and accomplishments. These are what they allow them to be.

— MARY MUSIC

If you frequent the Bull Creek Trade Center, you've probably heard the call of Matthew Anthony Skeans, 12 year old son of Tony and Mary Skeans of Abbott, who who spends his weekends (well, almost every weekend) selling pizza, pop and water for his father at his grandfather's flea market.

"Pizza! Get your pizza! We got your deluxe, pepperoni, only \$3.50! It's Hot and Fresh!" the boy shouts repeatedly as he pushes through the bargain-seeking crowd. "Pizza! Get your Pizza! We've also got nice cold drinks! \$1.00 for water! \$1.75 for pop! Pizza! Get your Pizza!"

His voice echoes down the long hut of tables as people in the crowd turn around, look, and smile when they hear him coming.

As he was working last weekend, Matthew was propositioned by a man who said a boy with a "voice as strong as his" would make the perfect campaigner. Like a true businessman, Matthew said he'd charge \$50 to campaign for the man, who then

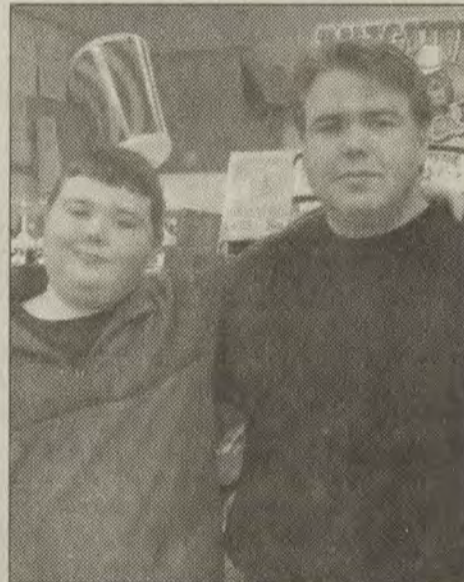


photo by Mary Music
 Matthew and his father, Tony.



photo by Mary Music

Matthew worked with Lynn Allen, (right) last weekend selling pizzas and drinks at his grandfather's flea market. The boy is the "future salesman of America," Allen said.

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'Brides of Blood'

This film is out under several titles, like "Terror on Blood Island," "Orgy of Blood" and "Brides of the Beast." Why so many titles? Because the company that released it, Independent International, was utterly without restraint. They were the kind of guys who couldn't wait to get their hands on every nickel and often booked their movies into the same venues three

times a year and so used new titles to fool people into paying to see their films two or three times. They also weren't above retitling films to sell them to television so it wasn't uncommon to see the same film on



Tom Doty
 Staff Writer

TV the same week that it played local theaters. Shady business practices aside though, these folks made some entertaining flicks like this one.

A motley crew of three Americans make their way to a remote South Seas island to do research and humanitarian work. Jim is a Peace Corps worker with enough grease in his hair to keep your engine running all winter. Paul Henderson is a scientist who is researching the mutating effects of radiation. Paul's wife is a young, blonde harpy who is unsatisfied, prone to announcing her husband's shortcomings and sports a beehive hairdo that could shelter a tribe of spider monkeys.

However when these three hit the island they seem tame in comparison to what is going on there.

The island turns out to need more aid than the Peace Corps normally gives. Turns out that they are living in one strange jungle. The local bugs are continuously mutating, the plants and trees have sprouted arms which they use to whip the villagers like they owed them money and there is a green-skinned mutant that has been eating the island women.

The only, seemingly, normal guy is a rich fat cat who lives in a modest castle and is attended by a hulking manservant and six domestics who happen to all be dwarves. Could this guy be turning into the mutated monster every night? Was atomic bomb testing the culprit? Will just about all of the cast be mutant food by the end? If you answered yes then you're smarter than this movie but you may enjoy it for its camp value and some decent visuals.

The scene where the natives combat

(See **LAGOON**, page seven)

Chicken Soup For The Soul: The hug of a child



As we drove across town, I prepared my two children for what they were about to see. A lady from our new church was dying of cancer, and I had volunteered to help her with the housework. "Annie has a tumor in her head, which has disfigured her face," I cautioned them.

Annie invited me to bring my children with me one day, as I had told her so much about them. "Most children are frightened by my appearance," she said. "But I will understand if they don't want to meet me."

I struggled for the words to describe Annie's appearance to my

son and daughter. Then I remembered a movie I'd seen two years earlier with my son, when he was 10. I wanted him to understand that disabled people are like anyone else -- their feelings can be hurt, too.

"David, remember the movie 'Mask,' about the boy with the facial deformity?"

"Yes, Mom, I think I know what to expect." His tone told me it was time to stop mothering him so much.

"What does a tumor look like?" Diane asked me.

Answering my 9-year-old daughter would be tricky. In order to prevent Diane's revulsion when she met

Annie, I needed to prepare her just enough but not too much. I didn't want to frighten the child.

"Her tumor looks like the skin on the inside of your mouth. It sticks out from under her tongue and makes it hard for her to talk. You'll see it as soon as you meet her, but there's nothing to be afraid of. Remember, don't stare. I know you'll want to look at it ... that's all right ... just don't stare." Diane nodded. I knew she was trying to picture a tumor in her mind.

"Are you kids ready for this?" I asked as we pulled up to the curb.

"Yes, Mom," David said, sighing

as only a preteen can.

Diane nodded and tried to reassure me. "Don't worry, Mommy. I'm not scared."

We entered the living room, where Annie was sitting in her recliner, her lap covered with notecards for her friends. I stood across the room with my children, aware that anything could happen next.

At the sight of my children, Annie's face brightened. "Oh, I'm so glad you came to visit," she said, dabbing a tissue at the drops of saliva that escaped from her twisted

(See **SOUP** page seven)

POETRY

When Love Lived In This Place

By Frances A. Cantrell

I pressed my hand against my face and imagined it was you.
I felt the warmth fill up my heart, the way it used to do.
I closed my eyes and imagined the smile upon your face,
And then my mind went back in time, when we two first embraced.
Sometimes the sun kissed your pillow, with sleep still in your eyes,
I'd reach out and pull you close, and listen to your sighs.
With tenderness and compassion, we loved and cherished each other.
With a dedicated love so deep, there was no need for any other.
Our lives were like any other lives, with jobs and chores and such.
The years went by so quickly that we didn't notice much.
Then illness came and death and grief, it was all that I could bear.
The empty hunger in my heart, the want to have you there.
Then I remember the tenderness, and the smiles that graced your face,
When we adored each other, and Love lived in this place.

New Arrivals

HRMC New Arrivals

- March 16, 2004**
A son, Clint Logan Sandlin, to Jessica Rae and Clint Bailey Sandlin
- March 16, 2004**
A daughter, Hailey Marie Collett, to Alana Marie and Gregory Allen Collett
- March 17, 2004**
A daughter, Leah Hope Anderson, to Rita St. Clair and Joseph Anderson
- March 19, 2004**
A daughter, Sarannah Nicole Gayheart, to Charmaine Lynn and

- David Earl Gayheart
- March 19, 2004**
A daughter, Cheresa Lynelle Hurst, to Eunice and Clinton Hurst
- March 20, 2004**
A daughter, Emily Brooke Hall, to Amanda Gail Hall
- March 20, 2004**
A daughter, Vivian Breanna Lynn Hall, to Regina and Tony Hall
- March 21, 2004**
A son, Logan Trey Butler Robertson, to Brenda and Christopher Robertson

Bluegrass Express Live concert - April 1

It's no joke. The Dean Osborne Band and the Moron Brothers will perform at WMMT's next Bluegrass Express Live concert, set for April 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Appalshop Theater in Whitesburg.
The concert is part of the public radio station's regular series of live bluegrass music. It will also be broadcast live on WMMT-FM, 88.7, or over the internet at www.appalshop.org/wmmt



James Sherman Nunnery, of West Liberty, and Peter David Nunnery, of London, England, pause while hailing a taxicab in old Londontown.



James Sherman Nunnery and Peter David Nunnery enjoy dinner at Harrod's of London with James' father, James H. Nunnery Jr. (not pictured).

Egg hunt and hillbilly fun set for April at Jenny Wiley Park

Spring's in full bloom at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park and lots of fun activities are in store to help celebrate the arrival of warm days. First off, Peter Cottontail and the crew will be busy hiding eggs all around the park's campground for eager girls and boys to uncover on Saturday, April 10. The Easter

Egg Hunt will begin at 2:00 p.m. There will be lots of candy-filled eggs and prizes for all children, ages 12 and under. The egg hunt is being co-sponsored by the Floyd County Chapter of the National Wildlife Turkey Federation. Also, the May Lodge dining room will be offering a traditional Easter buffet on Easter Sunday. The buffet will include roast top round of choice beef carved on the line, baked Kentucky country ham, roast leg of spring lamb, mint jelly, garden vegetables, an assortment of salads and fresh fruits, and a dessert table. The Easter buffet will be served from noon until 8:00 p.m.

On Saturday, April 17, the park will host "Hillbilly Night." Hillbilly Night will feature a festive hillbilly supper with roasted pig, fried chicken, barbecued ribs, and all the trimmings. Entertainment is scheduled to include square dancing, comedy and more. The event is being held

in conjunction with the annual Hillbilly Festival in Pike County. All said, it's an event that will make you want to stand up and yell, "Yee Haw!"

Plan now to join your friends at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park for a fun-filled springtime of adventure! Call 886-2711 for more information.

DIABUDDIES CORNER

Diabetes is the fifth-deadliest disease in the United States. This year, more than 213,000 will die from the disease and its related complications.

Recipe of the week (from www.equal.com)

Cucumber Tomato Salad-6 Servings

- Ingredients:
- 1/2 cup rice vinegar*
 - 3 tablespoons Equal® Spoonful**
 - 3 cups unpeeled 1/4-inch thick sliced cucumbers, quartered (about 2 medium)
 - 2 cups chopped tomato (about 1 large)
 - 1/2 cup chopped red onion
 - Salt and pepper to taste

* Distilled white vinegar may be substituted for rice vinegar;

** May substitute 4-1/2 packets Equal sweetener

Preparation: Combine vinegar and Equal®. Add cucumbers, tomato and onion; mix well. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Refrigerate, covered, 1 to 2 hours to allow flavors to blend.

- Calories 26
- Protein 1g
- Carbohydrate 6g
- Fat 0g
- Cholesterol 0g
- Sodium 3mg
- Food Exchanges 1 Vegetable

Correction

In Sunday's edition of "Meet Appalachia," it was incorrectly reported that Jason Fannin is the 2 year old son of Nanna and Timothy Fannin. The child is now 7 months old. The Times regrets this error.

Please, keep 'em coming!

Our pet photos file needs replenishing, and we know that you have lots of precious pics to share with us, so, please, send them along! And while you're at it, help Dr. Carol get her creative thoughts jumpstarted by sending along a few questions about "pet things you've always wanted to know but have been afraid to ask"! You can send both pictures and questions to: Kathy Prater at the Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653, or you may e-mail to: features@floyd-countytimes.com. You may also send questions only to Dr. Carol at: 1768 KY Rt. 7, Estill, KY 41666, or e-mail to: carolcac@tusa.net. We'll be waiting to hear from you!

Lagoon

Continued from p6

a tree which has scooped up a child, is eerily effective but mostly this is good brain candy that should go down easy. The final scene is a riot wherein the natives thank Jim for his help by performing an awkward dance which is poorly choreographed and shot out of focus.

The best gaff, though, is a mutated butterfly which is attached to a very visible string. The company actually made four films on the island location and they have all been collected in a DVD four-pack called "Blood Island Vacation."

Best line: "In the meantime this beast continues to enjoy an orgy of violence and blood."
1968, unrated.

Soup

Continued from p6

mouth.
Then it happened. I watched David stride across the room to Annie's chair, wrap his arms around her shoulders and press his cheek to her misshapen face. Smiling, he looked into her eyes and said, "I'm happy to meet you."

Just when I didn't think I could be more proud, Diane copied her big brother and gave Annie the precious, accepting

hug of a child.
My throat tightened with emotion as I saw Annie's eyes well up with grateful tears. I had nothing to worry about.

Be a part of Chicken Soup's 10th Anniversary. Look for our 10th Anniversary Edition, "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living Your Dreams." Visit www.chickensoup.com for more details.

Matthew

Continued from p6

seemed disinterested in the deal. Working weekends at the trade center is a hobby, Matthew says, one that doesn't earn him any money, but one that teaches him a lot about the business world. It's a fun, easy way to keep him occupied on the weekends, he said.

To be a good businessman, Matthew, describing himself as a "hard worker," says you must be smart and outgoing, traits he says he learned from his father, a lawyer who operates two convenient stores, and grandfather, Prestonsburg businessman Floyd Skeans.

"You can't really be shy in the business world," the boy says, noting the importance of being able to step out, loudly, into a crowd of people. Matthew says he used to be "a little bit" shy, but came out of that box after meeting people associated with his family's businesses.

Though he doesn't make money selling at the flea market, Matthew is quite the little businessman. He makes most of his money during the fall and winter seasons, when he sells Christmas trees, pumpkins, and gourds.

When asked how much he earns in his business, Matthew smiled and said that he "couldn't release that information."

His earnings, or the majority of them, go into a savings account, which he says he holds to pay for "life" and college someday.

Matthew says he learned about the business world

through his father, who he also regards as a good friend. Whenever he wants to have fun, he says, he hangs out with his Dad, who plays chess, video games, and does other "fun stuff" with him.

"If it wasn't for my dad, I wouldn't have been introduced to the business world in the first place," the boy said. "He taught me about everything I know about being a good business man."

The most important thing in the world, he says, is family.

"If it wasn't for my family, I really wouldn't have anything to live for," Matthew said. "My dad is basically the one I have the most fun with in my family. My mom likes rules. She makes A LOT of rules. And my little sister she's...ugg...evil."

Matthew says he loves his little sister, Elizabeth Grace, 6, but that she "picks on" him a lot.

"We play chess together," he said. "She loves to bug me and steal my stuff and likes to paint and be annoying. I try to teach her how to play chess, but she won't pay attention. It's hard to teach the little one."

Matthew, who plays center and tackle guard on Porter Elementary's football team, says his favorite subject is science because it challenges him and teaches him about how the world works. Currently, he's learning about the ozone layer in his science class. He's also reading "The Call of the Wild" in Language Arts class, and learning about the United

Kingdom in social studies. He's also working with decimals and dividing in math, his "worst" subject.

Though he has trouble in math, Matthew says he's working hard at improving it. His mother is "forcing" him to do 30 minutes of decimals and arithmetic every night, he says.

Matthew describes himself as an average student who integrates life lessons to solve his problems.

"When I'm solving problems I use what I learn in life to figure it out," he said. "I look at it from every angle."

The young man, who says he's intrigued by learning how things work, wants to be an engineer when he grows up, specializing in robotics and/or the gaming industry.

His other hobbies include reading, collecting swords, axes, bows and arrows, experimenting in science projects, playing sports like football and paintball, and of course, playing video games.

"If you're not trustworthy, no one is gonna believe you. If you're not quick on your feet, you'll, basically, end up dead. If you don't know how to handle a situation, you're gonna get in big trouble," he said, describing how his love for video games implement certain qualities in his life.

"He's my friend. He's my best friend. What more can you say?" his father said, noting that he's very proud of his son.

World

Continued from p6

in trouble again.
"The parents can't stand the heat. I have today about a thousand parents who are about the best probation officers any court can have."

WORDZ

Fellow with little more to do than write a pamphlet each month lists the words beginning with Z and, omitting those which start with a capital letter, has only eighteen. They are:

- Zealot, zealous, zebra, zebu, zenith, zephyr, zero, zest, zigzag, zin, zinnia, zipper, zither, zodiac, zone, zoological,

zoom, Zweiback.
How about zany?

HEY, SLICK!

We fellows who have had it, in the matter of a natural head-covering, can't afford to get the swell-head. Take our hats off, and we would freeze to death.

That guy who got his pate sunburned, down in Florida, last week, glanced through the window where I sat today, wheeled, and came inside to remark that he thought he was seeing a rerun of this morning's moon-shot.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



MAMA'S BOYZ

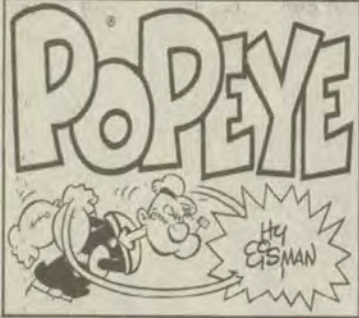
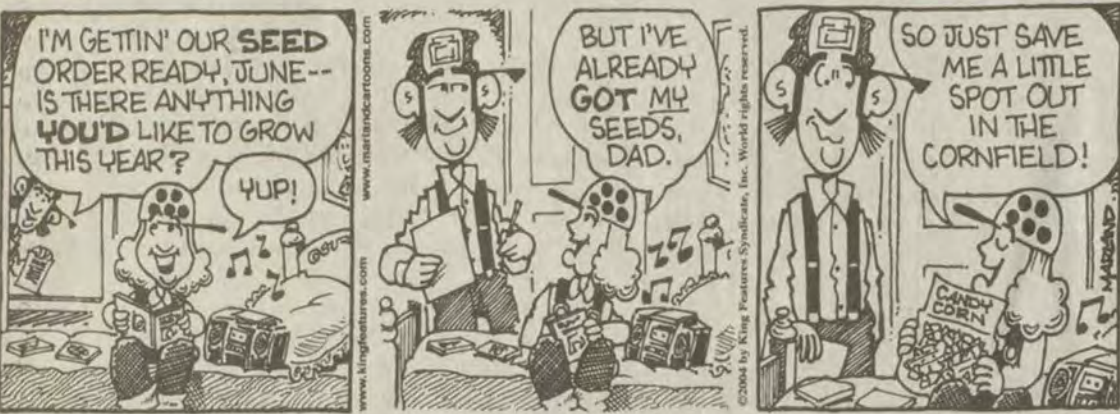
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JERRY CRAFT



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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QPCSHRDNZRMKJRH
FEIOYABECABZYAX
VCUFTXYRLCMQPTO
TIUTNIMSELPATSL
KIHLPALPALETXENG

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Amazon.com
- Costco
- Intuit
- Pixar
- Apple
- Dell
- Microsoft
- Staples
- Cisco
- eBay
- Nextel
- Yahoo
- Comcast
- Intel
- Oracle

HOCUS-FOCUS

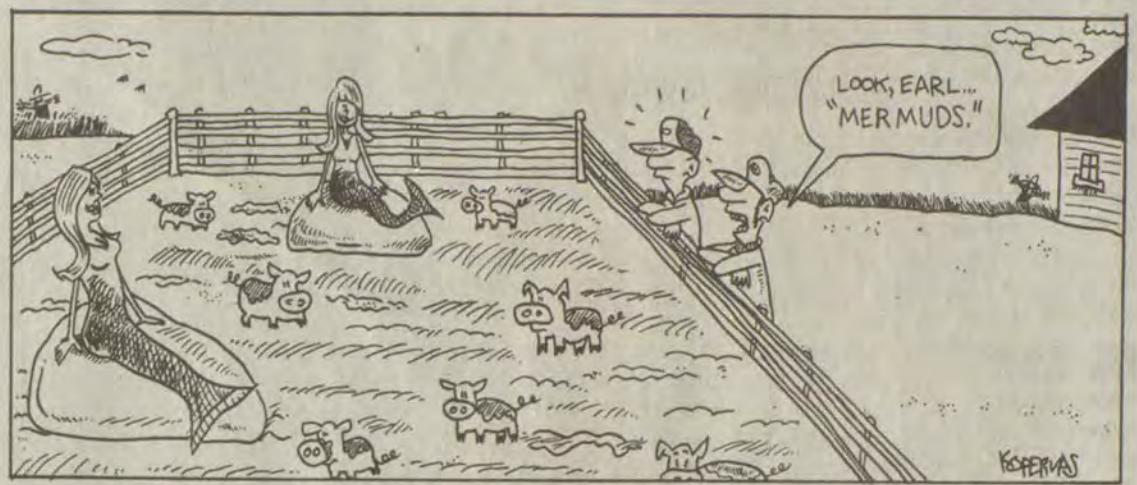
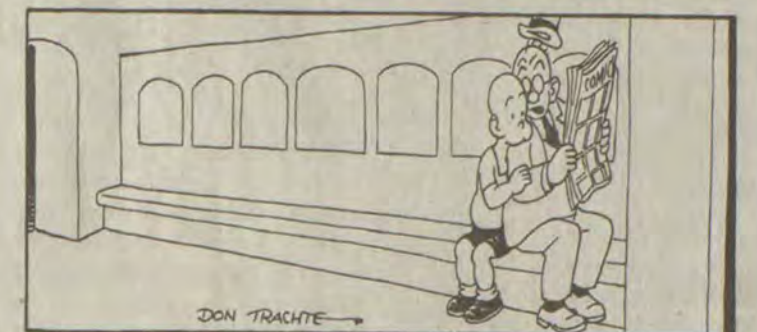
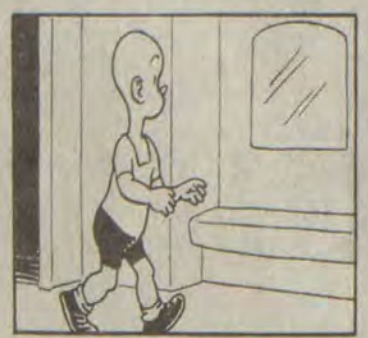
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Tire is black. 2. Strubs have been added. 3. Sweater has no stripes. 4. One key is missing. 5. Doorknob is different. 6. Wall is bare.

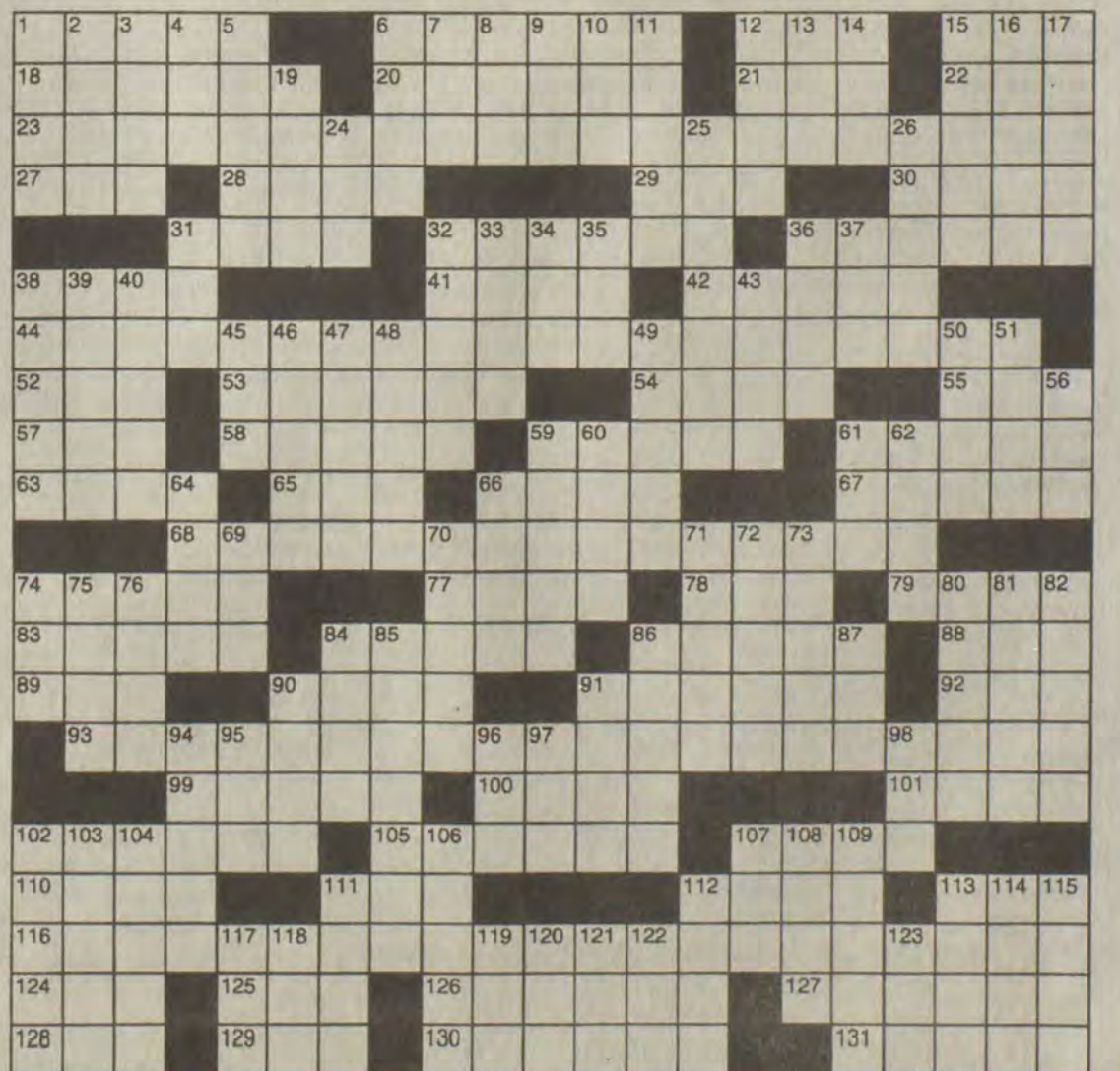
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Answers to Crossword Puzzle and Magic Maze can be found on page A2



Super Crossword IN LINE

- ACROSS**
- 1 School tool
 - 6 Sahara
 - 12 Crestfallen
 - 15 Pigskin prop
 - 18 "Carmen" and "The Consul"
 - 20 Genesis peak
 - 21 In-your-face item?
 - 22 Director Ashby
 - 23 SIDE LINE
 - 27 Extremity
 - 28 Nurse's helper
 - 29 East ender?
 - 30 Sly trick
 - 31 Composer Thomas
 - 32 Rocky's rival
 - 36 Author Antonia
 - 38 Mingo's portrayal
 - 41 Fiddling emperor
 - 42 Turn of phrase
 - 44 SKY LINE
 - 52 Nonclerical
 - 53 New Jersey athletes
 - 54 Scuba site
 - 55 TV's "Fly Away"
 - 57 Mischief-maker
 - 58 Rhone feeder
 - 59 Has on
 - 61 Singer
 - 63 Naldi or Talbot
 - 65 Sty guy
 - 66 Mardi —
 - 67 Went white
 - 68 HAIR LINE
 - 74 Breakfast fruit
 - 77 Jeroboam contents
 - 78 Color
 - 79 Criticize
 - 83 Speak one's mind
 - 84 Accent feature
 - 86 Singer Vaughan
 - 88 Mrs. McKinley
 - 89 "Lorenzo's" — ('92 film)
 - 90 Dividend
 - 91 41 Across' tutor
 - 92 Be a pest
 - 93 LIFE LINE
 - 99 Took on board
 - 100 "— No Sunshine" ('71 hit)
 - 101 Content completely
 - 102 Aptitude
 - 105 "— and Mis-demeanors" ('89 film)
 - 107 Act like a chicken
 - 110 Belligerent deity
 - 111 Reminder
 - 112 Shade of
 - 113 Year, in Yucatan
 - 116 BLOOD LINE
 - 124 Actor Chaney
 - 125 Past
 - 126 Expects the worst
 - 127 Maris or Mantle
 - 128 She's a sheep date
 - 129 — down (destroy)
 - 130 Petrarch product
 - 131 Kingdom
 - 15 Anatole France novel
 - 16 Combs of baseball
 - 17 Glue guy
 - 19 Pelt
 - 24 Chemical suffix
 - 25 Poultry purchase
 - 26 Wise guy
 - 31 — blond
 - 32 Leg joint
 - 33 Pride of the pumped-up
 - 34 "— pro nobis"
 - 35 Prune
 - 36 Vassal's holding
 - 37 Linear measure
 - 38 "— a day's work"
 - 39 Biscayne Bay city
 - 40 "Aida" setting
 - 43 Club cost
 - 45 QB's stats
 - 46 Bounded
 - 47 Shun
 - 48 Beatles' beater
 - 49 Cocky
 - 50 Medicine bottle
 - 51 Actress Sommer
 - 56 Youngster
 - 59 Squeezed out the suds
 - 60 Vacation sensation
 - 61 Numbers man?
 - 62 Kansas city
 - 64 Soon
 - 66 Show one's teeth
 - 69 Vane letters
 - 70 Serengeti sahib
 - 71 Cut of meat
 - 72 Blender setting
 - 73 Show one's feelings
 - 74 Bovine bellow
 - 75 "The Ramayana," e.g.
 - 76 Coloratura
 - 80 Neighbor of Niger
 - 81 Man or stallion
 - 82 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange"
 - 84 Shake-spearan
 - 85 Kind of print
 - 86 Factions
 - 87 Owns
 - 90 Leonine
 - 91 Reasonably balanced
 - 94 See 109
 - 95 China's — Biao
 - 96 Skater
 - 97 Amis' "Lucky —"
 - 98 Sound of disapproval
 - 102 Under the — (secretly)
 - 103 Cupid's missile
 - 104 Sierra —
 - 106 Philharmonic section
 - 107 Bleak critique
 - 108 Whirlpool
 - 109 With
 - 94 Down, fragrant container
 - 111 Cornfield critter
 - 112 Only
 - 113 "Puppy Love" singer
 - 114 Gallagher of Oasis
 - 115 Utah city
 - 117 Actor's lunch?
 - 118 Self-esteem
 - 119 Theater sign
 - 120 Word with take or hang
 - 121 Solo of "Star Wars"
 - 122 Coleridge composition
 - 123 "— Good Cop" ('91 film)



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 ➤ Friday Paper and Shopper, Wed. 5 p.m.
 ➤ Sunday Paper, Thurs. 5 p.m.

CONTACT US AT: (606) 886-8506

VISA MasterCard
 (606) 886-3603
 24 HOURS

100 - AUTOMOTIVE	200 - EMPLOYMENT	300 - FINANCIAL	400 - MERCHANDISE	500 - REAL ESTATE	600 - RENTALS	700 - SERVICES	800 - NOTICES	
110 - Agriculture 115 - ATV's 120 - Boats 130 - Cars 140 - 4x4's 150 - Miscellaneous 160 - Motorcycles 170 - Parts 175 - SUV's 180 - Trucks 190 - Vans	210 - Job Listings 220 - Help Wanted 230 - Information 250 - Miscellaneous 260 - Part Time 270 - Sales 280 - Services 290 - Work Wanted	310 - Business	410 - Animals 420 - Appliances 440 - Electronics 445 - Furniture 450 - Lawn & Garden	460 - Yard Sale 470 - Health & Beauty 475 - Household 480 - Miscellaneous 490 - Recreation 495 - Wanted To Buy	510 - Business 510 - Commercial Property	610 - Apartments 620 - Storage/Office Space 630 - Houses	715 - Electrician 720 - Health & Beauty 730 - Lawn & Garden 735 - Legal 740 - Masonry 745 - Miscellaneous 750 - Mobile Home Movers 755 - Office 760 - Plumbing 765 - Professionals 770 - Repair/Service	780 - Timber 790 - Travel 805 - Announcements 810 - Auctions 815 - Lost & Found 830 - Miscellaneous 850 - Personals 870 - Services 890 - Legals

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

AUTOMOTIVE

130-Cars
 2001 Buick L S very good condition book price 13,500. will sale for 10,000 call any time 886-2847

150-Miscellaneous
 For Sale 5th Wheel Camper 2004 Dutchman sleeps 8, 27 foot long. For more information call 886-9291

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

170-Parts
 Save Money - Buy Rebuilding Radiators, Starters, Alternator call 606-478-9517

180-Trucks
 Heavy Duty 2500 Series Silverado Crew Cab, 6.0, V8 Engine, 5200 miles Super nice Truck asking \$30,900 call 886-9291

EMPLOYMENT

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

Position Available Office Clerk must be computer literate fax resume to 606-478-5109

Manpower is seeking applicants for an accounting position in the Inez area, if interested please call 606-889-9710

Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center has 2 openings for Utility Worker/Driver CDL License Required Responsible for Maintenance, Housekeeping, Minor Repairs on Center and driving Center Vehicles. Competitive benefits package including Medical, Dental, Sick Leave, Paid Vacation, Tuition Reimbursement, Paid Holidays, and 401-K. Qualified candidates should submit resume to: Human Resources Department Carl D. Perkins Job Corps 478 Meadows Branch Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653

Medical Position Available Hospice of Big Sandy, Inc. On Call positions, can be Full Time with every other weekend off, or can be Several RN's sharing the call time, Please call 606-789-3841 for more information. Benefits for the full time position.

210-Job Listings

Heavy Equipment Steam Cleaning Company needs Employees. Experience and surface mining paper's is a plus. Must have valid driver's license call 606-886-1759

AVON

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

220-Help Wanted

S - Curve Automotive needs Experienced Mechanics, Experienced Wheel Alignment personal. Employee medical program available get Applications on site, 487 South Lake Dr. in Prestonsburg, Ky. or local Employment Office

UNIVERSAL WELL SERVICE, INC. WILL BE TAKING JOB INTERVIEWS MARCH 31, 2004 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 2:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. INTERESTED PARTIES MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE, HAVE A CDL LICENSE (TANKER AND HAZMAT ENDORSEMENTS), AN OUTSTANDING DRIVING RECORD AND BE WILLING TO WORK FLEXIBLE HOURS. INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD AT THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSAL WELL SERVICE LOCATED ON 5252 RT. 1428 BEHIND THE OLD R/S TRUCK BODY SHOP NEAR THE ALLEN ELEMENTARY GRADE SCHOOL

RN needed at Prestonsburg Health Care Center. Full time or part time position is available. The position offers flexible hours, competitive wages and benefits if interested please stop by or send a resume to 147 N. Highland Ave. Prestonsburg KY, 41653 (beside Prestonsburg Elementary)

Looking for some one to stay with elderly lady nights, days and weekends. for more information call 606-886-0238 Ext. 319 or 606-358-2102

J.K.B. General Contractors now hiring General Labor for \$ 5.50 per hour call 889-0684 or 874-1214

Auger Operator needed excellent pay and benefits call 606-356-2647 or 606-768-2098

Wanted Experience Auto and Tire Technicians. Great benefit package including medical, vacation and holiday pay. send resume to p o box 157 Wittersville, Ky 41274

ATTENTION!!! CDL Training In Only 16 Days Trucking Companies Need Drivers! We Recruit For 36 National Carriers Recruiters on Site. Train With The Professionals.. 800-398-9908

250-Miscellaneous

Drivers Needed- Dry Fundraiser \$ \$ for yourself, School, Church, Organization. Host Photo Shoot. Easy, Fun Profitable 800-892-7604

FINANCIAL

330-For Sale

FOR SALE Psychoballistics Silver Bullet Electronic paintball gun with three firing modes- semi, full-auto, and 3 shot burst. Mouse click trigger pull. Black carbon fiber barrel. \$150 firm. Like brand-new. Call 789-8380

MERCHANDISE

410-Animals

Want to buy, Very young female teacup Chihuahua. Prefer all white in color but will consider solid tan, also Call Kathy at 886-8506 or email to features@floydcountytimes.com may also call 789-8380

445-Furniture

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

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

For Sale Lazy Boy sectional country blue, also White Lazy Boy Recliner and Love Seat Floor Model TV, and 25 INCH Sanyo TV, Refrigerator and Stove Call 478-2240

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

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

For Sale 8 foot Pool Table Regulation size with Slate Bed in really good condition with some extras call 874-5178

460-Yard Sale

April 3 Sat. only A.E.P. Prestonsburg parking lot includes clothing, household items, Home interior Lots of other miscellaneous Items starts at 8 am

Yard Sale, Weather Permitting, April 1-2 Tremble Branch behind Prestonsburg Elementary School. Miscellaneous items.

2 family garage sale, Friday and Saturday April 2-3 8am. Children's clothes, house-ware, toys, sound equipment, and lots more. 256 S. Arnold Ave. Prestonsburg, Ky.

475-Household

For Sale, Boy's and Girl's Clothing newborn to 24 month baby items, car seat stroller 2 changing table, 2 deep freezers. Industrial sewing machine items can be seen 3-27 04 after 6 pm call 889-9072

480-Miscellaneous

Wolff Tanning Beds Financing Available Free Delivery and Setup within 75 miles of London Bulbs Parts Lotions Wholesale prices call 888-554-0058

Aireater Septic System, It has 3 compassator Brand New, Installed but never used call 606-432-2642 for viewing 606-297-1454 for buying asking \$2,000. firm...

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

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

FOR SALE: 8 ft' deli cooler, \$950 and Gas convection oven, \$450. Call 886-2367.

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

Kay's Wallpaper 205 Depot Road Paintsville, Ky

HUNDREDS OF PATTERNS OF WALLPAPER & BORDERS All under \$10.00. Open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Sunday & Monday. 789-8584.

For Sale: Seven room older home located on Riverside Drive in Prestonsburg. Good Condition and well maintained. Priced \$57,500 Call after 5:00 p.m. 874-9595



FOR SALE: Ranch-style stone and log home. 2,100 sq. ft. (12-1/2 acres), 4 bdms., 3 bths, has 2-car garage, basement, fireplace with insert, new heat pump. Barn (6-stall), 2 outside utility bldgs. with apt. over one. Chain-link fence.

House for sale Big Branch of Abbott 139 Cedar Trace 4300 square ft. 5 bed rooms serious inquires only call 886-6289

Sale by Owner 239 Francis Court in 1400 square. feet 2 baths zoned business, \$74,000 call Rose Collins at 434-361-1531

Moving out of state Home place of June A. Hutchinson at 110 Martin Branch Road, Wayland, Ky. will be up for sale as of April 1 by appointment only call 606-358-4053

For Rent Large 3 bed room House 2 full baths with large Kitchen and large back and front yards, full size basement & Garage for storage call 859-806-2188

For Rent available April 1st at Martin 2 bed room Home in secluded location, easy access to Rt. 80 Partially furnished with washer and dryer, refrigerator, stove and air conditioned. FREE NATURAL GAS, you pay only water and electric. \$400.00 per month. \$100.00 deposit 606-874-2929

AVAILABLE NOW foreclosed homes (buy for only 7,900) for listings call 800-319-3323 extension. B 183

2 bed room Duplex with full Garage for rent 550.00 plus 500 deposit 1 year lease required located at Lancer, KY call 886-8781 after 6pm

House for sale in Wheelwright 1801 Main Street, 2 bed room separate drive way, recently renovated bath with new furnace, fenced back yard. Includes extra lot call 859-527-7646

570-Mobile Homes

For Rent 2 bed room Mobile Home at Wayland, HUD approved call 285-3504

For Rent 2 bed room Trailer 3 miles from Prestonsburg on David Road call 886-3902

For Rent 2 bed Trailer located at Dana on Spurlock fork 250.00 per month call 606-478-9397 or 606-478-4748

For Sale 2003 Clayton 28x60 Great Location in downtown Prestonsburg 3-bed room 2 bath all electric, large kitchen with Island sheet rock living room seamless gutters, vaulted roof pitch, crown molding, large out building situated on a 100 x50 lot many extras. call 606-886-8601 asking \$85,000.00

Norris 28 x66 with drywall, stained glass entry door, dramatic new exterior trim and many more extras in this quality home. For details call 606-353-6444 or toll free 877-353-6444

For Sale 3 bed room 2 bath 16 x 80 Mobile Home asking 23,000 call 886-2644

For Sale 1999 2 bed room, 2 bath Mobile Home, 14 x 72 with island kitchen, painted, wallpaper and decks. on rented lot on left fork Abbott asking 13,000

FOR SALE: 12 X 60 Mobile Home. Underpinning & steps included, needs repairs, excellent for parts or storage, \$1000 OBO. Call after 5:30 874-4604.

FREE FORE-CLOSED HOMES Beautiful 3-4-5 bedroom bank homes. All areas, includes addresses, phone numbers. Prices from \$10,000. No money down. Free Listings Please visit: www.Free Bank Houses.com CHNI W & Sh.

4 bed room, 29 x 80 Clayton Brook Master, with 2 living areas for a monthly payment of \$495 with your good credit. For details call 606-353-6444 or toll free 877-353-6444

580-Miscellaneous
 For Sale: 2 Prom Dresses size 20 asking 80.00 each call 886-9305

590 - Sale or lease
 FOR SALE or LEASE: 16000 square. ft. building, more or less w/ apt. attached. 2 BED ROOMS, 1 BATH. Separate metal building. 40x50 & 2 + 1/2 acres of land. Large road frontage. Between Allen & Martin. close to WMDJ Call 859-512-6812.

630-Houses
 3 bed room house for rent in Prestonsburg 1 mile from Mac Arts \$500.00 per month call 886-0226 after 5 pm

Your ad could be here!

Oil Field Service Company Has Opening For **Hard-Working Drivers and Experienced Cement Supervisors in the Allen Office**

Must be 21 years of age or older. Must have CDL and good driving record with some mechanical aptitude.

Please apply in person, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m.

Located at: **Universal Well Service, 5252 Route 1428 in Allen KY Phone 606-874-3487**

Building #1- Shop Metal Building 120 wide x 60 deep, insulated, gas heat, office bath with 5 large bays, each with 12' wide x 14 high doors, Approx 165 wide x 240 deep

Building #2 Metal Building 160 wide x 80 deep insulated, new heat and air conditioner, 6 offices, 3 baths, conference room front roll up door 12 x 12 and side roll up door 12 x 12 plus 2 front entrance doors and one side entrance door approx 265' wide x 210 deep lot. Both require a minimum of one year lease. Both have lots of parking with chain link fence and city water. Both are located 1 mile from the Allen red light on Route 1428 across from the state garage and Allen grade school call 606-874-0588 and ask for Kathie.

RENTALS

610-Apartments
DUPLEX APARTMENT FOR RENT: 2 Bed room 1 bath stove, refrigerator, central h/a, w/d hookup, city limits at US 23 & 80. \$450 mo. + utilities and \$250 deposit.. 1 year lease, no pets. Call 886-7237 or 237-4758.

Now Renting One Bed room Units Elderly, Handicapped & Disabled Available for immediately occupancy. Park Place Apartments in Prestonsburg Rent 1 bed room / \$305 call 606-886-0039

FURNISHED 1 BED ROOM APT. Central heat & air. Rent starting at \$350 month, + \$300 deposit. Located near HRMC. 889-9717.

Quick Silver Town House available April 1 New 3 bed room, 2 bath room Duplex for Rent Beautiful hard wood floors and trim No Pets call Tim at 886-3055 or 606-434-6516

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

NOTICES

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

Rn Day Shift Available 8:30 am-5:pm Hospice of Big Sandy, Inc. Call 606-789-3841 or come in and fill out an application at 1520 Ky. Highway 1428 Hager Hill, Ky. 41222 (psa)

812 Free
FREE PALLETS: Can be picked up behind The Floyd County Times. The item listed will be sold to the bidder submitting the highest bid.

900-Legals
FOR SALE BY SEALED BID
 Prestonsburg City's Utilities Commission has the following surplus equipment for sale:

Used Myers High Velocity Sewer Cleaner, Model PC60TA.

Sealed bids will be received by the Commission for this item of surplus equipment. This item may be inspected by calling Mr. David Ellis, Superintendent or Turner Campbell, Chief Financial Officer at (606) 886-6871 for an appointment. Bids will be received at the Commission's office, located at 2560 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653, until 3:00 p.m. (local time) on April 7, 2004, and then at such office, publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after the deadline will be returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commission reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any and all bids. Bids shall be in sealed envelopes addressed to "Mr. David Ellis, Superintendent", bearing the bidder's identification, and labeled in the lower left-hand corner: "Sealed Bid - Surplus Equipment".

Services

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

NOTICES

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812 Free
FREE PALLETS: Can be picked up behind The Floyd County Times. The item listed will be sold to the bidder submitting the highest bid.

Turner E. Campbell, Chief Financial Officer

HEAVY EQUIPMENT STEAM CLEANING COMPANY NEEDS EMPLOYEES
 Experience and surface mining papers are a plus. Must have valid driver's license. Call 606-886-1759

Classified ads work! Call Pauline today! 886-8506

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 Your inner drive could earn you up to \$35,000 your first year, then up to \$45,000 your second! That's the type of advancement you can experience as a Route Manager for the Schwan's team. A leader in food sales and delivery for over 50 years, we're seeking motivated people with a strong entrepreneurial spirit and excellent customer service skills to join us in the Prestonsburg, KY, area.

Route Manager
 Operate and manage a route system and take responsibility for the sale and delivery of food products throughout an assigned territory. Experience in a sales, customer service or business position is preferred. A 2-year secondary education is highly desirable, but not required.

We offer paid training, medical/dental/life insurance, 401(k), paid vacation and more!

Get the scoop on all the details by calling 1-800-3EMPLOY (1-800-336-7569), or e-mail your resume to thomas.balash@schwans.com. Ref. Code: 94152

Qualified candidates must be at least 21 years old and have a good driving record.

EOE/AA

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FLOYD COUNTY TIMES
 263 S. Central Ave.
 Prestonsburg, KY

NOW HIRING
Crisis Intervention Specialist
 Come join a growing company seeking to fill the position of **Crisis Intervention Specialist**.
 Position requires specialist to be on-call during the week and occasional weekends.
 Starting salary is 7.50 per hour.
 Applicants must have a GED or High School Diploma; Military or Security background preferred.
 CPR certified (if not we can schedule course), Knowledge of non-violent crisis intervention preferred.
 Apply in person at Community Connections
 4663 US 23, South Ivel, Ky. 41642
 (Old Unisign Building)

Management Positions Available
Pikeville, Prestonsburg, Portsmouth, Wise
 Minimum 6 months food service experience necessary.
 Excellent Benefits / Salary negotiable
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 Reno's Roadhouse
 253 University Drive
 Prestonsburg, KY 41653
 Or Fax to:
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