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briefs

Teen dies; causes unknown

by JOYAL FRAZIER
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Kentucky State Police is investigating the death of a 14-year-old male student of Sheldon Clark High School.

According to police, the juvenile was brought into the emergency room at Highlands Regional Medical Center by Net Care Ambulance around noon Friday. The hospital called the state police and reported the incident and that the child was unresponsive.

Det. Billy Hall was dispatched to the hospital and upon his arrival learned that the child had died.

At this time the cause of death and the child's name is still withheld. The incident is being investigated by Det. Billy Hall and Trooper Scott Hazlett.

Correction

The Times mistakenly reported Friday that Laura Link is a defendant in the civil suit filed on behalf of Terrence and Eric Fitzer, of Reno's Restaurant. It is only Laura's husband, Mark, who is named in the suit as a defendant.

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2 DAY FORECAST

Today
Partly cloudy
High: 80 • Low: 58

Tomorrow
Partly cloudy
High: 82 • Low: 59

Kinslow sentenced during animated hearing

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The sentencing of Cheryl Kinslow got off to a rocky start and a decidedly rowdy finish on Friday.

The proceedings began with Circuit Court Judge John D. Caudill referencing the petition that he received from

Kinslow's family. The document, which contained over 100 signatures, claimed many things but most important to Judge Caudill was the accusation that Kinslow had been framed.

"I don't want anyone going to prison who's been framed," Caudill said.

Caudill asked Kinslow if she felt she had been framed. Her response was, "No,

my family just tried to help me out of love."

The judge, however, pressed on and made sure that Kinslow was being sentenced after making her plea voluntarily.

"Were you framed?" Caudill asked.

"No," Kinslow responded.

Kinslow also answered that she did try to hire a killer to slay her son-in law,

Daniel Hart, and that she paid him a \$1,000, with a promise of two more payments of \$3,500 each after the murder.

Kinslow's defense attorney, Harolyn Howard, said, "She did not put the article in the paper or make the allegation."

Howard also alluded to a letter, pub-

(See KINSLOW, page three)



Representatives from Floyd and surrounding counties took part in an inaugural town hall meeting Friday, addressing concerns via teleconference in 12 locations.

photo by Mary Music

Governor holds 'town hall' meeting with East Ky. leaders

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Gov. Ernie Fletcher, accompanied with by wife and his cabinet, embarked on a first for Eastern Kentucky — an "inaugural town hall meeting."

Representatives from Floyd and surrounding counties joined Fletcher via teleconference Friday to address issues of concern across the state. The initiative brought together 40 eastern Kentucky coun-

ties, targeting 12 sites for specific question-and-answer sessions.

The main topics discussed challenged the economic hardships and drug addictions in the eastern half of the state.

The Floyd County question, asked by Sandy Runyon, director of the Big Sandy Area Development District, considered the protection of small businesses in Eastern Kentucky.

Eastern Kentucky, she said, is "geographically challenged" when it

comes to moving in larger manufacturing plants, and state tax credits are primarily geared to benefit larger industries, making it difficult for expansion of "homegrown businesses," those that feed the majority of the state.

Fletcher said changes have already taken place during the last session and more are expected in the future. He said Eastern Kentuckians should focus, also, on workman

(See TOWN HALL, page three)

Martin given 25 years for sex abuse

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Leonard Martin, 56, of Teaberry, was formally sentenced Friday in circuit court to 25 years of hard labor for molesting his granddaughter at his Teaberry home two years ago.

The sentencing began with Judge Danny Caudill asking the attorneys present if they had any comments before sentencing. Martin's attorney had no remarks but the prosecutor, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Wayne Taylor, made some remarks.

"This is a man who molested his daughter and two granddaughters," Taylor said. "I am sure the

court has read the Victim Impact Statements. The jury recommended a 25-year sentence. When he does become eligible for parole in 22 years, the victims will be there."

Judge Caudill then turned his attention to the defendant.

"Mr. Martin, I sat on the trial and I think the sentence is appropriate," Caudill said. "I am going to uphold it."

Judge Caudill later noted that Martin has finally made a step forward by admitting his acts.

"You're taking responsibility, finally, for your actions," Caudill said. "This may at least be a start for you."

(See ABUSE, page three)

Guess sentenced after positive drug screen

by JOYAL FRAZIER
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Magoffin County woman was back in court Friday for formal sentencing after violating the conditions her release and testing positive for drugs.

(See SENTENCE, page three)



Amanda Guess

Reno's defendants file countersuit

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — It's getting sticky at one Floyd County restaurant chain, with allegations flying across the table.

Terrance and Eric Fitzer, CEO and director of Reno's Roadhouse, filed a \$286,000 suit Aug. 13 against five former employees and two businesses, piling their plates with numerous charges of impropriety.

They allege that the former employees and officers — Mark Link, a 20 percent shareholder of

Reno's; Kenni Gambill, a former manager; Jamie T. Evans Salyer, a former assistant manager; and former employees Stephen Scott Dixon and Michael S. Salyer — worked together to sabotage Reno's in order to open two other businesses, Steve O's Sports Bar and Grill and its parent company, Momnana's. Dixon is listed as the agent of both businesses, referred to in the suit as "shells for the conspiracy."

The suit, filed by attorney Sheridan Martin, claims the for-

(See COUNTERSUIT, page three)



The Cardinal Mart at Jenny Wiley Village lowered its prices Friday from 5 to 6 p.m. Gasoline was \$1.19 per gallon for regular unleaded fuel, and motorists responded by forming a long before 90 minutes before the prices dropped. A percentage of all the gas sold during the month of August at Cardinal Mart stores will be donated to LINKS and East Kentucky Black Lung Association.

photo by Joyal Frazier

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Odds and Ends

■ **HOUSTON** — Todd Krampitz got his new liver through an appeal via billboard ads and Internet.

Now, the 32-year-old Houston man's family has posted a new billboard to send out a big "thank you" for the liver donation that saved his life.

Krampitz was discharged from The Methodist Hospital on

Monday after getting the transplant late last week.

After his diagnosis, his family mounted a media campaign, including two billboards along a Houston freeway, and a Web site that detailed his plight and raised awareness about organ donation. Krampitz and his wife Julie also did national media interviews.

An out-of-state donor family specified that the liver go to Krampitz, who was diagnosed with liver cancer in May.

The new billboard went up Wednesday on the Southwest Freeway near Bellfort. It bears Krampitz's picture and says, "Thank you! Give the gift of life. Become an organ donor." Krampitz had been given a

low priority for a donation, based on what doctors assessed his odds of long-term benefit to be. But the public appeal allowed a direct donation from donor to recipient.

Critics of his campaign contend the Krampitz appeal might have diverted a liver from a patient in greater need. His supporters argue that the appeal raised overall awareness of the need for organ donations.

Weird N.J., the cult newsletter that became a magazine that became a best-selling book, has broadened its abnormal horizons, as a new book, "Weird U.S.: Your Travel Guide to America's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets."

After publishing the Weird N.J. newsletter and then magazine for a decade, Bloomfield-based authors Mark Moran and Mark Sceurman last year compiled the state's weirdness in a book, "Weird N.J."

Now, the success of the book has led the pair to catalogue some unexplained, creepy, off-beat places and folklore throughout the country in "Weird U.S.," published by Barnes & Noble Books, and due out in October.

"People throughout the United States had strange tales to tell. They believed them to be true, and they wanted somebody to tell them. That's how 'Weird U.S.' came to be," the authors write in the introduction to "Weird U.S.," a 344-page soft-cover collection of stories and accompanying black and white photographs and illustrations.

Some of the entries are taken from "Weird N.J.," such as Devil's Tower in Alpine, said to be haunted; and Tripod Rock, a boulder perched on three much smaller stones on Pyramid Mountain bordering Kinnelon and Montville in Morris County.

There's also the Devil's Footprint, which, as legend has it, was found imprinted in a boulder in Manchester, Me., that could not be budgeted until a workman pledged his soul to Satan and was never seen again.

How will readers know where to draw the line between fact and fantasy in the book?

"That's up to you," the authors suggest. "We document them because we believe they are an important and intrinsic part of our modern American culture and worthy of recognition as such."

■ **GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.** — A pair of teenagers who spent more than two straight days publicly glued to a television set say they have set a new world record for uninterrupted TV viewing.

Chris Dean, 16, and Mike Dudek, 17, both of Grand Rapids, logged 52 consecutive hours of viewing time by the time they ended their feat at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The teens, who are incoming high school seniors, surpassed the Guinness World Records mark of 50 hours and seven minutes by nearly two hours — giving new meaning to "must-see TV."

"We've got a record under our belts," Dudek said.

Confirmation of the record could take anywhere from a few weeks to several months because documentation must be sent to Guinness, Dean said.

The teens set up their television inside an International House of Pancakes restaurant because it is open 24 hours a day and the management was willing to participate.

"It's a strange thing to want to do," said server Virgil Sandberg. "It's probably one of the strangest things I've ever seen here."

According to rules set by Guinness, Dean and Dudek were required to remain awake with their eyes always on the television screen. They were given a five-minute break every hour and restroom trips were permitted only during 15-minute breaks every eight hours.

Dean's parents, Gordon and Brenda Dean, helped document the event and said they were proud of their son's unusual achievement.

"He has to be good at something, this is just as well," Gordon Dean said. "He set a goal and reached it."

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Aug. 22, the 235th day of 2004. There are 131 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 22, 1775, Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies in a state of open rebellion.

On this date:

■ In 1485, England's King Richard III was killed in the Battle of Bosworth Field, ending the War of the Roses.

■ In 1787, inventor John Fitch demonstrated his steamboat on the Delaware River to delegates of the Continental Congress.

■ In 1846, the United States annexed New Mexico.

■ In 1851, the schooner America outraced the Aurora off the English coast to win a trophy that became known as the America's Cup.

■ In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first U.S. chief executive to ride in an automobile, in Hartford, Conn.

■ In 1904, 100 years ago, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping was born in Sichuan province.

■ In 1911, it was announced in Paris that Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" had been stolen from the Louvre Museum the night before. The painting turned up two years later, in Italy.

■ In 1956, President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon were nominated for second terms in office by the Republican national convention in San Francisco.

■ In 1978, President Jomo Kenyatta, a leading figure in Kenya's struggle for independence, died; Vice President Daniel Arap Moi was sworn in as acting president.

■ In 1989, Black Panther co-founder Huey P. Newton was shot to death in Oakland, Calif.

Gunman Tyrone Robinson was later sentenced to 32 years to life in prison.

Ten years ago:

Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico's ruling party declared victory a day after presidential elections that his leading opponents charged were unfair.

Five years ago:

Hurricane Bret rumbled ashore on the Texas Gulf Coast with wind over 100 mph. A China Airlines jet burst into flames at Hong Kong's new airport, killing three people and injuring more than 200. Art dealer Leo Castelli died in New York at age 91.

One year ago:

Alabama's chief justice, Roy Moore, was suspended for his refusal to obey a federal court order to remove his Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of his courthouse. Texas Gov. Rick Perry pardoned 35 people arrested in the 1999 Tulia drug busts and convicted on the testimony of a lone undercover agent later charged with perjury. In Brazil, a rocket exploded on its launch pad during tests just days before liftoff, killing 21 people.

Today's Birthdays:

Author Ray Bradbury is 84; Heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley is 84. Retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf is 70. ABC newsman Morton Dean is 69. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Carl Yastrzemski is 65. Actress Valerie Harper is 64. Football coach Bill Parcells is 63. CBS newsman Steve Kroft is 59. Actress Cindy Williams is 57. Musician David Marks (The Beach Boys) is 56. Country singer Holly Dunn is 47. Rock musician Vernon Reid is 46. Country singer Collin Raye is 44. Country singer Ricky Lynn Gregg is 43. Rock singer Roland Orzabal (Tears For Fears) is 43. Rock musician Debbi Peterson (The Bangles) is 43. Rock musician Gary Lee Connor (Screaming Trees) is 42. Singer Tori Amos is 41. Country singer Mila Mason is 41. Rhythm and blues musician James DeBarge is 41. Tennis player Mats Wilander is 40. Rapper GZA/The Genius is 38. Actor Rick Yune is 33. Rock musician Paul Doucette (Matchbox Twenty) is 32. Rap-reggae singer Beenie Man is 31. Singer Howie Dorough (Backstreet Boys) is 31. Actress Jenna Leigh Green is 30.

Thought for Today:

"If you want to be thought a liar, always tell the truth." — Logan Pearsall Smith, American essayist (1865-1946).

Hatfield facing revocation hearing

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Hi Hat resident who netted four years of supervised probation last month is now facing a probation revocation hearing, two months after he was released from custody.

Daniel K. Hatfield, 27, accepted a plea bargain offer from the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office when he pleaded guilty in June to four counts of wanton endangerment, charges stemming from a Dec. 7 automobile accident with an off-duty vehicle enforcement officer, Thomas Gearheart, at the intersection of Routes 680 and 122 in Minnie.

Gearheart claimed that Hatfield rammed the back of his vehicle, causing \$1,200 damage, then "ran" from the scene in order to avoid prosecution.

Gearheart, who was standing near his vehicle, said Hatfield nearly hit him when he passed by; He claims he chased Hatfield at registered speeds of approximately 90 miles an hour for several miles before catching up with him.

Three juveniles, passengers in Hatfield's vehicle, were put in substantial danger but not injured, Gearheart said.

Hatfield was charged by

Kentucky State Police Trooper Randy McCarty with driving under the influence, operating on a suspended license, no insurance and leaving the scene of an accident. Gearheart later took out a criminal complaint against him for the four counts of wanton endangerment.

After pleading guilty to those charges in June, Judge John David Caudill sentenced Hatfield to four years, concurrently, on each count, but he suspended the sentence, placing Hatfield under supervised probation.

According to Probation and Parole Officer Dewey Hackworth, Hatfield violated his probation this month when he was arrested for public intoxication in Pike County.

According to the report, Hatfield was released from the Pike County Jail on Aug. 8 under a \$2,000 surety bond. He failed to get permission to go to Pikeville, and failed to notify his parole officer of his arrest, Hackworth alleges.

Hatfield is on a waiting list for available space at the Crossroads Recovery Center, Hackworth wrote in his report.

Hackworth suggested that Hatfield be lodged in the Floyd County Detention Center until his revocation hearing, which is scheduled for September.

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- Nerve Pain
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- RSD Pain (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy)
- Burning Neuropathy Pain
- Facet Joint Pain
- Spinal Cord Injury Pain
- Pain after Back Surgery
- Fibromyalgia

Dr. Sujata Gutti trained at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, is a staff physician at the Pikeville Medical Center, and is a Board Certified Neurologist. She specializes in the treatment of:

- Seizures/Epilepsy
- Parkinson's Disease
- Back Pain/Sciatica/Neck Pain
- Stroke
- Nerve Injury
- Neuralgia
- Migraine Headaches
- Alzheimers Disease
- Neuropathy
- Muscle & Nerve Disease
- Numbness

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Town Hall

compensation laws for smaller businesses, which employ most of Kentucky's uninsured workers.

Gene Strong, secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development, replied by saying that smaller businesses don't want that tax credit as much as they need the capitol, and pointed out that Floyd County has received \$18 million in different types of small business assistance over the past several years.

"We recognize that we need to do more for small businesses," he said.

According to Commerce Secretary Jim Host, 50 percent

of all employees across the state are employed by small businesses. If those businesses can expand by at least one employee per year, that would add about 87,000 jobs.

"It's easy to do. We can do it and we're gonna figure out a way to do it," Host said, amid applause from the crowd.

Drugs, and the success of UNITE, was another hot topic during the meeting, mirrored in the need felt by Clay County representatives, who touted the UNITE drug-free tip line during the conference.

In Somerset, where Fletcher and his constituents were gathered, a cofounder of the UNITE

campaign — who opened Joshua's Dream after his son died from drug addiction — asked what the state can do to curb the drug scourge in Eastern Kentucky.

Emphasis was placed in the response to faith-based organizations, and public and private industries.

"Those caught in drug addiction need to be treated and rehabilitated rather than incarcerated," Fletcher said.

Fletcher says the state hasn't "taken care" of federal dollars that could help build much needed rehabilitation centers.

In addressing the issue, Cleve Gambill, deputy secretary of the Justice and Public Safety, said that almost 45,000 people in Kentucky are either incarcerated or on probation for various crimes, costing taxpayers millions annually.

He reiterated a comment made earlier this year by Lt. Gov. Steve Pence: "We're not going to incarcerate our way out of this."

According to Congressman Hal Rogers, one Eastern Kentucky county of about 20,000 has at least one drug-related death per week.

"We've got to first admit that we've got a problem," he

said. "Everybody has a problem. Admit it, then we can go to work on it."

Pikeville representatives, who congratulated Rogers in working to establish drug courts, asked what the state would do with information compiled during the recent drug summits.

Fletcher said the drug summit reports are still in the "rough draft" stages, and that he's viewed them and discussed them with cabinet members. Special initiatives from those reports will be released at a later date, he said.

Fletcher, perhaps foreshadowing his plans to unveil a "large and aggressive" education initiative this week, said education is the key in combating the drug epidemic.

"It's explicitly important to have more opportunities, more job opportunities, more education, post-secondary education..." Fletcher said. "If we can do that with education, I think we can turn around the drug problem in Eastern Kentucky."

"We're in for a good, hard fight and we're gonna fight this one," Gambill said.

Other concerns discussed: ■ From Somerset: Question as to whether or not truck dri-

vers can utilize industrial parks as rest areas. The administration said it would look into the request.

Question regarding medical liability abuse. Fletcher said the state is working to pass legislation on the matter.

Question as to whether the state has anything in place to collect overdue taxes in order to curb its financial woes. A program, which started in Magoffin County — with a \$2 million lag in property taxes — is already in place, the governor reported.

■ From Clay County: Requested information regarding the promotion or expansion of tourism, specifically mentioning a nine-hole golf course in Manchester. Host requested a direct telephone call or email regarding the question.

■ From Bell County: Question about whether Fletcher's administration would develop a strategy for better forest management. Strong said the state would continue to pursue secondary wood manufacturing as a "target industry in the eastern and southeastern portions of the state."

■ From West Liberty: Discussion on how to keep

health care providers in rural areas. Fletcher suggested increased education, commending colleges like Pikeville's School of Osteopathic Medicine for turning the tides in this regard.

■ From In Columbia: Question about completion of the Route 61S project. The project will remain "on hold" until a budget can be reached.

■ From Hazard: Question as to whether the state will utilize coal severance tax money to expand secondary educational — specifically bachelor's degree programs. That, too, Fletcher said, requires a budget. Education Secretary Virginia Fox told the group to "just keep pushing and poking" the state for help in that regard.

■ From Harlan County: Question as to whether rural areas will be opened up via four-lane access to the new Interstate 66 construction, for which groundbreaking was held yesterday in Somerset. Fletcher said the goal is to open up "every possible community" in order to promote industry in the area.

The meeting will be aired on WYMT, which facilitated the event.

Counterfeit

mer employees misappropriated business methods, confidential business information and intellectual property. It also claims that they are guilty of "tortious interference" with business relationships, civil and criminal conspiracy.

On Aug. 18, the plot thickened with a counterclaim filed by Mark and Laura Link, on behalf of Lois H. Burchett Living Trust. They allege, first and foremost, that Reno's and the Southeast Rax Development Company, listed under the same mailing address, failed to hold true to promissory notes totaling \$87,000 for the Links.

The suit, filed by Pikeville attorney Della M. Justice, also claims that both Terrance and Eric Fitzer fraudulently "induced" the couple into purchasing company stock by "misrepresenting" company assets and promising a permanent job to Mark Link.

In last week's suit, the Fitzers allege that Mark Link resigned as Reno's vice president and board member. Link, however, claims in the countersuit that he was wrongfully terminated from the position.

Justice alleges that the Fitzers have "acted outside their corporate authority" and "have been plundering the assets and siphoning off funds of Reno's and diverting monies" for their personal use.

"Defendants have engaged in self-dealing and plundered the assets of the corporation and siphoned off funds of the corporation for their own personal use and have paid themselves excessive salaries, while at the same time trying to freeze out the minority shareholders," Justice wrote in the suit. "They misdirect and convert funds and property rightfully payable to the shareholders to satisfy their own personal expenses and debt. They have made business decisions in their own self-interest and not in the interest of the shareholders and have failed to disclose to plaintiffs the decisions made."

In doing so, Justice says, the father-and-son Reno's pair misrepresented the business' financial condition and breached their fiduciary duties.

Both parties are seeking compensation, with interest, and punitive damages.

Abuse

The judge went on to add more comments on the case, saying, "With your age, I don't know if you'll be released. We have a very precious commodity in this land and that is our children. You will have to, if you are ever released, register as a sex offender wherever you go for the rest of your life."

The sentencing ended the Martin case, which has continued for almost two years because an earlier attempt at litigating the case was called a mistrial. Wayne Taylor has stuck it out throughout the years and was happy to see the case finally closed.

Taylor's final thoughts on Martin were edged with some of the intense feelings that questioning the victims brought out in him.

"That smirk he wore throughout the trial, even while his victims were testifying, well we finally wiped that off his face," Taylor said.

That smirk may have turned the tide for Martin during his trial. On the first day he wore the half-grin throughout the testimony of his two granddaughters and often turned his attention towards the jury as testimony was continuing. On the second day of his trial, his adult daughter

testified that he molested her when she was a child. The turning point came when she told the court that she always knew that he was about to abuse her because he would leer at her with a lopsided grin when he'd enter her room.

Martin's ex-wife, Iris Howell, showed up for the sentencing as well and said, "We just wanted to thank the commonwealth's attorney and the jury for seeing that justice was done."

Howell came with her ex-sister-in-law, Jewell Martin, who said, "He made them go through that experience twice [counting the testimony during the mistrial]. Now he has finally admitted it. His daughter (now 30 years old) after all of these years has finally gotten justice for what he did to her."

Sentence

Amanda Guess had been waiting for a bed in a substance rehabilitation facility for several weeks to no avail. The last time she was in court, Guess agreed to go to rehabilitation, complete the program and be sentenced according to the recommendation of her successful completion of the program. Since there was been no progress in getting her into a rehab program, Judge Danny Caudill ruled that instead of sentencing, Guess be released from jail until she could enter a treatment center.

The conditions of her release included that she abide by the rules of probation and was to contact the sheriff's department every day at 8 a.m. She would be told at that time whether she was to immediately report to the probation and parole office for drug testing.

Less than a week after her release, Guess tested positive for drugs and was taken back into custody.

"You continue to have a substance abuse problem," Caudill told Guess. "You came to court under the influence and although your attorney made a valiant effort to say you were on Nyquil, I don't think that was the case."

Guess received two years

Judge rules shooting suspect must stay in jail

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A West Virginia man awaiting a call from a grand jury on an attempted murder charge will remain in jail, Judge James R. Allen ruled Friday.

Prestonsburg attorney Gerald Derossett, representing Michael Lester, 44, of Williamson, sought relief in district court for Lester, who has been incarcerated under a \$225,000 full cash bond since his arrest on July 21.

Derossett submitted a motion to reduce Lester's bond on August 9, approximately a week after the case had already been referred to a grand jury.

Lester, accused of attempted murder, allegedly shot his brother-in-law, Donald Ray Dotson, one day prior to his arrest.

Friday, Judge Allen was scheduled to consider the motion, which accompanies an affidavit from Waste

Management employee Kenny Hall, dated Aug. 3. Hall swore that he saw Lester's truck parked at his Caney Branch residence between 10:30 and 11 a.m. on the day of the shooting.

Allen refused to rule on the motion, presented in court by attorney Ryan Allison on behalf of Derossett, because the case, waiting word from a grand jury, will possibly transfer to circuit court.

"Some judges believe that cases are transferred to circuit court when it's referred to the grand jury," Derossett said. "We filed the motion there to cover all the bases... We have fairly strong evidence that Mr. Lester couldn't have been there and that he couldn't have committed the act. Judge Allen decided not to rule on it and it's his prerogative as judge."

During the preliminary hearing in the case, three people also testified that Lester was home early that morning. His son,

Shane Lester, and Megan Daniels, the boy's girlfriend, said that Lester was home cutting grass around 10:30 a.m., the approximate time of the shooting.

Jennifer Baldrige, Lester's girlfriend, said that she and Lester slept until approximately 11 a.m. that day.

County Attorney Jimmy Marcum challenged this testimony during the hearing, pointing out potential discrepancies in their statements.

Marcum said that the two-hour drive from West Virginia to Auxier Heights, where the shooting occurred, could be substantially shortened with accelerated speeds. He also pointed out that Baldrige wouldn't have known if Lester had gotten up early that morning because she was sleeping.

Auxier Heights resident Clifford Glover, an eyewitness to the shooting, told authorities that he and Dotson were sitting on the front porch of his residence when Dotson left the porch to get a pack of cigarettes out of his truck. Dotson was shot as he walked around the edge of the home, according to testimony

given in the case.

Glover told authorities that he saw a white truck parked on the shoulder of the road next to the four-lane of Route 3. He said he saw a man — the same man he saw in court during a divorce proceeding for Dotson and his wife — walk to the back of the truck with what appeared to be a rifle. The man, he said, laid the gun across the back of the truck, fired one shot, then left the scene.

Kentucky State Police Det. Marvin Watson said authorities connected Lester with Dotson at Highlands Regional Medical Center, when Glover identified the truck as one belonging to Dotson's brother-in-law.

Lester, who voluntarily turned himself in, said he "had nothing to do" with the shooting, Watson said.

Lester, who has been imprisoned for approximately a month, will remain in custody until a grand jury decides on whether or not to indict him.

State law dictates that a grand jury must indict accused individuals within 60 days of their incarceration or they can be released.

Kinslow

lished in The Times, in which Kinslow's daughter, Melanie Wilkes, said that there were good reasons for Kinslow's actions and tried to make a case for leniency. Caudill put any concerns aside when he calmly said, "I don't try cases in the newspapers."

The sentencing itself followed

the recommendations of the Commonwealth and saw Kinslow given 15 years, with eight to serve and the rest of her sentence probated for five years.

Kinslow's family erupted in exasperated sighs at this point, but they were quickly hushed Judge Caudill firmly announced, "This isn't a pep rally."

Afterwards, Kinslow was led from the court while her attorney seemed anxious to speak to the writers of the petition.

"Is the daughter from Tennessee here?" Howard asked. "I need to speak to you before you leave."

Outside the courthouse, Kinslow's husband, David, was eager to speak about the incident.

"Cheryl and me had nothing to do with that petition," he said. "I'm sick all of the time. I've got cancer. Cheryl will get good medical care where she's going. We just want to get on. I know Judge Caudill and I will make sure he gets the message that we had nothing to do with it."

Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner was pleased with the proceedings, especially Caudill's opening remarks to Kinslow: "I was glad to see her openly acknowledge that a lot of the stuff that has been put out there by her family is false. He [Caudill] made her accountable. You can't have it both ways and enter a guilty plea while claiming you were framed."

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

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

Cozying up to Big Coal

The Bush administration has hired former coal industry executives and lobbyists to oversee, and ease, federal safety and environmental mining rules.

So reported The New York Times last week, and as a headline that will provide about as big a surprise in the coalfields of Kentucky and elsewhere as a revelation that the sun rises in the east.

People there know that this administration has made it easier for coal operators to practice mountaintop removal, by which entire mountains above coal seams are dumped into valleys and watersheds below. There has been greater tolerance of dangerous underground practices and lackadaisical follow-up of mine safety and health citations.

The administration's obsessive secrecy has been extended even to information regarding safety conditions in mines and to blacked-out portions of the federal investigation of the 2000 slurry disaster in Martin County in Eastern Kentucky.

Yet, the Times article, reprinted in two parts last Wednesday and Thursday on the Forum page, is nonetheless a compelling documentation of the extremes to which this administration goes to accommodate its Big Coal allies and the industry's drive for greater and cheaper production.

For example, it revisits in detail the efforts of Dave Lauriski, a 30-year coal industry veteran who now is chief of the Mine Safety and Health Administration, to allow coal-dust levels to rise in some mines.

Equally depressing is MSHA's laissez-faire attitude toward the dangers posed at strip mines by monster trucks, including some sitting on 11-foot-tall wheels. Since MSHA's withdrawal in 2001 of a Clinton administration proposal to protect workers from the trucks, 16 miners have been killed in hauling accidents above ground, the Times reports.

The administration's unspoken agenda is likely political: pursuit of big contributions from the industry and of votes in swing states, such as West Virginia and Pennsylvania, where miners are misleadingly told that eased environmental rules might increase employment.

But that's a shortsighted argument. If effective regulations are applied evenly and fairly, there would be impact on the bottom line, but over the long range coal operators should be able to compete with other energy producers and to sustain employment.

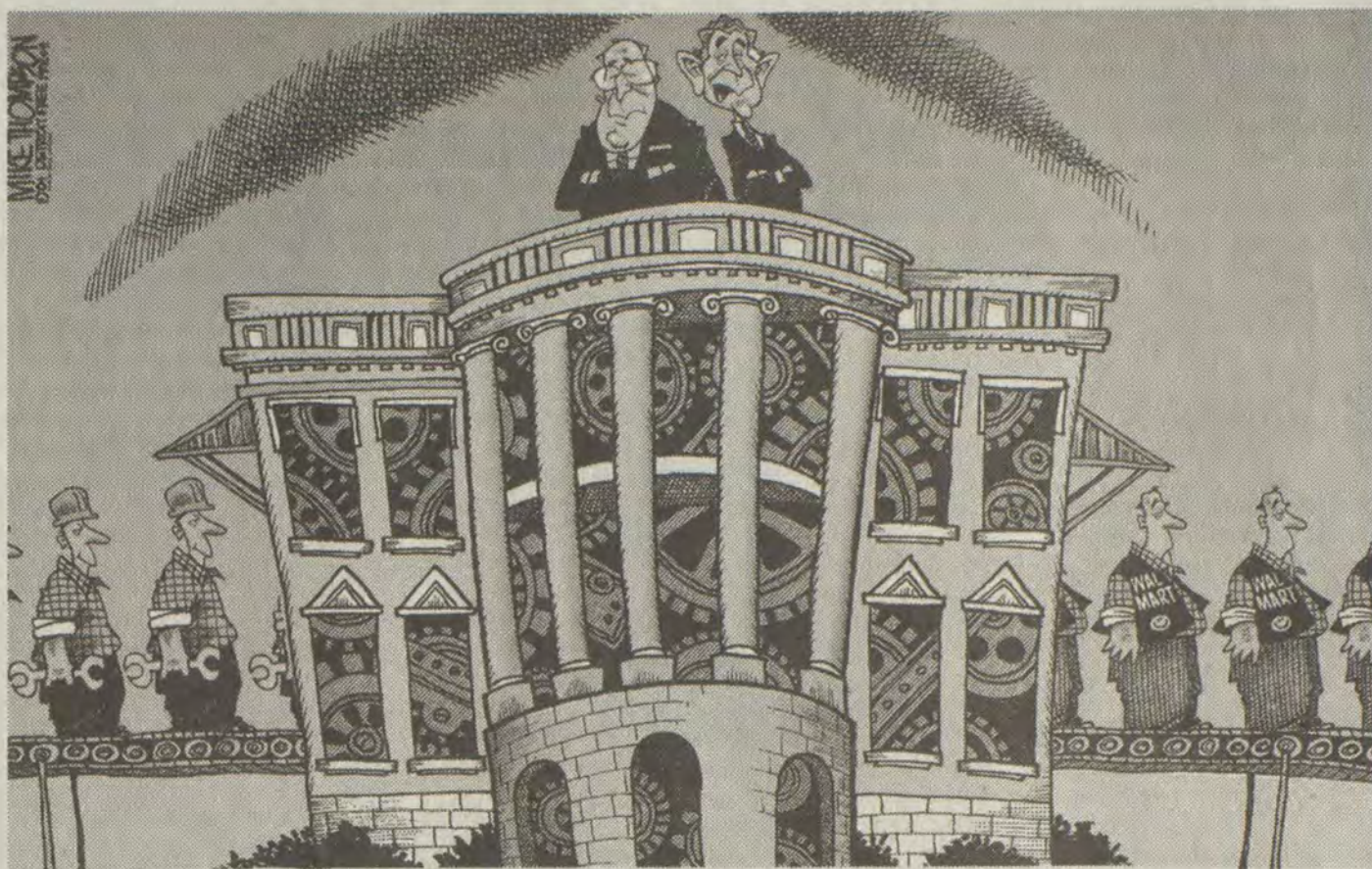
Outwardly, the administration relies on the tired cheap-energy case for coal.

That, too, is deceptive. America has comparatively low-cost energy, and coal already is far less expensive than oil and natural gas.

Anyway, while the American public wants affordable energy, there is no evidence that, even in hard-pressed coal states, it wants to lay waste to the environment or to sacrifice miners' lives and health.

The administration should listen to the people more, and to the coal industry less.

— The Courier-Journal, Louisville



"AND THEY SAY AMERICAN MANUFACTURING'S ON THE DECLINE."

— Rich Lowry Column

The double binds of George W. Bush

Sometimes a political figure becomes so hated that he can't do anything right in the eyes of his enemies. President Bush has achieved this rare and exalted status. His critics are so blinded by animus that the internal consistency of their attacks on him no longer matters. For them, Bush is the double-bind president.

If he stumbles over his words, he is an embarrassing idiot. If he manages to cut taxes or wage a war against Saddam Hussein with bipartisan support, he is a manipulative genius.

If he hasn't been able to capture Osama bin Laden, he is endangering U.S. security. If he catches bin Laden, it is only a ploy to influence the elections.

If he ignores U.N. resolutions, he is a dangerous unilateralist. If he takes U.N. resolutions on Iraq seriously, he is a dangerous unilateralist.

If he bombed Iraq, he should have bombed Saudi Arabia instead, and if he had bombed Saudi Arabia, he should have bombed Iran, and if he had bombed all three, he shouldn't have bombed anyone at all. If he imposes a U.S. occupation on Iraq, he is fomenting Iraqi resistance by making the United States seem an imperial power. If he ends the U.S. occupation, he is cutting and running.

If he warns of a terror attack, he is playing alarmist politics. If he doesn't warn of a terror attack, he is dangerously asleep at the

switch. If he says we're safer, he's lying, and if he doesn't say we're safer, he's implicitly admitting that he has failed in his core duty as commander in chief.

If he adopts a doctrine of pre-emption, he is unacceptably remaking American national-security policy. If the United States suffers a terror attack on his watch, he should have pre-empted it.



The Rich Lowry column

Bush's economy hasn't created new jobs. If it has created new jobs, they aren't well-paying jobs. If they are well-paying jobs, there is still income inequality in America.

If Bush opposes a prescription-drug benefit for the elderly, he's miserly. If he supports a prescription-drug benefit for the elderly, he's lining the pockets of the pharmaceutical companies. If he restrains government spending, he's bankrupting the nation and robbing from future generations.

If he doesn't admit a mistake, he is bullheaded and detached from reality. If he admits a mistake, he is damning his own governance in shocking fashion.

If he sticks with Dick Cheney, he is saddling himself with an unpopular vice president, giving Democrats who can't wait to run against Cheney a political advantage. If he drops Cheney, he is admitting that the Democratic attacks against his vice president have hit home, thus giving Democrats who have made those charges a political advantage.

If he loses in November, the voice of the American people has spoken a devastating verdict on his presidency. If he wins, he stole the election.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

— beyond the beltway

Can we improve our intelligence apparatus?

by DONALD KAUL

It is said that the three defining oxymorons in our language (that is, terms that carry internal contradiction within them) are "jumbo shrimp," "military intelligence" and "Justice Scalia." (Actually, I'm the only one who says that, but the "it is said" construction sounds more authoritative.)

The 9/11 commission's report has suggested doing something to make military intelligence more intelligent and everyone seems to agree it's a swell idea, even President George W. Bush. Mr. Bush has said that he would support two main recommendations of the commission — the appointment of a national intelligence director and the establishment of a counter-terrorism center to coordinate information from the 15 or so intelligence agencies we already have. In which case we will have 16 intelligence agencies. Or so.

I wish the president lots of luck — God knows we need a more efficient way of sorting through the intelligence we collect — but I shudder to contemplate the magnitude of the task facing a so-called "intelligence czar."

He or she will be faced with a series of hostile agencies, each jealous of its turf, power and influence, each run by someone who thinks he's smarter than the director.

And if his job is to get agencies to share their secrets with each other, as

the commission says they should, the poor fellow's task becomes all but impossible.

Not sharing secrets is wired into the hard-drive of intelligence agencies. These are organizations that justify their existence by collecting secrets. It is their product. The bigger the secrets and the more exclusively held, the bigger the promotions, influence and prestige.

Our system of intelligence is set up as a competition among agencies of varying perspectives — Defense, CIA, State, FBI, Homeland Security — the idea being that the diversity will produce a more accurate picture of our security threats.

That is not the worst of systems but it does not address the problem of competitors being unwilling to share information. It's the old "If I told you, I'd have to tell everyone" syndrome.

That's where this new official, the national security director, is supposed to come in. He or she is supposed to look over the entire intelligence product and put it together like a jigsaw puzzle. But if you think any director of the CIA is going to give prime intelligence to an intelligence director who doesn't have the power to fire him or award him the Medal of Freedom, when he can go straight to the president (who does have that power), you are either delusional or a member of the 9/11 Commission.

I think that instead of adding a layer of bureaucracy to our intelligence apparatus we should simplify it. Maybe it would be helpful to get rid of an agency or two. Perhaps we could fold one into another. How many per-

spectives do you need, after all? Then you could run the whole thing through the President's National Security Adviser. And to that person I would give a brick, with the authority to hit intelligence chiefs in the head when they are less than cooperative. The brick could be budget control of their agencies or the ability to limit access to the president. If you're going to call someone a czar, you should give him czarist power.

As attractive as the idea of drastically reorganizing the intelligence system is, there's a great deal to be said for working with what we've got but making sure it's better managed. There is no substitute for serious, dedicated people who are less interested in advancing their careers than in getting the job

done, who will refuse to tailor intelligence analysis to the expectations of whatever party is in the White House.

We have people like that now, of course, many of them, but their best efforts are often hampered by the bureaucratic thicket they have to struggle through. I'm not sure that increasing the density of that thicket is the best way to help them.

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

The Times

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Community Calendar

Calendar items will be printed as space permits

Editor's note: To announce your community event, you may hand-deliver your item to The Floyd County Times office, located at 263 S. Central Avenue, Prestonsburg; or mail to: The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653; or fax to 606-886-3603; or email to: features@floydcountytimes.com. Information will not be taken over the telephone. All items will be placed on a first-come, first-serve basis as space permits

BLEVINS FAMILY REUNION

To be held Sept. 4, at 3 p.m., at old Porty Blevins property, at Tram. All family of George and Martha Howell Blevins welcome to attend. Please bring covered dish. Games will be played. For more info., call Sally Jones at 478-4084.

WELLS FAMILY REUNION

For descendants of Revolutionary War soldier Richard Wells, and wife, Susannah Hutchison Wells. To be held at Johnson Central High School, Saturday, Sept. 4 (3 p.m.) and Sunday, Sept. 5 (10 a.m.). Refreshments at 5 p.m. on Saturday; Potluck dinner at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Call Bobby Wells at 886-2101, or Delores Booth at 789-5171, or Pat Womack at 473-7192 for more info.

COLLINS FAMILY REUNION

For descendants of Rhesa

Collins family. To be held Sunday, Sept. 19, at 10 a.m., at Jenny Wiley Park, Shelter #2. All Collins & Spears cousins urged to attend. Please bring food to share and photos and family history information. Also, if you wish, bring gift item for auction. Call Kim Howard at 789-3922, or Wanda Collins at 928-1054, or Pat Womack at 473-7192 for more info.

COMPTON FAMILY REUNION

To be held Sunday, Sept. 19, at Archer Park. Please bring a covered dish. All family members and friends welcome.

"BLUEGRASS FOR EDUCATION"

Charlie Sizemore Concert featuring 5 Miles from Nowhere, Saturday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m., Mt. Arts Center. Proceeds to benefit Big Sandy Comm. & Tech. College.

WAYLAND HOMECOMING

Sept. 3 & 4, registration beginning Friday, 2 p.m., at Wayland Community Center. For more info., call 358-9471.

BASEBALL SIGN-UPS

For Prestonsburg Minor League Fall Baseball. Sign-up at Prestonsburg Dairy Queen by Wed., August 25. For more info., call Barry Rice at 886-8544 or 226-2895.

CASTLE FAMILY REUNION

To be held August 28, beginning at 12 p.m., at the Dewey Dam Recreation Area. For more information, call Charlotte Goble at 889-9344, after 7 p.m., or email to: cegee43@setel.com

GOLF SCRAMBLE

Proceeds to go to Wesley Christian School, Allen. Hosted by Christ United Methodist Church. Event to be held Sept. 11, at Stumbo Park, Beaver Valley Golf Course, beginning at 9 a.m. First place prize, \$1,000. Other monetary and assorted prizes, also. More info. about entry fee or other, call: Frankie Francis, 358-9417; Lowell Marcum, 874-2917; Ricie Derossett, 874-9514; Dr. Ken Lemaster, 874-2344; Allen Park Clubhouse, 874-2837. Free food and soft drinks.

EAST KENTUCKY STARS

Home School group will hold montly meeting on Friday, August 27, at 11 a.m., at Paintsville Rec. Center. Brown bag lunch will follow the meeting. More info., call 297-5147 or 889-9333.

FLOYD COUNTY FARMER'S MARKET

Now open in parking lot across from the Unemployment Office, North Lake Drive, in Prestonsburg. Weekly sale time schedule: Mondays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m.

Produce will include fresh tomatoes, green beans, corn, bell peppers, eggplant, etc. For more information, contact Ray Tackett at the Co-op Ext. Office, at 886-2668.

MAYTOWN CENTER

August 27 - FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE, 7 p.m. Variety show featuring local bands, comedians, dancers, and more. Admission, \$3. Children must be accompanied.

Fall Volleyball League sign-ups now going on, ages 12-88! Games to be held Monday evenings - 13 week season. Starts Sept. 20. Sign-up fee includes free t-shirt.

Call 285-0539 for more info.

37TH ANNUAL HUNTER FAMILY REUNION

To be held Saturday, September 4, at the Martin Senior Citizens Building. Potluck dinner to be served at 12 p.m., please bring covered dish to share. Drinks and table service to be provided. For more information, call 886-8737 or 285-3649.

CITY OF WHEELWRIGHT 2ND ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

To be held August 26-28. Carnival rides, games, prizes, dunking booth, car show, basketball free throw contest, horseshoe competition, Elvis impersonator, country music band, yard sales, concessions - fun for all!

HACKWORTH-HELTON FAMILY REUNION

To be held Saturday, August 28, at May Lodge, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. Registration at 10 a.m., lunch at 12 p.m. For the descendants of Jerry and Sallie Helton Hackworth and Morgan and Molly Parrott Helton. All family and friends

welcome. For more info., call Delphia Hicks at 886-3108.

MARTIN HOMEMAKER MEETING

A Homemaker Organizational Meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 9, at the Martin Church of Christ, at 6 p.m. Please call the Floyd County Extension Office at 886-2668 for more information.

LITTLE MUD COMMUNITY CENTER

Sept. 4 - School class reunion for all Spruce Pine Elementary students and teachers, in conjunction with formal dedication ceremony for Little Mud Comm. Ctr. Bldg., 5-10 p.m. For more info., contact Lois at 478-2479 or Lynette at P.O. Box 330, Betsy Layne, KY 41605. Please contact if you have names, addresses, or old photos of school, students, or teachers.

The Little Mud Comm. Dev. Program, Inc. would like to thank all who have helped in recent fund-raising events!*

B.L.H.S. CLASS OF 1954 IT'S BEEN 50 YEARS.

We all can meet again August 28, at Jenny Wiley State Park, at 2 p.m., for more details. Call Peggy A. Branham, at 304-475-3858.

MHS CLASS OF '74

The McDowell High School Class of 1974 will hold their 30-year class reunion on September 3 and September 4, (Labor Day weekend), at McDowell Elementary School cafeteria and gymnasium. Call 377-0899, 377-6022 or 785-9121 for more information.

PARSONS FAMILY REUNION

For the descendants of Isaac and Louisa Parsons, will be held Sept. 5, at the Isaac Parsons Cemetery, located on Parsons Branch, off Rt. 979, in Floyd County, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Bring covered dish for meal to be served at 1 p.m. More info., call E.J. Parsons at 865-426-7585.

1973 AND 1974 ACHS CLASS REUNION

The 1973 and 1974 graduating classes of Allen Central High School will hold a class reunion on Saturday, September 18, at the Prestonsburg Holiday Inn. Social Hour: 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Dance—8 p.m. until midnight. For more information, please contact Beth Conn Mullins at 606-285-0074 or Rita Duff Osborne at 606-358-9874.

HRMC JULY -AUGUST CALENDAR

Aug. 26 - Diabetic Support Group, 4-7 p.m., Meeting Place A&B.

All classes free of charge and open to the public.

AUXIER LIFETIME LEARNING CENTER

Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13, & 20 - Super Pantry "Stars in the Kitchen." 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Learn life skills, low-fat cooking and new recipes. Cook and eat lunch. WIN: Door prizes and bag of groceries each week.

GED classes - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Later times may be arranged - call office to make arrangements.

Computer classes - To begin Sept. 13. Basic computer: Mondays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 6-8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 6-8 p.m.

Intro. to Microsoft Office - Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m.

Computer Keyboarding - Fridays, 1-3 p.m.

Craft/Sewing Club - Mondays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Creative Sewing - Mondays, 6-8 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information about these activities and class fees, call 886-0709.

PHS CLASS OF '69

The Prestonsburg High School Class of 1969 will hold a reunion on Saturday, September 4, 2004 (Labor Day weekend), at the May Lodge, Jenny Wiley State Park. Pre-dinner meeting will be held from 5-6 p.m.; Dinner will be at 6 p.m., in Lodge dining room; Reunion meeting following dinner, from 8 p.m. until midnight in Lodge conference rooms. For

FREE BODY RECALL CLASSES

Free Body Recall Exercise Classes will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 9:30, at the Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 11 a.m. at the old R & S Building. Classes are offered by the Floyd County Health Department. Call the health department, 886-2788, for more information.

'EARN WHILE YOU LEARN'

The Big Sandy Area C.A.P. office is taking applications for its "Senior Training Program." You must be 55 or older to apply. In Floyd, call 886-2929; Johnson, call 789-6515; Magoffin, call 349-2217; Pike, call 432-2775; and in Lawrence, call 638-4067.

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Through the External Diploma Program, KY residents age 25 or older, can earn a regular high school diploma by demonstrating skills learned on the job or in raising a family. Flexible scheduling provided, confidentiality respected. For more info., call the Carl D. Perkins Rehabilitation Center at 789-1440, ext. 160 or 168, or toll-free at 1-800-443-2187. Sessions available at the Mullins Learning Center, Tuesday nights, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Evidence found from fatal fire

by JOYAL FRAZIER
STAFF WRITER

PAINTSVILLE — Investigators have found more information regarding the murder of an elderly couple in Martin County who were found dead after their home was burned to the ground last week.

The investigators found little evidence in the ashes of the home of Jane F. Allen, 82, and Robert L. Allen, 86. However, suspects Clarence Raines Jr. and Nancy Messer led them to their home to find the clothes they were wearing the night of the murders.

According to Kentucky State Police Det. Dwayne Price, "Both indicated they had buried the clothes in the back of the apartment in a sandy creek bank."

The Kentucky State Police men called in their canine unit,

Endy, to help locate the clothing that was worn.

"During the search we found a hammer handle that was with some of the jewelry that had been taken from the victim's residence and on the hammer it looks to be blood-covered and it will be forwarded to the state police crime lab," Price said.

Price also said the possible motive for the crime is robbery. Liquid morphine and an undisclosed amount of cash were taken from the Allens' home.

As investigators continue to search the home and property of Raines and Messer, they hope to answer the questions of how and why the brutal murders happened.

Raines and Messer are still being held at the Big Sandy Detention Center, each on a \$1 million bond.

Big Sandy ADD holds regular meeting

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Board of Directors meeting for Big Sandy Area Development District received a visit yesterday from Jack Couch, executive director of the Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts.

Couch complimented the members for their recent efforts in dealing with flooding and praised them for their dedication.

"Since the late '60s, ADDs have made a lot of great changes in the state of Kentucky," Couch said. "I commend you on your

work."

The board also approved measures to bank online with Citizen's National Bank.

Directors also received notification of several grant opportunities that area governments may be entitled to. These included grants for a hazard-mitigation program which would grant funds for storm water management projects; recreational trails, which would make money available to develop biking and hiking trails to attract tourists and allow for scenic biking trails for residents; automated flood warning system, which would give funding to areas that experience flash flooding to develop

warning systems for residents; and a 2004 PRIDE Wastewater Construction Grant that would allow for extending sewage lines into outlying communities that aren't connected.

The meeting also received a report from Freddie Goble of the transportation department. Goble shared the results of a "seat belt" survey that showed only 60 percent of area citizens use their seat belts.

Goble reported that efforts need to be made to raise awareness of seat belt safety and that if the area could raise seat belt use to 70 percent, over 100 lives a year could be saved from accident fatalities.

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TODAY'S FREEBIE

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

Mander Hershel Moore, 78, of Garrett, died Monday, August 9, at VA Medical Center, Huntington, West Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Nola Slone Moore. Funeral services were conducted Friday, August 13, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Steven E. (Chisel) Salisbury, 51, of Hunter, died Saturday, August 14, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Vaughn Nina Daniels Salisbury. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, August 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Samuel Burchett, 61, of Spurlock Fork, of Middle Creek, Prestonsburg, died Sunday, August 15. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, August 18, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Jeffery Jervis, 43, of Jervis Branch, Prestonsburg, died Saturday, August 14, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Regina Dotson Jervis. Funeral services were conducted Monday, August 16, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Peggy Jo Bentley, 52, of Wayland, died Wednesday, August 11, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Larry Bentley. Funeral services were conducted Friday, August 13, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Juanita Layne Garner, 59, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, August 14, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Monday, August 16, under the direction of

Carter Funeral Home.

Bert Hall Jr., 60, of Topmost, died Sunday, August 15, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, August 18, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

George "Georgie" Akers, 59, of Galveston, died Wednesday, August 18, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Evelene Howell Akers. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, August 21, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Effie Crager, 92, of Hueysville, died Tuesday, August 17, at Riverview Health Care Center. Funeral services were conducted Friday, August 20, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Barry Christopher Hopkins, 30, of Minnie, died Thursday, August 12, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Monday, August 16, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Elizabeth Carpenter, 60, of Louisville, formerly of Floyd County, died Sunday, August 15, at Norton Audubon Hospital, in Louisville. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, August 19, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Scotty McCloud, 67, of Hager Hill, died Sunday, August 8, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, August 12, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Sammie Jefferson "S.J." Wells, 72, of Van Lear, died Monday, August 9, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Willa Dean Honeycutt Wells. Funeral services were conducted Friday, August 13, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Patricia Ruth Hall, 73, of Nippa, died Tuesday, August 10, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Friday, August 13, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Patricia Ruth Hall, 73, of Nippa, died Tuesday, August 10, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Friday, August 13, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Proctor Sherman Brown, 77, of Paintsville, died Thursday, August 12, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Hanna Brown. Funeral services were conducted Monday, August 16, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

Helen Marie "Dukie" Shepherd, 18, of Royalton, died Sunday, August 8. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, August 12, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Lawrence G. Hale Sr., 69, of Norwalk, Ohio, formerly of Arthur Mable, died Thursday, August 19. He is survived by his wife, Ezella Parsons Hale. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, August 21, under the direction of Eastman Funeral Home, in New London, Ohio.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Ray Cecil Bentley, 92, of Louisa, died Tuesday, August 10, at J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center, Louisa. He is survived by his wife, Allie Lambert Bentley. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, August 12, under the direction of Young Funeral Home.

MARTIN COUNTY

Robert M. Allen, 86, and

Jane Robinson Allen, 82, of Tomahawk, died Tuesday, August 10, at their residence. Funeral services were conducted Friday, August 13, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

PIKE COUNTY

Ernest "Fish" Clevinger, 56, of Pikeville, died Monday, August 16, at Pikeville Medical Center. Private services were conducted under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

Dr. Luis Gomez, 73, of Phelps, died Saturday, August 14, at St. Joseph Hospital, in Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Margarita Ramirez Gomez. Memorial services

were conducted Thursday, August 19, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, in Pikeville, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Sam Hamilton, 67, of Caney Highway, died Monday, August 16, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Mindy Faye Hamilton. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, August 19, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

James "Indian" Lucas, 79, of Slate Hill, in Jenkins, died Monday, August 16, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Friday, August 20, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Joe Roberts, 73, of North Matewan, West Virginia, died Monday, August 16, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, August 18, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Randy Wolford, 38, of Edgerton, West Virginia, died Friday, August 13, at the South Williamson Appalachian Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Lassie Leedy Wolford. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, August 15, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Chapel.

Orma Blackburn Worrix, 74, of Wolfpen Branch Road, Shalbiana, died Friday, August 13, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were

conducted Monday, August 16, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Walter Wright, 80, of Dorton, died Thursday, August 12, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, August 15, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

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Obituary

Lawrence G. Hale Sr.

Lawrence G. Hale Sr. died at Fisher-Titus Medical Center, in Norwalk, Ohio, Thursday morning, August 19, following a brief illness. He was 69. Born February 12, 1935, in Arthur Mabel, Kentucky, he was the son of the late Willie and Ollie (Webb) Hale. He moved to New London in 1951.

He worked at Norwalk Furniture for many years. He owned and operated Larry's West End Greenhouse, in New London, with his wife, prior to his death. He was a member of the Fitchville Church of Christ, where he was an elder. He coached youth baseball in New London for 19 years.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Ezella (Parsons) Hale; two daughters and sons-in-law, Rhonda and Mark Killgrove, and Gwen and Keith Bailey, all of New London; three sons and daughters-in-law, Larry Jr. and Michele Hale, of Wakeman, Allen and Louise Hale, and Kenneth and Leatose Hale, all of New London; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; five sisters, Regina Welch, of Plymouth, Reita Stumbo, of Shiloh, and Dolly Sue Bistline, Dorcas Hale, and Anna Marie Hale, all of Plymouth; four brothers, G. D. Hale, of Martin, and Arthur Hale, Monte Hale, and Billy Ray Hale, all of Plymouth.

Funeral services were held Saturday, August 21, at Eastman Funeral Home, 200 West Main Street, New London, Ohio. Pastor Glenn Bond, and Pastor Don Beverly officiated.

Burial followed in the Grove Street Cemetery, in New London.

Memorials, if desired, may be made to the New London Little League program, in care of the funeral home.

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Regional
SPORTS

Sunday, August 22, 2004

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TIMES Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

MSU Alumni
to sponsor
pre-game partyby STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

MOREHEAD — The Morehead State University Alumni Association will sponsor a pre-game party prior to the MSU- Dayton football game on Sept. 11 in Dayton.

The party will be held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Dayton Marriott, across from Welcome Stadium and the UD Arena at 1414 S. Patterson Blvd.

Admission to the party, which includes a game ticket, is \$10. The football game is scheduled to kickoff at 7 p.m.

To purchase tickets, MSU alumni should call 1-800-783-ALUM before or on Aug. 27.

Morehead State head coach Matt Ballard looks at the upcoming season as another promising campaign.

"This is a special group of young men," said Ballard. "I would not trade them for any others in the nation. We will be an exciting team, but we have some big shoes to fill (with all of the losses to graduation). Our coaching staff has been working hard to get them ready."

"This group is flying high with emotion. They have great passion for the game. We just need to take one step at a time."

Morehead State will open the 2004 season with games against Coastal Carolina and Dayton. Both are big games for the Eagles.

"We do not know how to come out of the gate lightly, but I would not want it any other way," said Ballard. "Coastal Carolina has the best athletes we will face all year and Dayton is the best all-around team that we will play. After those two games, we will know what adjustments we will need to make."

Nowadays, the Morehead State football program shoots for the top spot in the PFL (Pioneer Football League) year-in and year-out. For the Eagles, the rest of the 2004 schedule includes league opponents.

"What is most important from week to week is that we learn and grow as a team," noted Ballard. "By the time we get into PFL (Pioneer Football League) South Division play, we have to be ready. Our goal is to win the PFL South. In order to accomplish that, we need to keep everyone healthy. We need to execute and be sound in the special teams. We are looking for a three-peat. We want to host the game here."

"This year is time for us to kick the door down. Two years ago, we were just happy to make it (to the championship game). Last year, we came close to winning, but fell short. Everybody needs to play their role in order for us to win it this year. Great team defense is the key."

Archery deer,
turkey seasons
to open Sept. 4

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT — As summer winds down, Kentucky archery hunters begin to dig in the closet for their camouflage clothing, check the condition of their bows and practice shooting at targets in the back yard.

Archery seasons for both turkey and deer open Sept. 4, and close Jan. 17, 2005. A fall turkey permit is required to hunt the fall archery season.

Fall turkey hunters may now use dogs to break up flocks. Fall archery turkey hunters may take two turkeys during the season of either sex, but may only take one bird per day.

Crossbows are not allowed for fall turkey archery hunting. Long bows, recurve bows and compound bows of any draw weight are legal. Bow hunters may take turkey during modern gun deer season if they possess a fall archery turkey permit.

During portions of the deer season when only bow equipment may be used, hunters must not carry firearms. If deer hunters use bows during the modern gun deer season, they must comply with all firearms season restrictions, zone guidelines and hunting requirements in effect for firearms deer season. This includes the hunter orange clothing law.

During the bow only deer season, a hunter does not have to comply with the hunter orange clothing law. Crossbows are only legal during the designated cross-bow deer hunting season.

For more information on fall archery deer and turkey seasons, consult the 2004-2005 Kentucky Hunting and Trapping Guide.

Raiders shipwreck Powell
South Floyd avenges OT loss of one year agoby STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HI HAT — It took South Floyd one year, but the Raiders finally avenged a one-point loss suffered to Powell County during the 2003 season. The Raiders enacted sweet revenge Friday night, edging Powell County 36-34. Yes, revenge is sweet. South Floyd led by two touchdowns with less than half of the fourth quarter remaining before the visiting Pirates mounted a valiant comeback. South Floyd head coach Donny Daniels headed into Friday night's game knowing Powell County, a Class

2A team, would bring in a host of talented players. Daniels had the opportunity to watch Powell County scrimmage Somerset, a Class A team, in the preseason.

For South Floyd, Wes Hall scored early and often to the tune of four touchdowns.

Powell County struck first Friday night, but the Raiders got the final say. Powell County got the scoring started when running back Steven Ashley hit paydirt from one yard out. A PAT kick from quarterback/placekicker Ryan Stewart allowed Powell County to take a 7-0 lead with

(See RAIDERS, page two)



photo by Steve LeMaster
South Floyd quarterback Anthony Thornsberry talked with head coach Donny Daniels during the first quarter of Friday's game against Powell County.



photos by Jamie Howell
Betsy Layne Coach Glen Ripkoski talked with players Friday night during a timeout. The Bobcats, playing at home, hung tough before falling to visiting Allen Central.

Rebels wear down
rival Betsy LayneAllen Central pulls
away in second halfby JAMIE HOWELL
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

BETSY LAYNE — A new season brought about a heated rivalry as Betsy Layne played host to Allen Central Friday evening. What seemed like it might turn out to be Betsy Layne's night ended up being all Allen Central. The Rebels eventually pulled away for a

36-14 victory. Betsy Layne won the coin toss and took the football, only to go three-and-out on its first possession. Allen Central was unable to move the ball on its first possession as well and the Bobcats got the football back. Bobcat quarterback Shawn Hamilton started to heat up on the second drive as the he reeled off runs of 25 and 15 yards, respec-



Allen Central senior quarterback Ryan Hammonds rolled out against the Betsy Layne defense.

tively, to take the ball to the Allen Central four-yard line. Jordan Case capped off the drive on a four-yard plunge and after a two-point conversion

(See REBELS, page two)

Junior to run Bristol's
Busch Series Food City 250

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

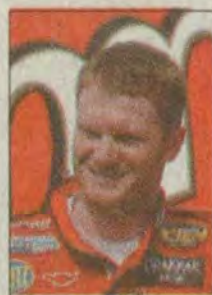
BRISTOL, Tenn. — Dale Earnhardt, Jr. will compete in the NASCAR Busch Series Food City 250 at Bristol Motor Speedway on Friday night. The two-time NASCAR Busch Series Champion will drive the Dale Earnhardt Incorporated No. 81 Menards/Save Big Money Chevrolet.

This marks the two-time Busch Series Champion's (1998, '99) fourth event in 2004, after winning the season opener in Daytona and finishing second to the team he co-owns at Talladega Superspeedway. Earnhardt Jr. has kept his Busch Series experience to superspeedways over the past four years, but wanted to mix it up a bit.

"I've been competing in a few races every year primarily on the superspeed-

ways, but thought Bristol would be a good track to race with my teammates," Dale Jr. said. "I enjoy racing in the Busch Series and haven't won at Bristol, so this should be a fun weekend."

In five career Busch starts at Bristol, Earnhardt drove to runner-up finishes in the 1998 and 1999 spring events, and was third in the 1999 summer night race. He has one pole and an average finish of 8.8 at the .533 mile,



Dale Earnhardt Jr.

(See JUNIOR, page two)

Robby Gordon ready
for Bristol tripleheader

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BRISTOL, Tenn. — NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series driver Robby Gordon doesn't find it strange to take on the demands of a multiple-race weekend. After all, his resume includes racing in the revered Indianapolis 500 and NASCAR's longest race, the Coca-Cola 600, both on the same day.

However, Bristol's August race week will offer Gordon the stern challenge of three under-the-lights, high-banked events beginning with the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series O'Reilly 200, followed by the NASCAR Busch Series Food City 250 and the grueling Sharpie 500 NEXTEL Cup event, all within a span of four days.

"Racing here [Bristol] is tough.

It's not like Indy," says Gordon. "At places like Indy and Michigan you have time to catch your breath."

"Here, your heart rate goes through the roof and there's no recovery time. We race a lot of tracks where you can at least breathe while going down the front or backstretch, but if you get sideways here, you know there's 42 other cars coming and coming fast."

Gordon's Bristol truck effort comes as part of Chevrolet's Team Silverado/American Revolution program which puts NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series racers behind the wheel of a truck. "It's not all that different in the trucks," said Gordon. "The geometry of the truck is the same as a Cup car and I'll be

(See GORDON, page two)

Slot still open in Pike
Central girls' tourney

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BUCKLEYS CREEK — One of the area's top high school girls' basketball tipoff tournaments is still one team short for the 2005 edition. The Pike County Central High School girls' basketball team is looking for one team to fill its annual Tip Off Classic. Each participating team will play three games. Teams will play first round games on either Monday or Wednesday. Second round games will take place on Thursday or Friday, depending on if teams win or lose in the first round.

Each team will be fed for the first round game and each team will receive 20 T-shirts.

Pike Central, the defending 15th Region Champion, is looking for a home scrimmage or panorama in the month of November. The Lady Hawks could play any date after Nov. 18 and before Nov. 25.

For more information, contact Coach Tammy Tussey by calling 606/432-4352 (work) or 606/432-3823 (home).

K Fund holds 50-
Yard Line Dinner

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — Friends, donors and University of Kentucky Athletics staff members gathered Thursday night to celebrate the upcoming school year at the second annual K Fund 50-Yard-Line event. Guests were treated to an al fresco dinner on the turf at Commonwealth Stadium. University of Kentucky President Dr. Lee Todd, Director of Athletics Mitch Barnhart, and Head Football Coach Rich Brooks were featured speakers. All three expressed their thanks to those in attendance for their generous and continued support of UK Athletics.

The University of Kentucky Blue & White Fund was established in 1973 to provide a funding resource for student-athlete scholarships and a means to build and upgrade athletic facilities. In September 2002, the process of evaluating the Blue & White Fund began. The goal was to

(See K FUND, page two)

Phelps grabs another gold and lets go of the spotlight

by JIM LITKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHENS, Greece — Michael Phelps became an Olympic champion by winning more gold medals than all but a handful of competitors ever had.

Then he did something that none of them ever did.

He stepped aside. Not long after climbing out of the pool with the 100 butterfly title and his fifth gold medal of the Summer Games, Phelps told U.S. men's coach Eddie Reese that he wanted his place on the 400-meter medley relay team to go to Ian Crocker instead.

In a delicious twist, Phelps managed to get revenge on one of the few rivals to beat him in the past 18 months and help out a good friend in the bargain. Crocker won the 100 butterfly at the world and U.S. national championships. Phelps paid him back in the Olympic pool Friday night, then called his close pal over to give him the news. It must have been some conversation.

"He said 'I don't know what to say,'" Phelps recalled. "He goes,

'So, we're going to have to talk about this later.'

"And I said, 'OK, but tomorrow night I want you to get out there and I want you to show the world what you're made of.' And I have confidence," Phelps added, "that that's what he's going to do."

In this age of multimillion-dollar endorsement deals, when sponsors often hold greater sway over an athlete than either team or country, it was stunning to find one willing to point the spotlight at somebody else. The only thing that wasn't surprising is that Phelps would be the one to do it.

The 19-year-old arrived at these Olympics with a handful of sponsors already on board, but he was never about just money. They rolled out the red carpet for him, but he insisted on walking around with the rest of his teammates. They had half of a made-for-TV movie already in the can, and handed him a script for the rest. Phelps tore it up.

He was such a ferocious competitor, even as a kid, that Phelps probably had his sights set on Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals in a single Olympics long before he qualified in enough events at the U.S. trials to make it possible. But then he admitted as much, and one of his sponsors dangled a \$1 million bonus to see it happen.

It didn't. That quest effectively ended Monday night when Phelps was beaten by Australian Ian Thorpe and Dutchman Pieter van den Hoogenband in what was arguably the greatest 200-meter freestyle of all time. It was a race that Phelps could have side-stepped and still had a shot at Spitz's record.

He came away from that con-

test with a bronze medal, one of two Phelps has already captured to hang alongside the golds. Anybody who wondered why he got into a fight he had almost no chance of winning — Thorpe and van den Hoogenband are two of the greatest at that distance — probably won't have a clue why he pulled out of this one.

Numbers don't matter to Phelps. They didn't define him when he was a prodigy setting world records, nor last week, when he waved off the easier road toward seven golds so he could face Thorpe and van den Hoogenband on their turf.

Besides, after racing 17 times in just seven days, he figured Crocker gives the U.S. team a better chance to win. And he gets a night off and likely another gold medal for sitting in the stands. The Americans have never lost a medley relay at the Olympics and are an overwhelming favorite to win gold again.

"I wanted to come in here and I wanted to win one gold medal. And I did it the first night," Phelps said. "So, from then on out I was here to have fun and I was here to swim and I was here to represent my country as best as I could. And I feel that I've done that in this past week."

He has — and more. Like every true Olympic champion who's gone before him, Phelps wants to win every time he ventures onto the stage. He plans to total them all up when he's done, but not a moment before.

That's why when someone asked him whether this frenetic week has changed him, Phelps didn't pause long to reflect.

"I'm older. I'm a week older," he said. "Other than that, not really."



The Allen Central defense had its back to the wall at different times Friday night, only surrendering two touchdowns.

photo by Jamie Howell

Rebels

Continued from p1

run from Hamilton, Betsy Layne led 8-0 with 5:33 remaining in the first quarter.

Allen Central took the ensuing kickoff and drove to the Betsy Layne 39 yard line. The Rebels faced a fourth-and-eight from the Bobcat 39 yard line, but a 10-yard run gave Allen Central a first down.

After four plays the Rebels found paydirt on a one-yard keeper from quarterback Ryan Hammonds and the score even at 8-8 after the first quarter. The second quarter witnessed both defenses make a stand early in the quarter, but a botched punt by Allen Central set Betsy Layne up at the Rebel six-yard line. Brad Adams wasted little time in finding the endzone and after a failed conversion attempt, Betsy Layne led 14-8 with 8:21 remaining in the first half. Allen Central tailback Charles Robinson racked up

more of his 140 yards on the night on a 25-yard run on Allen Central's next drive. A one-yard run tied the game at 14-14 with 6:33 left in the first half. The Allen Central offense tacked on another score on a four-yard touchdown pass from Hammonds to Cody Harlow late in the half, and Allen Central took a 22-14 lead into the half. It looked as if Betsy Layne would claw back early in the second half as quarterback Hamilton completed a 40-yard pass, but the gain would be nullified on an illegal man down field call. Hamilton followed the long pass with what looked to be an 83-yard touchdown run only to see it called back on a block in the back call against the Bobcats. Betsy Layne was forced to punt and Allen Central would take over at the Bobcat 25 yard line. That would prove to be the last time Betsy Layne threatened

and Allen Central then took control. The Rebels faced a fourth and goal from the Betsy Layne one, but Charles Robinson would once again put six points on the board and the Rebels would take command 28-14.

Betsy Layne quarterback Sean Hamilton was forced out of the game in the middle of the third quarter with what appeared to be leg cramps and did not return. Allen Central led 28-14 after three quarters of play, and the Rebels tacked on a score late on a 20-yard run from Robinson to come away with the 36-14 win. Allen Central avenged last season's loss to Betsy Layne with the win, and opened the year 1-0 while Betsy Layne fell to 0-1 on the young season.

Signups scheduled for fall minor league baseball

Signups for Prestonsburg fall minor league baseball only started Friday, Aug. 20 and will continue through Wednesday, Aug. 26. Signups are being held at the Prestonsburg Dairy Queen. The fee for signups is \$20. For more information, contact Barry Wright by calling 886-8544 or 226-2895.

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Raiders

Continued from p1

9:52 showing on the first-quarter scoreclock. Powell County got its first score of the game after recovering a South Floyd fumble.

Hall scored on a one-yard touchdown to give South Floyd its first points of the game with 7:47 remaining in the first period. South Floyd's try at its first two-point conversion of the game was unsuccessful.

South Floyd took a 12-7 lead with 38.9 remaining in the first period when quarterback Anthony Thornsby found receiver Justin Slone on an 11-yard touchdown strike.

But Powell County answered with a score of its own when Ashley caught a 16-yard touchdown pass from Stewart. Following a PAT, Powell County

led 14-12.

Hall scored his second touchdown of the game for the Raiders with 5:46 remaining in the first quarter. The Raider two-point conversion try failed, but the host team took an 18-14 lead into the break.

Powell County regained a lead in the third quarter before South Floyd battled back. Hall added another touchdown run, this time a 30-yard scoring jaunt, allowing the Raiders to lead 24-22. Later in the second half, South Floyd extended its lead when Joe Osborne scored on a 55-yard run. A conversion pass try from Thornsby to Slone failed leaving South Floyd with a 30-22 lead.

Hall added yet another touch-

down in the fourth quarter pushing South Floyd's advantage out to a 36-22 cushion.

Powell County launched its comeback effort late, scoring a couple of touchdowns in a couple of minutes. A two-point conversion try following its final score of the game came up short for the Pirates, leaving Powell County short of the successful comeback bid.

South Floyd (1-1) will return to action Friday night, hosting Pike County Central in the second game of the Shorty Jamerson Bowl. Kickoff is set for 8:30 p.m. The first game of the night will pit Shelby Valley against Pineville. Kickoff for the Shelby Valley-Pineville game is set for 6 p.m.

K Fund

Continued from p1

develop a new funding resource to replace the Blue & White Fund. This new resource should ensure fairness and equity in the season ticket allocation process, keep up with the rising cost of the student-athlete's tuition and maintain a competitive advantage against other SEC and

NCAA schools. The product of this process is the K Fund.

Just as the Blue & White Fund provided student-athlete scholarships, the K Fund will do that and more. The Fund's goal is to provide support to the more than 450 Wildcat student-athletes and to ensure their academ-

ic and athletic success. Donations given to the K Fund will be used for Student-Athlete Scholarships — tuition, room, board and books; Academic Support and Career Development; Athletic Facilities Maintenance; and Administrative Support.

Junior

Continued from p1

high banked oval.

Earnhardt's first Bristol race came in the 1997 Busch Series Food City 250 driving a Chevrolet fielded by Ed Whitaker. He qualified on the

outside of the front row and drove to a 22nd-place finish.

"A significant number of NEXTEL Cup drivers race our Busch Series events here at Bristol — especially the Food

City 250," said Jeff Byrd, BMS president and general manager. "The atmosphere for a night race is electric and we know Dale Jr. certainly will add to the Friday night excitement."

Gordon

Continued from p1

with an established team, plus it's Bristol.

"Chevrolet's program is cool and I was offered the chance to participate, so I'm joining guys like Bobby Labonte and Michael Waltrip in racing the truck and there's no better place to drive it than at Bristol." Gordon's truck will carry a special George Thorogood and the Destroyers "Bad to the Bone" paint scheme.

Gordon also will take on the challenge of the NASCAR Busch Series Food City 250 on Friday night as well as the sold-out Sharpie 500 under the Saturday night lights at "The World's Fastest Half-Mile."

"Bristol is truly a highlight of the year. Television ratings are

high, it's an electric atmosphere and there's a ton of fans in the stands and I'm looking forward to the challenge."

The NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series is accustomed to green-white-checkered finishes and Gordon feels it could play into Bristol's NEXTEL Cup Series Sharpie 500 courtesy of NASCAR's recent ruling directed toward providing fans with racing to the finish as opposed to races potentially ending under a yellow flag.

"We definitely could see a green-white-checkered finish here," said Gordon. "But it's Bristol and if they didn't limit it to one, we could see 10 with all the bumping and chain reactions."

Gordon stands as a hard-charger and finds himself at home behind the wheel. Relatively speaking, Gordon doesn't anticipate any problems with pulling off the Bristol triple. "Wednesday we're doing the truck race. Then we qualify for the Busch race on Thursday. We race on Friday and we race on Saturday."

"The way I see it is that if we're here, then we might as well race."

But it's Bristol and the calendar shows a full moon. Anyone who knows Bristol knows it's unique. Robby Gordon knows Bristol. "There's no other place like it. It's awesome and we're ready to take it on."

Doves are where you find them ... if you'll scout

by STEVE VANTRESE
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PADUCAH — When the traditional opening day of the mourning dove season rolls around Sept. 1, the advantage likely will go to hunters who have done some advance sleuthing.

In short, there are probabilities, but it's difficult to predict where doves will be. Wherever they go, there they are — for a lit-

tle while at least.

Doves generally can be found in locations of preferred food sources, but those could be less exclusive this season, according to Phillip Sharp, a private lands biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

"In areas where there are corn fields, they're shelling corn earlier this year, so those fields are going to provide much more for

food for doves and allow them to spread out over more areas," Sharp said.

"Sunflowers by far are the best food attractants for doves," noting that sunflowers are usually the food provided on fields managed by the department and at private fields leased by the state agency to provide public hunting.

"More and more folks are putting in dove fields on private lands five- or six-acre plots with

sunflowers or millet to attract the birds," Sharp said. "All those extra food plots just scatter the doves more."

With more feeding options, doves aren't found in large numbers as much as they might have been in previous seasons.

"It used to be that you could find a field that was being used by 5,000 doves," Sharp said. "Now, you're more likely to find 10 fields that are being used by

500 birds each."

Sharp said hunters who want to greet the Sept. 1 season opening with the most action should scout potential feeding areas, watching for flying dove traffic during morning and late evening feeding hours especially.

"A good time to watch is about 7 to 8 a.m. and again at 4 to 5 p.m.," Sharp said. "Count the number of birds you see flying in to feed and figure that you're seeing about a third of all the doves using the field."

Mornings observations are more pertinent this year because Kentucky hunters will have early morning hunting (beginning 30 minutes before sunrise) as of the second day of the season, Sept. 2 and thereafter, on private land.

For freelancing, if doves appear to be using a corn field, a pasture of cut silage or other potential food source in good numbers, contact the landowner and inquire about permission to hunt, Sharp cautioned. The landowner's blessing is mandatory.

In the scouting process, get a fix on daily flight patterns to determine best specific hunting sites around any given field, Sharp suggested. Look for hilltop locations that are nearest flyover

birds, gaps in treelines that may funnel in-comers through smaller areas and lone or dead trees that may be attractive as perches for approaching doves.

Once the season begins, where shooting management can be applied to private land, provide respites in the pressure to allow doves to linger longer.

"Hunting pressure can take out a lot of the birds and run off most of the rest in just two or three days," Sharp said. "If you can manage a private field, stop shooting each day by 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon and let the doves that are still coming get into the field and feed undisturbed."

"Rest a field in the afternoons, or maybe rest a field for a whole day or two to let birds keep coming back," he said. "With all the cold fronts we've had, doves already are migrating, and when new birds come in from the north, the best attractants for them are birds that already are in an area feeding."

"If you don't chase off all your feeding doves, they'll draw more in there with them," Sharp said. "Instead of 100 birds still using your field, you can get 300 there when the migrators drop in."

NFL 2004: Rams, Titans stay consistent in an era of inconsistency

by DAVE GOLDBERG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The St. Louis Rams haven't won an NFL title since Mike Jones stopped Kevin Dyson a yard short of the goal line to preserve a 23-16 win over Tennessee on Jan. 30, 2000. The Titans haven't returned to the Super Bowl since.

Yet in an era where a team (Oakland) can go to the Super Bowl one season and finish 4-12 the next, the Rams and Titans have remained the NFL's two most consistently successful teams, each 56-24 over the last five years.

Each has missed the playoffs only once in that period: Tennessee in 2001 and St. Louis the next year. But they remain the rarest of the rare, teams able to avoid the yo-yo effect caused by free agency and the salary cap.

"There will be a point in time where you hit a wall and everyone in the league knows that," says Tennessee general manager Floyd Reese, who is as responsible as anyone for maintaining the Titans' relatively high level of play.

"You try to push it off as far as you can, and if you're lucky enough to bring in enough young players that are cheap, maybe you can survive. Nobody else has, so we keep thinking it's out there. It's out there. It's coming."

But maybe not this year, even though the Titans ended last season \$16 million over the salary cap and had to make numerous cuts. Like the Rams, they draft wonderfully, the best way to get the cheap young players that keep them a contender.

They also know when to let go of aging or injured stars.

The Titans enter the 2004 season without running back Eddie George and defensive end Jevon Kearse, who with quarterback Steve McNair had been the core of the team during the five-year run. George, clearly on the downside of his career, was released for cap reasons and signed with Dallas. Kearse, who missed 14 games with injuries the past two seasons, signed a \$66 million, eight-year deal with Philadelphia.

The Rams no longer have Kurt Warner, the league MVP in 1999 and 2001, released because Marc Bulger is younger, cheaper and healthier and has been more effective the last two seasons. And it would not be a shock if this was the last year for Marshall Faulk, MVP in 2000.

None is likely to be missed much, primarily because of astute personnel selection.

Bulger, unheralded coming out of West Virginia in 2000, was a sixth-round draft choice of

the Saints who was released in training camp that year. But Mike Martz spotted him in college and snapped him up, mentioning Bulger as a potential NFL starter even before he was released by New Orleans.

When Kearse was injured, Tennessee replaced him with a variety of players, starting with Carlos Hall, a seventh-round draft choice in 2002 who had an instant impact as a rookie. Hall has stepped right back in at defensive end this year and was in on two sacks against Cleveland in the exhibition opener.

George's replacement is Chris Brown, a third-round pick a year ago who averaged 5.3 yards a carry in last year's playoffs and had 46 yards in six carries last Saturday night. To back him up and add experience, the Titans signed veteran Antowain Smith, who led Super Bowl champion New England in rushing last season. They are paying him almost \$2 million less than George was asking.

Another key to consistency is at quarterback. The Rams have had Warner and Bulger and the Titans have Steve McNair. When injury free, which is not often, McNair is one of the NFL's best — he was co-MVP last season with the Colts' Peyton Manning.

That element also applies to the third- and fourth-best teams over the last five seasons. Indianapolis with Manning and Philadelphia with Donovan McNabb are each 51-29, with the Eagles going 46-18 over the past four years, although they have lost three straight NFC championship games.

New England, winner of two of the past three Super Bowls and one of the favorites this year, is also strong at quarterback, proving with Tom Brady as the Rams did with Warner and Bulger that a top QB doesn't have to be a top draft pick to become a star.

"That's why I think quarterback is a must," says Ernie Accorsi, general manager of the New York Giants, who gave up a bunch of draft picks to get Eli Manning, the No. 1 pick in this year's draft. "With the constant turnover this system forces on you, it's important to have a keeper and a standout at the most important position."

Turnover is certainly the rule elsewhere for Tennessee and St. Louis.

Cornerback Samari Rolle is the only defensive player left on the Titans from the 2000 Super Bowl. McNair, left tackle Brad Hopkins and right guard Benji Olson are the only offensive starters. Overall, there are seven players remaining on the team, including punter Craig Hentrich.

The Rams also are almost totally transformed. They prepare in advance, grooming Bulger to replace Warner and drafting running back Steven Jackson with their first pick this year as the eventual replacement for Faulk.

"It gets more difficult as you win to keep your free agents because it seems like you win, everybody wants your guys," says guard Adam Timmerman, who was on a Super Bowl win-

ner in Green Bay and joined the Rams as a free agent in 1999 just in time to play on another one. "But we've kept a core group of guys and we've kept the guys we need."

So have the Titans. The record reflects it.

Sports writers Teresa Walker in Nashville and R.B. Fallstrom in St. Louis contributed to this story.

Promoter sues claiming rights to Williams fights

by BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Danny Williams KO'd Mike Tyson. Now a fight promoter claims to have been wrongly knocked out of the British heavyweight's future bouts.

Louisville-based Straight-Out Promotions is suing for breach of contract. The company wants a judge to rule that it is entitled to half the profits for promoting Williams' next three fights.

Williams was considered a journeyman until he floored Tyson in the fourth round of their fight on July 30 in a nearly sold-out Freedom Hall in Louisville. Williams is scheduled to fight Oct. 9 in London for the vacant World Boxing Union heavyweight title. Uzbekistan's Oleg Maskaev is the likely opponent.

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Louisville. Defendants are Williams' British promoter, Frank Warren, and Sports Network, a partnership between Warren and another defendant, Sports & Leisure Boxing Ltd. The suit seeks punitive and economic damages plus court costs.

Warren said Thursday he would fight the suit and predicted he would win. He said it was Chris Webb, chief executive officer of Straight-Out Promotions, who failed to live up to the contract.

"They were standing around the night before (the fight) looking for money to pay Danny Williams' purse," Warren said in a phone interview.

Williams received only \$70,000 of his \$250,000 purse for the Tyson fight, Warren said. The British promoter said he's paying the balance.

"Chris Webb is blowing a smokescreen up in the air to try and cover up for what he didn't do," Warren said.

Michael Tighe, an attorney for Straight-Out, said Thursday that a U.S. judge could not stop Williams from fighting in London. But Tighe warned that the defendants could face additional damage claims if the fight went ahead with Straight-Out's complaints still unresolved.

"Straight-Out Promotions

obviously is not interested in doing anything that would jeopardize Danny Williams' future," Tighe said in a phone interview. "They are just looking for the rights to co-promote him, as they were contracted to have."

According to the suit, Straight-Out agreed in June to pay \$125,000 to Sports Network for co-promotional rights to Williams' next three fights. Payment was due after the Tyson fight, the suit said.

Minutes before the bout, the suit says, a Sports Network official demanded that Straight-Out pay everything immediately — \$125,000 for future promotional rights, plus \$125,000 owed to Sports Network for Williams' participation in the fight and \$100,000 for a brokering fee.

The Sports Network representative threatened that Williams would not enter the

ring without the full payment, the suit alleged.

Straight-Out claims that only \$50,000 was due before the fight for Williams' participation. The remainder was to be paid by wire transfer on the Monday following the fight, the suit said.

The suit said Straight-Out had "no choice but to immediately capitulate to Sports Network's demands." The suit claims those actions constituted fraudulent inducement and coercion.

However, the Sports Network representative refused to accept a check from Straight-Out to secure co-promotional rights, the suit alleged.

The following Monday, Sports Network informed Straight-Out that it would not honor the co-promotional agreement, the suit said.

The suit claims Sports

Network's actions "constitute transparent efforts to willfully and intentionally defraud Straight-Out of its co-promotional rights to future Danny Williams fights and to pirate away and garner those lucrative rights solely for itself."

Straight-Out claims the company and its reputation have been damaged and its future promotional efforts have been jeopardized. The suit also accuses Sports Network and Warren of business defamation by accusing Straight-Out of failing to meet its obligations.

Meanwhile, Straight-Out filed a second breach-of-contract suit against a media company. It says Brearly (International) Ltd. hasn't live up to its obligations to gain broadcast rights to the Williams-Tyson fight.

Brearly failed to pay Straight-Out \$2.7 million before the fight for broadcast rights, the suit said. Brearly agreed instead to make the payment directly to Showtime pay-per-view, which produced the fight, and to Tyson to cover amounts owed by Straight-Out, the suit said.

The lack of payment has exposed Straight-Out to demands for payment that were to be assumed by Brearly, and has jeopardized Straight-Out's future business, the suit said.

The suit seeks a judgment against Brearly for economic damages, plus all of Brearly's revenues from the fight.

Big rigs take center stage in 8th Annual Blue Lizard NASCAR Transporter Parade

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BRISTOL, Tenn. — The mention of trucks and Bristol in the same sentence may lead one to think of the venue's NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series race. However trucks of another kind will bask in the limelight in Bristol on Thursday, as the Blue Lizard NASCAR Transporter Parade returns for the eighth straight year.

Slated for a 9 p.m. start, following the completion of downtown Bristol's Food City Family Race Night, the brilliantly colored big rigs will make the 10-mile trek from Bristol Mall down Volunteer Parkway en route to "The World's Fastest Half-Mile." The 2004 edition of the Blue Lizard NASCAR Transporter Parade will boast 44 of the multi-million dollar machines that haul the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series race cars from track to track throughout the season. The popular Contemporary Christian Music recording artists, FFH will serve as parade Grand

Marshals.

Adding to the fanfare of the parade, fireworks will explode high overhead from four points (Food City on Euclid Ave., Executive Park, Avoca Little League Baseball Park, and Tri Cities Auto Parts across from the Speedway) along the route. "It's classic Bristol and it's why fans like us love to come to this race year after year," said Tom Stinovich, a fan from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. "Bristol is always more than just racing — it's an experience."

This marks the third consecutive year of parade sponsorship for Del-Ray Dermatologicals and Blue Lizard Australian Suncream. "We are proud to be a part of this tradition which started here in Bristol, home to the hottest ticket in racing," said Mark Halvorsen, Del-Ray Dermatologicals director of marketing and sales. "Blue Lizard is pleased to have this opportunity to educate the

(See PARADE page four)

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Class of '04 inducted into NDLMHOF

by DOC LEHMAN

Another class was inducted into the National Dirt Late Model Hall of Fame (NDLMHOF) last Saturday evening at Florence Speedway prior to the night's NORTH-SOUTH 100 that saw eventual

winner Steve Shaver score the biggest payoff of his career, \$50,000. But prior to the evening's racing activities the Class of 2004 was inducted into the NDLMHOF.

"The weather was sunny and cool for the fourth annual NDLMHOF Induction ceremony," related Bill Holder, the Executive Director of the NDLMHOF. "The ceremony honored three retired, four active, three major contributors, and the Sportsman category. Those inducted included Rodney Franklin, Floyd Gilbert, Butch Hartman, Ed Dixon, Ed

Sanger, Ronnie Johnson, Bob Miller, Bob Newton, Larry Shaw, and Mike Balzano. The ceremony was held in front of the starting line, just before the start of racing activities."

"The response from the fans to the inductees was excellent with a number of the honorees bringing large groups of fans. It was an excellent showing of fans with the main grandstand being completely full for the ceremony."

"Each inductee was introduced by either James Essex or Bret Emrick, two of the best guys in the business. The inductees were presented a plaque from Arizona Sports Shirts and a Hall of Fame jacket from Hoosier Midwest."

The induction ceremony also drew a number of special guests. "There were a number of special guests," commented Holder. "One was veteran and legendary dirt racer Chick Hale. Having raced in the last seven decades,

Chick was the fast qualifier in the First World 100 in 1971."

"Larry Cothren, the editor of Stock Car Racing magazine was a guest of the Hall of Fame and was really impressed with the whole dirt track operation, and has plans for more coverage in this most popular of all the stock car racing magazines."

"The star of the show, though, was Chris Economaki, the editor emeritus of National

Speed Sport News. This guy knows just about everything there is to know about racing. He was a part of the ceremony and made it a lively production. We certainly want to thank Chris for his attendance."

Attendees also got to see and take a tour through the new NDLMHOF building for the first time. The building remains a work-in-progress but fans were able to see a substantial progress.

"The Hall of Fame building is progressing internally and the building was

opened to the fans on Saturday," explained Holder. "The response was excellent and a number of offers of memorabilia and photos. What makes the ceremony more meaningful to me is the fact that the actual hall of fame has progressed to the point that it is really starting to look like something, something that I am very proud of."

"Working with Mona and Jerry has been a real pleasure as they quickly take care of every thing that I request. Couldn't have a better place to have this facility."

NASCAR's Hunter wins Smokey Yunick Award

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

CONCORD, N.C.

Longtime motorsports publicist, track promoter and NASCAR executive Jim Hunter will receive the 2004 Smokey Yunick Award recognizing lifetime achievement in auto racing during pre-race ceremonies for the UAW-GM Quality 500 NASCAR Nextel Cup Series event Saturday night, Oct. 16, at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

The award, instituted several years ago by legendary car owner and mechanic Smokey Yunick who passed away May 11, 2001, annually recognizes an individual whose lifelong efforts have had a major impact on the motorsports industry.

"Fortunately, Jim Hunter found a way to combine his flair for promotion with his love for the sport," said H.A. "Humpty" Wheeler, president and general manager of Lowe's Motor Speedway. "From his days as a journalist in the Darlington press box to the guidance he is now giving our sport's next generation of leaders, Jim's tireless dedication has played a very important role in creating the tremendous popularity NASCAR racing enjoys on today's world stage."

After working as a sports writer and editor, Hunter started his motorsports career in 1968 as public relations director for Darlington Raceway. He joined the editorial staff of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution two years later, but was called back to his motorsports roots in 1975 by Talladega Superspeedway to serve as the track's public relations director.

In 1981, Hunter was named public relations director for NASCAR and was soon pro-

moted to vice president of administration. He returned to his native South Carolina in 1993 as president of Darlington Raceway and later became a corporate vice president of International Speedway Corporation, serving as regional director for the company's

Atlantic Division which included race tracks in Darlington, S.C., Rockingham, N.C., and Richmond, Va.

Hunter returned to NASCAR in 2001 as vice president of corporate communications and earlier this year earned the added responsibility of overseeing the

sanctioning body's regional touring series and the Dodge Weekly Racing Series.

Previous winners of the Smokey Yunick Award include Ken Squier, Bill Simpson, Ralph Moody, Banjo Matthews, Bud Moore, Cotton Owens and Junie Donlavey.

Burton tests at Kentucky Speedway

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

SPARTA - Jeff Burton settled into the seat of the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series No. 30 AOL Chevrolet for the first time Wednesday during at one-day test at Kentucky Speedway.

The 37-year-old turned his first laps with Richard Childress Racing after ending his nine-year relationship with Roush Racing last week.

He begins the next chapter in his 12-year career ranked 23rd in the series standings after generating a season-best fourth place finish at Dover and top-10 performances at Talladega Superspeedway and Infineon Raceway.

Burton was impressed with his new surroundings and said his first order of business was establishing solid lines of communication with an AOL Team that has now worked with four different drivers in the past two NNCS seasons.

"I think it's going real well, the speeds are good," he said. "We're just trying to learn about each other. I'm working with the whole team to learn who's responsible for what and who I talk to about certain things. I haven't driven Chevrolets in

more than 10 years and there are a whole lot of things they do at Childress that I'm not familiar with. The more I can expose myself to that, the sooner we'll have the chance to be successful."

After working with defending series champion Matt Kenseth and Roush drivers Greg Biffle, Kurt Busch and Mark Martin during the past several seasons, Burton said he is looking forward to racing with new teammates Kevin Harvick and Robby Gordon for the first time at Michigan International Speedway this Sunday.

"I think they're going to expose me to things I haven't been exposed to and I'll expose them to some things they haven't been exposed to," Burton said. "We'll be able to work well together. Kevin and I have talked a lot already. Robby and I haven't had the chance, but I'm sure we will. I'm looking forward to it, I think it's going to be good."

While not officially eliminated from the "Chase for the Nextel Cup," Burton needs to gain a minimum of 419 points in the next four races to tie Everham Motorsports driver Jeremy Mayfield in the 10th position in the series standings. With that situation in mind, Burton plans to produce solid results in the closing 14 races of the season to create a firm baseline for the start of the 2005 campaign.

"The reason I agreed to leave Roush rather than finishing the year out was that I thought it was in my best interest to join the AOL team and spend some time together," he said. "I'm ecstatic I did because there are a lot of issues I'm able to work on now, that if I weren't here we wouldn't be working on. I think we'll be better 10 races from now and next year because we've had this time together."

Burton tested with Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch and his

No. 84 NNCS Hendrick car, along with Everham Motorsports driver Bill Elliott.

At 51, Sacks serious about comeback effort

by MIKE HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

At 51, Greg Sacks is attempting an unlikely NASCAR comeback.

After failing to qualify at Chicagoland and Indianapolis, Sacks, who hadn't made a Cup start since 1998, made it into the race earlier this month at Pocono and finished 42nd.

Greg Sacks Driving a Dodge he co-owns with Ed Raabe and James Wilsberg, Sacks planned to try again this week at Michigan. To give himself a better chance of qualifying on Friday, the winner of the 1985 July Daytona race spent two days testing on the two-mile, high-banked Michigan track.

"We're giving ourselves a fighting chance this weekend," Sacks said. "We're a new team and we're going to have some ups and downs, but we're taking the right and necessary steps to be successful."

"Most teams test not to get

Parade

Continued from p3

nation's greatest race fans at the nation's most popular track about the dangers of over-exposure to the sun."

The parade provides a chance for the unsung heroes who pilot the cross-country machines to enjoy the spotlight. "The transporter parade is incredible and it's awesome to see the thousands of fans lined up along the roadside," said Garry Mannis who drives the hauler for the No. 74 team and driver Tony Raines. "The parade makes you feel good about being a transporter driver."

With the honor of being defending NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Champions, the No. 17 DeWalt Power Tools transporter will take the parade's pole position.

Bill France Jr. to be honored by NCMA in October

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

CORNELIUS, N.C. - The North Carolina Motorsports Association announced Tuesday that Bill France Jr., who served for many years as NASCAR's president, will be honored in "An Evening with Bill France Jr." Oct. 21 in Charlotte.

"The NCMA has developed this event to honor a man that truly put NASCAR and stock car racing on the map," said NCMA Chairman Richard Petty. "Without Bill Jr., many of us wouldn't be doing what we are doing today."

Wachovia Corporation will serve as presenting sponsor of the gala invitation-only event, in which guests will dine and pay tribute to one of racing's most influential figures.

"Bill France Jr. built NASCAR to its present stature because he formed good relationships with people who have stood behind him and helped make the sport what it is," said Ken Thompson, Wachovia's chairman, presi-

dent and CEO. "Wachovia Corporation can certainly appreciate that way of doing business, which is why we are proud to present 'An Evening with Bill France Jr.'"

Dr. Jerry Punch will be the emcee for the evening and will introduce speakers to share memories about France. The proceeds from the evening will go to Victory Junction Gang Camp and the North Carolina Motorsports Foundation.

"Seeing the smiles on the children's faces at the camp makes all the hard work worthwhile," said Brian Collier, executive director of Victory Junction Gang Camp. "We have truly been blessed with an outpouring of support and donations, and 'An Evening with Bill France Jr.' will be no exception."

France's father, Bill France Sr., handed the NASCAR presidency to the younger France in 1972. During Bill Jr.'s reign as president, the sport advanced from a regional pastime to a national phenomenon. France helped usher national television coverage and major sponsorship into the sport, making it the second most-watched sport on television.

"An Evening with Bill France Jr.' will serve as a fitting tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to racing, while taking his family business to previously unimaginable plateaus," said Rick Hendrick, vice chairman of the NCMA.

National Football League Preseason

- Monday, Aug. 23
St. Louis at Kansas City, 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 26
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 27
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets, 7 p.m.
- Washington at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
- Green Bay at Jacksonville, 8 p.m.
- San Francisco at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
- New Orleans at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
- Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.
- Seattle at San Diego, 10 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 28
Buffalo at Indianapolis, 7 p.m.
- Miami at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
- Cincinnati at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
- Detroit at Baltimore, 8 p.m.
- Cleveland at Kansas City, 8 p.m.
- New England at Carolina, 8 p.m.
- Oakland at Arizona, 9 p.m.

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Dale Jr., Make-A-Wish Foundation team up

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Dale Earnhardt Jr. is offering his 33-foot luxury boat to the highest bidder in a charity auction to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"I've been involved with the Make-A-Wish Foundation over the last several years. Throughout the year, we get to meet a lot of kids from across the country whose wish is to come to a NASCAR race and meet me. By putting my boat up for this auction, it will give more kids the opportunity to have their wishes come true. It's a great cause, and I can't wait to hand the keys off to the new owners of the boat."

Bidding details and more information is available at <http://www.ebay.com/dalejr>

wishboat or at the Make-A-Wish Foundation's national Web site at www.wish.org. The charity auction began August 16, and will conclude at 5 p.m. PST on August 26, 2004. Roundtrip airfare for two and two nights' hotel accommodations will be provided by the Make-A-Wish Foundation to the winner. Bidding starts at \$50,000, but the boat has been appraised at more than \$118,000.

The winning bidder will meet Earnhardt Jr. at the Celebrity Sports Auction to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Charlotte, N.C., on Sept. 21. Tickets to the Celebrity Sports Auction are available at www.celebritysportsauction.com.

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| <p>Class 3A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boyle County 2. Highlands 3. Hopkinsville 4. Lexington Catholic 5. Bowling Green 6. Oldham County 7. Covington Catholic 8. Paducah Tilghman 9. Bell County 10. Mason County | <p>Class 1A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Danville 2. Beechwood 3. Mayfield 4. Newport Central Catholic 5. Louisville Holy Cross 6. Bardstown 7. Pikeville 8. Hancock County 9. Somerset 10. Frankfort |

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At 77, Paterno determined to rebuild his Penn State empire

by RALPH D. RUSSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Next to the bronze statue of Joe Paterno that greets visitors to Beaver Stadium is a wall of plaques proudly displaying the results of a 38-year reign that has defined Penn State football.

On the first 34 plaques, the long rows of Ws are only occasionally interrupted by Ls. Then you get to the newest plaques, and the Ls start piling up.

Paterno is the personification of his program — tough and

consistent, a no-frills winner. His rolled-up pant cuffs and black-framed, Coke-bottle-thick eyeglasses are as distinguishable as the Nittany Lions' plain blue and white uniforms.

With 339 victories, Paterno is second only to Florida State coach Bobby Bowden's 342 in major college wins. But over the past four seasons, the Nittany Lions haven't been what they used to be, causing some to wonder if the same can be said of their coach.

At 77 years old, Paterno is determined to see his once-

mighty program reclaim a place among the nation's elite. And armed with a new four-year contract extension, he's not about to let someone else rebuild his empire.

"I worked too hard to get it up there. I'm not going to back away now," he said. "It's another challenge. It's going to be tough."

The creases on Paterno's forehead are more pronounced these days and the grays have finally started to overtake the blacks in his head of wavy hair. Otherwise, Paterno doesn't look

much different at 77 than he did at 67 or even 57. Nor does he act much differently. He's still a hands-on coach.

"Anything that goes on on that field, I know what's going on," he said. "I know what's going on in the weight room. I know what's going on anywhere, whether it's academic supports or what. Discipline...."

He still puts in long hours, starting his days around dawn, and mixes it up with his players at practice.

"He still runs around. He still gives you shots under the shoul-

der pads if he feels like he has to show you something," said full-back Paul Jefferson, a senior who has never even considered the possibility of playing for anyone but Paterno at Penn State.

"You can't beat the clock, but in a sense when he's on the field he's almost timeless."

Safety Andrew Guman learned about Penn State football from his father, Mike, who played running back for Paterno in the late 1970s. As far as Guman can tell, there is no difference between the coach his father reveres and the one he now plays for.

"I don't think Joe's a lot about change," Guman said.

That aside, the Nittany Lions have gone 22-26 with just one winning season over the past four years, and the idea of changing coaches at Happy Valley doesn't seem quite so outlandish anymore.

The move to the Big Ten in 1993 hasn't worked out so well since the Nittany Lions won the league and the Rose Bowl in their second season. Penn State has finished no better than tied for second in the Big Ten since 1994, and after years of being the power of the Northeast, aligning with Midwest schools seems to have taken a toll on recruiting.

As beloved as Paterno is in State College, the doubters and critics grew louder last season when Penn State went 3-9.

It's not just the losing that has made Paterno look past his prime. More than ever before he has been publicly critical of game officials. Two years ago, after a game that Penn State lost in overtime to Iowa, he sprinted across the field and grabbed an official by the shoulder to protest a call.

And while his players have been producing less on the field, they are getting into more trouble off it. In the past year alone, almost a dozen players have had brushes with the law.

Paterno's boss, if anyone can truly be called that, says anyone who thinks Joe Pa's grip on the program has loosened is simply wrong.

"He's very much in control. That's been one of his strengths and continues to be one of his strengths," Penn State athletic director Tim Curley said.

Paterno ended last season with one year left on his contract, and considering the recent record, Curley's decision to extend the coach's contract through the 2008 season came as something of a surprise. Paterno will turn 82 on Dec. 21, 2008.

For Curley, who grew up in State College and was a walk-on for Paterno in the '70s, the decision was easy.

"His contributions across the board certainly outweigh any things that may have happened recently," he said.

The reasons for Curley's allegiance to Paterno are obvious.

Since Paterno was hired as a 23-year-old assistant by coach Rip Engle in 1950, his contributions have extended beyond two national titles and five perfect seasons. He and his wife, Sue, have donated more than \$4 mil-

lion to the university. The library, not the weight room or practice field, is named after Paterno.

So the question begs: Can anyone other than Paterno decide when it is time for a coaching change at Penn State?

"It's so speculative. I really wouldn't want to address that," Curley said. "We've had a great working relationship from my end of it. I just want him to have a great finish to his career."

Unless he's hiding something, Paterno appears to have no desire to call it quits. "I haven't got the slightest idea what I'd do," he said of life after football.

If anything, Penn State's recent struggles have made it less likely that Paterno would retire. The Nittany Lions just can't see their coach walking away from the team when it's down.

"This past spring has probably been one of the toughest we've had," defensive end Derek Wake said. "Joe's a winner. I can imagine 3-9 really burns him."

Paterno's not so sure he's any tougher now than he was 15 years ago. He said he's made a few adjustments this year to better prepare a team that he felt lacked poise and mental toughness last season.

"How you adjust to when in a sense of saying, 'Well I'm going to be tougher now' ... that just isn't the way I act," he said. "I look at the situation and try to do things that are appropriate to make it better. No magic to it."

There's reason to believe Paterno already has Penn State primed for a comeback. A big part of last year's struggles can be traced to inexperience as underclassmen saw far more playing time than any coach would be comfortable with.

The good news is that talented players such as linebacker Paul Posluszny and running back Austin Scott, who played as freshmen, now have a year of seasoning and three years left in the program.

Paterno also showed that he can still recruit. His latest class was rated among the top 20 in the country by most analysts. Prized linebacker Dan Connor might play immediately.

Plus, there is a sense of obligation among the players to protect Paterno and his legacy.

"We have a responsibility to get things back to the way it was before we got here," Jefferson said. "We owe it to him. We owe it to this institution."

It's clear Paterno hasn't lost the players — or the fans.

After another hardworking offseason, Paterno spent a few extra days at his house on the beach at the New Jersey shore.

"I went for a walk on the beach and it's amazing how many people said, 'Hey, Coach, good luck, good luck. Boy, I'm really excited. We can hardly wait for the season,'" Paterno said. "And that kind of stuff gets you fired up, obviously. And I'm excited about working now. And I think the day I don't have that kind of excitement is the day that — maybe 10, 12 years from now — I'll give it up."

Defensive line showing strength in practices

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — The University of Kentucky football team's defensive line looms as a strength in the Wildcats' 3-4 defensive scheme.

UK returns defensive end Sweet Pea Burns, an All-SEC performer last season; two more experienced, capable ends in Ellery Moore and Trey Mielsch; 2003 Freshman All-American Lamar Mills at nose tackle; a couple of exciting newcomers in junior college transfer B. Jay Parsons at end and redshirt freshman nose tackle Ricky

Abren.

There are a pair of questions marks, however. Burns underwent arthroscopic knee surgery today to repair a small cartilage tear in his knee, but he hopes to return in time for the season opener. Abren is practicing with the team, but is suspended from game action until resolution of an off-campus incident.

Following practice on Wednesday, D-Line coach Michael Gray discussed the group.

"We have some competition going on," Gray said. "If you have some depth in some posi-

tions, usually the competitive juices flow a little better. The guys start competing for playing time and that is a coach's ally. I think everyone is working hard and competing.

"Vincent (Sweet Pea) Burns is still the guy at his position. Trey and Ellery have really been battling to see who is going to start (at the other end)," Gray continued. "Lamar has had a solid camp, but he's made a few mistakes and he has to keep improving. I'm still looking for a backup nose tackle. I'm looking at Ellery (who played the position last season). But I'm

going to try to keep him at end, I like him there. I have to wait to see what happens to Ricky. If he's able to play in the first game, he'll be my backup and I'll keep Ellery at end."

Parsons, who is in his first season with the Wildcats after transferring from Saddleback College, has made a good impression in practice. The 6-5, 250-pounder has shown an instinct for making tackles for loss and swatting away pass attempts.

"B. Jay's got a big-time motor," Gray said. "He'll go make the play 20 yards down the field. He'll bat the balls down. He's also a great pass rusher."

Gray also is working with a couple of true freshmen, end Nii Adjei Oninku (pronounced "KNEE ad-JAY o-NIN-coo") and tackle Jason Leger (pronounced "LEE-ger").

"Nii Adjei is really bright. He's very athletic and has a great first step. He has a great upside (potential). If he can get to 255 or 260 (pounds), where he should be, he's going to be a problem for other teams. It's going to be tough for guys to handle him. He's just as quick as Vincent right now. It's just a matter of him getting bigger and stronger and getting reps (practice repetitions)," Gray said.

"Jason is big and strong right now. He was able to dominate in high school (because of his strength) and at this level he can't do that. So, his fundamentals and technique have to improve and he's been working hard on them. For a guy who just learned the scheme, he's holding his own."

Kentucky senior defensive end Vincent "Sweet Pea" Burns underwent arthroscopic surgery on Thursday for a small cartilage tear in his knee. The procedure was performed at UK Hospital by Dr. Darren Johnson, who said that the surgery went well. Burns hopes to return to practice the week of the Louisville game and play against the Cardinals in the season opener on Sept. 5.

Burns, who was named first-team All-Southeastern Conference by four selectors a year ago, made 72 tackles in 2003 and led the SEC with 18 tackles for loss.

Burns has been named to three preseason national award watch lists, including the Lombardi Award for the top lineman/linebacker, the Bronko Nagurski Award for best defensive player and the Ted Hendricks Award for best defensive end.

The Kroger Kickoff Luncheon has been set for Friday, Aug. 27, at 11:30 a.m. at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington.

UK President Dr. Lee Todd, Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart, and Coach Rich Brooks will be the featured speakers. The cost is \$40 per person or \$400 for a table of 10. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Lori Armstrong at 859/257-5526.

Selig gets extension through 2009; some dissent on World Cup

by RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — If Bud Selig wants to be baseball's commissioner for life, owners probably approve.

"At this point, yes," the New York Mets' Fred Wilpon said Thursday after Selig's term was extended three years through 2009. "God willing, Bud's health will be good. His own interest may change. But right now I'd say yes."

If Selig serves out the new term, he will have held the job for 17 years — the second-longest tenure behind Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who became the first commissioner in 1920 and held the job until he died in 1944.

The 70-year-old Selig, whose family controls the Milwaukee Brewers, became acting commissioner in 1992 after leading the group that forced Fay Vincent's resignation. Selig was given a

five-year term in July 1998, and three years later owners extended it through 2006.

"In September 1992, I told my wife when I got on off the plane, she asked how long it would be, and I said, 'Two to four months,'" Selig recalled. "It's got to be the longest two to four months in history."

In April 2003, he said his current term would be his last. The vote to extend it was unanimous. "I had a series of owners who asked me after that time not to close my mind, and they were a little surprised that I had said that," Selig said. "Once they have articulated that, I believe that my responsibility and my feeling for the sport is such that I want to do what they think is in the best interests of the sport. ... I finally felt it was the right thing to do."

Colorado Rockies vice chairman Jerry McMorris said the group would have extended Selig's term for however long he

desired.

"If he had wanted six years, seven years, 10 years, I think he would have gotten it today," McMorris said.

Owners also gave their preliminary go-ahead for the launch of a World Cup tournament, which Selig finally admitted could not begin until 2006.

However, the Chicago White Sox, Detroit and Kansas City voted against the World Cup, and the New York Yankees abstained, one baseball official said on the condition of anonymity. In addition, Oakland made its vote for approval conditional, subject to insurance for players being worked out to its satisfaction.

Under Selig, baseball expanded the playoffs from four to eight teams in 1995, started interleague play in 1997, vastly increased revenue sharing among the clubs, got players to agree to a luxury tax on high-payroll clubs. Two years ago, players agreed to a labor contract without a work stoppage for the first time since 1970.

"This sport was a dinosaur. It didn't change, and then when you tried to change it, it obviously had a lot of critics," Selig said. "But the competition among other forms of entertainment and other sports will just intensify, and we have to be smart enough to always stay ahead of that curve."

Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, told owners that no decision had been made on where to move the Montreal Expos, but that the relocation committee understood it was under time pressure to make a decision, one official at the meeting said.

Washington and Northern Virginia remain the leading candidates to land the franchise for next season. Baseball plans meetings with government officials from both those areas along with Las Vegas and Norfolk, Va.

Baltimore owner Peter Angelos has objected to having a team in either downtown Washington, about 40 miles from Camden Yards, or Loudoun County, near Dulles International Airport, about 60 miles from Baltimore.

"I have a great affection for Peter Angelos, there's no question about that," Selig said. "In the end, on all subjects, you do what's in the best interests of the sport."

Several owners have said that without the Baltimore issue, Washington and Northern Virginia are clearly the top choices.

"I would think that's the general view," San Francisco owner Peter Magowan said. But he also added: "I'm sympathetic, as I think every other owner is, to any decision that would have a negative impact on any other owner."

Owners also approved the start of a baseball television network, which hopes to reach the air in July or October 2005.

Alabama abandons Legion Field after upper deck declared unsafe

by JAY REEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — So much for "The football capital of the South."

Once proud to proclaim itself as the gridiron hub of an entire region, the city of Birmingham's 77-year-old Legion Field is in such disrepair it's no longer safe to use the 9,000-seat upper deck, which has structural problems. Its metal supports are dappled with peeling gray paint and rust.

With renovation or repair unlikely, the city and the University of Alabama on Thursday said they were ending their contract, meaning the Crimson Tide would no longer play any home games at the 81,000-seat stadium. The announcement marked the end of a long association between one of the South's most storied football programs and the old field on Graymont Avenue.

"The Crimson Tide has played some of its greatest football at Legion Field, and Alabama fans will forever enjoy fond memories of those wonderful games," athletic director Mal Moore said in a statement.

Officials said the upper level isn't in danger of collapse, and the stadium will still play host to smaller events including UAB home games, the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship, the annual Alabama A&M-Alabama State game and

high school contests.

But none of those hold a candle to images of the stadium's past: coach Paul "Bear" Bryant leaning on a goalpost during pregame warmups or Alabama vs. Tennessee on the third Saturday in October.

Alabama moved most of its big games to its on-campus stadium in Tuscaloosa years ago, but the university's contract with the city called for a few smaller games to be played at Legion Field. The Tide was next scheduled to play in Birmingham in 2005, against Middle Tennessee State, and 2008 against Northern Illinois.

With the agreement to end the contract because of the stadium's condition, all home games will be shifted to 83,818-seat Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa. It will be the first time Alabama has played all its home games in Tuscaloosa since 1899.

"The city is pleased with Legion Field's place in history and relishes the challenge of continuing to add to the storied ledger of this landmark," said Melvin Miller, Birmingham's parks director.

Alabama lost to Georgia 20-6 in the first game ever played at Legion Field on Nov. 19, 1927. Bryant became the winningest coach in college football at the stadium in 1981, when Alabama beat Auburn 28-17 for Bryant's 315th victory, a mark that has since been passed.

Reds send 3B Larson to Louisville for rehabilitation

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Reds on Thursday sent third baseman Brandon Larson to Triple-A Louisville on a rehabilitation assignment.

Larson was to join the Louisville Bats in time for Thursday night's game at

Indianapolis.

He has been on the disabled list since July 19 with a strained left hamstring. The Reds have been filling in at third base by alternating Juan Castro, Felipe Lopez and Tim Hummel.

— The Associated Press

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CO-OP NEWS

Disaster-Planning Tips

By Theresa Scott,
 FLOYD COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
 FOR FAMILY AND CONSUMER
 SCIENCES

Disasters can easily disrupt a home without advance preparation for these emergency situations. To protect your family, develop a disaster plan and collect supplies for a crisis.

You can learn about disaster preparedness by visiting the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture "Healthy Homes" exhibit during the Kentucky State Fair Aug. 19 through Aug. 29. The interactive display will be open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the South Wing of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. Other exhibit topics will include physical activity, home safety, and indoor air quality and energy efficiency.

When developing a disaster plan, keep it simple and be sure everyone in the household understands it. The plan should include two meeting places. One site should be near the home in case of a fire and the second place should be outside the neighborhood in case you cannot return home.

Also, choose a friend or family member as an emergency contact in case members of the household are separated during a disaster. The contact should live away from your home's immediate area.

Post emergency telephone numbers in a prominent location.

Discuss places to go and escape routes if you must leave your home.

(See CO-OP, page seven)

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@floydcountytimes.com. You may also send questions only to Dr. Carol at: 1768 KY Rt. 7, Estill, KY 41666, or e-mail to: carolbcac@tusa.net. We'll be waiting to hear from you!

MEET APPALACHIA



photo by Mary Music

Russell began making canes and staffs in the 1980's. He still loves it. He says this kind of art grows on you.

Russell Rice, "The Cane with a Brain"

by MARY MUSIC
 STAFF WRITER

Russell Rice

Age: 84
 Education: College
 Occupation: Artist
 Life quote: "An idle mind is the devil's workshop and I don't want that kind of shop."

About 'Meet Appalachia'

I met Mr. Rice three years ago, when I was still new to the newspaper business. His stories still touch my heart and his remarkable works of art are still overwhelmingly beautiful. I'm glad I stopped by to see him again.

His love for life is as pure and wonderful as the art he creates.

His love for the beauty of nature is seen in every tiny detail.

He sits in the center of the classroom, surrounded by a dozen first grade students.

He asks the girls if they want to be pretty.

Of course, they do. He asks the boys if they want to be handsome.

Yes, yes, of course, they all do.

"Then let me begin by telling you a story," the man says, sitting on the edge of his chair. "There was once a saplin' growing up in the woods. It was surrounded by tall trees, and it was trying hard to live because the shadows of the big trees prevented it from getting much sunlight."

He pauses. The children, silent, watch his fingers wrap around the staff in his hand.

"Then, one day, there comes this vine, and it wraps itself around the little saplin'," he says. "Before you know it, the saplin' is all choked up, and it can't grow tall enough to reach the sunlight. The vine is like bad habits, like smoking, drinking, or taking drugs. And those bad habits choke little saplins and weaken their branches. So, if you want to be pretty or handsome, don't get choked up by your bad habits."

— MARY MUSIC

Meet Russell Rice, 84, of Little Paint Creek. He's rekindled that story in countless classrooms over the years. Although he is no longer able to do so, he says sharing this tale has been the best part of his artistic life. He smiles when he talks about the children.

"I've gotten more fun out of my craft by talking to the children at schools than anything else of my work," he said. "The kids ask all kinds of questions. You wouldn't believe it. They want to know all about it. I've had a lot of fun. You got to have a lot of fun if you're going to be around for 84 years."

Russell, born in a two room house on Little Paint Creek, has "migrated a mile and a half in all his life" on the hollow, where he is now surrounded by family who keep him company.

With six brothers and one sister, he learned Eastern Kentucky the working man's way. He says the only time he "got off Little Paint" to live was when he served in the Navy during W.W.II.

When he was 18, Russell gave his life to God at the altar. He's been active in the church since that time. He says that people should have their "reservations" ready before they go "home."

He worships now at the First Church of God in Little Paint, a church, he says, that strengthens fellowship and emphasizes the importance of a life with Jesus Christ.

His advice to the younger generation: "The Bible says that life is a vapor that appears for just a little while and is gone....The Bible says that life is like a bubble on the water. We believe these things, but sometimes we don't act like we believe them. Sometimes our actions are like we'll be here forever. If it takes 88 hours to make a cane to the satisfaction

(See RICE, page seven)

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'Grosse Pointe Blank'

Here's a movie that changes the subject faster than a politician faced with a direct question. It's also the best comedy, action, romance and dramatic film ever about a hit man attending a high school reunion.

The movie centers on Martin Blank. He's a hit man who has lost his taste for the work, which has made him very rich but also a little lonely. He has let his ennui go unchecked and it leads to him botching his latest assignment. Now he must do a courtesy hit for his employer and the assignment will take him back to his hometown just

as his high school class is planning a reunion.

Blank is unsure about going back home and drops in on his therapist for some advice. The psychologist though, knows that Martin is an assassin and is

reluctant to treat him. However the chance to get Blank out of town is too good to miss and so he urges him to go and try not to kill anybody for a few days, "See how that feels."

Blank takes the job but finds out that things are never the same almost immediately. His mother has been committed, his home has been replaced by a convenience store and his old sweetheart hasn't forgotten that he ditched her on prom night. That's just for starters. He is also being targeted by several other killers like: two CIA agents who have to knock him off to repay a debt, a fellow assassin named Grosse who wants him to join a union or die, and a foreign killer who has been hired to flat-out kill him.

It all comes to a head at the reunion, where Martin figures out that his mundane friends have a life that he now covets. This revelation is beautifully rendered when Martin is handed a baby while the mother fetches a fresh bottle for it. He locks eyes with the most animated 1-year-old in screen history and his life is changed. He is ready now to commit to his old flame.

Then it turns into a thriller as an assassin attacks him in front of his old locker. Now Martin must win back his girl, stop an assassination and take out the killers on his trail so he can retire with the girl he left behind. This movie is all over the place but delivers on every front and manages the difficult task of wrapping up all of its plot points while still delivering plenty of laughs, entertainment and one last high-octane gun battle that will put everything he's found at risk. All this and a happy ending to boot. You gotta

(See LAGOON, page seven)

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Celebrates Sisters



None of us wanted to fight. Five sisters and one brother were trying valiantly to honor and respect our parents. Louise is the oldest and had the most daily contact with our mother before her quick death from cancer, long quietly taking over her body, but not loud enough to be noticed until too late. Three weeks later, here we sat, six middle-age children in the living room of our youth, with red eyes of grief and nervous, sweaty hands of anxiety.

"We'll each pick a number, starting from oldest to youngest, then

we'll each take a pick, in the order of our numbers. You understand?" Louise was fully in charge. We were taking our pick of Mama's quilts.

These last six quilts of our mother's were something we needed to be fair about. They were all laid out for our choosing. Although not works of art for the most part, they were our heritage. There was a queen-size Dresden plate and two twin-size patchwork, both in good shape. A double-size, double-knit polyester little girl quilt that we remembered from the era of leisure suits, and a

queen-size log cabin that told its age by the colors: orange and avocado. Then there was the quilt on my mother's bed, a double-size star pattern of Wedgwood blue chintz and cotton. It was gorgeous. And it smelled like Mama.

We reached into the shoe box one at a time for our numbers, and, being the baby, I picked last. Fitting, as I got number six, the last to choose from the bed-cover legacy. Libby was the first, and no one was surprised to watch her gather up the soft-stiff chintz and fold it into her

bag. When my turn came, the double-knit polyester quilt was left, so I took it, remembering Mother hand-stitching the pitiful thing. So much work for so little beauty! "We'll keep it in the car," I thought to myself, "for a picnic blanket."

That was in October, and as the holidays approached, our grief stayed with us, mostly hidden, but popping up unannounced as tears over a remembered song, or a phone call impossible to make. We all

(See SOUP page seven)

Jim Davidson

A tribute to the women of America

One day a few weeks ago I was in Little Rock to visit my friend Dennis Schick at the Arkansas Press Association. When I arrived, he was on the phone and during the wait, I had a chance to talk with Milton Scott, who represents newspaper interests when the legislature is in session.



We talked about a number of things concerning my new book and somehow we got into the subject of success and opportunity and why the United States of America is such a great country.

It is always my heart's desire to give credit where credit is due and during our discussion, Milton shared an interesting concept that I had never really thought about before. He said, "One of the reasons our country is so successful is because of the great contributions that women have made to our economy." He

went on to say, "they make up half of the population, they are highly educated, they are motivated and they are hard workers. This is not true for many countries in other parts of the world."

Later, as I thought about what Milton Scott had said, I realized that it was true. In those countries where women are treated as property, have no rights and very few freedoms, because of oppression; along with graft and corruption where

democracy does not exist, you have squalor, poverty and terrible living conditions. To use a boxing metaphor, "It's like trying to win with one hand tied behind your back."

It is with these thoughts in mind that I would like to pay tribute to the women of America, to thank you for your contributions and for helping to

make our country the greatest nation in the world.

I would also add that many of the victories that women have won, even in our own country, did not come easy. Back when I was in high school I learned the names of three women who were early pioneers in the movement to secure the right to vote for women. The most notable was Susan B. Anthony, along with Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cody Stanton. All of their efforts failed until a rare opportunity came along that would change the course of history. This opportunity was called the First World War. While most of the men were away fighting a war, women came to the forefront and stood in the gap.

They worked in factories to turn out munitions (here I'm reminded of Rosie the Riveter) and all the other items necessary to fight a war; they reared the children and were there to greet the victorious troops when the war was over. Because of their patriotism, gaining economic independence and the strong support of President Woodrow Wilson, on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was passed, giving the right to vote to women. Susan B. Anthony was not around to see it. She died in 1906.

Now, back to what I said earlier about a democracy. The power of a true democracy is the ballot box and today we see women participating in every facet of leadership in our country.

One place where this is most evident to me is the opening of membership to women in civic clubs. We just finished the year for our local Lions Club with a woman president, and I was privileged to be her sponsor.

The issue of leadership is not about domination, it's about ability and any successful organization is built on mutual respect. I know this for sure. Women have some strengths that men don't have and I would not want to be without them. Besides that, they improve the looks of the club. In my mind I can see a couple of readers smiling just now, but of course I don't know who you are.

Women are special for another important reason. Millions of women in this nation are also mothers and our national leaders thought this was so important that they set aside a special day that we call "Mothers Day" to honor them. As a Christian I would like to say that a Godly Mother is the best gift that any man could ever have.

There are still many issues in America today that divide us, but still many, many more that

unite us. As it relates to the future of our nation, I am reminded of a statement I heard one time about a successful marriage, "Marriage is not looking at each other, it is looking in the same direction together."

There is a passage in the Bible in the 31st chapter of the book of Proverbs that talks about a worthy woman that says in part, "Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future. She opens her

mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. Her children rise up and bless her. Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all." It's an honor for me today, to pay tribute to the women of America.

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

Co-op

Continued from p6

Practice using your escape routes.

At least once a year, you should review insurance policies to ensure adequate coverage.

Teach family members when and how to turn off utilities at the main switches or valves.

Assemble alternative heating sources in case you are without electricity or gas.

Since you may be confined to your home, or forced to evacuate it, prepare a disaster supply kit. Store it in a convenient location in air-tight, easy-to-move containers. Go through the kit annually to replace and update the contents.

The kit should include at least a three-day supply of non-perishable foods that require no refrigeration and minimal preparation or cooking.

Consider such items as ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables, canned juice, milk and soup; dried foods and instant meals, high-energy foods and "comfort" items. Rotate foods every six months.

Having an ample supply of safe, clean water is a top priority during any emergency.

Thoroughly wash storage containers such as food-grade plastics, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal. Store at least one gallon of water, per person per day in a cool, dark place that is easily accessible. Tightly seal containers and label them including the date filled. Rotate the water supply

every six months.

Also assemble necessary supplies and tools including paper cups, plates and utensils, a manual can opener and utility knife, matches in a waterproof container, personal hygiene items and soap, hand sanitizer and disinfectant. Other necessary items include cash and change, a battery-operated radio and flashlights with extra batteries and pliers and tape.

For a basic first-aid kit, assemble adhesive bandages, two- and four-inch gauze pads, hypo-allergenic adhesive tape, non-prescription medicines, antiseptic, scissors, tweezers and needles.

Clothing and bedding should include a change of clothes, rain gear, hats and gloves, blankets or sleeping bags and sturdy shoes or boots for each person.

Remember special items including baby food, formula, bottles and diapers, prescription medicines, spare eyeglasses and contact lenses and supplies, and pet food, and medicine and care items.

For more information on the College of Agriculture exhibit and disaster preparedness, contact Theresa Scott at the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Service Office at (606) 886-2668.

Educational programs of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Lagoon

Continued from p6

see this one.

This works because it's smart and never talks down to the audience. Director George Armitage proves once again that he can mix quirky characters, violence and comedy to excellent effect, as he did with "Miami Blues."

It doesn't hurt that he has an excellent cast. John Cusack is right on target as Blank. It's a difficult part but he manages to make every line sound like he just thought it up (actually, he did), alongside three other writers.

Dan Aykroyd is perfectly cast as Grosser. He displays all of the ties that come from living under the gun. He is a hyper, albeit nervous, wreck who pops antidepressants like Tic Tacs.

Alan Arkin is hilarious as Martin's frightened therapist. Benny "The Jet" Urquidez is also on hand as a high-kicking assassin. Besides being a former kickboxing champion, he

has acted in several of Jackie Chan's best films and their duel from "Dragons Forever" is considered by many to be the best martial arts battle ever committed to celluloid. He also trained Cusack for his role as a kick boxer in "Say Anything." Look for "Dharma and Greg" star Jenna Elfman as an accident-prone attendee at the reunion.

The film's title is a play on words that honors the Lee Marvin classic "Point Blank."

The score is chockfull of great 1980s music by The Clash, The Specials and the Violent Femmes. The score is by the late Joe Strummer, who headlined "The Clash." Definite appeal here for 1980s high-schoolers, but the film is broad to appeal beyond that range.

Best line: "Don't tease me. You know what I do for a living."

1997, rated R.

Soup

Continued from p6

moved our bodies toward Christmas, even as our minds stayed with Mother in her hospital bed before she died, or in her flower garden, or on her sun porch. Christmas would be hard.

Packages began to arrive, though, and I had to notice that the rest of the world didn't stop in the shadow of my sadness. On Christmas Eve, my children have the privilege of opening one package before bed, but on this night they encouraged me to join in. A large box from Ohio had piqued their interest. What could Aunt Libby have sent?

Laughing, I tore open the box, expecting a joke: an inflatable chair or bubble bath buried

in yards of newspaper. Then my hands shook, and my vision wavered through a film of sudden tears. Inside the box lay, neatly folded, the coveted chintz quilt from Mama's bed. I buried my face in the folds to take in the lingering scent of my mother, and to add my tears. On top of the quilt was a card:

To my baby sister -- my first pick.

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.

Rice

Continued from p6

of my heart, then that time belongs to the Lord and me. And that's good time."

Russell fell in love and married his wife, Malta, when he was still a young lad. She passed away on Feb. 13, 2000. He still loves her and misses her, as is evident in the way he keeps his home. His devotion to her is amazing. A sign on the front door welcomes visitors with his and her name. The refrigerator is still decorated the way she left it, with whatnots and family pictures.

Russell credits Malta for helping him pick colors for his artwork.

"She was a great help to me on colors," he said. "When I was putting colors together, if I got a color wrong or picked one that didn't match, she told me to change it. And I was kind enough to listen to her."

Now that she's gone, Russell depends on his own eye for color coordination. And, yes, it's working just fine.

His home is decorated with hundreds of handmade canes,

staffs, and "trinkets," dappled with every color under the sun. His best artistic qualities lie with his vision and his ability to depict themes in meticulous detail.

Russell, who had no formal training in art, began tole painting, or painting on metal, after he retired from the legal department of the Kentucky West Virginia Gas in 1979.

Not long after his retirement, he befriended Thomas E. May, of Langley, a retired high school teacher who made canes.

"I was looking at his canes, how the vines wrapped around them and he told me 'If I could paint I'd paint a snake on them.' And I looked at him and said, 'Tom, it would be impossible for me to put a snake on there.' But I came home and tried what he said and I've been very successful with his advice."

When he was making his first cane, Russell said he envisioned the tale of vines and bad habits. It is that sort of "vision," combined with some down-home originality, that makes his work unique.

"Out of more than 400 staffs and canes that I've completed, I've never yet manufactured or put a handle on any of them," he said. "If it didn't grow on it, I don't put it on it...I like to leave all the nature I possibly can leave in all my work. People ask me where I get these ideas for my staffs—not a one of them are copied from another—I tell them I got a secret that a lot of people don't have. I have the vision to be able to see invisible things that people don't see when they walk by."

Busy lives easily overlook the beauty in nature, Russell says, and experience helps him see things that others miss.

"Everything that comes to

you, doesn't come over night, it comes to you by degree," he said.

Russell has crafted hundreds of canes, each intricately decorated with his ideas and interpretations of life. He puts his heart into his work, he says, because each cane is important. Each one has a different meaning, each one, a different story to tell.

The Derby Canes, depicting derby winners (even triple crowns and fillies) from 1875 to 2004, are quite popular, Russell says. His pieces rely heavily on nature and animals. He even dabbles in creating works modeling family—his father and grandfather—and famous actors or singers. He has canes detailing American Presidents and first ladies, Kentucky Governors and first ladies, and singers like Elvis and Dolly Parton. He's privileged to have pieces autographed by Pam Tillis, Ricky Skaggs, and Loretta Lynn, another hobby on the horizon.

Throughout the years Russell's work has been put on display at several craft shows and art museums. He has received many awards and has been recognized by several universities for his artistic talent.

Today, people travel from all over the world to get a taste of his creativity, and he readily shares it.

He puts no time limit on making his canes—that, he figured out after spending 88 hours on one piece, the Eastern Kentucky Diamondback rattlesnake cane. Instead of counting the hours, he gets more enjoyment in watching his art come to life.

The process is done in steps, Russell said, and each step is vitally important. He often

works on more than one cane simultaneously as he waits for wood to season or paint to dry.

Russell's favorite woods to work with are sassafras, maple, dogwood, and sour wood. After a piece of wood is selected, he sands it using chards of glass, the same way his father smoothed axe and hoe handles years ago. Then he carves the wood using a pocket knife or drill. To add detail—the hardest task—Russell uses surgical tools capable of carving tiny lines or images.

He paints each piece, meticulously adding more detail. Each work is titled, numbered, signed, and distinctively catalogued.

"I don't know how much longer the Lord will bless me to be able to paint a straight line," he said. "So, I just do the best I can to make each cane beautiful."

The beauty of his work holds true in his ability to "leave as much nature as possible" in the wood. These are words he lives by.

He turns budding branches into noses. Roots become legs and arms. Vines become the snakes he dearly loves to paint. It's remarkable.

Growing older, Russell still gets around quite easily. He keeps his house, cuts his grass, crafts everyday, and still drives wherever he goes. But the years have taken one ability from him. The man, who used to comb the hillsides for the perfect pallets, now depends on neighbors and friends to bring him wood.

"And I accept it just like it was gold," he said.

And in Russell's hands, it certainly is.

Russell can be contacted in East Point at (606) 886-2643.



photo by Mary Music

When he isn't making canes or staffs, Russell is working on one of his many other "trinket" hobbies, like these wooden shoes carved out of red cedar.

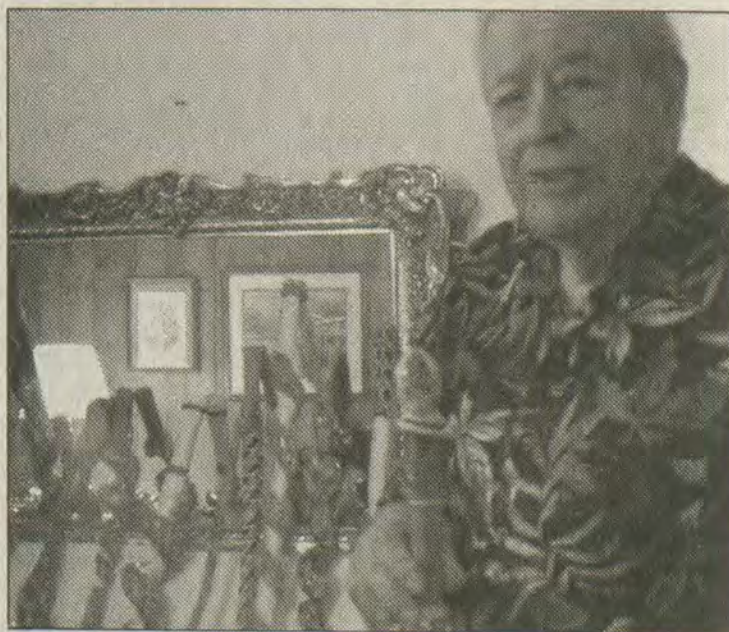


photo by Mary Music

Russell's home is decorated with mounds of creativity. No wonder tourists flock here from all over the world.

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Renovation done Ready to rent at 254 South Highland nice house, nice neighborhood, just blocks from downtown and school, open house 4-7 Aug. 23 call 859-498-1085

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For Rent 2 & 3 bed room House at Bevinsville and Buckingham, HUD approved call 606-285-3504 or 606-478-9623

2 bed room central heat and air, close to Prestonsburg, No Pets. call 606-886-9007 or 606-889-9747

640-Land & Lots

Trailer lot for rent on old U.S. 23 between Prestonsburg and Paintsville call 606-886-9007 or 889 9747

650-Mobile Homes

For Rent House and Trailer must have reference call 606-377-6346 or 606-377-0143

For rent 2 bed room Trailer HUD approved located at Arkanas creek call 606-285-3376

Mobile Home located at Harold KY. 3 bed room 2 bath \$425.00 per month plus 1 month deposit 1 year lease must have references call 606-478-9496

For rent 2 bed room trailer located near Martin all electric has good yard, call 606-285-3980

For Rent 2 bed room 2 bath 14x70 \$375.00 2 bed room 1 bath 14x 55 #350.00 renter must pay deposit, electric & water, located at Rock Fork Road. east of Garrett off Route 80 call 946-2159 or 606-454-0970

670-Com. Property

For Lease Commercial Property 14,000 Square feet, 2 baths on Francis Court beside Court house in Prestonsburg, \$500.00 per month plus utilities call 606-886-6362

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FOOTBALL

2004

BETSY LAYNE FOOTBALL

Coach: Glen Ripkoski

Aug. 20 Allen Central, 7:30 p.m.
 Aug. 27 Jenkins, 7:30 p.m.
 Sept. 3 Phelps, 7:30 p.m.
 Sept. 10 at Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
 Sept. 17 at Knott County Central, 7:30 p.m.
 Sept. 24 at Eminence, 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 1 JJ Kelly, Va., 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 8 Open
 Oct. 15 Cumberland, 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 22 Letcher, 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 29 at Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.



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