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briefs

Governor asks for restraint

by MARK R. CHELLGREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Gov. Ernie Fletcher said Friday he is still seeking restraint in spending on projects as House and Senate leaders negotiated over the final form of a budget with time running out on the 2005 General Assembly session.

Fletcher noted the Senate substituted some of its own projects for House favorites and the historical practice has often been for a final budget to include all such capital construction items.

If that happens, Fletcher said he is troubled about the potential effect on the state's bond rating, or the interest rate it gets when it seeks long-term financing. A lower rating can mean a higher interest rate and higher costs.

Members of the conference committee did not meet in public on Friday, though a gathering had been scheduled. There were the usual telephone conversations, shuttling of messages and meetings among emissaries as negotiations continued over spending differences.

Sen. Dan Kelly, R-Springfield, the majority floor leader, said there was still plenty of time to work out differences.

The session has only three working days remaining, but those can be moved around so long as the session ends by March 30.

2 DAY FORECAST

Today

High: 53 • Low: 35

Tomorrow

High: 61 • Low: 35

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photos by Tom Doty

This larger-than-life sabretooth tiger is also a robot and is just one of a group of Ice Age mammals which will soon be on display at the East Kentucky Science Center.

BACK TO THE ICE AGE

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — When customers seek out the next exhibit at the East Kentucky Science Center they will be taken back to the Ice Age.

Patrons will be impressed by large, animatronic representations of wooly mammoths and sabretooth tigers, take part in hands-on exhibits, such as a glacier simulator.

The exhibit, which is scheduled to run from March 12 to June 26, will be surrounded by a mural depicting everyday life during the Ice Age, painted by Cleve Shepherd, of Prestonsburg.

Shepherd used his one week of vacation time from his job as an engineering manager for American Standard in Paintsville to construct the effort, which will adorn the walls surrounding the exhibit. Turns out one week wasn't enough, however, and Shepherd will continue painting the piece in the evening hours after his workday up until the exhibit opens.

Cleve Shepherd, of Prestonsburg, mixes some paint before getting back to work on a mural depicting life during the Ice Age to accompany the next featured exhibit at the East Kentucky Science Center.

The Center's Planetarium will also stay busy this spring with a new offering called "Hubble Vision." Starting on March 15 with weekend shows at 1, 2:30 and 4 p.m., this show will offer a tour of the universe and treat visitors to an enhanced view of such events as black holes, galaxy collisions and the birth of a star.

Court seeks information on alternate floodwall path

Jail bills also prompt discussion

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A special meeting Friday of the Floyd County Fiscal Court ran for three-and-a-half hours, with most of the time devoted to old business involving a lengthy discussion with members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about a proposed floodwall project.

The discussion became fractured early on and led to two, and sometimes three, discussions going on simultaneously.

Much of the tal revolved around changin the current specs of th plan to include mor houses within the wall bu projected cost overrun on such a maneuve would add millions to th project's pricetag.

Some concerns abou the effects of moving th wall site from Sout Arnold Avenue include that the move could affec water levels up and dow the river and the effect that some of the construc tion could have on th foundations of homes The original plan, whic could begin constructio in two years, would lowe and/or eliminate floo insurance for 295 of th

(See **COURT,** page three

Teaberry man killed in wreck

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

GOODY — An auto accident on U.S. 119 was a grim reminder that drivers should never pull out onto roadways when their view of traffic is blocked.

Delmer Tackett, 68, of Teaberry, was killed Thursday when he was pulling out of the Double Kwik at Goody and proceeded onto the highway despite the presence of a tractor-trailer parked on the shoulder which obscured his view of the road. Tackett's 1992 Toyota Camry was struck by a 1982 Peterbilt flatbed truck which collided with the driver's side door of Tackett's vehicle.

A passenger in the Tackett's car, Mary Dotson, 29, also of Teaberry, was airlifted t Cabell Huntingto Hospital for treatment c injuries.

Attempting to avoid collision can also lead t accidents and that was th case here as a 2003 Volv tractor-trailer tried t avoid the wreck an impacted the rear of 2004 Mitsubishi Explorer

The driver and passenger of that car were injured and admitted to South Williamson ARH. They were Bobby Lour, 24, and his wife, Cherish Lour, 26, of Pinson Fork.

The driver of the Peterbilt, John G. Ray, 35, of Albany, Ohio, and the driver of the Volvo, Donnie R. Riggins, 48, of Wilkesborro, N.C., were not injured.

All parties involved in the accidents were wearing seatbelts.

inside

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Ivel explosion lawsuits move to federal court

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — The businesses and employees named in the Ivel blast lawsuit are seeking a change of venue.

They want the case to be heard in federal court.

The defendants, MarkWest Hydrocarbon Inc., Equitable Production Company and their affiliates, were targeted last month in two separate Floyd County Circuit Court suits filed by residents who claim they negligently caused the Nov. 8 natural gas explosion that demolished homes in Ivel.

Lexington attorneys Linsey W. West and Amy Collier filed a notice of removal in the case on March 1 and Feb. 24, arguing for federal court jurisdiction in the matter.

To support their request, they argue that attorneys Keith Bartley and William R. Johnson, representing the Ivel residents, have attempted to "thwart MarkWest defendants' rights" to remove the case to federal court by suing "not only" MarkWest, which operated the pipeline, but also the Equitable Production Company defendants and individual employees "against whom they have no reasonable possibility of recovery."

West and Collier argue that senior pipeline technician Tim Castle, pipeline technician Jeff Stark, and area manager Keith Hayes (referred to in the memorandum as "sham defendants" who are "fraudulently" joined) should not be targeted in the suits. Essentially, they argue that "specific action or omission" of the employees' job duties was not defined in the original complaint, and that the men were not owners of the property, or employees of the property owners — Equitable Production Company.

No cause of action has or will likely be established against these men, Collier wrote, later recognizing her clients as not "ultrahazardous" when arguing against the suits' claim of strict liability.

(See **LAWSUITS,** page three)

Odds and Ends

■ STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Portly police have a new reason to work out thanks to a new security entrance at the National Police headquarters that won't let them in if they weigh too much.

A construction error in the recently remodeled security entrance, which has a built-in scale designed to only let one person at a time pass through the door, has caused some embarrassing moments for officers who may not have spent enough time exercising.

Those weighing more than 230 pounds who try to pass through the entrance are greeted by a recorded voice telling them: "Stop! One at a time!" and are not let through, police spokeswoman Linda Widmark said.

She said the scale is supposed to be adjustable to let people weighing up to 350 pounds pass through, but an apparent construction error is playing tricks on those with ample girth.

"We'll have to get that fixed," Widmark said. "We've got some big strong men around here."

The security entrance is mainly for visitors and police denied entrance can use other doors.

"There are other options for them," she said.

■ INKOM, Idaho — Torri Hutchinson's cat might just have one less life to live.

Hutchison was driving along Interstate 15 one day recently when a motorist kept trying to get her attention and pointing to the roof of her car.

She said she was wary of the man, but wondered if perhaps her ski rack might have come loose.

She pulled over to the side, but kept her doors locked and the motor running.

The man pulled up behind her. Hutchinson rolled down her window to hear the man frantically shouting, "Your cat! Your cat!"

He reached for the roof of her car and handed the shocked Hutchinson her orange tabby.

She had driven about 10 miles with the cat on top of the car, and didn't even notice the feline when she stopped for gas.

Hutchinson said Cuddle Bug, or C.B. for short, had climbed into the back of her car as she was getting ready to leave. She put him out, but he must have jumped on the roof while she wasn't looking, she said.

■ ELKHORN, Wis. — Game warden Tim Price had to see it to believe it when a woman reported she saw a wild bighorn sheep next to the interstate in Walworth County.

"I thought she was a nut," Price said. "Ironically enough, that very next day I was on Peck Station Road and I thought, 'That's a bighorn ram.'"

The sheep has been seen numerous times since November roaming in Walworth County. It may be a wild bighorn or it may be another species of sheep. People have described it as brown and shaggy, with curled horns and a white butt.

Wild bighorn sheep hang out on cliffs and mountains to help them avoid predators. Since Wisconsin does not offer that habitat, it's possible the animal escaped from a game farm.

Norma Botma and her friend Lauri Paddock were driving to Milwaukee from Elkhorn on Dec. 16 when Paddock saw the animal near Walworth County Trunk D and Interstate 43.

"I said, 'It looks like a bighorn sheep,'" Botma recalled Wednesday. "When we came home and told Lauri's husband, he thought we both had been drinking."

Bighorn sheep are herbivores. They hail from Canada and several Western states, said Bess Frank, curator of large

(See **ODDS**, page eight)

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, March 6, the 65th day of 2005. There are 300 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 6, 1857, in its Dred Scott decision, the Supreme Court held that Scott, a slave, could not sue for his freedom in federal court.

On this date:

■ In 1834, the city of York in Upper Canada was incorporated as Toronto.

■ In 1836, the Alamo in San Antonio fell to Mexican forces after a 13-day siege.

■ In 1853, Verdi's opera "La Traviata" premiered in Venice, Italy.

■ In 1933, a nationwide bank holiday declared by President Franklin Roosevelt went into effect.

■ In 1935, retired Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. died in Washington.

■ In 1944, U.S. heavy bombers staged the first American raid on Berlin during World War II.

■ In 1957, the former British African colonies of the Gold Coast and Togoland became the independent state of Ghana.

■ In 1983, in a case that drew much notoriety, a woman in New Bedford, Mass., reported being gang-raped atop a pool table in a tavern called Big Dan's; four men were later convicted of the attack.

■ In 1985, authorities in Mexico found the body of kidnapped U.S. drug agent Enrique Camarena Salazar and a Mexican pilot at a ranch east of Guadalajara.

■ In 1987, 189 people died when the British ferry "Herald of Free Enterprise" capsized off the Belgian port of Zeebrugge.

Ten years ago: The Republican-controlled House took up business-backed legislation to alter the civil legal system over White House objections that some of the proposals were too extreme (the House passed the measure the following day).

Five years ago: Three white New York City officers were convicted of a cover-up in a brutal police station attack on Haitian immigrant Abner Louima. Eric Clapton was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for the third time; among the newest honorees were James Taylor, Bonnie Raitt and Earth, Wind and Fire.

One year ago: President Bush backed off on plans to require frequent Mexican travelers to the United States to be fingerprinted and photographed before crossing the border. A water taxi capsized in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, killing five people.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality Ed McMahon is 82. Conductor Sarah Caldwell is 81. Former FBI and CIA director William Webster is 81. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is 79. Author Gabriel Garcia Marquez is 77. Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova is 68. Country singer Doug Dillard is 68. Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo., is 66. Actress-writer Joanna Miles is 65. Actor Ben Murphy is 63. Opera singer Dame Kiri Te Kanawa is 61. Singer Mary Wilson (The Supremes) is 61. Rock musician Hugh Grundy (The Zombies) is 60. Rock singer-musician David Gilmour (Pink Floyd) is 59. Actor-director Rob Reiner is 58. Singer Kiki Dee is 58. Rock singer-musician Phil Alvin (The Blasters) is 52. Actor Tom Arnold is 46. Actor D.L. Hughley is 41. Country songwriter Skip Ewing is 41. Actress Yvette Wilson is 41. Actor Shuler Hensley is 38. Actress Connie Britton is 37. Actress Moira Kelly is 37. Actress Amy Pietz is 36. Basketball player Shaquille O'Neal is 33. Country singer Trent Willmon is 32. Country musician Shan Farmer (Ricochet) is 31. Rapper Bubba Sparxxx is 28. Actor Eli Marienthal is 19. Actor Jimmy Galeota is 19.

Thought for Today: "Learn by others' mistakes because you do not live long enough to make them all yourself." - Anonymous.

Answers to Magic Maze and Super Crossword

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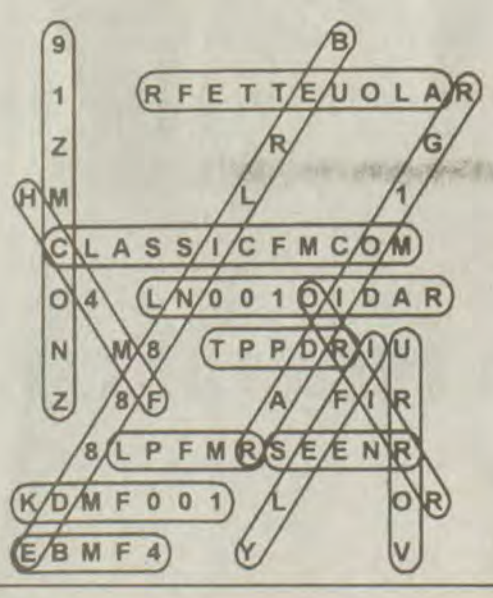

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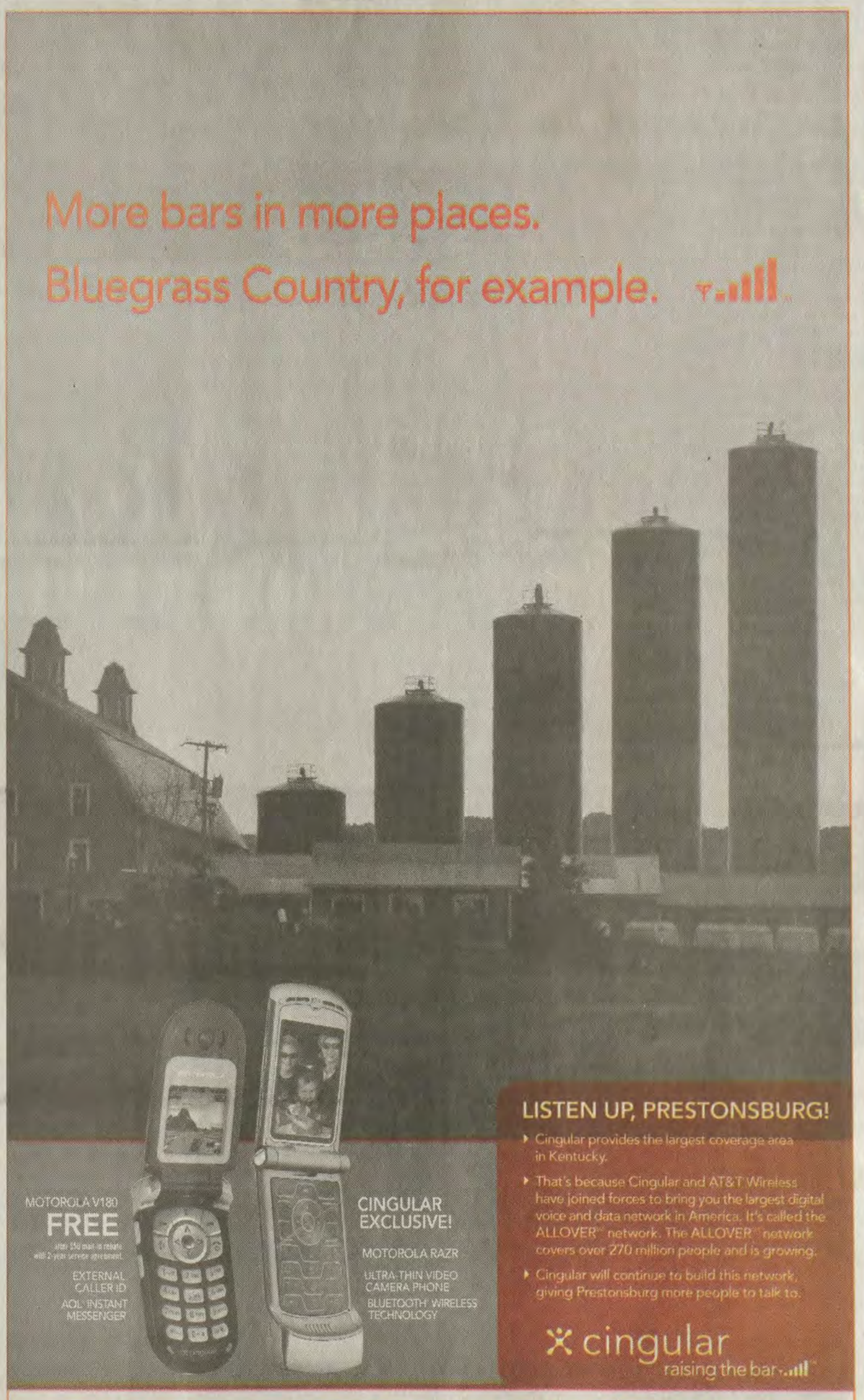

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House votes to repeal public financing of gubernatorial elections

by BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — In a single vote, the Kentucky House agreed Friday to kill public financing of gubernatorial elections and create a fund-raising tool for lawmakers.

The bill would officially end the state's experiment with a system meant to limit the influence of money in gubernatorial elections. The candidates could raise some money and have it matched with tax dollars if they agreed to spending limits and to take part in debates.

The House broadened the bill to create "caucus campaign committees" designed to raise campaign cash for legislative races. House Democrats and Republicans could establish separate fund-raising committees, as could Senate Democrats and Republicans.

Caucus committees would face the same disclosure standards as state political parties.

It also would triple the amount someone could contribute yearly. Individuals could give up to $2,500 to both a House and Senate caucus, as well as $2,500 to a political party.

The bill passed the House on a 78-17 vote and returns to the Senate.

Rep. Bob Damron, D-Nicholasville, said legislative leaders already raise money for their state parties. By forming the caucus committees, he said, the public could keep track of how much top lawmakers raised and the sources of those contributions.

Most of the debate, however, focused on the public financing system for governor's races.

The public financing law has stayed on the books although lawmakers haven't funded it for years. In 2002, an impasse over public financing prevented lawmakers from passing a budget.

Rep. Ken Upchurch, R-Monticello, said the state put $7 million into the 1995 gubernatorial campaign — the only real campaign conducted under the partial public financing system. That same amount was enough to hire 160 additional teachers at one year's salary, he said.

"The taxpayers that I talk to, they don't want us using their money for us to run political campaigns," Upchurch said. "They want us to use our own money and that of our contributors."

Rep. Jim Wayne, D-Louisville, said public financing empowered common Kentuckians, allowing candidates to spend more time talking issues than raising money. The system's demise, he said, guarantees that those with the most money will have the greatest influence.

"You're basically turning the governor's race over to the wealthy and over to corporations," Wayne said.

State Sen. Damon Thayer, R-Georgetown, the bill's sponsor, said he would agree with the House changes and ask the Senate to concur.

For his part, Gov. Ernie Fletcher said public financing amounted to bad public policy.

"Those notions that this somehow is going to corrupt the political process are largely overstated and not accurate," Fletcher said at a news conference.

Federal officers say provision jeopardizes state-federal efforts

by BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Top federal crime fighters in Kentucky warned lawmakers Friday that language tucked into a massive reorganization bill for the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet jeopardizes federal-state task forces aimed at combatting crime.

They objected to a section that would forbid giving federal police powers to Justice Cabinet employees, including Kentucky State Police officers.

FBI special agent Steven Gurley said the proposal would undermine long-established efforts by federal and state law enforcement agencies to work in tandem. He said he was unaware of any other state putting such restrictions on its law enforcement officers.

"It will render us less effective in addressing crime," Gurley said as the House Judiciary Committee re-examined the 212-page legislation.

Opponents to the provision included officials from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Secret Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and U.S. Marshal's office.

The House committee inserted the provision at a previous hearing. The rehearing Friday came amid objections from the Justice Cabinet, which said the House change would jeopardize such federal-state efforts as Operation UNITE, an anti-drug task force in Eastern Kentucky credited with the arrest of more than 1,000 street-level drug traffickers since its formation in 2003.

Cabinet deputy secretary Cleve Gambill said the House version would inflict "great damage" on law enforcement in the state.

Rep. Rob Wilkey, D-Scottsville, said some committee members worried that the granting of federal powers gives too much authority to state law enforcement officers.

The measure later passed the full House with little debate Friday. Senate Majority Leader Dan Kelly, R-Springfield, said the Senate would not accept the change, which would send the proposal to a Senate-House conference committee to try to resolve differences.

The House also stripped out a section that would have allowed the cabinet's Office of Investigations to investigate state police personnel.

KSP Commissioner Mark Miller supported giving the Office of Investigations such oversight authority. Henry "Sonny" Cease, executive director of the Kentucky State Police Professional Association, countered that rank-and-file officers opposed the proposal.

"No one can give you any good reason why this Office of Investigation or the Justice Cabinet should have oversight," Cease said.

Wilkey drafted an amendment to abolish the cabinet's five-person Office of Investigations, but never requested a committee vote. The panel amended the bill to restrict the investigative office's jurisdiction to the executive branch.

"What we're trying to do is to make sure we don't create some super, secret police within state government," Wilkey said.

Gambill said it was never the cabinet's intent to use the office to investigate other branches of government.

Rep. Kevin Bratcher, R-Louisville, complained that the bill had become a political tool. Lt. Gov. Steve Pence has a dual role as Justice Cabinet secretary.

"This meeting today was just here to embarrass the governor and to make what the executive wants to do suspect," Bratcher said at the committee hearing.

Court

■ Continued from p1

320 existing structures in Prestonsburg.

Nothing was settled at the meeting but the Corps of Engineers will be doing some calculations and surveys to find out if any accommodations can be safely made.

The Floyd County Detention Center was another hot topic, with much discussion raised about cutting operating costs, which have risen to about $1.3 million a year.

One suggestion to cut costs that will be considered is buying a van for the facility out of funds generated by its commissary. An extra vehicle would cut the cost of depending on other facilities for moving prisoners to and from the jail.

The court took a brief break to sign a proclamation designating March as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month," but then retired to executive session to go over matters involving the vacation and sick time awarded to an employee. No resolution on that matter was announced.

Lawsuits

■ Continued from p1

"Kentucky law does not recognize the activities of MarkWest or its employees as 'ultrahazardous' and plaintiffs, therefore, do not have viable strict liability claims," Collier argued.

The MarkWest and Equitable Production Company defendants also claim that the case should be transferred because the suit crosses state lines, with the businesses and individuals involved being located in West Virginia, Colorado and Delaware, and because the amount in controversy exceeds $75,000, which makes it applicable to federal jurisdiction.

The notice will be considered by the U.S. District Court in Pikeville.

Senate passes bill to protect elderly

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Senate passed a bill Friday intended to protect senior citizens from being physically abused and financially scammed.

"It's been a long, difficult struggle to finally bring everybody together," Rep. Jimmie Lee, the bill's sponsor, said. "Today was a great day."

Lee stood at the back of the chamber while the Senate considered the bill. It passed on a 37-0 vote and now heads to Gov. Ernie Fletcher for consideration. Fletcher has said he supports the plan.

Among other things, the bill would boost coordination between social workers, police and prosecutors in dealing with elder abuse cases. People in those fields would also get training to better learn their roles in handling such cases.

The plan does not toughen penalties for the crimes. Instead, its supporters say that boosting awareness on the crimes could lead to more prosecutions and convictions.

Generally, physical abuse or financial exploitation of a senior can net a 1-5 year prison sentence.

"When we get all the training in place to where you can really recognize the symptoms of elderly abuse, I think you're going to see the reports go up," Lee, D-Elizabethtown, said. "You're going to see the perpetrators taken to court and you're going to see convictions."

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expression

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

Guest view

Both parties show lack of restraint

As far as limiting capital projects is concerned, the Republican-controlled Senate didn't do a much better job at exhibiting fiscal responsibility than the Democratic-controlled House.

So much for the promises of Sen. Charlie Borders, R-Grayson, chairman of the Senate Appropriations of Revenue Committee, to work diligently to pare the cost of projects in the House-approved budget. Instead, senators mostly replace projects included in the House budget with some projects of their own.

After all the changes were made, the Senate and House ended up with nearly identical totals for new debt — about $1.8 billion. Debt service is not quite as large in the Senate version because projects are not planned for construction and bonds are not to be sold until later in the budget period. That brings the total expenditures for debt services in the budget closer to the 6 percent Borders said he wanted.

What the Senate budget does prove is that Republicans are every bit as willing as Democrats to dive headfirst into the proverbial pork barrel. The only difference is that Republicans are more supportive of projects in districts represented by members of the GOP than they are projects that could make legislators from the other party look good.

For example, a building at Northern Kentucky University got full Senate treatment with the state picking up the entire $54 million tab, or $12 million more than the House was willing to spend. It is the largest single project in the Senate-approved budget.

Sen. Jack Westwood, R-Crescent Springs, insists the project is "not a gymnasium. It's a regional special events center."

Maybe so, but NKU will play its home basketball games there. But then there will be concerts, conventions and other events on other nights — just as there are at field houses on other campuses.

The Senate wisely cut $26 million from the House version to bond funds that finance maintenance and repair projects for state government and university buildings. As we said earlier, it is fiscally irresponsible to fund short-term maintenance projects with long-term bonds. The Senate also eliminated a nearly $41 million pool that was to finance buildings at various community and technical colleges.

But in addition to adding the NKU building, the Senate budget adds $14 million more for local water and sewer lines and another $98 million more for school construction. And it adds $53 million for renovation of the now-vacant old state office building in Frankfort.

And then there is the $15 million for a basketball practice facility at the University of Kentucky that is included in the budget the Senate unanimously approved. At first, just how that project got into the budget was a mystery. After all, UK had not even requested such a facility.

"I don't know who put it in there," said Borders.

Sen. Ernesto Scorsone, D-Lexington, whose district includes the university, called it an "immaculate conception."

Well, now we know. The project was slipped into the budget at the request of Gov. Ernie Fletcher, who said he did so after the House budget included funding for a similar project at the University of Louisville.

Yet the senate budget reduced funding for a pharmaceutical research facility, a top priority for UK. Similarly, the top project on the University of Louisville's list — a medical research center — got a whack from budget-makers. So basketball practice facilities at UK and U of L get approved but funding is cut for medical research. Kind of gives you an idea of where legislators and the governor put their priorities, doesn't it?

Just which projects get funded will be determined by the House-Senate conference committee that will attempt to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate budgets. One can only hope both chambers will show a fiscal restraint and decide some projects can wait. If not, it will be up to Gov. Ernie Fletcher to use the line-item veto to make those decisions.

— *The Daily Independent, Ashland*

Rich Lowry Column

Ending red-state welfare

The Bush administration is set to take on one of the great scandals of American governance: farm subsidies. In seeking to cut and reform the subsidies, President Bush will provoke a fight every bit as fierce, in its own way, as that over Social Security, prompting opposition from the forces of greed and political cowardice.

Farm subsidies as we know them grew up around the Great Depression, when they didn't work particularly well, and they have maintained their tradition of not working for more than seven decades now. As The New York Times recently reported, farm income doubled during the past two years, and — holy soybean! — farm subsidies still went up 40 percent.

The system is supposed to help family farms — but if this is a family-farm-friendly government program, what would a hostile one look like? Family farms aren't big enough to garner the largest subsidies and are squeezed by the way the federal payments increase land values and stimulate overproduction. "The subsidies reward the guy who gets higher yields with higher subsidies, and he's able to buy out his neighbor and get even bigger," says Dennis Avery, an agriculture expert at the Hudson Institute.

Ten percent of farms — i.e., the biggest ones — receive 60 percent of the subsidies. According to Brian Riedl of the Heritage Foundation, giant Riceland Foods got $110 million in federal largess alone last year. By his calculation, the feds could guarantee every full-time farmer an income of $35,000 a year at a cost of "merely" $4 billion. Subsidies now run roughly $15.7 billion annually.

Environmentalists hate the subsidies because they maximize the land under cultivation, therefore increasing the use of pesticides and fertilizer. And they unfairly disadvantage Third World farmers. So how's this for an efficient government program? It doesn't succeed in its express purpose of helping small farmers, but at least it potentially harms the environment and helps further impoverish poor people around the world.

Agricultural production has doubled in the United States the past half-century. At the same time, the number of farms has dropped by two-thirds. That is a textbook case of a productivity revolution, and it has been driven by agribusiness. Turning around and subsidizing it is a little like putting the giants of the Internet revolution on the federal dole.

Indeed, roughly half of American agriculture — fruits, vegetables, nuts — is not subsidized and does fine, thank you very much.

What exactly are the subsidies good for? "You don't accomplish anything but buy votes," says Avery. At that, the program is quite efficient. A 1996 overhaul was slowly unraveled by ravenous farm-state politicos. The administration now wants to save nearly $6 billion in payments in the next decade, cap annual payments to individual farms at $250,000, and generally rationalize the system.

Congressional representatives from Bush's rural base are already screaming. At issue is whether they think welfare dependence is as bad in red states as it is in the blue.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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beyond the Beltway

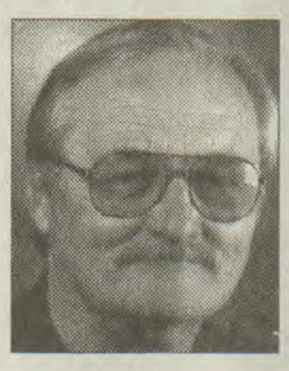
Africa comes calling

by DONALD KAUL

Strangers with strange names keep offering me money. I'm talking Big Bucks.

For example, a "Susan Baloy" says she's got $3 million waiting for me. All I have to do is help her get her late husband's $12 million out of South Africa, where it now resides in a "safe box."

I won't bore you with the details but it seems that the company now holding the money requires the partnership of a foreigner in order to release it. I am that foreigner. (Could she have been that good-looking woman with the foreign accent at the Christmas party who pretended to ignore me?)



"Please note that this business is 100 percent risk free," she writes in an email, "also not for terrorism and my only worry is the safety of this money. Send to me your private telephone numbers for confidentiality and for more details of this operation."

I was still rejoicing at my good fortune when I got another e-mail, this one from "Charles Ndolo, the first son of Martins Ndolo, a rich farmer who was recently murdered in a land dispute in Zimbabwe."

He wanted to give me $11.25 million as a fee for helping him get possession of $45 million his father had left behind — with a security company in the Netherlands. Apparently this security company, like the one in South Africa, required the participation of a foreign partner. Me again.

I was kind of suspicious at first but then I read: "...this is not one of those numerous scam emails you might have received in the past being disseminated by some conmen always requiring you to sign any blank cheque or give out your bank account in order to perpetrate their illicit scam schemes. Please note that this transaction is very legitimate."

That cleared up what I was worried about. (The bad English sounded sincere.) I called up the TV shop and ordered a big, plasma TV, the kind you hang on a wall.

But my lucky streak wasn't over, not by a long shot. A Mrs. Marriam Abacha, "wife to the late Nigerian Head of State, Gen. Sani Abacha," emailed saying she was trying to get $15 million out of Nigeria and would pay me $4.5 million to help her.

Apparently I didn't answer her quick enough because three days later she emailed again, this time saying that she had $36 million to get out of the country and would pay me $10.8 million to help her and invest another $10.8 million in a business of my choice.

I can tell you, my cup runneth over. I figured the total take (with Marriam contributing twice) at a cool 30 mill in cash, give or take, with another $10.8 million in investment money. I called the TV store back and told them to make it a bigger screen.

In the following days I received a communication from a "Sesay Massaquoe" who needed (you guessed it) help in getting $30.5 million out of Sierra Leone. My help, as it turned out. But he didn't offer me a specific cut. He said we'd discuss it.

I decided if he was going to argue about it, the heck with him. I deleted his email. (That same week I also got notification that I'd won not one but two lotteries, one for $500,000, the other for a million Euros. And I hadn't even bought a ticket. I don't know whether I'll bother with them. "Chicken feed" as my boyhood friend Sonny Kanarski used to call it.)

I've been racking my brain, trying to find out why all of these strangers are willing to pay so handsomely for my help.

All I can figure is that my column is being distributed all over Africa and these desperate people have been impressed with my honestly, forthrightness and trustworthiness. And so, in their time of need, they have turned to me for help. I have become the foreigner of choice in Africa.

Either that or someone has written my email address on a telephone booth somewhere with the notation: "Easy Mark."

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.

Faith Extra

Court debates Ten Commandments displays on government property

by HOPE YEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Below a frieze of Moses holding the tablets of the Ten Commandments, the marshal having proclaimed his "God save this honorable court," the Supreme Court justices pondered anew how to define the boundary between church and state.

It's an issue this court and others have wrestled with many times over the years. This time justices heard arguments in two cases about whether Ten Commandments displays should be allowed on government property.

In their comments and questions from the bench Wednesday, justices were reluctant to adopt a blanket ban on such displays and struggled to formulate a constitutional rule that could render a new definition of religion's role in public life.

"It's so hard to draw that line," fretted Justice Sandra Day O'Connor at one point during the lively two-hour debate. She is expected to be a key vote in the case, which was heard Wednesday as about 100 demonstrators shouted religious slogans outside.

Back-to-back arguments in cases from Texas and Kentucky were the court's first consideration of the issue since 1980, when justices ruled the Ten Commandments could not be displayed in public schools.

Several expressed support for a 6-foot granite monument on the grounds of the Texas state Capitol but were less certain about framed copies of the commandments in two Kentucky courthouses.

"If an atheist walks by, he can avert his eyes," Justice Anthony Kennedy said in a courtroom filled with spectators, many of whom could be seen glancing at the court's frieze of Moses carrying the tablets.

Banning the Texas display might "show hostility to religion," he said.

But Justices John Paul Stevens and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, while acknowledging the nation's religious history, wondered where the line should be drawn. The court ruled in 1983 that legislative prayer is allowable, citing its historical significance but in 1992 said prayer in public schools is not because students may feel pressure to participate.

What if every federal court had a Ten Commandments display over its bench and opened with a prayer? Ginsburg asked, brushing aside Justice Antonin Scalia's retort that the justices already open their sessions with "God save this honorable court."

"We would try and defend that," said acting Solicitor General Paul Clement, who argued on behalf of the Bush administration in supporting the Ten Commandments displays.

Monuments carrying the Ten Commandments are common in town squares, courthouses and other government-owned land around the country. Lawyers challenging these displays argue that they violate the First Amendment ban on any law "respecting an establishment of religion."

While the cases strictly involve Ten Commandments displays, a broad ruling could determine the allowable role of religion in a wide range of public contexts, from the use of religious music in a school concert to students' recitation of "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. A decision is expected by late June.

The question has prompted dozens of heated legal battles, including one in Alabama by Roy Moore. He lost his job as Alabama chief justice a year ago after defying a federal order to remove a 5,300-pound Ten Commandments monument he had installed in the state courthouse.

At the Supreme Court, about supporters of commandments displays gathered outside in the icy cold. Many shouted "Amen" and broke into refrains from "Amazing Grace." Several knelt before the court steps.

Opponents of the displays, smaller in number, waved signs bearing such slogans as "Keep Government and Religion Separate" and "My God Does Not Need Government Help." According to an AP-Ipsos poll, 76 percent of Americans support such displays, something that was not lost on some of the justices during arguments.

"It's a profoundly religious message, but it's a profoundly religious message believed in by a vast majority of the American people," Scalia said.

In the Texas case, the Fraternal Order of Eagles donated the exhibit to the state in 1961, and it was installed about 75 feet from the Capitol in Austin. The group gave thousands of similar monuments to American towns during the 1950s and '60s, and those have been the subject of multiple court fights.

The suit was brought by Thomas Van Orden, a former lawyer who is now homeless. Van Orden, who enlisted the help of Duke law professor Erwin Chemerinsky in the appeal, said in an interview that he spent the morning at the University of Texas law library playing chess online. He did not comment on the case.

Two Kentucky counties, meanwhile, hung framed copies of the Ten Commandments in their courthouses and added other documents, such as the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence, after the American Civil Liberties Union challenged the display.

While one lower court found the Texas display to be predominantly nonreligious because it was one of 17 monuments in a 22-acre park, another struck down the Kentucky displays as lacking a "secular purpose." Kentucky's modification of the display was a "sham" for the religious intent behind it, the Cincinnati-based 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled.

Arguing against a strict wall between church and state, Solicitor General Clement said, "The Ten Commandments have an undeniable religious significance, but they also have a secular significance as a source of the law, a code of the law and a well-recognized historical symbol of the law."

David Friedman, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union who is challenging the courthouse displays in Kentucky, countered: "An assertion that the Ten Commandments is THE source, THE foundation of our legal system ... that is simply wrapping the Ten Commandments in the flag, and that's endorsement."

The Supreme Court's frieze depicts Moses as well as 17 other figures including Hammurabi, Confucius, Napoleon and Chief Justice John Marshall.

When Stevens said the depiction is more neutral in part because it does not display the Ten Commandments' text, Clement gently demurred. "I don't know if a display of Moses might be sending more of a religious message."

The cases are Van Orden v. Perry, 03-1500, and McCreary County v. ACLU, 03-1693.

Leader's resignation puts Community of Christ on unfamiliar ground

by STEVE BRISENDINE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — The succession plan for the Community of Christ has always been simple: The church's leader designated his successor, and the membership accepted that choice.

Now the resignation of W. Grant McMurray without naming a new president has forced the church and its 250,000 members into unfamiliar territory — waiting for "discernment," or for God to show them who the new leader should be.

It might seem like a difficult moment, but officials of the largest of the Mormon offshoot denominations say the challenge of selecting a new president — who also carries the position of prophet — is a necessary step toward maturity as a faith.

"People have had to think a little more carefully about their role in the process," said Steven M. Veazey, president of the church's Council of Twelve Apostles. "I see that as having a positive effect because more people are engaged in reflecting carefully and deeply on what a church president needs for the future."

The Council of Twelve is now collecting names of possible successors — although only one member knows those names, Veazey said — and will begin a process of prayer and deliberation in late March. Anyone in the church may suggest a name.

Once the council and other church leaders reach a consensus, the person they select — who might not even know his name has been submitted, Veazey said — will be called as the next leader. If the designate accepts, delegates to a special world conference called for early June in Independence will be asked to confirm the selection.

McMurray stepped down Dec. 1, citing a recent diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and "inappropriate choices" in his personal life. Neither he nor church officials would elabo-

(See RESIGNATION, page seven)

ARH
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Together, We're #1

Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH) has been named for the first time **the best-performing healthcare network in Kentucky and West Virginia** in the latest rankings from Verispan, the nation's premier rating service of integrated health networks.

ARH placed in the top 50 among all health networks in the nation. Verispan's Top 100 Integrated Health Networks meet critical success factors including clinical and financial performance and degree of integration.

It is with great pride that we say thanks to all our ARH family – the communities we serve, our employees and partner labor unions, physicians, volunteers, our Board of Trustees and Local Advisory Councils, and elected officials.

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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.

Worship/Youth center

There is now a Worship / Youth center in Old Allen, that meets on Tuesdays, at 6 p.m. Women's Bible study meets on Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m. (youth). Thursday prayer meeting is held at 7 p.m. All meetings are free and the center's sponsor is the Daniels Creek Baptist Fellowship Church of God, pastor Henry Lewis. For more information, contact Tina Hall at 874-0544.

Faith Independent Free Will Baptist to hold Homecoming

Faith Independent Free Will Baptist Church homecoming, Saturday, March 6, at 11 a.m. Special singing by New Heart of Pike County. Dinner will be served after service. Rev. Clinton (Buddy) Jones, pastor. The public is cordially invited.

Third Ave. Freewill Baptist to hold homecoming

Third Ave. Freewill Baptist Church will be holding their homecoming on March 6. The Slone Family will be singing, and Shane Powers will be preaching. Dinner served after service.

HRMC Comm. Calendar - March

Mar. 8 - Mended Hearts, Meeting Place A&B, Highlands Medical Office Bldg., 5-6 p.m.

Mar. 12 - Childbirth classes, Meeting Place A&B, Highlands Medical Office Bldg.

Mar. 15 - Senior Advantage, Meeting Place A&B, Highlands Medical Office Bldg., 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mar. 31 - Living Well with Diabetes, Meeting Place A&B, Highlands Medical Office Bldg., 5-6 p.m.

For more information, call 886-7424.

Stand up for a Brighter Tomorrow

A mental health conference on the emotional well-being of children and adolescents. To be held March 23, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., at the Ramada Inn, in Paintsville. Hosted by Mt. Comprehensive Care Center's Victim Services Program and IMPACT Program. Lunch will be catered by the Ramada Inn. To register, call 886-4395, or register online at www.mtcomp.org. Registration is required to attend. Registration deadline is March 10. There is no charge for registration or lunch. Some fees will apply, but no fee will be collected from child care workers, foster parents, or education administrators CEU's.

Attention: BLHS Class of '85

It's been 20 years! Reunion is being planned. If you are a classmate, or if you know of a classmate's whereabouts, please email addresses to Debbie Hall Parsons or Gwen Cecil at: dochallparsons@charter.net.

Belfry Class of 1970

Is planning a mini-reunion for May 28. Classmates will be responsible for their own meal. Reservations are required by May 1. Contact Nancy Varney Bryan by calling 433-9200 or 433-0820. You may also write to: P.O. Box 101, Pikeville, KY 41502 or email to: nbryan@setel.com. It's been 35 years, classmates, let's have a little fun!

Big Sandy 4-H Club

Is seeking new members! Do you like to have fun? Meet new people? Help your community? Then join our club! For more info., contact Chuck Stamper at 886-2668.

Basic Computer Training

To be taught by Ray Tackett at the Martin Community Center, located on Route 80, at Martin, on March 4, 11, 18; and April 1, from 1-3 p.m. Cost - $7. This is an 8-week training series designed for those who have little or no experience using computers. Space is limited - call 886-2668 today to register!

Home-Based Microprocessing and Processing Workshop

Monday, March 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Floyd County Extension Office. Learn about food safety, sanitation, and home canning. Registration fee required. For those interested in selling home-processed food products. Call 886-2668 for more information.

Floyd and Pike County Master Gardener Program

Volunteer training program sponsored by UK Co-op Extension Service. Designed to provide research based information to the public in regard to horticulture. Anyone may apply. Call Ray Tackett at 886-2668 or Brian Combs at 1-800-233-1390 for more info. To be held March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4, 11 at Betsy Layne Senior Citizens Center, from 6-9 p.m. Enrollment fee required.

D.A.V. Chap. 18

The Big Sandy Chapter 18, Disabled American Veterans, of Auxier, is looking for honorably discharged veterans to join the Chapter, which meets at the Auxier Fire Dept., on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, at 6 p.m. Those interested may bring their DD214 and join the Chapter and receive a D.A.V. ball cap.

Floyd County Democratic Women's Club

Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 p.m., at Brenda's Restaurant, in McDowell. All invited to attend.

Floyd County Republican Party

Will meet on Saturday, March 12, at 10 a.m., at the Woodmen of the World building, just off U.S. 23, at Allen.

Auxier Lifetime Learning Center

Now taking applications for Spring session. Classes offered are: Basic and Intermediate computer; Word processing; Computer keyboard; Creative sewing; Knitting and Crocheting. Also, GED classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call 886-0709 for more information.

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.

Age 55 or older?

If so, and you are also unemployed, and would like to make money while being trained in skills that will help you gain employment, or become re-employed, contact Bill Little, Senior Community Service Employment Program, Big Sandy Area Development District, at 886-2374. "Area Employers are Looking for Dependable Workers like YOU!"

External Diploma Program

Kentucky residents age 25 and older can earn a high school diploma by demonstrating skills learned on the job or in raising a family. Flexible scheduling is provided and confidentiality maintained. Classes are held at the Carl D. Perkins Rehabilitation Center, in Thelma, Mon. thru Fri., with evening classes on Thursday, from 4:30-8:30. Contact Andy Jones at 800-443-2187, ext. 186, or Linda Bell, at ext. 160 to make an appointment.

PARENTS!

Are you in need of child care services? If so, contact the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. The office is partnering with Eastern Kentucky Child Care Coalition. For more information on how we can help you, call Cheryl Endicott at 886-1280, or toll free at 888-872-7227.

Also, if your child is currently enrolled in a child care program, find out if your provider is a member of the STARS for KIDS NOW voluntary program for exceeding licensing standards.

And, learn about how you can stay home with your own children and still earn an income by caring for other children. Find out more by calling Cheryl Endicott at 886-1280, or 888-872-7227 (toll free).

Floyd County Extension Homemaker Club Meetings

Allen: 1st Monday, 11 a.m., at Christ United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Cliffside/Prestonsburg: 3rd Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., at Cliffside Community Room.

David: 1st Monday, 1 p.m., at St. Vincent's Mission.

Martin: 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m., Martin Church of Christ.

Evening Quilt Group: 4th Thursday, 6 p.m., Extension Office.

Maytown: 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., Maytown First Baptist Church.

Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild: 1st/3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Extension Office.

Prestonsburg: 2nd Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., Extension Office.

South Prestonsburg: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Home of members (call 886-2668 for info.)

"Looking For a Support Group?"

•**Alzheimer's Association Care-giver Support Group** - Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the First Presbyterian Church (near Jerry's Restaurant), at 6 p.m. For more info., call Dana Caudill at 886-0265, or Jane Bond at FCHD.

•**Alzheimer's Association, East-ern KY Regional Office** - 24-hour Helpline, call 1-800-272-3900 for emotional support, local resources, and other information.

•**MS Support Group** - Meets third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Seton Complex, Martin. Offers group support for MS patients and their caregivers.

•**Overeater's Anonymous (O.A.)** - Meets each Monday, at 3:30 p.m., at the St. Martha Catholic Church, Water Gap Road. For more info., call 886-2513.

•**US TOO! Prostate Cancer Survivors Support Group** - For all men with prostate cancer and their families. Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m., at the Ramada Inn, Paintsville.

•**Community Weight Loss Support Group** - Meets Thursday's at 6:30 p.m., at the Martin Community Center. For more info., call 377-6658. Those who have had gastric bypass surgery most especially welcome to attend. Meetings being offered as support to anyone needing extra support in dealing with weight loss.

•**Domestic Violence Hotline** - 24-hour Crisis Line manned by Certified Domestic Violence counselors. Call 886-6025, or 1-800-649-6605. Remember, "Love Doesn't Have to Hurt."

•**Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children** - Free, confidential assistance for unplanned pregnancy concerns. Talk with someone who cares about you and your baby. Call 1-800-928-5242.

•**Disabled?** - You may be eligible for grant money to assist in your daily living. For an application or more information, call 886-4326.

•**A.S.K. (Adoption Support for Kentucky)** - Support group for all adoptive parents (public, private, international, and kinship care), foster parents and all others interested in adoption. To meet the 2nd Thursday of each month, at Pizza Hut, in Prestonsburg. For more information, contact Nelva Skaggs, adoptive parent liaison, at Blueboy@foothills.net.

•**East Kentucky S.T.A.R.S. Homeschoolers** -Will hold monthly meetings at the Paintsville Recreation Center. For more information, call Trudy at 889-9333, or 297-5147. Everyone welcome.

•**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Each Wednesday, from 7-8 p.m., in the Atrium Conference Room, 2nd floor, May Tower, Pikeville Methodist Hospital. For more info., contact Chris Cook at 606-433-1119 or christophercook@hotmail.com.

RUMMAGE SALE
at Allen Christ United Methodist Church
Saturday, March 12
9 a.m.-4 p.m. — Fellowship Hall
To Support Youth Fellowship

Attention All Veterans
The American Legion wants you to join the nation's largest veteran organization. Let your voice be heard.
For more information, call 285-3357, between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.
PSA

Visit The Times on the web
www.floydcountytimes.com

Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

Eleanor Acker, 82, of Dana, died Thursday, February 24, 2005, at the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 26, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Zellie Akers, 61, of Harold, died Monday, February 28, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth Akers. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, March 2, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Louise Williamson Carey, 80, of Cow Creek, died Sunday, February 27, at the Riverview Health Care Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 3, under the direction of the Hall Funeral Home.

David Morgan Hall, 57, of Banner, died Saturday, February 26, in the Cabell-Huntington Hospital, Huntington, West Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Geneva Grace Hall. Funeral services were conducted, Wednesday, March 2, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Auddie Hall, 44, of Dexter, Ohio, formerly of Floyd County, died Thursday, March 3, at the residence of William Howell, at McDowell. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 5, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Donald Lee (Donnie) Lafferty, 71, of Martin, died Friday, February 25, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Emogene Hayes Lafferty. Funeral services were conducted Monday, February 28, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Barry Little, 43, of Hi Hat, died Friday, February 25, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Linda Mitchell Little. Funeral services were conducted Monday, February 28, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Emajean Randall 66 of Duck Lake, passed away Tuesday, February 8, at Oaklawn Hospital in Marshall, Michigan. She is survived by her husband, Larry Randall. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 12, under the direction of J. C. Adams Funeral Home.

Lenard Salmons, 82, of Allen, died Friday, February 25, at his home. Funeral services were under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

PIKE COUNTY

Wanda Adkins, 58, of East Shelbiana, died Tuesday, March 1. Funeral arrangements, under the direction of Justice Funeral Home.

Judy Kaye Belcher, 49, of Jenkins, a Pike County native, died Sunday, February 27, at her home. She is survived by her husband, Douglas M. Belcher. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 2, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Nadine F. Blackburn, 67, of Toler, died Monday, February 28. Funeral services were held at noon Wednesday, March 2, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Ronnie K. Blankenship, 63, of Freeburn, died Saturday, February 26, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility. He is survived by his wife, Bessie Ann Daniels Blankenship. Funeral services were held, Wednesday, March 2, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

Fern Flanary Farley, 79, of Springdale, South Carolina, a Pike County native, died Sunday, February 27. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 2, under the direction of Caughman-Harman Funeral Home.

Daniel Francis, 14, of Varney, died Friday, February 26, at Pikeville, the result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 1, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

John Griffith, 82, of Phyllis, died Sunday, February 27, at his home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 2, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Lillian "Pie" McCoy, 81, of Caney, died Thursday, February 24, at the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 27, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Junior P. Naylor, 86, of Pikeville, died Thursday, February 24, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Jackson Naylor. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 27, under the direction of the Paintsville Funeral Home.

Alberta Francis Lyons Pleasant, 74, of Shelbiana, died Monday, February 28, 2005, at her home. She is survived by her husband, M.L. Pleasant. Funeral services were held Friday, March 4, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Rodger Lee Prater, 30, of Prestonsburg, formerly of Stopover, died Saturday, February 26, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 1, iunder direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Mildred Green Ratliff, 87, of Jamestown, Tennessee, formerly of Draffin, died Saturday, February 26, at Jamestown. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 2, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Pearl Adams Ray, 62, of Sanford, Fla., formerly of Pikeville, died Sunday, Feb. 27, at her home. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 5, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

Reed Roberts, 74, of Robinson Creek, died Saturday, February 26, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Tackett Roberts. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 1, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Lenard Salmons, 82, of Allen, a Pike County native, died Friday, February 25, at his home. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 1, under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

Sarah Katherine May Syck, 78, of Pikeville, a Floyd County native, died at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 2, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Kelcie Coleman White, 74, of Elkhorn City, died Friday, February 25, at Mountain View Health Care Center, Elkhorn City. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 27, iunder the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home of Pikeville.

KNOTT COUNTY

Delanie Kenneth "Mac" Wright, 42, of Hindman, died Friday, February 25, at Pikeville, the result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 1, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

JOHNSON COUNTY

John Gerald Burchett, 61, of Staffordsville, died Thursday, February 24, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Norma P. Picklesimer Burchett. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 27, under the direction of the Paintsville Funeral Home.

Barbara Hensley Fairchild, 58, of Hager Hill, died Wednesday, February 23, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, James Taylor. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 26, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Gene Edward Salyers, 37, of Wittensville, died Friday, February 25, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Iris Mae Castle Salyers. Funeral services were held Monday, February 28, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funera Home.

Darrell E. Stinson, 73, o Wittensville, died Thursday February 24, at J.J. Jordai Geriatric Center in Louisa Funeral services were hel Saturday, February 26, unde the direction of the Paintsvill Funeral Home.

Matthew Conner Webb infant, son of Elmer an Venita Green Webb, of Va Lear, died Saturday, Februar 26, at U.K. Medical Center i Lexington. Funeral service were held Tuesday, March 1 under the direction of th Preston Funeral Home.

MARTIN COUNTY

Barbara Renee Fletcher, 20 of Inez, died Tuesday, March 1 at her residence. Funeral ser vices were held Thursday March 3, under the direction o the Phelps & Son Funeral Home

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

Lenvil Howard, 68, o Fairborn, Ohio, a Magoffi County native, died Thursday February 24. He is survive by his wife, Judy Howard Funeral services were con ducted Monday, February 28 under the direction of Georg C. Martin Funeral Home.

Sarah Wallen Power, 76, o Salyersville, died Friday February 25, at the Paul B Hall Regional Medical Cente Funeral services were con ducted Monday, February 28 under the direction o Salyersville Funeral Home.

Joyce M. Price, 75, o Salyersville, died Thursday February 24, at the Hazar ARH. Funeral services wer conducted Monday, Februar 28, under the direction o Magoffin County Funera Home.

Resignation

■ Continued from p5

rate, but they said church finances were not involved.

The acknowledgment of fallibility shook some people, said Kenneth N. Robinson, one of two remaining members of the Council of First Presidents, the highest level of church leadership, of which McMurray had been the head.

However, Robinson said, it also served as a reminder that church leaders are made of the same stuff as the people who fill the pews.

"There has been a sense of looking at a prophet and president as someone who might not be the same as the rest of us, not as human as the rest of us," he said. "Yes, they have spiritual gifts, but they're also very human. With this circumstance we're in, people can respond, 'Yes, we understand our leaders are human — and that's OK.'"

Jan Shipps, an expert on Mormon faiths, said the designation of the church's leader as its prophet added pressure.

"When 'prophet' is placed in front of a human being's name, it sets them apart from ordinary folks," said Shipps, a retired professor at Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis and the president of the John Whitmer Historical Association. The group studies the history of groups that didn't go west with the main body of Mormons in the mid-1800s.

"If you look at the history of Grant McMurray's presidency, this is something he struggled with from the very beginning," said Shipps, who is not Mormon. "In his earliest statements, he said he did not want to be called 'the prophet' so much as 'the leader of a prophetic people.'"

McMurray, who had served since 1996, was the first church leader not descended from Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Community of Christ broke off from that group in the 1850s and did not go to Utah with the larger body of Mormons. Until 2001, it was known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

McMurray's predecessor, Wallace B. Smith, was the first church leader not to serve until his death, choosing instead to retire and name McMurray as his successor. Smith is still living, but Robinson said he has told church leaders he does not want to return as first president. Other Smith descendants are still living, several in the Kansas City suburb of Independence, although none share that last name and it's unknown whether they'll be considered for the post.

The closest thing to a precedent occurred in the 1940s when leader Fred M. Smith died without formally designating his successor. But in that case, Robinson said, there were clear indications that he had intended to name his brother, Israel A. Smith.

In both the Independence and larger Salt Lake City denominations, prophethood signifies unique authority. This includes receipt of direct revelations from God, though in the Community of Christ tradition these have often dealt with administrative matters and appointments rather than doctrine.

McMurray, who has kept a low profile since his resignation, said the church was taking the right steps to select his successor.

"I don't think the present situation necessarily establishes a precedent for the future at all," he said. "Churches live in the moment, and at this moment the very best step for the churches is for a very good-sized group of leaders to reflect on the needs of church and to discern through prayer and reflection the best way to respond to that."

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

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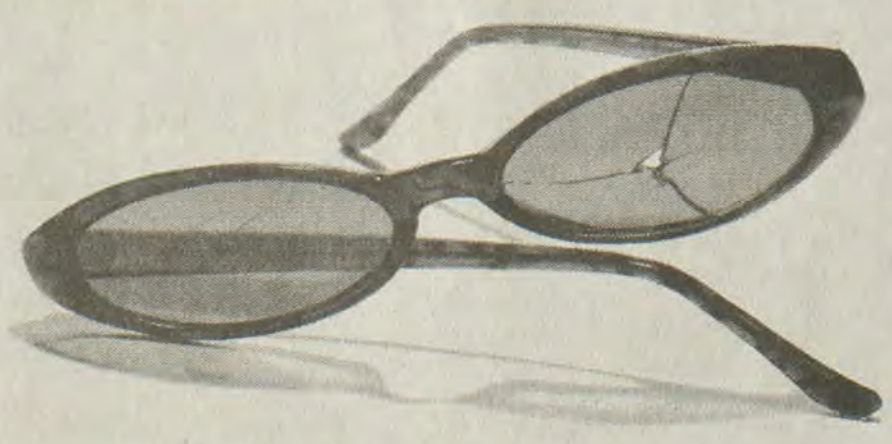

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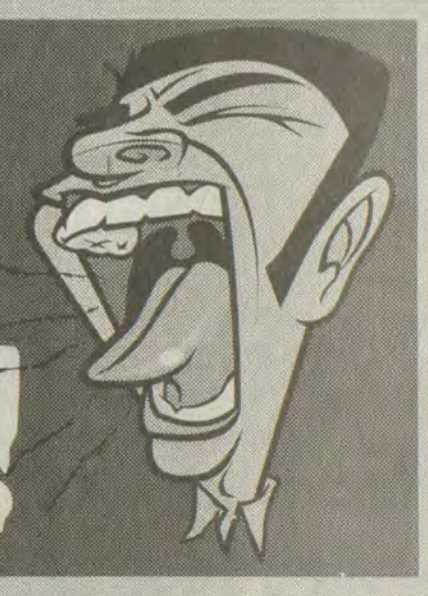

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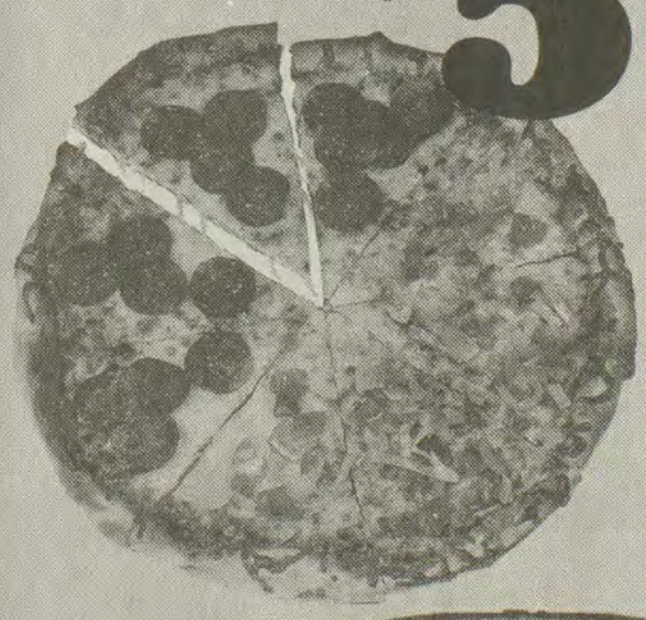

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Fletcher says he has concerns about overweight truck bill

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — Gov. Ernie Fletcher said Friday he has some serious concerns about the legislation moving through the General Assembly that would let many large trucks carry even larger loads and will withhold his support until he gets questions answered.

Fletcher said communities that might have to deal with the new truck loads should have a say about the traffic and the routes.

The Transportation Cabinet should also have to certify the roads can accommodate the travel and the trucks themselves need to be certified to carry the weight, Fletcher added.

Under the proposal, trucks on designated coal roads carrying various natural resources — including gravel, natural gas, sand and oil — could be exempt from the state's current 40-ton weight limit. Currently, only coal truck operators may purchase the exemptions. The exemption would allow a total weight of 60 tons — 120,000 pounds.

A lawsuit pending in Pike County claims the state's current exemption system unconstitutionally allows coal trucks to exceed the weight limit, while other truck operators may not.

Rep. Howard Cornett, the bill's sponsor, has said the measure is intended to make the system more fair. It would also preserve the coal industry, he has said.

The bill has passed the House and a Senate committee but languished in the full Senate on Friday, in part to resolve the kinds of issues Fletcher raised.

Stanley completes basic training

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. — Marine Corps Pfc. James A. Stanley, son of Georgette M. Hunt and James R. Stanley, of Allen, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. and was promoted to his current rank.

Stanley successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

Stanley and fellow recruits began their training at 5 a.m., by running three miles and performing calisthenics. In addition to the physical conditioning program, Stanley spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments which included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training. They performed close order drill and operated as a small infantry unit during field training.

Stanley and other recruits also received instruction on the Marine Corps' core values — honor, courage and commitment, and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

Stanley and fellow recruits ended the training phase with The Crucible, a 54-hour team effort, problem solving evolution which culminated with an emotional ceremony in which the recruits were presented the Marine Corps Emblem, and were addressed as "Marines" for the first time since boot camp began.

President Bush to visit state this week

by BETSY VERECKEY
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — President Bush will visit Louisville next week as part of his push to overhaul Social Security.

White House Spokesman Taylor Gross said the president will appear at The Kentucky Center on Thursday.

Since his State of the Union address on Feb. 2, Bush has touted his Social Security agenda in several states. On Friday he started a new two-month tour by administration officials of 29 states to gain support for his Social Security proposals. After the Louisville visit, the president will travel to Montgomery, Ala., and Memphis, Tenn.

Although Bush has not yet come up with a comprehensive plan for Social Security, he has been advocating a system of private accounts.

"Social Security provided a safety net for many retirees and that's an important safety net," Bush told a New Jersey audience Friday. "But the safety net has got a hole in it and we need to make sure we save that safety net for future generations in America."

Democrats, meanwhile, have called Bush's proposals a "risky scheme."

Bill Londrigan, president of the Kentucky AFL-CIO, said the group is planning to demonstrate against Bush's plan. He said the administration has failed to discuss both the specifics of the plan as well as a long-term financial solution.

Londrigan said a transition to privatization will cost trillions of dollars.

"Other approaches can be taken without diverting money from the system," Londrigan said.

An AARP Kentucky spokesman said the group representing older Kentuckians has concerns about Bush's proposals.

"We're glad he's raised Social Security to the top of the agenda, but privatizing doesn't do anything to ensure social security," spokesman Hal Stopfel said.

Bush last visited Louisville in February 2004 to speak on the economy and the outcome of his tax cuts. The president also raised over $1 million at a fund-raiser at a downtown hotel for his re-election campaign.

He also visited Fort Campbell in March 2004 to thank soldiers who had served in the Iraq war.

Odds

■ Continued from p2

animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

With no predators in Walworth County, the animal could roam as long as it can find enough to eat, said June Sampson, director of the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretative Center in Dubois, Wyo.

Greg Matthews of the Department of Natural Resources said a major danger the animal faces is motor vehicles.

"Normally, these exotic animals get run over down here," Matthews said.

■ FORT SMITH, Ark. — Getting tanked has a whole new meaning for a woman on the lam.

Brandy Shante Moss, 19, decided that police wanting to talk to her about a domestic dispute complaint would never think to look in a septic tank.

They did.

Officer Danny Baker found Moss in her hideout and stepped on the tank to arrest her.

The tank collapsed on Moss, injuring her badly enough that she had to go to the hospital.

Baker and his colleagues responding to the call Tuesday had seen a man and a woman run from a house to an abandoned one nearby. The woman, Moss, found the septic tank behind the abandoned house.

After being treated, Moss was booked into the Sebastian County Jail on suspicion of fleeing apprehension and two counts of third-degree domestic battery. She also was held on warrants for contempt and failure to comply with a court order.

ORLANDO, Fla. — If drivers can't read Erik Rivera's sign, they might be going too fast.

Rivera used to street race on late nights through south Orange County. Now he goes at a slower pace, wearing a sign: "Don't Street Race. I Lost my Drivers License for 3 Years."

Orange Circuit Judge John H. Adams Sr. ordered the 24-year-old Kissimmee resident to wear the sandwich-board sign as a deterrent to other racers.

■ PITTSBURGH — He could have survived two world wars and Prohibition. He also could have been dinner.

He's Bubba, a 22-pound leviathan of a lobster pulled from the waters off Nantucket, Mass., and shipped to a Pittsburgh fish market.

Based on how long it typically takes a lobster to reach eating size — about five to seven years per pound — Bubba may be 100 years old.

On Tuesday, owner Bob Wholey Wholey gave the lobster to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, which will send him to an aquarium at a Ripley's Believe It or Not museum.

■ CHEYENNE, Wyo. — At first, Terri Smith thought it was just an oversized rock that attracted her dog's attention. Then the rock moved.

Smith found a giant tortoise, weighing some 60 to 70 pounds, trying to burrow into the dirt — an unlikely visitor to Wyoming.

State Game and Fish officials told Smith it was probably a desert tortoise, a species native to the Southwest.

■ MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Fishermen often utter obscenities and throw their catch back in the water after hooking the long, skinny, ugly fish known as a garfish.

What they probably don't know is that, according to Alabama law, they are supposed to suddenly become the garfish's executioner.

The Alabama House passed a bill Tuesday to repeal a 1943 law requiring fishermen who catch a garfish — also called "junk fish" or "trash fish" — to kill it rather than throw it back in the water to be caught again.

Rep. Jeff McLaughlin said he's not sure why lawmakers initially wanted to kill the garfish. But he said the bill he sponsored is part of his effort to highlight some of Alabama's archaic laws and outdated language in the state constitution.

"I just want to point out the odd laws we don't need anymore," he said.

McLaughlin has also introduced a bill to remove language from the constitution that requires the Legislature to regulate dueling.

Morehead State University Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Open House

A representative from the Department of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Morehead State University will be available at MSU at Prestonsburg or the Post Secondary Education Building in room #136 on Thursday, March 10, 2005, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Please contact
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Regional SPORTS

Sunday, March 6, 2005

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TIMES Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

LADYCATS: BACK-TO-BACK

BETSY LAYNE 57, ALLEN CENTRAL 40

photo by Jamie Howell

Betsy Layne senior center Kristal Daniels took her turn cutting on the net after Betsy Layne's 58th District championship win over Allen Central. Daniels scored 18 points as Betsy Layne won its second straight 58th District title. Kim Clark led the Ladycats with a game-high 25 points.

Senior trio combines for 55 points in district championship win

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BETSY LAYNE – The celebration was on Thursday night for the Betsy Layne girls' basketball team. Betsy Layne was able to celebrate a 58th District championship on its homefloor. The Ladycats beat Floyd County rival Allen Central 57-40 and earned a second straight 58th District championship.

Betsy Layne senior guard Kim Clark, who came into the 2004-05 season rated as the 15th Region's top player, didn't disappoint. Clark lived up to the lofty billing as she scored a game-high 25 points. Seventeen of Clark's game-high 25 points came in the second half. She drained five three-pointers. A trio of senior starters combined for 55 of Betsy Layne's 57 points.

Clark's senior teammate, center Kristal Daniels, finished with 18 points. Three of Betsy Layne's five starters reached double-figures in the points department. Senior point guard Kristen Smith finished with 12 points. Smith, who also had 12 points in Betsy Layne's opening-round win over South Floyd, also connected on a three-point field goal attempt. Only four Betsy Layne players score. But it was enough to propel the Ladycats to a second consecutive district title.

The longer the game went, the stronger the Ladycats played. They wanted the title. Again.

Betsy Layne Coach Cassandra Akers sent her

(See **LADYCATS,** page two)

photo by Steve LeMaster

NOWHERE TO GO: Betsy Layne seniors Kim Clark (4) and Breann Akers applied pressure on Allen Central's Yumekia Hunter.

Johnson Central site of Betsy Layne's last regional title triumph

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE – Betsy Layne Coach Cassandra Akers likes the fact that this year's 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament will be held at Johnson Central High School. As a matter of fact, she probably wouldn't have it played anywhere else, except of course, maybe, her home hardwood at the D.W. Howard Fieldhouse. Tournament host Johnson Central was bit hard by the Upset Bug in the opening round of the 57th District Tournament at Sheldon Clark. The Lady Eagles, absent from the 2004 15th Region Tournament scene, fell to rival Paintsville in the opening round of this year's 57th District Tournament. Johnson Central will host a regional tournament, but won't field a team in it.

"Being at Johnson Central this year, the regional tournament will be at a neutral site for once," Akers acknowledged. "I like that place."

And why wouldn't the Betsy Layne head coach like that place? The Golden Eagle Fieldhouse was the site of a big Ladycat celebration during a Saturday evening in March two years ago in 2003 when Betsy Layne girls' basketball faithful danced and celebrated a regional championship victory over the host Lady Eagles.

Last year, defending its nearly-one-year-old regional championship, Betsy Layne fell in the regional semifinals to then-tournament host Pike County Central. The Lady Hawks went on to win the regional title.

The tournament is scheduled to get underway this week at Johnson Central. The 15th Region girls' tournament will be played over the next two weeks.

Magoffin County, which has won its last 10 games, appears to be the 15th Region front-runner. Despite some very close encounters of the losing kind, Magoffin County has fought off all 15th Region challengers. The Lady Hornets, under the guidance of first-year head coach Steve "Pup" Miller, will take a 24-5 record into this year's 15th Region Tournament. The next-best record belongs to the Betsy Layne Ladycats. The Akers-coached Ladycats now have a 21-8 record. Johnson Central ended its season with an 18-9 mark.

Akers still sees a 15th Region title dangling like a carrot in front of more than one girls' basketball team.

"It's wide-open," Akers said. "There's no easy draw anymore. You know, used to, you could go in for that first game and get a good draw, but there's no easy draw anymore."

Girls' 15th Region Tournament
First Round: March 9-10
Semifinals: Monday, March 14
Finals: Tuesday, March 15

Betsy Layne girls lead all-tournament honors

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BETSY LAYNE – At home and playing on its homefloor Thursday night, Betsy Layne captured a second straight 58th District girls' basketball championship. On its way to the latest 58th District girls' basketball title, Betsy Layne registered double-digit wins over both South Floyd and Allen Central. And for its efforts, Betsy Layne was rewarded.

The Ladycats placed five players on the all-tournament team. Starters Kim Clark, Kristen Smith, Kristal Daniels, Breann Akers and Candice Meade were all named to the all-tournament squad. All five Ladycat starters had pivotal roles in the district championship effort.

The Piarist School had one player named to the all-tournament team, while South Floyd and Prestonsburg each placed two student-athletes on the squad. District runner-up Allen Central had three players named to the team.

Others joining the Betsy Layne starting five included Alyssa Reed (Piarist), Courtney Blocker (South Floyd), Tab Trammell (South Floyd), Kelly Key (Prestonsburg), Darcey Hicks (Prestonsburg), Becky Thomas (Allen Central), Amanda Mills (Allen Central) and Mara Biliter (Allen Central).

photo by Jamie Howell

The 58th District All-Tournament Team included five Betsy Layne Ladycats.

Betsy Layne starting five named all-conference

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BETSY LAYNE – The Betsy Layne girls breezed through the 58th District/Floyd County Conference portion of the 2004-05 regular-season, sweeping and taking a pair of games from each of its four district opponents. Betsy Layne, coached by Cassandra Akers, brought a perfect 8-0 district/conference record into the 58th District Tournament and showed no signs of slowing down on its way to a second straight district title. The Ladycats beat South Floyd with ease in the opening round and in the championship game on Thursday night, pulled away and defeated Allen Central by a 17-point margin. All five Betsy Layne starters – four seniors and one junior – earned all-conference nods. Betsy Layne seniors Kim Clark, Kristen Smith, Kristal Daniels and Breann Akers, and junior Candice Meade, each earned all-conference nods.

The Piarist School had one player named all-conference. South Floyd and Prestonsburg, both of which were eliminated

(See **CONFERENCE,** page two)

Conference

■ Continued from p1

in the opening round, landed two players on the all-conference squad and district runner-up Allen Central was represented by three of its starting five.

Those joining Betsy Layne's starting unit included Beth Tackett (Piarist), Tab Trammell (South Floyd), Miranda Gregory (South Floyd), Molly Burchett (Prestonsburg), Meaghan Slone (Prestonsburg), Mara Biliter (Allen Central), Yumekia Hunter (Allen Central) and Becky Thomas (Allen Central).

One of the 15th Region's top players, Thomas was also named conference player of the year.

Ladycats

■ Continued from p1

team into the district championship contest with a game plan.

"We had a game plan and they did it," Akers said with excitement in her voice. "Kim did really well; she shot – and hit. Everyone played hard. We knew coming in that it would be a tough game."

The game was physical. Betsy Layne's Whitney Tackett came into the game in off the bench and provided some quality minutes – but at a cost. Tackett left the game minus a tooth that she had knocked out.

Betsy Layne took a game that was close early in the first quarter and gradually pulled away.

The Ladycats led 16-10 with 2:21 remaining in the first quarter when Allen Central junior Amanda Mills, into the game in off of the bench, drained a three-pointer. Daniels countered for Betsy Layne with a short field goal right before the final buzzer of the first period and the Ladycats took an 18-13 lead out of the opening period.

Betsy Layne held Allen Central to just one point in the second quarter and went into halftime ahead 27-14.

In the second half, Allen Central could never get within close enough striking distance of Betsy Layne.

Following a putback by Allen Central senior Becky Thomas at the 1:09 mark of the third quarter, Betsy Layne played out in front with a 38-30 lead. Thomas, who was fouled on the putback converted on a free throw following the shot and Allen Central, then, trailed by just seven points.

But Betsy Layne quickly stretched the lead back out.

The Ladycats went on to lead 41-31 at the start of the fourth quarter.

Late in the game, Akers didn't want to put Allen Central to the free throw line with the chance to score points with the clock stopped.

"We didn't want them to get to the free throw line," Akers added. "They are a good team and whoever draws them in the regional tournament will have their hands full. I'd take Becky (Thomas) any night of the week."

Betsy Layne didn't get much of an opportunity to score from the charity stripe. The Ladycats finished five-of-eight from the free-throw line.

Junior forward Candice Meade was Betsy Layne's other scorer. She finished with two points.

Thomas led Allen Central in scoring with 18 points. In Allen Central's opening-round win over Prestonsburg, Thomas led the Lady Rebels with 14 points.

Allen Central Coach Mark Martin looked for different players to step up and score points in the district title tilt. Thomas, however, ended the game as the only Lady Rebel to reach double-figures.

Mills finished with five points. Allen Central starters Mara Biliter, Alanna Cline and Yumekia Hunter all had four points apiece. Amanda Thacker and Elizabeth Dingus each finished with two points. Senior Lyndsey Frasure, Allen Central's other starter, added one point.

Allen Central shot 11-for-21 from the free-throw line.

Betsy Layne will enter the 15th Region Tournament this week at Johnson Central High School, the site of its last regional basketball championship triumph. All 15th Region Tournament games will be played at Johnson Central.

All-Floyd County Conference

photo by Jamie Howell

The All-Floyd County Conference team included players from all five Floyd County schools. Allen Central senior Becky Thomas was named the conference's player of the year.

CHAMPIONSHIP RUN

photos by Steve LeMaster

Betsy Layne will again enter the 15th Region Tournament as the 58th District's top team. Above: Ladycat senior guard Kim Clark eyed the basket during the first half.

Left: Betsy Layne senior forward Breann Akers looked to pass the ball off to an open teammate.

Below: Betsy Layne's Whitney Tackett (33) got a shot off against the defense of Allen Central's Lyndsey Frasure.

photo by Jamie Howell

DISTRICT DOMINANCE: Betsy Layne claimed its second straight 58th District championship Thursday night, beating Allen Central 57-40.

No. 9 Louisville 94, No. 18 Charlotte 82

by CHRIS DUNCAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE – When he played basketball as a boy, Larry O'Bannon pretended he was Michael Jordan or Ray Allen.

He still never envisioned a game like this.

The Louisville native scored a career-high 33 points – 26 in the first half – to help No. 9 Louisville clinch a share of the Conference USA regular-season title with a 94-82 victory over No. 18 Charlotte on Thursday night.

The 6-foot-4 O'Bannon, one of three seniors playing in Freedom Hall for the last time, tied a school record for points in a half, hitting his first five 3-pointers.

He left the floor for the last time with 1:01 to go, waving to the fans and embracing teammates as a chant of "Lar-ree! Lar-ree!" thundered through the arena.

"You couldn't ask for anything better," he said. "I never thought of a night like this. You don't dream it up."

O'Bannon's career night helped the Cardinals (25-4, 13-2 Conference USA) earn the top seed in next week's league tournament in Memphis, Tenn. They can clinch the program's only outright regular-season Conference USA championship with a victory at DePaul on Saturday. Louisville will join the Big East next season.

"We've got one game left and we want to keep on winning," said Louisville coach Rick Pitino.

Junior Taquan Dean made six 3-pointers and added 27 points for Louisville (25-4, 13-2 Conference USA), which has won 14 of 15 games heading into its regular-season finale.

Ellis Myles had a career-high 10 assists for the Cardinals. A fifth-year senior, Myles is the last holdover from the Denny Crum era. He has never played in the NCAA tournament after missing last season to recover from a knee injury he suffered the previous year.

"It was a very emotional night for me and the team," Myles said. "Nobody thought I would make it this far."

Myles also had 10 points and eight rebounds.

"He's playing great basketball right now," Pitino said. "He's handling, he's passing. He's a big reason we're winning right now."

But the night belonged to O'Bannon.

Constantly finding gaps in Charlotte's defense, O'Bannon was 9-of-10 from the field in the opening 20 minutes and scored eight points during a half-ending 16-4 run.

"Your hometown fans are going to remember you in your last game," O'Bannon said. "I didn't know it was going to be like that."

Brendan Plavich, guarded by O'Bannon much of the game, hit seven 3-pointers and scored 28 points for the 49ers (21-5, 12-3), who had a seven-game winning streak snapped.

O'Bannon's game overshadowed an impressive shooting display by Plavich, who came into the game second in the nation in 3-pointers per game. Plavich made five 3-pointers in the first half, two of them from 30 feet.

"He was shooting from half-court, it seemed like," Dean said. "That's kind of hard to stop."

Plavich's fourth 3-pointer gave Charlotte a 25-24 lead, but O'Bannon answered with a 3-pointer a minute later and Louisville never trailed again.

Charlotte coach Bobby Lutz, angered when E.J. Drayton was whistled for fouling O'Bannon, drew a technical foul with 10.1 seconds left in the half. Francisco Garcia and O'Bannon hit two free throws apiece to boost the lead to 13 by halftime.

The cold-shooting 49ers never made a move in the second half, going 5 minutes without a field goal during one stretch.

O'Bannon, who scored a career high 30 against Marquette in January, cooled off in the second half, missing three shots. But he set a new career high with a reverse layup with 6:04 left. He was fouled on the play and hit the free throw as the crowd chanted "Lar-ree! Lar-ree!"

"Larry O'Bannon had a very, very special night," Pitino said. "It was a Hollywood ending for a nice young man."

The 49ers made 13 3-pointers but shot 36 percent overall (24 of 66), their lowest output in four games.

"It was obviously a very difficult night for us," Lutz said. "We knew we had to play really well with everything to have a chance to win. Obviously, we fell short of that."

Prior to tipoff, a video montage chronicled the careers of seniors Otis George, Ellis Myles and O'Bannon and Garcia, a junior who will leave for the NBA after this season. Pitino gave a framed jersey to each player.

"Without those guys, we're nothing," Pitino said.

No. 2 North Carolina 91, Florida St. 76

by AARON BEARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – Sean May scored a career-high 32 points and had 12 rebounds Thursday night to help No. 2 North Carolina beat Florida State 91-76, giving the Tar Heels at least a share of the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title.

Freshman Marvin Williams added 17 points, and Raymond Felton had 15 for the Tar Heels (25-3, 13-2 ACC), who have won 11 of 12 games to earn their first league title in four years.

North Carolina, which played without scoring leader Rashad McCants for the third straight game because of an intestinal disorder, can clinch the top seed in next week's ACC tournament – which would mark its first outright league crown since the NCAA championship season in 1993 – with a home win against No. 6 Duke on Sunday.

Al Thornton scored 19 points to lead the Seminoles (11-18, 3-12), who have lost nine straight games.

North Carolina had all kinds of trouble early with the pesky Seminoles, who seemingly couldn't miss in the first half and led 54-52 with about 13 minutes to play. But the Tar Heels played better defensively in the second half, going ahead to stay on a 3-pointer from Melvin Scott and gradually building a double-digit margin.

May was key in that effort, going 13-for-15 and finishing with his seventh straight double-double. That included hitting all 10 of his shots in the second half, and scoring 12 points in a decisive run that put the Tar Heels ahead 81-68 with about four minutes left.

The 6-foot-9 junior reached the 1,000-point mark for his career with nine points in the first half, making him the 57th player in school history to reach the plateau. His previous career high was 28 points against Georgia Tech last season.

May led a balanced effort by the Tar Heels, who won despite missing McCants' 16 points per game. Felton had 10 assists and five rebounds, while junior reserve David Noel had a career-best eight assists.

Florida State certainly surprised the Tar Heels in the first half, shooting 60 percent and hitting eight 3-pointers to lead 44-41 at the break. Waleskowski and Thorton led that effort, combining for 24 points on 10-for-12 shooting.

And while the Tar Heels shot 53 percent in the half, that shoddy defensive performance no doubt had coach Roy Williams seething in the locker room.

In the second half, the Tar Heels held Florida State to 11-for-30 shooting, partly through better defensive intensity and partly from the Seminoles finally coming back down to earth.

After Scott's 3 gave the Tar Heels a 55-54 lead, May followed with a jumper and an alley-oop slam off a feed from Felton for a five-point edge. He later twice got loose inside off feeds from Noel, who also assisted on a 3 from Williams during that run.

May punctuated his career night with a powerful slam for a 91-76 lead with about 30 seconds left.

Auburn 62, Kentucky 57

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENVILLE, S.C. – Nicole Louden tied her career high with 23 points and Auburn held off a late Kentucky charge for a 62-57 victory at the Southeastern Conference women's tournament Thursday.

Louden's two foul shots midway through the second half put the Tigers (16-12) ahead 44-29. But then the 10th-seeded Wildcats (15-15) found their touch and nearly stole the game from Auburn, a seventh seed.

Senior Sara Potts had 10 of her 22 points in the game's final 10 minutes as Kentucky cut the lead to 58-55 in the final minute.

Louden saved the day again, hitting four free throws down the stretch – she was a perfect 8 of 8 at the line – and Auburn advanced to face No. 5 Tennessee, the SEC's second seed, in Friday's quarterfinals.

Louden said she and fellow senior Natasha Brackett kept the rest of the Tigers focused in the face of Kentucky's charge.

"We stayed composed and I think that was a key today," Louden said.

Louden matched her all-time best set against Alabama last month. The 5-foot-7 guard also led the Tigers with 10 rebounds.

Natasha Brackett had 18 points for Auburn, which did not make a field goal in the final 3:31.

Sarah Elliott was Kentucky's only other double-digit scorer with 11 points. Despite falling to Auburn for the seventh straight time, Kentucky finishes with its first nonlosing season since 1999-2000.

Wildcats coach Mickie DeMoss said her team has a decent shot of continuing its season in the WNIT.

"We'd be excited to participate in it," she said. "It's been a while since Kentucky's women's basketball program has been in the postseason."

The Wildcats last reached the postseason when they made the NCAA tournament six years ago.

Auburn coach Nell Fortner thinks this victory cements her team's NCAA credentials.

"If you're going to put this in the paper, then yes, we belong," Fortner said. "I want the NCAA committee to read that."

For Auburn to keep advancing, it'll need more of the effort it got from Louden.

She drove Auburn to a double-digit lead in the first half, scoring 9 points during a 17-5 run that put the Tigers ahead 32-21.

Trailing 16-15, Louden started the spurt with a 3-pointer that put Auburn ahead. She hit a short jumper then a layup to extend things.

Then Louden dove to the floor to steal the ball, passing ahead to Taniesha Thompson for an easy basket that capped the run.

Auburn junior Martina Payne broke the SEC's single-season blocks record. She got four against Kentucky, giving her 134 on the year and surpassing the mark of 131 held by Heidi Gillingham of Vanderbilt in 1992.

No. 6 Duke 83, Miami 59

by KEITH PARSONS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DURHAM, N.C. – J.J. Redick scored 29 points, nearly matching Miami point-for-point into the second half, in No. 6 Duke's 83-59 victory over the Hurricanes on Thursday night.

Senior Daniel Ewing had the first double-double of his career with 14 points and a career-high 10 assists in his final game at Cameron Indoor Stadium, and Shelden Williams added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Blue Devils (22-4, 11-4 Atlantic Coast Conference). They will finish the regular season Sunday at No. 2 North Carolina, a rematch of Duke's 71-70 victory earlier this season.

Guillermo Diaz scored 17 for the Hurricanes (16-11, 7-9), who likely need to advance a couple of rounds in the ACC tournament to secure a bid to the NCAAs.

Redick sported a new hairstyle – he and walk-on Patrick Davidson got matching buzz cuts – then made his first two shots on his way to 18 points in the first half. He came off a double screen by Shavlik Randolph and Reggie Love to swish a jumper from behind the arc midway though the opening 20 minutes for his ninth point; at the time, Miami had only eight.

That led the Cameron Crazies to chant "J.J.'s winning!" a theme that continued through almost the entire half. Redick had personal leads on the Hurricanes at 3-2, 6-4, 9-8, 11-8, 14-11 and 16-14, but a late dry spell for the ACC's leading scorer dropped him four points behind at the break.

Early in the second half, Redick made two free throws and his fourth 3 to move within a point of Miami, the final time he was that close. Still, he scored at least 20 points for the 19th time in only 32 minutes, well below his league-leading 37.1 minutes a game.

The Hurricanes never led and were tied only at 2, and they trailed by at least 10 points for the final 34 1/2 minutes. That wasn't the kind of effort coach Frank Haith was looking for, considering an improbable victory would have left Miami at 8-8 in the ACC. Normally, that mark is good enough for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

With a bye during the final weekend of the regular season, the Hurricanes won't take the court again for nearly a week, during the opening day of the conference tournament. They'll have to get a better performance from leading scorers Diaz and Robert Hite, who combined for 28 points on 12-of-32 shooting against the Blue Devils.

That was about seven below their season average, and many of them came with the outcome already decided.

Second-half shooting pushes Bears into semifinals

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT – Fourth-seeded Pikeville College used a 24-4 run in the second half to overcome a 36-30 halftime deficit en route to an 81-62 win over fifth-seeded Lambuth University in the opening round of the 2005 Mid-South Conference Men's Basketball Tournament at Frankfort Civic Center.

Pikeville (23-8) made 10 of 12 shots during a six-minute run in the second half to erase a seven-point (40-33) deficit. At the end of the run Pikeville led 57-44. During the same six-minute span, Lambuth was one of seven from the floor and four turnovers.

The Bears, who shot 37.5 percent (12-for-32) in the first half, ended the game shooting 47.8 percent (32-for-67) from the field thanks to making 20 of 35 in the second half.

Pikeville senior Walter Harris led the charge, scoring nine of his career-high 28 points during the Bear run. Senior guard Jarell Jones hit three three-pointers during the span to equal Harris. Jones ended the night with 15 points.

Lambuth (14-17) built a 12-point (18-6) first half lead thanks to 51.7 percent (20-for-42) shooting from the field. Lambuth was unable to sustain its hot shooting in the second half, making just nine of 26 after halftime. The Eagles ended the night shooting 43.6 percent (24-for-55).

Pikeville also used a decisive advantage off the bench, outscoring the depleted Lambuth reserves 24-0. The Eagles, who dress only eight players, used their bench for only 10 player minutes in the game.

Pikeville senior guard Daniel Price joined Harris and Jones in double figures with 13 points on the night. Junior guard Laneare Anderson added 10.

Lambuth junior forward Chris Cole scored a team-high 23 points. Junior guard Darryl Vinson contributed 20 points and senior forward Chris Simpson, a Frankfort native, added 11 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

Pikeville returned to action on Friday as it took on top-seeded Georgetown College, the nation's second-ranked team, in the tournament semifinals. In the opposite bracket, second-seeded Lindsey Wilson, ranked third in the country, met third-seed Cumberland College.

Cumberland cheerleaders place second in MSC

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT – The Cumberland College cheerleaders climbed one spot from last year by placing second in the 2004-2005 Mid-South Conference Cheerleading Championships. The competition was held on Thursday at the Frankfort Civic Center.

The team placed second in a tough competition under Georgetown College. Crystal Goforth, a junior from Waynesburg, was very proud of her fellow cheerleaders. "The dedication over the past few weeks has really helped pull our team together. We pulled off a very good performance," said Goforth. "The talent on our team is amazing and deserves a lot of credit."

Crystal Goforth, along with teammates Beth Wooley (Sebree), Heather Parks (Corbin), Tabitha Middleton (Harlan), and Amanda Farris (Corbin), placed third in a stunt group competition. The ladies placed third under two squads from Georgetown College.

Cheerleaders Nicole Powers (Cincinnati) and Greg Foley (Danville) were awarded All-Conference honors for their outstanding performance.

Coach Carey Sanchez was thrilled with her squad's performance. "We had a rough warm-up, but the squad came out and had a solid performance," said Sanchez. "The crowd was very excited and even stood to cheer us on. Today was a great day in cheerleading for us."

The Mid-South Conference has member institutions in five states, including Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, and Virginia. The Mid-South Conference is also the only conference that gives NAIA cheerleading squads the opportunity to compete for a championship title.

photo courtesy of Cumberland College

The Cumberland College cheerleaders brought home hardware from this past week's Mid-South Conference Championships.

Lindsey ends Lady Bears season

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT – A 10-0 run early in the game allowed Lindsey Wilson to pull away from Pikeville and advance to a 78-59 win in the opening round of the 2005 Mid-South Conference tournament.

The loss ends the season for Pikeville at 17-14, with Bill Watson closing out his eighth year with 145 wins, leaving him one shy of Roy Cutright's school record for women's basketball.

Lindsey Wilson (21-10) led 12-10 and then put up 10 unanswered points as part of a 15-2 run that effectively put the game away. They led 41-24 at the half.

Pikeville was able to cut the deficit to 13 on two occasions in the second half but could get no closer. The Lady Raiders led by 24 at one point before settling for the 19-point win.

Senior Amelia Cody led Pikeville with 14 markers, hitting all five of her field goals. Senior Selena Williams, Pikeville's only all-conference selection, followed with 12 points, while sophomore Tonya Amburgey added 11.

Pikeville's other senior, Ashley Ratliff, finished with four points.

Lindsey Wilson had five players in double figures, led by Demoya Williams and Tarren Duncan with 13 each. Suzanna Ashby followed with 12 off the bench; Rebecca husband and Tiffany Jones had 10 points each for the Lady Raiders.

Lindsey was to play top-seeded Georgetown in Friday night's semifinal round. In the other semifinal game, No. 3 Cumberland was pitted against No. 2 Campbellsville.

The championship game was scheduled for Saturday.

Cardinals announce 2005 football schedule

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

LOUISVILLE – The 2005 Louisville Cardinals football team will face the toughest schedule in the Bobby Petrino era in their inaugural season in the BIG EAST Conference, including games with seven teams that played in bowl games during the 2004 season. Six home games are on tap over the course of the 11-game regular season. All dates are tentative and subject to change.

The Cardinals, which have become a popular draw on national television, have four games already penciled in for national telecasts (last year, seven of Louisville's 12 games ended up being nationally televised), with the possibility of additional games slated for national broadcasts.

"We're extremely excited about the schedule for the 2005 season and our entrance into the BIG EAST Conference," said Petrino, who is 20-5 in his first two years at the helm. "We're very pleased for our fans because we've really upgraded our home schedule with four teams who played in bowl games a year ago. The BIG EAST will be a tremendous challenge for our program, because week in and week out we'll have to play at our best, especially with our first three games on the road."

The Cardinals will open the 2005 season, the third under Petrino, with a visit to Commonwealth Stadium and arch-rival Kentucky on Saturday, Sept. 3, and then will play three of their next four games at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium.

Louisville and Kentucky will meet for the 18th time in another edition of one the nation's top football rivalries. Last season, Louisville defeated Kentucky, 28-0, in Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, winning for the second straight season. The Cardinals won, 40-24, in Petrino's first-ever game against Kentucky in 2003.

The Cardinals will have an open date on Sept. 10. Then, Louisville returns to action on Saturday, Sept. 17 with their first-ever game against PAC-10 foe Oregon State at PJCS, which will be aired by either ESPN, ESPN2 or ABC. The Beavers were 7-5 last season and defeated Notre Dame in the Insight Bowl.

Louisville plays its first-ever BIG EAST Conference game on Sept. 24 when the Cardinals travel to Tampa to face South Florida. The Cardinals and Bulls, who were former members of Conference USA, will meet for just the third time, with each team winning on their home field. Louisville won, 41-9, last season, while USF took a 30-27 double-overtime decision in 2003.

On Oct. 1, the Cardinals welcome back former Cardinal head coach Howard Schnellenberger and his Florida Atlantic team. The Owls were 9-3 last season with huge wins over Hawaii and North Texas. Schnellenberger coached the Cardinals from 1985-94, guiding Louisville to a Fiesta Bowl win in 1991 over Alabama.

North Carolina travels to Louisville to face the Cardinals on October 8. Last season, the Tar Heels finished 6-6, losing in the Continental Tire Bowl last season. Louisville shutout UNC, 34-0, last year in Chapel Hill.

The Cardinals will continue in BIG EAST action on the road with a game in Morgantown against the West Virginia Mountaineers on Oct. 15. The Cardinals and Mountaineers will meet for the seventh time in the history of the two schools with WVU holding a 5-1 advantage. It will be the first meeting since a 36-34 win for WVU in Morgantown in 1993.

Louisville will play its third straight conference game away from home with a trip down I-71 to face Cincinnati, also a new member of the BIG EAST. The Cardinals defeated the Bearcats, 70-7, last season, but still trail the overall series, 26-18-1. Louisville won a 43-40 decision in 2003 in the Cardinals' last visit to Cincinnati.

After playing its first three league games on the road, the Cardinals will host three out of the next four weeks. The Cardinals play their first league home game on Thursday, November 3 with a nationally-televised contest against Pittsburgh * winners of the BCS bid from the BIG EAST last season. The Panthers finished the season at 8-4 and will be making their third visit to Louisville, but first since 1994. The two schools have split their eight previous meetings with the Cardinals winning the last encounter, 33-29, in 1994.

After an eight-day layoff, the Cardinals host Rutgers in a nationally-televised contest on Friday, Nov. 11. The Scarlet Knights were 4-7 last season, but are perfect against the Cardinals, winning all four previous meetings. However, this will be the first encounter since 1986.

After an open week on Nov. 19, the Cardinals close out the home portion of its schedule on Nov. 26 when the Orange of Syracuse visits PJCS. Syracuse, under new head coach Greg Robinson, finished 6-6 last year after a loss to Georgia Tech in the Champs Sports Bowl. The Cardinals defeated Syracuse, 30-20, in the Carrier Dome in 2003, but are just 1-3 all-time against the Orange.

Louisville will close out the regular season on Saturday, Dec. 3 by traveling to Stoors, Ct., to face Connecticut on ESPN. The Huskies finished at 8-4, including a 39-10 win over Toledo in the Motor City Bowl. The Cardinals and Huskies have met only once, a 41-22 win by Louisville at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium in 2000.

The seven bowl teams from 2004 on Louisville's schedule are: Oregon State (Insight) North Carolina (Continental Tire), Syracuse (Champs Sports), Pittsburgh (Fiesta), West Virginia (Gator), Connecticut (Motor City) and Cincinnati (Forth Worth).

LOUISVILLE 2005 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Sept. 3	at Kentucky
Sept. 17	Oregon State
Sept. 24	at South Florida
Oct. 1	Florida Atlantic
Oct. 8	North Carolina
Oct. 15	at West Virgnia
Oct. 22	at Cincinnati
Nov. 3	Pittsburgh
Nov. 11	Rutgers
Nov. 26	Syracuse
Dec. 3	at Connecticut

57TH DISTRICT GIRLS: Magoffin holds off Paintsville

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BLACKLOG – The Paintsville Lady Tigers pushed 15th Region frontrunner Magoffin County yet another time Wednesday night. Ashley J. Howard scored 28 points and the Lady Hornets downed the rival Lady Tigers for the 57th District title. Both teams will move on to play at Johnson Central, the site of this year's 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament.

Paintsville had a 22-13 lead at the end of the first quarter. The two teams went into the halftime deadlocked at 32. After exiting the third quarter with the ballgame tied at 52, Magoffin County outscored the Lady Tigers 15-12 in the final quarter.

Brittany Manns added 16 points for the Lady Hornets and Michaela Howard netted 10.

Chesee Jarrell paced Paintsville with 26 points. Kendra Carroll had 13 points and Ashley Hall netted 12.

Jenkins 47, Fleming-Neon 41 (53rd District): Ashley Williams tossed in 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the Lady Cavaliers to a six-point win over Letcher County rival Fleming-Neon.

Perry County Central 78, Hazard 41 (54th District): Rivals Perry County Central and Hazard met Thursday night in the 54th District girls' finals. Perry Central, led by 27 points from Britta Maggard, won easily. Heather Sturdivant flipped in 16 points for the host Lady Commodores.

Ashley Olinger paced Hazard with 13 points.

BOYS – Jackson City 72, June Buchanan 38 (55th District): Kelly McIntosh dented the scoring column for 20 points and powered Jackson City into the 55th District title game.

Jackson City outscored June Buchanan 17-11 in the opening quarter and 20-6 in the second period en route to the commanding victory.

Ryan Conley led June Buchanan in scoring with 11 points.

Jackson City held high-scoring June Buchanan guard Clark Stepp to just eight points.

Kentucky hires new defensive line coach

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON – Kentucky coach Rich Brooks has hired a new defensive line coach from the University of Mississippi.

Rick Petri has coached the defensive tackles at Ole Miss since 1998.

Two of Petri's tackles, Kendrick Clancy and Jesse Mitchell, earned first-team All-Southeastern Conference honors.

"Rick is a tremendous fundamental coach who has coached some great players," Brooks said." He is very familiar with the SEC as a coach and recruiter."

Petri, a native of St. Louis, Mo., graduated from the University of Missouri-Rolla.

He has also coached at the University of Miami and South Carolina.

SEC approves instant replay for football in 2005

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Southeastern Conference announced today that it will implement the use of instant reply on an experimental basis beginning with the 2005 football season. The league's athletic directors voted Wednesday to recommend the use of instant replay in its conference football games and Presidents and Chancellors approved the proposal in its meeting today.

"Through every meeting and discussion with our coaches, athletics directors and Presidents and Chancellors, the use of instant replay received overwhelming support," said SEC Commissioner Mike Slive. "Our officials make every effort to get each call right. Instant replay will go a long way in helping them accomplish their goal."

Details of the use of instant replay in the SEC will be worked out by the conference's spring meetings, which will be held in Destin, Fla., May 31-June 3.

The NCAA Football Rules Committee voted earlier this year to give conferences the opportunity to use instant reply on an experimental basis for the 2005 season.

H.S. SCOREBOARD

BOYS' BASKETBALL

(Thursday's Games)

Allen Co.-Scottsville 42, Barren Co. 37
Bourbon Co. 65, Harrison Co. 57
Bullitt East 78, Bullitt Central 46
Cawood 57, Harlan 45
Clay Co. 49, Rockcastle Co. 47
Clinton Co. 50, Monroe Co. 43
Corbin 67, Williamsburg 26
Cov. Catholic 71, Holmes 70
East Ridge 59, Pikeville 57
Hart Co. 49, LaRue Co. 46
Highlands 43, Newport Cent. Catholic 40
Jackson City 72, June Buchanan 38
Lou. Ballard 71, Lou. Waggener 38
Lou. Eastern 68, Lou. Christian Acad. 36
Lou. Trinity 64, Lou. Atherton 43
Marshall Co. 53, Calloway Co. 43
Mercer Co. 53, Garrard Co. 48
Rowan Co. 61, Morgan Co. 59
Trigg Co. 69, Crittenden Co. 46

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

(Thursday's Games)

Adair Co. 49, Marion Co. 34
Apollo 51, Owensboro 23
Betsy Layne 57, Allen Central 40
Bishop Brossart 50, Campbell Co. 47
Boyd Co. 53, Rose Hill Christian 37
Breckenridge Co. 43, Hancock Co. 38
Carroll Co. 54, Gallatin Co. 32
Central Hardin 56, Elizabethtown 51
Corbin 72, Knox Central 45
Dixie Heights 54, Villa Madonna 29
East Ridge 69, Pikeville 65
Franklin-Simpson 51, Logan Co. 44
Hart Co. 55, LaRue Co. 48
Hopkins Co. Cent.l 72, Dawson Springs 60
Jenkins 47, Fleming-Neon 41
Knott Co. Central 80, Jackson City 23
Lou. Assumption 69, Lou. Seneca 28
Lou. Fairdale 59, Lou. Doss 28
Magoffin Co. 67, Paintsville 64
Marshall Co. 53, Murray 40
McCreary Central 41, Russell Co. 33
Nelson Co. 67, Bardstown 40
North Hardin 57, John Hardin 32
North Laurel 45, Somerset 43
Oldham Co. 44, South Oldham 28
Paducah Tilghman 58, Heath 53
Russell 58, Raceland 45
Scott 56, Calvary Christian 39
Scott Co. 79, Owen Co. 26
South Laurel 68, Pulaski Co. 48
Taylor Co. 65, Campbellsville 43
Union Co. 66, Webster Co. 61
Washington Co. 63, Bethlehem 43
Wayne Co. 64, Monticello 41
West Carter 59, East Carter 50

ONLINE: www.khsaa.org

Annual Blackcat football banquet set for March 13

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PRESTONSBURG – The Prestonsburg High School football program will put one last finishing touch on the 2004 season when it holds its annual banquet at the Mountain Arts Center on Sunday, March 13. The banquet is scheduled to run from 2-5 p.m.

"For those who have never attended one of our banquets, it is held to honor every child, who participated in our football program," said Prestonsburg Coach John DeRossett. "It includes season highlights, dinner and awards."

The Blackcat Football Touchdown Club will be providing the gifts, food and drinks for the banquet.

The Touchdown Club asks that each child bring something.

"We had a great season and we would like to finish it with a great banquet," DeRossett added. "These kids have worked hard and deserve some recognition. With everyone's help, I know this year's banquet will be the best.

"I would like to thank everyone in advance for their time and support in putting this banquet together. I would also like to thank those for their time and support during this past season. Without their dedication to the Blackcat Football program, our success would not have been possible. Thanks again for keeping the Blackcat Football program a winning tradition. We're looking forward to seeing everyone at the banquet."

Prestonsburg finished the 2005 season as the Class 2A, Region 4 runner-up. The Blackcats posted a 10-3 record that included a win over then-No. 1-ranked Breathitt County.

ONLINE: www.blackcatfootball.com

photo by Jamie Howell

BACK IN THE 15TH REGION TOURNAMENT: Allen Central finished as the 15th Region runner-up, second to champion Betsy Layne, for the second time in as many years.

HAP Little League announces signups

Harold-Allen-Prater (HAP) Little League will hold signups on Saturday, March 12 and Saturday, March 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. On Saturday, March 19, HAP Little League will also conduct tryouts.

57TH DISTRICT GIRLS' BASKETBALL

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Ashley J. Howard, Magoffin County

Michaela Howard, Magoffin County

Brittany Manns, Magoffin County

Michaela Howard, Magoffin County

Kendra Carroll, Paintsville

Laura Carroll, Paintsville

Chelsee Jarrell, Paintsville

Jesikah Russell, Paintsville

Brianna Ritz, Johnson Central

Haley Adkins, Sheldon Clark

Weather eliminates UVa-Wise weekend baseball, softball

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

WISE, Va. – Lingering snow on the UVa-Wise campus has forced the postponement of a full slate of baseball and softball games that had been set for this weekend.

The baseball team's three-game series against Tennessee Wesleyan College that had been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday has been postponed. No make up date, however, has been set for the Appalachian Athletic Conference games.

The Cavaliers series last weekend at Alice Lloyd (Ky.) College also was delayed because of snow. Two of those three games will be made up Monday at Stallard Field in Wise. The two AAC teams will play a doubleheader with the opener beginning at 1 p.m.

On the softball side, the Lady Cavaliers have canceled their Sunday doubleheader at the new Cavalier Field against non-conference foe Miami (Ohio) University-Hamilton.

The Lady Cavaliers return to Cavalier Field Wednesday for a 2:30 p.m. non-conference double dip against Emory & Henry College.

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- Tobacco Max
- McDowell Professional Pharmacy
- Country Boy Farm Supply
- Meade's BP & Pizza Express
- Big Sandy Automotive
- Linda G's Chattel

2005 Great Easter Egg Hunt

CLUE #3

I've learned to be more discrete. You won't find me in our county seat.

New class set to enter Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON – Tickets for the 18th Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame banquet are currently on sale. The Class of 2005, which numbers 16, will be inducted at the banquet scheduled for Tuesday at the Lexington Convention Center 's Bluegrass Ballroom (next to Rupp Arena). Tickets are $40 each or a table of 10 may be purchased for $375.

To purchase tickets, contact Butch Cope or Marilyn Mitchell.

Following is a listing of this year's class of inductees: Gordon Bocock, John "Hop" Brown, Jack Fitzpatrick, Kym Hampton, L.V. McGinty, Jr., Ray Mills, Don Morris, Philip Reverman, Sr., Phil Rollins, Joyce Seymour, Sherrill Sipes, Stan Steidel, Paul Stevens, Robert Washington, Paul Woodall and Reba Woodall.

More information on each of the inductees follows.

Gordon Bocock – Bocock, of Pulaski County, has a list of contributions in track and cross country that include serving over 20 years as the State Cross Country Meet Director, 15 years as officials coordinator and over 10 years as State Track & Field Meet Manager. He has also served many years as a regional meet director and clinician for the KHSAA.

John "Hop" Brown – Brown guided the West Carter Lady Comets to the 2000 Girls' State Basketball title and eight 16 th Region titles. His coaching record was 514-201 in 25 years and is one of only six coaches in the history of girls' basketball to record 500-plus victories.

Jack Fitzpatrick – Fitzpatrick played in the Kentucky High School Athletic League for Dunbar of Somerset and helped the team to a National runner-up finish in 1954. He was named an All-National player and went on to play for the Harlem Globetrotters.

Kim Hampton – Hampton was an All-American basketball player and track standout for Iroquois High School in Louisville.

L.V. McGinty, Jr. – McGinty, from Paducah, has officiated several KHSAA State Championships in football, boys' basketball and girls' basketball. He is also a successful collegiate official, having worked three National Championship football games while continuing to work at the high school level. In addition, McGinty has served as a member of the KHSAA Board of Control.

Ray Mills – Mills was an All-District, All-Region and All-State basketball player for Clay County High School. One of the first players in the state to dunk the ball, Mills helped Clay County to consecutive State Tournament appearances in 1952 and 1953 and went on to play for the University of Kentucky.

Don Morris – Morris compiled a basketball career coaching record of 305-168 at Breckinridge County and East Hardin. He coached Breckinridge County to the Boys' State Basketball Championship in 1965.

Philip Reverman, Jr. – Reverman played basketball for St. Xavier High School in Louisville and helped his 1935 team to the KHSAA State Championship with a win over win over Newport. That same team advanced to the Catholic National Championship game.

Phil Rollins – Rollins played for Wickliffe High School, scoring over 2,400 points during his high school basketball career. He was the leading scoring in the Kentucky-Indiana All-Star game in 1952 and went on to a successful career at the University of Louisville, helping the Cardinals to the 1956 NIT

Joyce Seymour – Seymour has worked with the Girls' Louisville Invitational Basketball Tournament for over 30 years and has been director of the event since 1999. She also served as an assigning secretary for the 6 th and 7 th Regions and worked 20 years as both a high school and collegiate official. Stan Steidel – Steidel coached basketball and served as Athletic Director at Dayton High School. He has been instrumental in athletic administration throughout his career, serving on the KHSAA Board of Control and working with the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association. He also started the All "A" Classic in boys' and girls' basketball.

Paul Stevens – Stevens attended and later coached Dawson Springs High School. He coached boys' basketball, football and baseball for the Panthers. As basketball coach, he compiled a 119-46 record, including a 36-3 record in 1946 as Dawson Springs finished State Runner-up.

Robert Washington – Washington played basketball for Dunbar High School in Lexington, helping the school to a runner-up finish in the Boys' State Basketball Tournament in 1963. He later was a successful coach at Bryan Station High School in Lexington.

Paul and Reba Woodall – Paul and Reba both were outstanding track and field coaches for Bryan Station High School, guiding the Defenders to numerous championships. In addition, both worked as officials at the State Track Meet for numerous years.

Two other individuals have previously been voted into the Hall of Fame but declined induction. Wayland legend King Kelly Coleman (1989) and John Reynolds (1994) have yet to accept the honor. They or their representatives would be added to the induction class in the year the honor is accepted.

Good ol' boys head south of the border

by PAUL NEWBERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The good ol' boys have already broken free of their Southern roots. Now, they're eyeing a potentially booming market south of the border.

NASCAR will take its second-tier Busch Series to Mexico this weekend, the first time such a prominent points race has been held outside the United States and perhaps the precursor to going international with the Nextel Cup drivers.

While NASCAR has no immediate plans to hold a Cup race beyond U.S. borders, there's little doubt that Sunday's event at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez road course will be an important step in determining the popularity of stock cars in racing-crazy Mexico.

No less an authority than the King, seven-time Cup champion Richard Petty, calls the Mexican experiment a natural progression in NASCAR's roadmap for future growth.

"That's a new segment of fans that we've really not tried to tap into," Petty said. "If we can get a percentage of them interested in our kind of racing, it's worth going out and trying to get them."

About a half-dozen Cup regulars have entered the Mexican race – it's a rare off week for the Nextel series – but Tony Stewart won't be among them. He's wary of traveling to a still-developing nation.

"Anywhere you go where they've got to get the Federales or the police or whatever they are to escort your rigs to the track, that's not somewhere where I want to race," Stewart said.

Robby Gordon, who will race at 2.786-mile road course, isn't concerned about his safety.

"I've been going to Mexico for 20 years, and I've always enjoyed myself every time I've been there," he said. "The key is keeping it all in perspective, in knowing where you are and what your consequences may be. I've had friends of mine who have gotten in trouble in Mexico before. You don't want to get into trouble down there."

Mexicans already have demonstrated their passion for open-wheel racing, evidenced by the massive crowds that turned out for the struggling Champ Car series.

Will stock car racing have the same hold on the populace? Mexico City native Michel Jourdain Jr. believes it will.

"I'm sure it's going to be huge," said Jourdain, a former open-wheel driver who switched to the Busch Series this year. "NASCAR is so big in the States, and the press has been following it in Mexico the last couple of years more and more."

Adrian Fernandez, the best-known racer in Mexico, has a special one-race deal with Hendrick Motorsports for the historic event. His open-wheel driving career is on hold because of sponsorship problems, though he still runs a team in the Indy Racing League.

"I feel like a kid again," the 41-year-old Fernandez said. "It's a dream come true."

Team owner Felix Sabates, a Cuban native, and his brother, Jose, first proposed the idea of racing in Mexico City. At first, NASCAR officials weren't too interested. But the brothers stuck with it, convincing CEO Brian France and chairman Mike Helton to visit the track.

"After they saw what was down there, they got excited about it. It's a terrific facility," Sabates said.

The Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez opened in 1963 as a stop on the globe-hopping Formula One series. After a decade of inactivity, it underwent a $30 million renovation to host a CART (now Champ Car) race in 2002.

The following year, CART drew more than 400,000 for its three-day weekend, including an astonishing turnout of 221,000 on race day. NASCAR isn't likely to attract those sort of crowds, with its Web site predicting a turnout of 60,000 for the 200-mile race.

Sabates is expecting much larger crowds. He said at least 125,000 tickets have been sold and predicted up to 300,000 for the entire weekend.

Eight other Mexican drivers also will attempt to qualify, providing some local flare to the American-dominated sport. Still, Fernandez conceded that it's going to take some time for his countrymen to learn the nuances of NASCAR.

"This is a little bit of a new chapter for Mexico," he said. "But I think that having me and other Mexican racers there is going to make this transition a lot faster."

Gordon is eager to see how the Mexican drivers will fare against their American counterparts.

"I'm not 100 percent aware of their experience," he said. "I know Adrian Fernandez and Michel Jourdain Jr., and hopefully they are competitive. It would be good for the show if one of those guys could challenge for the win."

NASCAR has its roots in the American South, a once-regional sport that allowed ex-moonshiners a chance to show off their driving skills on dusty short tracks.

Clearly, that image no longer applies in the multibillion dollar phenomenon that is today's Cup series. Races are held from California to New Hampshire. Television ratings are second only to the NFL.

Petty still sees plenty of room for growth in this country, which is why he doesn't expect an international Cup race in the foreseeable future. But he can see some of the same factors at work in Mexico that helped make new tracks such as Chicago and Kansas City an instant success.

"We're not just a Southeastern sport with Southeastern sponsors," Petty said. "That's what pre-sold us when we went to Chicago and Kansas City. They already knew something about us when we got there."

Now, with the huge influx of Hispanics into the United States – they have surpassed blacks as the largest minority – NASCAR has some of the same built-in advantages south of the border.

"There's so many Mexicans going back and forth between the two countries," Petty said. "That's not a bad public-relations deals for NASCAR."

Lowe's, the home-improvement chain which is sponsoring Fernandez's car in Sunday's race, is clearly interested in the enormous buying power of the Hispanic population.

"Texas – that part of the United States – is a big market, not only in terms of American citizens but a lot of the across-the-border activity that happens with consumers," said Bob Gfeller, the senior vice of marketing and advertising. "We're always looking for opportunity, and the question is just when."

Who knows? Maybe "Pilotos, enciendan sus motores" will someday be as commonplace as "Drivers, start your engines."

POSSIBLY ON DECK: Bears like the one pictured above may soon be hunted in the state of Kentucky.

Bear hunting is a probability, just not yet

by STEVE VANTREESE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PADUCAH – A bear hunting season looms in Kentucky's future – when wildlife managers can know that a certain number of bruins taken by hunters won't devastate the re-emerging population.

"Hunting bears is in the cards," said Jonathan Day, big game biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "It's something we're not opposed to. One of our purposes is to provide as much outdoor recreation as we can.

"But when we recommend a season, it will be based on biological sustainability of the species," Day said. "We don't want to get into basing regulations based on public perceptions."

Day stressed the need for scientific groundwork before permitting any hunting of black bears, a season that is being called for by some eastern Kentucky residents. Some League of Kentucky Sportsmen members are lobbying for passage of a season.

Black bears over the past few years have reclaimed a foothold in eastern Kentucky habitats after they had been extirpated from the state for the better part of the 20th century. Bears apparently have been straying into Kentucky from neighboring populations in West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee since the 1980s.

In some areas of far eastern Kentucky, bear sightings and encounters have grown increasingly common and a few conflicts have emerged strife or the threat of it from foraging bears appearing around human residences.

Day said the department won't recommend a bear hunt at least until managers are to make a close determination of the bear population and confirm that there are "huntable numbers" in areas of the largest concentrations.

"We've told the (Kentucky Fish and Wildlife) commission that, before we think about a hunting season, we want to finish the phase of a project to give us some population data," Day said. "And there's three years left in that project."

Day warned that allowing a bear season prematurely could "do serious damage" to the population as well as possibly trigger unnecessary controversy. A hunt too early could prevent hunting by the time it otherwise would be feasible, he said.

Meanwhile, Day recognized that residents of areas where bears have made a comeback could have legitimate problems with the big omnivores. But he said, "A couple of bears can cause a lot of commotion," and he suggested that a very few animals could be dealt with individually to resolve most of the problems.

"We can haze and harass a bear to get him to move on. We can trap and move a problem bear if it's necessary," Day said. "We don't like to, but we can even put a bear down as a last resort."

Day said a hunting season is not a logical remedy to deal with a very few bears that do cause problems, and a season would not serve to "keep bears wild" as some have suggested.

"Bears don't learn from being hunted," Day said. "A dead bear is not going to teach another bear to stay away from people."

Day said reporting a problem to a conservation officer or the fish and wildlife agency's Frankfort office is the first step that should be taken if a bear conflict arises.

"The sooner we're involved, the better," he said. "We don't want people taking matters into their own hands," noting that citations and fines have resulted from people shooting bears on their property.

Still, Day said most bear problems can be headed off if human residents in what's now bear country will take preventive measures. Bears that show up near homes usually are there because people do things that leave food available to the foraging animals.

"Don't throw garbage out where bears can find it," he said. "Don't leave out the barbecue grill with grease on it. Don't leave cat food in a bowl out on the porch.

"Right now, our main priority is helping people to learn to live with bears," Day said.

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources telephone number: 1-800-858-1549

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FLOYD COUNTY
Lifestyles

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Click and Clack Talk Cars

see pg. B7

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This Town, That World

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

When did the sun ever shine more brightly as on that day you couldn't go fishing?

– – – –

After hearing so much about assessments, Junior wanted to know if politics is a singular, plural or colletive noun.

– – – –

REQUIESCAT

Norman Allen

The other day I did something, that to me in an earlier day, would have been little less than murder. I killed my "brain-child."

I found a yellowed sheaf of papers on a table at home; and it developed that this was one of my old ventures in story-writing and that somebody had unearthed out of the past. I ventured to see what I had written.

And as I read I wondered if indeed, this was mine. There was something vaguely familiar about the plot, such as it was, but surely some other wrote that stilted dialogue. And those blessed cliches—surely those weren't mine.

Have you ever written something you thought was down-right good at the time, then gone back, years later, to read it again after the hot flush of creation has died and been forgotten? If you have, you can understand how it was, that as I read, my ears began to warm up and how I almost visibly flinched at certain words. It was when I reached one particularly romantic scene, and when the adjectives liberally began to roll, that the urge to "kill" seized me.

This was no brain-child of mine! This was the misbegotten progeny of some juvenile mind I had never known. Glancing furtively about to make certain, I was not being watched, I tore the "masterpiece" apart, ripped it, stem and stern, fore and aft, dropped the "remains" in a waste basket and hurried to the office to grind out uninspired stuff like this.

Incidentally, I hope the critic who encouraged me with this opus, repented of his sins before he passed on.

Melvin Grade School, eighth grade class, 1950-51. First row: Oakie Gene Newsome, Monroe James, Annalene Tackett, Bonnie Collins, Berlin Ray Johnson, Henry Bob Tackett, and Leon Martin. Second row: Hattie Mae Lackey, John Douglas Hobson, Ella Dean Mills, Elmer Ray Johnson, Conley Cook, Rosalee Thornsberry, and Kenneth Sexton. Third row: Jeanette Bryant, Adralene Tackett, Billy Little, Mrs. Johnson, Principal; Virgil Lee Tackett, John D. Hall, Ralph Hall, and Otis Newsome.

Why Daddy Sold Old Betsy

by Ralph Hall

~ Chapter 14 ~

Epilogue

The New School at Melvin

The year is 1950 and it is the day after Labor Day. Today, I would start to school in the new schoolhouse in Melvin. My four years in school at Weeksbury are over because the county has built a school in our village. I will be in the eighth grade this year.

I woke up this morning as my mother was making breakfast to the smell of coffee, biscuits and bacon cooking. At the table, we talked about our coming day at the new school and wondered what it would be like. Daddy had already left for work, so we talked with Mother about what we might expect.

After breakfast, Mutt and I told Mother good-bye and we headed out for school. We walked up the railroad tracks just as we had always done before. I wondered to myself about what school would be like in the new brick building, who my teacher would be, and what kind of books we would have.

The new school has a brick building with a gym. I am sure that I will get to play on the basketball team at the new school. It will be different because at Weeksbury, we had played ball on a dirt court.

When all of us kids get to school that first morning, we are not allowed to go into the building. So we just hang around in the school yard until around eight o'clock, when the teachers all walk out to the front of the building. A rather large woman comes and stands in front of all the teachers, facing us kids. She speaks with a loud voice: "My name is Mrs. Johnson and I am the head teacher of this school. So, to all of you children, welcome to your new school."

Mrs. Johnson then tells us kids, "We are going to place you in groups according to the class that you are in. When I say 'Primary,' all of you children who have never gone to school before step forward. This is your teacher." Out steps a little small woman and Mrs. Johnson tells all the little kids to go with her to their new classroom.

Mrs. Johnson calls out all the other grades and teachers and then the only teacher left standing is Mrs. Johnson herself. She said, "Okay, eighth grade, come and go with me. I am your teacher this year."

So, Mrs. Johnson was my eighth grade teacher, as well as being the one to take care of the office. As we step into our new classroom, Mrs. Johnson says, "Welcome to my class. We are going to have a great year."

Next, Mrs. Johnson asks each of us to stand up and tell who we are. When it is my time to stand and say who I am, my feet begin to shake in my shoes. I stand up and say, "My name is Ralph Hall. Yes, that's what it is, Ralph Hall." Then I plop down in my seat as fast as I can. What I really want to do, though, is hide underneath it. Well, as it turns out, I do pretty good after all because some kids can't even say their own names they are so afraid. Once we are finished going through the whole room of kids, Mrs. Johnson tells us all to stand. "It is time to give our pledge to Old Glory," she says. Mrs. Johnson has us face the flag, place our left hand over our hearts and extend our right hands out as recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

After we give our pledge, she says, "Now it's time to sing some songs." Mrs. Johnson begins to sing, "Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream." We all sing along and afterwards she says, "You may all sit down."

I think to myself, "What will she do next?"

Once we are seated, Mrs. Johnson says, "I am going to give out books now. When I call your name, come up and get your books." When Mrs. Johnson calls out, "Ralph Hall," I jump up real fast because I want to see what the new books look like.

Once the books are all given out, Mrs. Johnson says, "Now it's time to go to work on the three R's." She also tells us that on every Tuesday, we will go to the library. I love books, so I am eager for Tuesday to roll around. I want to check me out one of those Little House books, or Huckleberry Finn. Mrs. Johnson says, "You may take the books home and keep them until the next Tuesday." Looking back, I can safely say that during my eighth grade year of school, I may have read every book in our library.

School was wonderful that year in 1950. Before long, fall had rolled around and it was basketball time. I went out for the team and made it. Besides me, the other members of our team were Virgil Lee, Oakie Gene, John D., Otis, and Monroe. We were the "Melvin Cougars." Our uniforms were green, trimmed with gold. We were a good team. Being the poorest player on the team didn't matter to me. The only thing that counted to me was

(See **BETSY**, page seven)

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'Night of the Lepus'

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

Just when it was looking like filmmakers had run out of ideas for movies about giant critters making a meal of humans, someone came up with this brainstorm which features monster rabbits dining on the residents of a small town in Arizona.

It all begins with some stock footage of the rabbit plague which tortured Australian farmers in the late 1950s. The footage isn't really frightening, but it does remind us that introducing a new species to any continent is not necessarily a good idea. We have predators which keep rabbits in check, but Australia had no animals that saw rabbits as "what's for dinner."

Tom Doty
Staff Writer

The film also sports some mumbo-jumbo about tinkering with the food chain and disturbing the delicate balance of nature, but even that subplot is quickly forgotten as if the filmmakers realized that making bunnies scary was going to be tough enough without saddling the proceedings with some kind of hokey message.

The story begins at Hillman's Horse Ranch and Cattle Farm. The rancher is forced to put down his favorite stallion when it breaks a leg tripping over a rabbit hole. The incident prompts Hillman to notice that there are more rabbit holes on his farm than in previous years. He calls on a professor friend for advice. Professor Elgin Clark just so happens to know two zoologists who are in the area.

When Clark introduces Hillman to the scientists, Roy and Gerri, they are busy frightening a bat that they have caged. The idea is to record its screams and use them to frighten mosquitoes. Despite seeing this activity, Hillman asks for their help and they promptly botch the job.

They come up with a hormone which will, in theory, keep the rabbits from mating. The injected rabbit, however, is freed by the couple's daughter, which demonstrates how sharp the scientists are because they are actually in the same room when she liberates the bunny and they don't notice a thing.

Before you know it the injected rabbit finds a mate and they produce a litter of giant mutated rodents who can roar like lions and now prefer meat over vegetables.

The zoologists trace the mutant rabbit colony to an abandoned mine

(See **LAGOON**, page seven)

Back when ...

by AUDREY CURRAN
"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE BASEBALL FAN'S SOUL"

It was an American tradition — a real, honest-to-goodness game of sandlot baseball — and it was being revived. Gone were the uniforms and the uniformed children, identical in age and size. Gone were the tension-ridden parents overseeing the nerve-racking games. Gone were the agitated umpires, managers, assistant managers and assistant-assistant managers. Gone were the scheduled "timeouts" while harried officials consulted section B of article 2 of part 1 of the ever-so-official rule book.

It was wonderful! We held an old-time, Saturday-afternoon softball game. We had invited 20 friends and neighbors to come; 25 showed up, hesitantly eager to play. Just minutes after the game began, a carload of strangers slowed to watch, and then asked if they could join the fun. The players were men and women, boys and girls, ranging in age from 8 to 68.

"You're out!"

"No, I'm not!"

"I said you're out!"

"You don't know what you're talking about!"

It was good old-fashioned democracy in action.

"I don't see too well without my glasses," explained the guy who had been my neighbor for 10 years and whose conversation had consisted of tight-lipped greetings. "You take first," he said to my son, "and I'll go way out in the field so I won't mess up an important play." It was teamwork because the individual wanted to do what was best for the team, not because some coach was shoving "teamwork" down his throat. When one oldster got tired, he sent a youngster in to relieve him, while he sat on a haystack and sipped some refreshment. Nobody kept score. Everybody kept score. Nobody cared what inning it was, and the game ended when there was no one left who wasn't too tired to play. Best of all, everybody had a grand time and went away wanting to do it again.

I have silently watched progress replace country roads with freeways, and corner grocery stores with sterile supermarkets. But something in me hesitated to accept progress when organized Little League games started replacing spontaneous neighborhood softball games.

It is not just nostalgia. It is a memory revived and brought to life for a gathering of friends and family. But I feel just a little sad that a scene so interwoven with my childhood and the childhoods of so many Americans had become a novelty in this country. What happened to that empty lot that used to be on everybody's block?

Jim Davidson

The power of the internet

A cluttered mind or a cluttered office can drag you down and that's why I've decided to use today's column to do a little mental housecleaning. I don't know about you, but I function best when things are neat and orderly and I can see very clearly where I am going.

One of the new tools that has come into my life over the past few years is the internet. For the most part the internet is great and it helps me a lot. For example, when I first started this column back in 1995, I sent the columns to our papers on a disk and later began to send them by email. To be sure, I was still behind the times until a terrific young webmaster by the name of Robyn Green designed and produced a website for me.

Now papers all across the country can go to my website, download my columns and put them on the page in a matter of minutes. I remember one paper in Illinois that made the decision on Tuesday to run this column and it was in the paper the following day.

In many ways the internet is a two-edged sword. It can be good or it can be bad, depending on how we use it. There are crooks, shams and predators on the internet, just like there are in society at large. We can't see these people and they may be thousands of miles away, so we have to be very careful what information we give and who we get involved with, because we can lose more than just money, we can lose our lives.

With that said I want to tell you about a recent experience that demonstrated to me just how powerful the internet really is. Within a few days of a column running in the newspaper; I got emails from two different people who wanted me to send them a set of instructions on "How to Build a Landscape Timber Home."Ê One of these individuals was in Baytown, Texas, and the other in Ketchikan, Alaska. Since my column does not run in either of these markets, I wrote and asked how they learned about our Landscape Timber Home.

To my amazement, here is what they told me. They just went to www.google.com and typed in the words "Landscape Timber Home" and up popped the first 20 or so listings from a possible list of almost 10,000 references. When I did the same thing, I found our home listed as number five and when I clicked on the link to my website, I was right in the middle of my own website hosted right here in Conway, Ark.

This is kind of scary. No one asked for permission or told me about it, but there it was for the entire world to see. These two individuals have simply used my email address to contact me. I was glad to comply, but have since added a $5 charge for this service because it's no longer just my readers who are requesting copies.

When I went back to this search engine before starting this column, the listing for our Landscape Timber Home was no longer there, which tells me they change them quite often. By typing in a few keywords, I was able to find the column that ran in a paper in Kansas several months ago.

Yes, the internet is powerful. This morning, as I write the column for future publication, there was an article in our local paper advertising beginning internet classes at the Adult Education Center.

We fought getting on the internet for quite a while, but if you are not taking advantage of this great tool, I would certainly recommend it, because it will open up a whole new world to you.

.Now to another housecleaning chore that's long overdue. Because I came from a generation when most people were honest and told the truth, I have been very gullible. Many people have sent me what I thought were wonderful stories, and I have passed them along without checking to see whether or not they were true. As a result I have made some mistakes and I am sorry if I have hurt or offended anyone, because this was never my intent. To date I have written 442 columns and there have been less than 10 that I am aware of that would fit this category.

The story of "Taps" about the dead son of Army Captain Robert Ellicombe, was a hoax and not true. Same goes for the story about Winston Churchill and Father Fleming who pulled him from a "bog" and saved his life. It was sad for me to report in a later column that someone had doctored the television interview with Ann Graham Lotz after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. The real author of "Dirt Roads" is Lee Pitts and not Paul Harvey as many believe, and the column that I heard from most readers about was "The Deck of Cards." It was written by T. Tex Tyler and came out of the WWII era and not from Afghanistan.

While I still believe in people, I have learned not to be too trusting. If I have doubts in the future, I will go to www.truthorfiction.com or www.snopes.com and see if it's a hoax before including it in a column.

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

Betsy

■ Continued from p6

that I was on the team. We had played ball on a dirt court at Weeksbury but now we had a brand new gym in which to play. Sometimes life is almost too wonderful to even think about.

Some funny things happened in the village that year. One being the story of Jimmy and his billy goat. Jimmy's daddy bought him a billy goat. They made a little sled for the goat to pull Jimmy around in. Well, turns out that old billy goat was a lot meaner than Old Betsy ever thought about being! It would chase one of us kids every time it got a chance! Well, Jimmy kept it tied to the fence in his yard when it wasn't pulling him around, but one day old billy goat got loose. He chased everyone who crossed his path that day! Finally, he found the back door of Mrs. Lathan's back porch open. Well, old billy goat didn't bother knocking, he just walked right on in! There were two barrels on Mrs. Lathan's back porch - one was filled with corn meal and the other filled with flour. The lid was off the flour barrel, so old billy goat just dipped his head right down in! He started in right away eating his fill of that flour! Well, Mrs. Lathan heard some noise on her back porch and she went out to see what was going on. When she did, she found old billy goat eating up all her flour. She quick grabbed a broom that was standing in the corner and whacked old billy goat on his hind end. Well, old billy goat didn't like that and took off down the road for home! Mrs. Lathan followed right behind, whacking his tail with that broom and saying, "Now, old billy goat! See what it feels like to get chased!" The two of them were making so much noise that everyone in the village was out standing by the road laughing their heads off! Now, me, I laughed so hard that it caused me to start crying and I couldn't stop!

Well, Jimmy's old billy goat got so mean that when us kids walked down to Mr. Johnson's store or to the post office, we went down the railroad tracks instead of the road. Still, we always kept one eye on the rail and the other on old billy goat. There is one good thing I can say about that old billy goat, though - he sure made all of us kids in the village into good runners.

Another big event at that time was for me and Mutt to walk across three hills to get over to Matha Tackett's holler. We went over there every weekend for the big wrestling match. There were two Caudill boys over there whose names were Virgil and Wilburn. Me and Virgil were both strong boys from chopping wood and hoeing corn. So we would wrestle in the corn field, breaking down the corn as we did. This went on until Mr. Caudill found out what we were doing and put a stop to it. Virgil ended up dying early when he was a young man with a family. I sure do miss that old boy yet today. He was a good friend.

My days of childhood were drifting away and soon I was a teenager going off to high school. I went to high school in the coal camp of Wheelwright. I had been there a few times before with my mother's sisters, Stella and Vercie, who lived there.

One warm June morning, I woke up, ate breakfast and walked over to the railroad tracks to pick up some of those smooth, round rocks that one could find between the ties. I wanted them to shoot from my slingshot. I thought that I might wade the creek to the Melvin bridge and see if I could kill a rat or a snake with my slingshot.

While I was picking up rocks, I saw Daddy's first cousin, George, in his shiny black truck, moving slowly down through our village. He stopped right in front of me and said, "Hello, Ralph, is your daddy home?"

"Sure is!," I replied.

Then George climbed down from his truck, got a halter and a rope and walked slowly through our yard. Daddy met him by the well box - that well that never went dry and always had the best drinking water in the whole village. I thought to myself, "What are George and Daddy going to do?"

As they came from the barn, Old Betsy was on the end of George's rope. I said, "Daddy, what are you going to do with Old Betsy?"

Daddy said, "George is taking her to the stock yard for me. "

"Why do you want to do such a thing, Daddy?," I cried. "You can't sell Old Betsy!"

I would rather have had Old Betsy than all the cows in Texas.

"It's too late," Daddy said, "I've already sold her."

Well, it took three men to get Old Betsy into the back of that truck. Once she was in the truck, George said, "Well, I'll see you, Harold," to my daddy and then drove off. The truck slowly moved down the highway and I watched all the way as it made a left turn on Kentucky Route 122, as it passed Mr. Johnson's store, the village post office and the Joppa church. Once the truck passed Will Little's house, Old Betsy was out of my view forever.

I felt warm tears as they slowly began to run down each side of my face. I cried, "You wonderful old cow! If I only had you back, I would treat you better!" I made a promise to myself that I would always remember Old Betsy. Both the pain, and the joy, that we shared together. I would always remember chasing Old Betsy over the hillside, cussing her the whole way. Old Betsy was the best cow we ever owned. Without her, there would have been no stories to tell.

Now, the time has come for me to lay down my pen. In so doing, I want to thank all my family and friends who ever were and who still are, a part of my life. I also want to thank all of my readers, as well as Kathy Prater at the Times for publishing my stories. And, of course, I want to thank my wife, Claudette, who encouraged me to write. I hope to have more stories in future editions of the paper and hope you will continue to look for them.

If they would like, my readers may write to me. Send your letters to: Ralph Hall, 42 Hayes Branch Road, Hi Hat, KY 41636

And as for Old Betsy, I suppose my readers, along with myself, will just have to reason out in their own minds why Daddy sold Old Betsy, for I don't know why - he never really told me.

Lagoon

■ Continued from p6

and find that it is hopping with monster hares. They seal the mine with explosives but only kill half the herd. The rabbits come back with a vengeance and manage to gnaw their way through an entire town before a brilliant scheme is hatched to draw the beasts onto a set of electrified railroad tracks.

To do this they enlist the aid of the headlights of every car parked at a drive-in theater, which leads to one of the best lines in the film: "Attention, there is a herd of killer rabbits heading towards this theater."

This one is a bit daffy, folks, but you have to hand it to the director for trying so hard. The film actually manages a few scares during the attack sequences in which a man in a rabbit suit chomps on actors in an extreme close-up, but the terror factor nosedives in just about every other scene as we are treated to shots of bunnies hopping past homes that are obviously six inches high.

One sequence that works finds the rancher's family trapped in the basement while the rabbits rampage through their house. The rancher and a hand shoot up through the floor with shotguns and the rabbits erupt in clouds of gore. This bit looks like it was ghost-directed by Sam Pekinpah and snuck by the censors.

What's most amazing is how many top-name stars are on hand. Apparently the producers used a lot of cabbage to round up a top-notch cast that includes Janet Leigh, Stuart Whitman, DeForrest Kelly and Rory Calhoun.

The director was William F. Claxton — don't bother committing that one to memory — who got his start directing episodes of Bonanza and hoped to use this film to break into features. Didn't happen.

This shows up on TNT and TBS occasionally and is worth a look if you like intentional scares coupled with unintentional laughs.

Best line: "Them philistine rabbits killed my chickens."

1972, rated PG.

Movie Contest

Our movie trivia contests are back and they are going monthly. This month's contest is devoted to "Nature Strikes Back" movies like today's film review.

March means the bugs are coming back, folks, and what better way to celebrate than by checking out a horror film from the 1970s that stretches that concept even more than killer rabbits. "Frogs" is this month's prize and focuses on what would happen if Mother Nature decided that it was time for humans to go bye-bye. This 1972 effort theorizes that she would elect frogs to lead the assault and it's a howler. All of this plus you get one Hollywood star on his way out (Ray Milland) and one up and comer (Sam Elliot, sans his trademark mustache) and a lot of critter mayhem.

To win this DVD you just have to go to our website at www.floydcountytimes.com and answer the following question: What type of giant mutated insect threatened to consume New Mexico in the 1954 classic "Them"?

One winner will be randomly chosen from all correct entries and announced here on April 3.

Click and Clack Talk Cars

Brand loyalty is nice, but not necessary with oil

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

My co-worker and I are having a disagreement about oil changes. Our question: When changing oil, is it advisable to use the same brand of oil all the time? I have always used the same brand, and think this is the way to go. She feels that as long as the oil is changed every 3,000 miles, it doesn't matter which brand is used, as long as you use winter- or summer-weight oil appropriately. Thanks. — Jacki

TOM: I hope you don't have a lot riding on this, Jacki, because your co-worker is about to collect. She's certainly more correct about oil changes than you are.

RAY: Motor oils are incredibly similar. And even the same brands sometimes alter their formulation from time to time to make their oils better ... or cheaper.

TOM: There are only a few things you need to look for to make sure the bottle of oil you're buying is suitable for your car. First, you want to look for the API seal. That's the American Petroleum Institute, an organization that certifies that motor oils meet the cooperative standards set by engineers, manufacturers and graduate students in chemistry.

RAY: Next, you want to use the grade of oil recommended in your owner's manual. There are really no "summer" or "winter" weight oils anymore except in the most extreme climates. Most cars use a multiviscosity oil like 5W-30 all year 'round (which performs like a 5-weight oil in cold weather, and a 30-weight oil in hot weather); but check your manual to be sure.

TOM: Then check the performance level. API changes the ratings as standards improve, and you want to be sure you're getting the latest and greatest additives and technology. Currently, "SL" is the highest-rated oil for gasoline engines.

RAY: And finally, you want to be sure that the bottle doesn't say something like "may contain small pieces of dinosaur bones." That would suggest that it hasn't been in the ground long enough.

TOM: You can change your oil every 3,000 miles if you're really particular, but we recommend changing it every 5,000 miles at most. Today's oil is good enough to easily go more than 5,000 miles. So if you change it more often, you're just wasting your money and creating a disposal problem.

RAY: Right. Other than using it on his hair and in his salad, my brother can't figure out what to do with all of our used oil.

Environmentally friendly vans

Dear Tom and Ray:

I am an environmentalist who somehow went and had three kids — one 6-year-old and a pair of 2-year-old twins. My husband wants us to get a van or — heaven forbid! — a sport utility vehicle, but I am trying very hard to hold out until a hybrid version is available OR the government changes its fuel-economy standards so that these larger vehicles will have to do significantly better than 19 miles per gallon. Meanwhile, our Volvo station wagon is pretty much bursting at the seams. Can you suggest ANY environmentally friendly options for my family and me? My husband says he will welcome your opinion! — Kathryn

TOM: That's a tough one, Kathryn. With three little kids, all their stuff and a bursting Volvo, you certainly qualify for a bigger vehicle.

RAY: Or you have to convince one kid to run away and join the circus.

TOM: I would definitely not get an SUV, because it offers no advantages over a minivan (except, perhaps, styling), and lots of disadvantages. Those disadvantages include fuel economy, ease of entry and exit, ride, handling, safety and the rotten tomatoes being thrown at you by members of the Sierra Club.

RAY: But even minivans, these days, are getting larger and more powerful, thanks to the industry's (and, to be fair, I suppose, its customers') obsession with power over fuel economy. The leading minivans all get in the neighborhood of 18-20 mpg in the city, and 24-27 mpg on the highway. That's certainly better than the big SUVs, but it's not as good as it could be, given the technological advances of the past 20 years.

TOM: And hybrid minivans are certainly coming at some point. But they're not here yet.

RAY: So, given that all the major minivans offer similar gas mileage, we'd steer you toward the ones that handle best, ride best and have the best reputation for reliability. Those would be the Honda Odyssey and the Toyota Sienna. We'd actually give the edge to the Honda, since it feels more maneuverable to us (even though the two vans are almost the exact same size).

TOM: And the Honda now comes with "cylinder deactivation" technology. With that technology, the Odyssey uses all six cylinders when accelerating, but shuts off three of the cylinders when you're just cruising and don't need so much power.

RAY: That feature boosts the Odyssey's fuel economy to 20 mpg city and 28 mpg highway, which puts it at the high end of the minivan spectrum. That should be enough to allow you to keep your tree-hugger card for another few years. Good luck, Kathryn.

Who knew you can mix octanes?

Dear Tom and Ray:

I read a column in the newspaper the other day by that notorious cheapskate Andy Rooney. He has a car that requires gasoline with 91 octane (as do I). He and I have both found that you cannot always find 91 octane at the pumps. When that happens, I use 93 and just pay the piper. But the el-cheapo Rooney just puts in five gallons of 89 and five gallons of 93 and calls the mixture 91! Can this be? Is this the way octane works? Please clear this up for me so that I, too, can save some money at the pump. — Stan

RAY: It sure does work that way.

TOM: In fact, that's how the pump does it. Most gas stations have only two underground gasoline tanks: one for the lowest octane, and one for the highest octane. Then the pump blends those two to produce everything in between.

RAY: And it's exactly linear, like our pal Andy says it is. So, if you mixed one part 89 and three parts 93, you'd end up with 92. Why you'd want 92, we don't know, but now you know how to make it, Stan.

Sunday Comics

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM JERRY CRAFT

The Spats

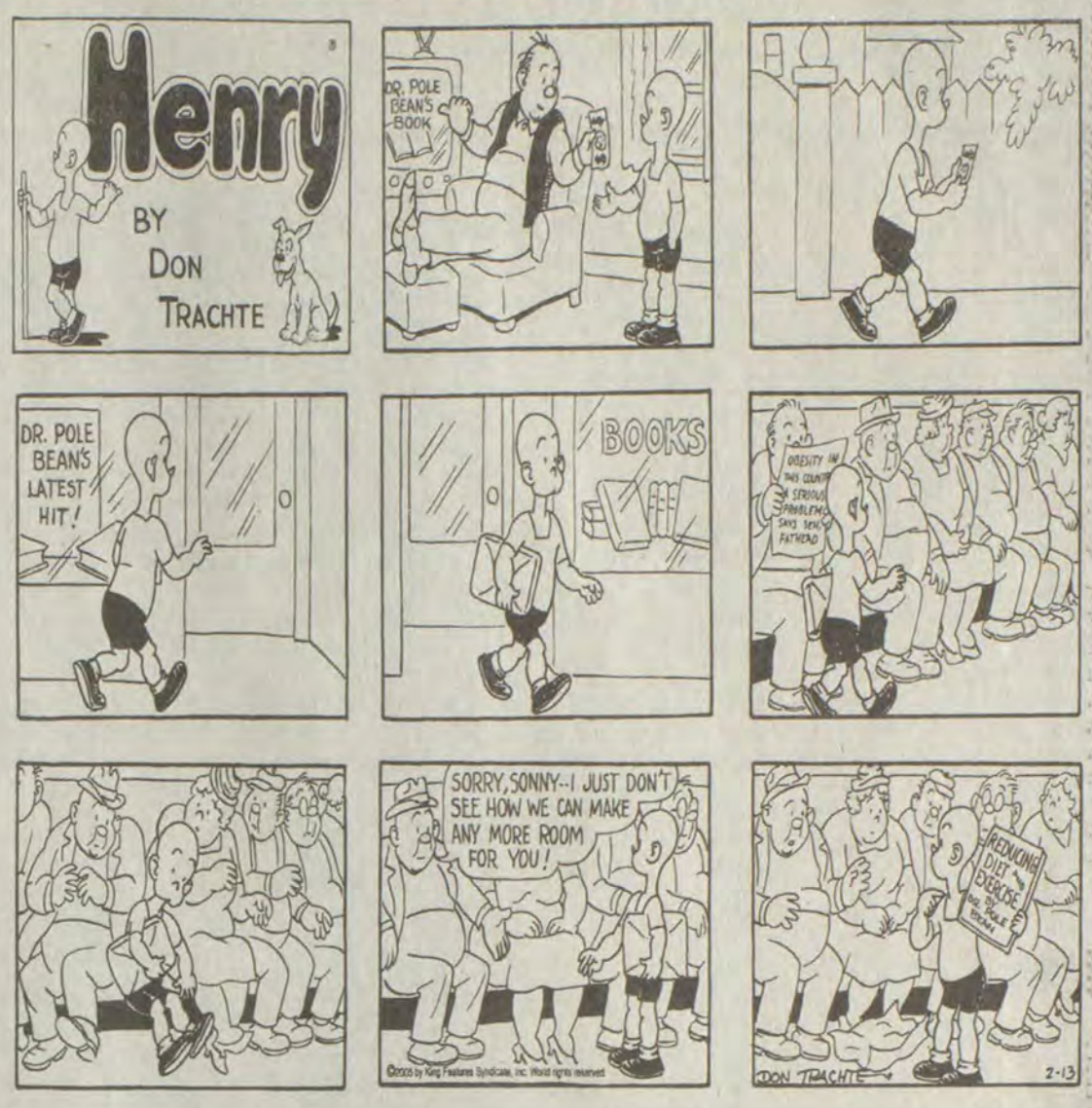
by Jeff Pickering

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

Henry

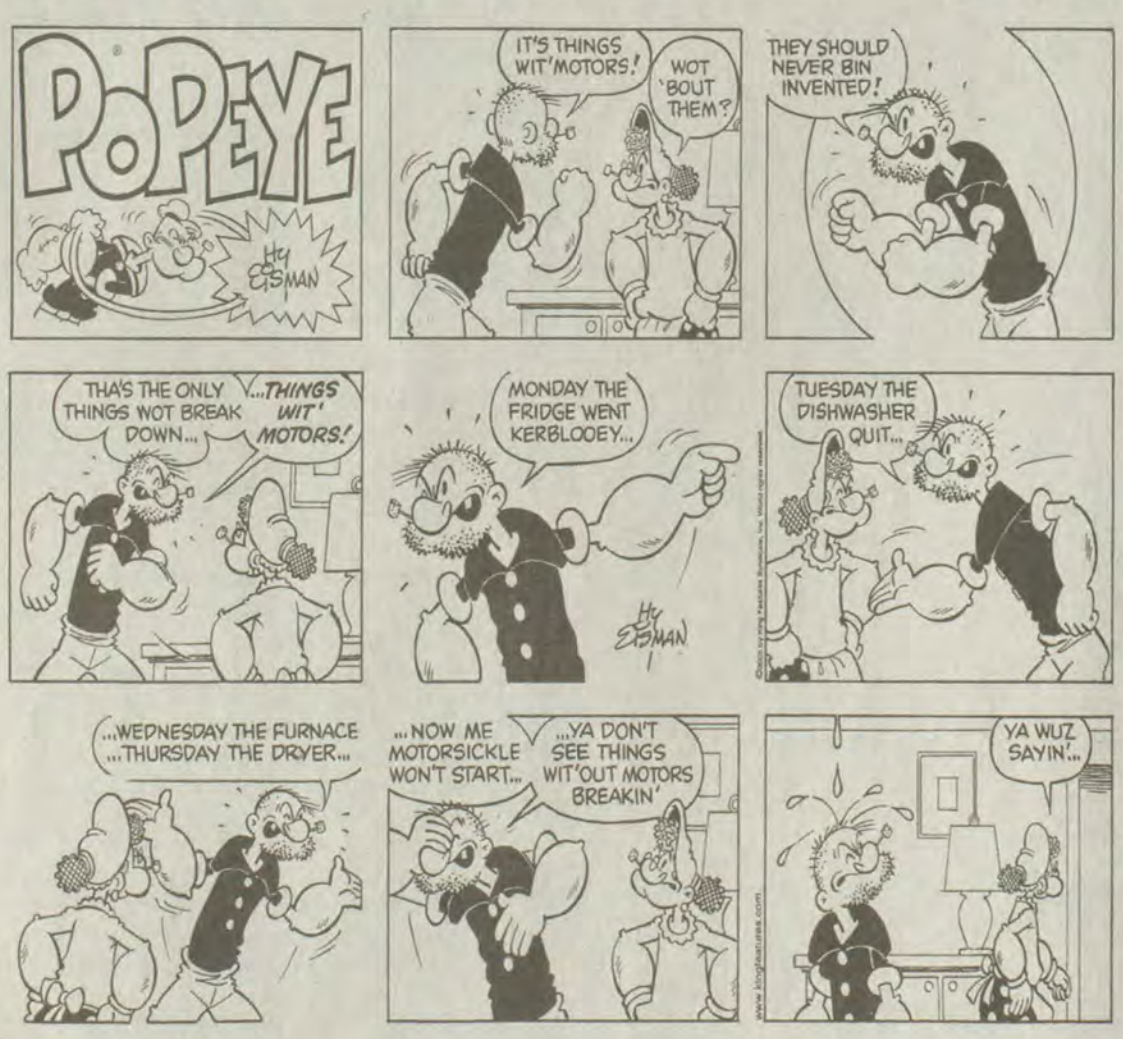
BY DON TRACHTE



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

POPEYE

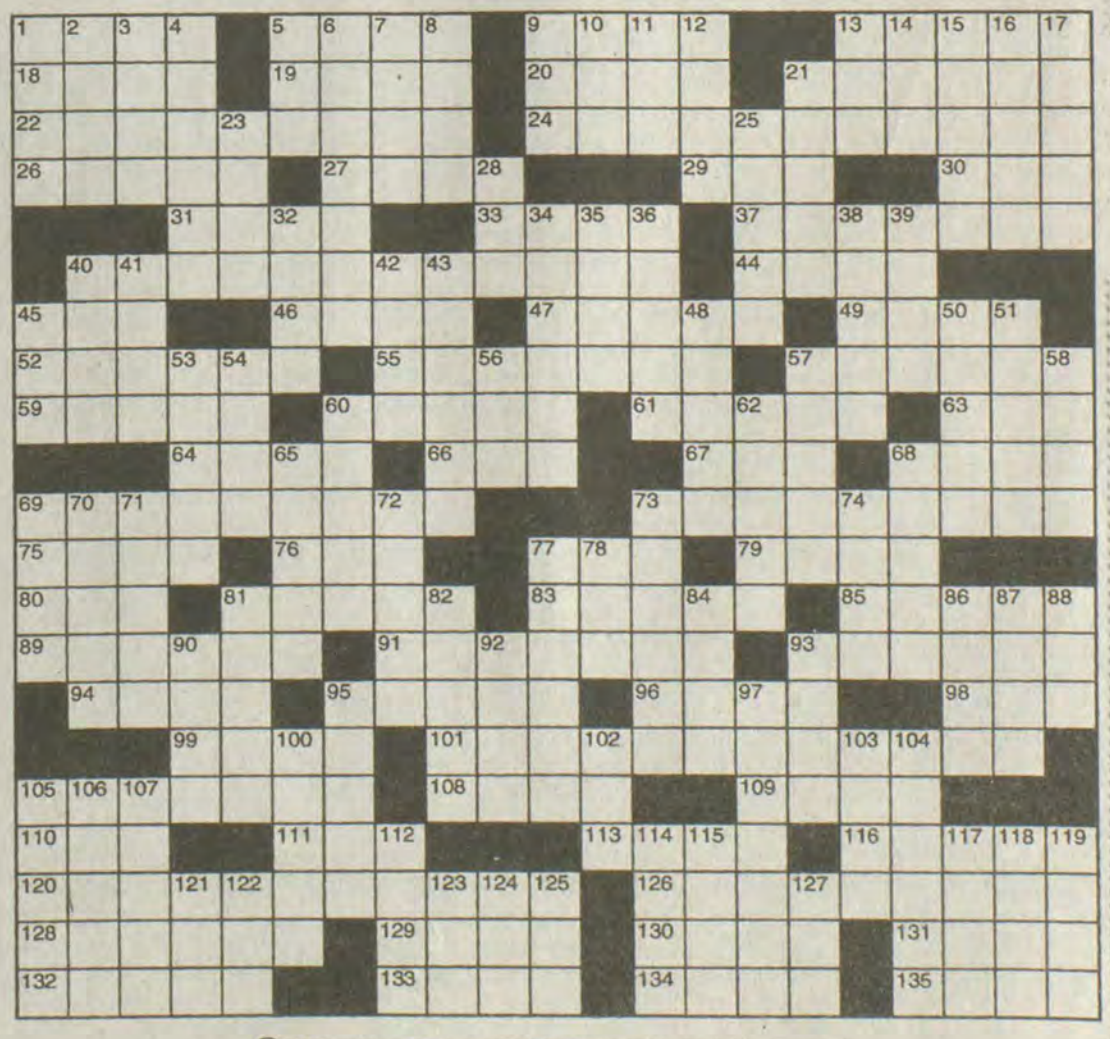


Super Crossword

STRICTLY SPEAKING

ACROSS
1 Summer stinger
5 Sailor's quaff
9 In the sack
13 Master, in Madras
18 "Dies —"
19 Melodious McEntire
20 —— Valley, CA
21 Walked confidently
22 Tenured?
24 Ex-wife, sometimes?
26 Roman official
27 Umps
29 Bus. bigwig
30 Plant part
31 Writer Blyton
33 Tabula —
37 At full tilt
40 Violin bows?
44 Evils
45 Terry-cloth inscription
46 Cookbook author Rombauer
47 Deed
49 Wraps up
52 Incompetent
55 Neighbor of Latvia
57 TV's "The — Game"
59 Melodramatic
60 Progress
61 Chaka Khan's group
63 Pigeon English?
64 To boot
66 Spud bud
67 Bulldog, for one
68 "Blame — Rio" ('84 film)
69 Capone impersonator?
73 Hire a private eye?
75 Landed
76 Palm Sunday animal
77 Humbug lead-in
79 Act like an antelope
80 Oxford figure
81 Vote in
83 "Watership Down" author
85 Defy a dictator
89 Salad veggie
91 Geronimo's birthplace
93 Draw
94 Donated
95 Swedish currency
96 Mardi —
98 It may be white
99 Signor Ferrari
101 Stockbrokers?
105 Petite pet
108 Blood components
109 Kid at court
110 Former govt. agcy.
111 Carpenter —
113 Wine valley
116 Exit
120 FDA-approved snack?
126 "Equus," for instance?
128 Inventor Otis
129 Dingy digs
130 Pat on the buns?
131 Kuwaiti ruler
132 Blackboard
133 Type of chalcedony
134 Holler
135 Odense denizen

DOWN
1 Man's altar ego?
2 Like the Kalahari
3 Agra attire
4 Prepared a pineapple
5 Whippet's warning
6 Keep the shelves stocked
7 Crumhorn cousin
8 Sail support
9 Furniture wood
10 Jacket info
11 Big bird
12 — brakes
13 Canonized Mlle.
14 "— you for real?"
15 Was an optimist
16 Unimprovable
17 Juicy fruit
21 Toast word
23 Await judgment
25 Macabre
28 — Lanka
32 Tennis pro Nastase
34 Moss Hart's autobiography
35 "— Game" ('71 film)
36 Up and about
38 Requests
39 Ain't right?
40 Spanish sherry
41 Author Dinesen
42 "Peter Pan" pirate
43 Tried a mouthful
45 "What?"
48 Crack up
50 Proclamations
51 A nose that shows
53 Coat-of-arms figure
54 Lovett or Waggoner
56 Italian greyhound, e.g.
57 Ignoramus
58 Used up
60 Gaggle gal
62 Wood and gas
65 Sedimentary stuff
68 Force
69 Lose luster
70 "— Comes Mary" ('66 song)
71 Dano or Darnell
72 Messy Madison
73 Nickels and dimes
74 Designer Lagerfeld
77 Church sale
78 Bustle
81 Happening
82 Latin class no-nos
84 Scratches the surface
86 Zodiac animal
87 Buffalo waterfront
88 Actor Horsley
90 Currier's partner
92 Memo start
93 On a whale watch, perhaps
95 Asian nation
97 Clothes
100 African equine
102 Quayle or Blocker
103 Eye appreciatively
104 Acted like a chick
105 Garden supplies
106 In the slightest degree
107 "GoodFellas" group
112 Return address?
114 "Hi, sailor!"
115 Battery part
117 — mater
118 Self-smitten
119 Thornfield governess
121 Cornerstone abbr.
122 "Evita" character
123 "— -Tiki"
124 TV Tarzan
125 King's handle?
127 Costa del —



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MAGIC MAZE

INTERNET RADIO AROUND THE WORLD

N 9 R P M J H E C Z B X U S Q
N I L J R F E T T E U O L A R
G Z E C Z X V T R R P N L G J
H M H E C A Y L W V T R I P N
L C L A S S I C F M C O M K I
G O 4 E L N 0 0 I O I D A R C
B N Z M 8 X T P P D R I U W U
S Z R 8 F P O M A L F I R J I
G E 8 L P F M R S E E N R D W
K D M F 0 0 I B L A Y X O R W
E B M F 4 W U Y T S Q P V O W

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

100fm.dk, 4fm.be, 91zm.co.nz, alouette.fr, berlin888.de, classicfm.com, fm4.ch, radio1.gr, radio100.nl, rdp.pt, rmf.pl, rne.es, rri.ro, vor.ru, yle.fi

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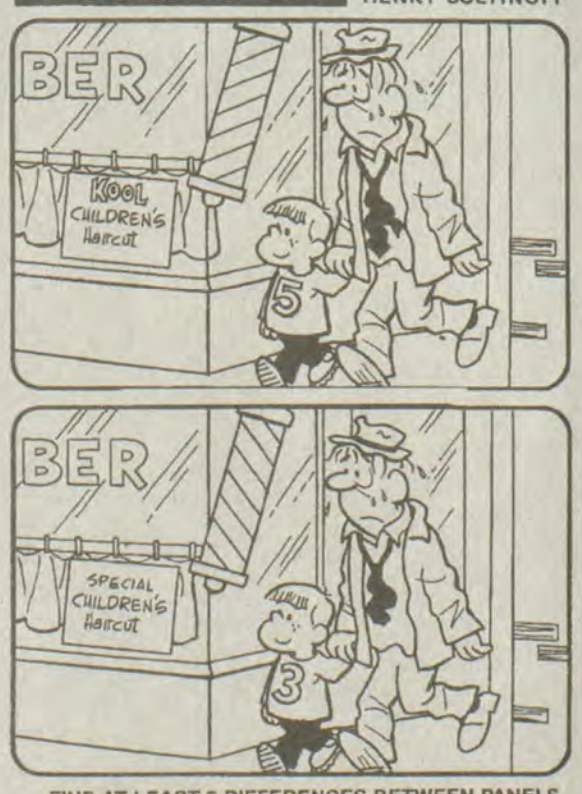
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Drape is shorter. 3. Pole stripes are reversed. 4. Number is different. 5. Hat is moved. 6. Tie is shorter.

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

The Floyd County Times

Classifieds

Classified Rates: for 20 words or less
Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, only $12.00
Sunday, Wednesday, Friday & Shopper $13.00
An additional charge of .25 per word for every word over 20
Classified Manager: Tammy Conn, ext. #19

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- **Friday Paper and Shopper, Wed. 5 p.m.**
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120 - Boats
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140 - 4x4's
150 - Miscellaneous
160 - Motorcycles
170 - Parts
175 - SUV's
180 - Trucks
190 - Vans

200 - EMPLOYMENT
210 - Job Listings
220 - Help Wanted
230 - Information
250 - Miscellaneous
260 - Part Time
270 - Sales
280 - Services
290 - Work Wanted

300 - FINANCIAL
310 - Business Opportunity
330 - For Sale
350 - Miscellaneous
360 - Money To Lend
380 - Services

400 - MERCHANDISE
410 - Animals
420 - Appliances
440 - Electronics
445 - Furniture
450 - Lawn & Garden
460 - Yard Sale
470 - Health & Beauty
475 - Household
480 - Miscellaneous
490 - Recreation
495 - Wanted To Buy

500 - REAL ESTATE
505 - Business
510 - Commercial Property
530 - Homes
550 - Land/Lots
570 - Mobile Homes
580 - Miscellaneous
590 - Sale or Lease

600 - RENTALS
610 - Apartments
620 - Storage/ Office Space
630 - Houses
640 - Land/Lots
650 - Mobile Homes
660 - Miscellaneous
670 - Commercial Property
690 - Wanted To Rent

700 - SERVICES
705 - Construction
710 - Educational
713 - Child Care
715 - Electrician
720 - Health & Beauty
730 - Lawn & Garden
735 - Legal
740 - Masonry
745 - Miscellaneous
750 - Mobile Home Movers
755 - Office
760 - Plumbing
765 - Professionals
770 - Repair/Service
780 - Timber
790 - Travel

800 - NOTICES
805 - Announcements
810 - Auctions
815 - Lost & Found
830 - Miscellaneous
850 - Personals
870 - Services
890 - Legals

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

AUTOMOTIVE

120-Boats

HAVE YOUR BOAT RECONDITIONED DURING THE WINTERTIME. Instal carpet and floor, also refinish paint. **GOBLE'S MARINE 606-886-3313**

130-Cars

1994 Toyota Camry XLE, Leather, AM/FM Cassette, All Power, Excellent Condition. Also **1995 Ford Taurus**, AM/FM, CD, All Power, Excellent Condtion. Call 886-9695 after 5pm.

For Sale 1993 Ford Crown Victoria. 138,000 miles. $,1200. call 606-874-0467

For sale 1991 Toyota Corolla needs work $800 firm call 606-886-8339 after 5 pm.

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140-4x4's

FOR SALE: Honda '93 Fourwheeler. Honda '97 300 Fourwheel drive. Looks good and runs good. Call 886-0875.

160-Motorcycles

2004 Honda CRF 70, Only Used 3 Months, Excellent Condition, $1,000. Call 478-8456

For Sale 1998 YAMAHA YZ80 New tires, pro-circuit pipe. $1600. Call 606-452-9599 for more info.

180-Trucks

Wanted used full size pick-ups 1998 thru 2003, will pay cash call 800-789-5301

1994 Chevy Truck, 4 Wheel Drive Asking $3,250. 1990 Mark 7 Lincoln Asking $1,800 Call 886-0875

EMPLOYMENT

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

210-Job Listing

Build a Career with Pepsi. Quench your career path thirst. The following positions are accpeting applications: Full Time First Shift Merchandiser, First Shift Route Sales-CDLA Required. Pikeville, KY Pepsi isnow accapting applications. Applt now to HYPERLINK-http://www.pbgcareers.com, www.pbgcareers.com. Pepesi Bottling Group is an E/O/E

Expanded Duty Dental Assistant: If you are anexperienced edda and are looking for a change or you are looking for employment, this is an opportunity for you. We have cosmetic oriented practice with the patient's best interest in mind. Top salary with health insurance and bonus incentives. Come join our team. Send resume with cover to Assistant at P.O. Box 60, Minnie, KY 41651 or Fax to 606-377-0179. No Calls Please.

100 WORKERS NEEDED. Assemble Crafts, Wood Items, Materials Provided. To $480 +wk. Free InformationPkg. 24 hr. 801-428-4649

Part-Time, 3-4 Days per Week RN needed for busy Pikeville Oral Surgery Office, IV Experience a plus. Email resume to lpevy@qx.net or fax to 859-278-0903

220-Help Wanted

Wright Lumber Company is taking applications for the positions of outside yard worker and clerk. Must be energetic, neat in appearance and willing to work. Apply in person at the Martin Location. No Phone Calls Please.

Butler Fleet Services has an opening for our Frankfort Fleet Shop. Duties include preventive maintenance and demand repairs for a large public utility. ASE's & CDL preferred. Tools req. Consistent workload, no seasonal slumps. Call Michelle at 800-241-6220 to apply. EOE/M/F/V/D.

KIRK Law Firm has careeropportunities for two secretaries in the Prestonsburg and Pikeville area. Fax resume to 606-297-5870

Mountain Manor of Paintsville is taking applications for LPN position. Excellent wages and benefits. Apply in person at 1025 Euclid Ave., Paintsville, KY, from Monday thru Friday between 8am-4:30pm

Executive Receptionist Opening: Busy corporate office in Prestonsburg seeking qualified candidate for Executive Suite. Right person must have excellent communcation and computer skills, good driving record, multi-tasked, dependable, well groomed, and personable. Duties include answering phone, filing and other general office duties. Full-time position with benefits. MF- 8am-5pm. Send Confidential Resume to: Human Resources Office-E, P.O. Box 1370, Prestonsburg KY 41653. Equal Opportunity Employer

Local Company needs eager sales people, paying hourly plus commission. Send resume to: Attn: David, P.O. Box 337, Stanville, KY 41659

Oil Field Company has openings for hard working responsible drivers. Must be of age 21 or older. Must have CDL with HAZ-MAT and tanker endorcements, good driving record and some mechanical apptitude. Please apply in person at: Universal Well Services, Inc., 5252 Rt. 1428, Allen, KY 41601 606-874-3487, Accepting applications Mon. thru Fri. between the hours of 8am and 4pm.

Medical Secretary Needed to work Mon.-Fri., 9:30-4:30, alternating between Prestonsburg and Martin Office, prefer some Secretarial and Billing Experience. Call 886-1714 or 285-9000

Carpet Vinyl Installers Needed. 606-437-1919 or 606-454-1511

Part-Time Cashier Needed at Classic Cleaners in Prestonsburg. Evening Shift & No Weekends. Call 789-7748

FINANCIAL

380-Services

SPECTRUM REFERRALS & CREDIT COUNEING SERVICES
No Credit, Bad Credit, Good Credit or You Want to Build Crecit. Call Us!!! 1-800-705-2795
Is a cloudy past credit history **preventing** you from seeing a **bright** and better future? Have banks and other major financial institutions **refused** to help you? Are you a young entrepenuer looking to **start** or **expand** your small business, but your budget **won't** let you? Are you looking to invest in commercial or industrial property? **Let Spectrum** help make your unbelievable dream a living reality!!! **Call Us Toll-Free 1-800-705-2795**

MERCHANDISE

440-Electronics

17 inch Flat Screen Computer Monitor $50, Plain Paper Fax Machine $35, Iomega Zip Drive $50. Call 886-6351

445-Furniture

For Sale: New White Frams Day Bed $50, Masculine Queen Size Bed with Drener $400. Call 886-1271 Leave Message.

Solid Wood Office Desk For Sale. Call 789-6320 or 367-1506

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

460-Yard Sale

MOVING SALE: House Furniture, Washer & Dryer, Miscellaneous Yard & Farm Equipment, Grocery Store Furnishings, Will Also Sell House and Grocery Store. Call 368-2566 or 285-1942

480-Miscellaneous

For Sale: 8 ft' refrigerated deli case, $1000, small pizza oven, $400, small juice cooler, $150, washer & dryer, $150 pair. Call 606-886-2367.

For Sale: 8 ft' deli cooler, $950 and Gas convection oven, $450. Call 606-886-2367.

Kay's Wallpaper 205 Depot Road Paintsville, Ky. Hundreds of Patterns of Wallpaper & Borders. All under $10.00. Open Tues - Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat.10 a.m to 3 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon. 606-789-8584.

REAL ESTATE

530-Homes

New 1,950 sq. ft. Home For Sale located in Country Oaks Subdivision in Harold, KY. Call 478-9993

550-Land/Lots

2 Lots For Sale on Stonecrest Golf Course. Approximately 3 1/3 Acres each. Call 886-3313

570-Mobile Homes

Final clearance 2004 lot models and 2005 models now available! If you are serious about purchasing a new home you need to be with experienced staff to get the right home at a great price. The Home Show-South William son, Inc. US 119, Belfry, Ky. 41514 606-353-6444 or toll free 877-353-6444

Home at Invoice, New Double Wide Only $31,599, Includes Delivery, Set-Up, A/C and Skirting. Call 888-246-1075 Fleetwood homes Homes of Louisa.

All Drywall, Dutch with 2x6 walls,and 5/12 roof pitch, ultimate kitchen package, glass block window, and many more extras, Set up for viewing. For details call 606-353-6444 or toll free 577-353-6444 the home show

RENTALS

610-Apartments

Duplex For Rent: 2 BR Central Heat & Air, Total Electric, Excellent Condition. On US 23 North, 1 Mile From Prestonsburg, No Pets. Call 889-9747 or 886-9007

For Rent: 2 BR Duplex, Full Garage, $550 per month + $500 Dep. 1 year lease required, Lancer, KY. 886-8781 6-9pm

Renovated Apartment's, Like New, Furnished in Downtown Martin. Call between 9am-5pm dailey. 285-3025

2 bed room 1 1/2 bath Townhouse also 1 bed room furnished or unfurnished located in Prestonsburg ,NO PETS call 606-886 8991

March Madness! First Month's Rent Free with Security Deposit Paid in Full! Through 3/31/05. Park Place Apartments in Prestonsburg, Elderly, Handicapped & DisabledAvailable for Immediate Occupancy. Rent 1 BR/$309, 2 BR/$345 Call 886-0039

2 BR 1 Bath Duplex For Rent, Located at Allen, KY. Also 2 BR 1 Bath Mobile Home with W/D Hook-Up, Conviently Located off U.S. 23 in Allen, KY. Call 477-2783 Leave Message.

Furnished 1 bed room Apt. Central heat & air. Rent starting at $375. month, + $300. deposit water included. Located near HRMC. 606-889-9717.

Your ad could be here!

Subscribe & Save! Call 886-8506

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
Direct Care Provider
Join a growing organization committed to providing quality services to invididuals with mental retardation/developmental Disabilities.
Must be 21 years of age, have a valid driver's license (DCPs do some transporting of individuals) and must be able to work flexible hours and weekends.
Apply in person, or submit a résumé to:
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4663 US 23 South (at old Unisign Building)
P.O. Box 468 Allen, Ky. 41601

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Now hiring manager and assistant manager for the Prestonsburg location. No experience required, we train. Excellent pay and bonus program.
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One year of experience in Counseling.
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Qualified candidates should submit résumé to:
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Carl D. Perkins Job Corps
478 Meadows Branch
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653
Fax (606) 886-6073
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Big Sandy Health Care, Inc.
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Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in Business or Accounting. Computer experience required. MAS200 experience preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Word, Excel or equivalent.
This is an outstanding, entry-level Accounting position with an excellent benefit package.
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Prestonsburg, KY 41653
FAX: (606) 886-8548
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I am looking for a particular type of person.
One who will take personal interest in my local business. If you're willing to work, follow instructions, and can live on an average of $3,000 per month until your skills improve, I will TRAIN you; train you well. PAY you; pay you well, and provide advancement limited only to your own ability.
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If you are teachable and driven, we will match this career against anything you see in this paper.
Call Mon. thru Wed., 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
(800) 505-8944
Contact Ryan Walker

$200 REWARD

This is Buddy. He's been missing from his home at Jenny Wiley State Park, for several weeks. He's a one-and-a-half years old Beagle (one of the bigger Beagles). He weighs about 40 lbs. Buddy has a health problem. He has hereditary mange, which is not contagious to other dogs, but he should not father any puppies, because of the risk of passing on this illness. The mange was not apparent when he was last seen. However, trauma can bring on an outbreak. He was wearing a red collar with Santa faces on it. We love Buddy and are praying for his safe return. If you've seen Buddy, please call 886-2498. A $200 reward is being offered for his return home.

Employment Opportunity

The Board of Directors of Sandy Valley Transportation Services, Inc. (SVTS), is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director.

Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in business administration, public administration or related field required, supplemented with at least five (5) years of experience in small business administration and management (50+ employees, transit-related experience preferred, but not required), or at the discretion of the Board of Directors an equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.

To be responsible for the general direction of all operations and affairs of SVTS as a whole, and for advising and making recommendations to the Board of Directors with respect to these matters.

Competitive salary based on education and experience plus benefits—health, retirement, dental, vision, life, holidays, vacation, sick leave.

If interested, please fax or email résumé to:
Sandy Valley Transportation Services, Inc.
81 Resource Court
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653-7850
Attn: Greg Hamlin

Phone 1-800-444-RIDE/7433 for additional information.

Résumé must include a statement of why applicant is interested in the position.

SVTS is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer M/F/D/V

620-Office/Storage

FOR RENT: 2 Office Suites, New Construction. 900 sq. ft. each. Ample Parking, Can be Combined for Total of 1,800 sq. ft. Convenient Location, New Office Behind Sav-A-Lot in Prestonsburg. Call 886-1515 for info.

Storage Units For Sale Located on Rt. 1428 1 Mile From the City Limits. Call 886-0893 or 422-4028

For Lease Finished Office Space for lease in prime location near BSCTC, (PCC) and the new Food City -- **2100 -- sq. ft.** Ground floor location with up to five private offices, conference room, kitchen, bath, parking lot call Today 606-424-2690 or 226-2266

FOR RENT: 900 Sq. Ft. Office/Commercial Space located next to Reflections beauty salon, 3 quarter miles south of Martin on Rt. 122 across from the Garth Tech. School. Call 285-9112

630-Houses

HOUSE FOR RENT: 239 Francis Court, Prestonsburg. 2BR 2 Bath 1400 Sq. Ft., Suitable for office, small business or residence. Not suitable location for children or pets. $500 per month + utilities. 886-6362

HOUSE FOR RENT in Prestonsburg, cental heat & air, yard, no pets, references required $550 mo. Call 886-0226.

House For Rent located at Branham's Creek, 3BR 2 Bath, Barn & Garden Space. $350 + Deposit. Call 478-9623

House For Rent: 3 BR with Utility Room, LR, DR, Built in Vacume Cleaner, Heat Pump, Very Nice home Located at Kite on State Rt. 7. Call 438-6104

2 BR House For Rent, $500 per month + $550 Deposit. No Pets Call 478-5403

FOR RENT 3 BR house. Newly remodeled, references required. 886-8366.

640-Land/Lots

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

For Rent : newly constructed Mobile Home Lots in new Allen, reference required call 606-874-2212

650-Mobile Homes

1 Bedroom Trailer For Rent. Call 874-9790

3 BR 2 Bath Mobile Home at Hueysville, City Water, Nice Yard. $350 per month, Reference & Deposit Required. HUD Approved Call 358-3392

Trailer For Rent: On Rt. 7 at Salt Lick, No Pets, $300 per Month, Call 358-4524

Small Furnished Trailer For Rent Just Off Mtn. Pwy. on Old 114 Call 886-8724

For Rent: 2 BR Mobile Home, Central H/A, Minutes from Prestonsburg. $350 per month + $200 Deposit. 889-0036

2 BR Mobile Home on Private Lot, Available March 1. $400 per month + Deposit. Call 874-4330

660-Miscellaneous

DETAIL SHOP, also suitable for light automotive repair; $400 per month plus deposit. Located at 834 S. Lake Dr. in Prestonsburg. Call 886-8883 M-F, 8am-4pm, 889-9396 evenings and weekends, ask for Bud.

SERVICES

710-Educational

Develop the skills needed for the rapidly expanding field of HEALTH CARE Call The National College of Business & Technology 1-800-791-4295

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770-Repair/Services

CARPENTRY WORK all types. New construction or remodeling. Garages, decks, etc. Concrete work & siding. Free estimates. Call 886-8896.

NOTICES

812-Free

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

900-Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Dwayne Hall, 1174 Ky. Route 979, Harold, KY 41635, and Everett Carroll, 11 Carroll Lane, Harold, KY 41635, own property located at Harold, Kentucky, and has filed an application with the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet to construct a fill. The property is located approximately 1.10 mile west of the intersection of KY Route 979 junction with U.S. Route 23, near the communites of Harold and Amba, on Mud Creek, in Floyd County. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Water Resources Branch, 14 Reilly Road, Frankfort Office Park, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502) 564-3410.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Boyd Bowling has filed an application with the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet to construct a residential block garage. The property is located one mile from junction of Hwy. 80 and Route 550, at Eastern, on Right Beaver Creek. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Water Resources Branch, 14 Reilly Road, Frankfort Office Park, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502) 564-3410.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE PURSUANT TO APPLICATION NO. 836-0315

In accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Motts Branch Coal, Inc., P.O. Box 2765, 436 Daniels Creek Road, Pikeville, Kentucky 41502, has applied for a permit for a surface coal mining and reclamation operation affecting 205.7 acres, and will underlie an additional 14.4 acres, located 2.9 miles northeast of Hueysville, in Floyd County.

The proposed operation is approximately 1.5 mile northest from Route 2029's junction with KY Route 7, and located in Salyers Branch and Raccoon Branch of Saltlick Creek, and Grassy Creek of Licking River.

The proposed operation is located on the David and Martin U.S.G.S. 7-1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The operation will use the contour strip, area mining, and highwall/auger methods of mining. The surface area is owned by CONSOL of Kentucky Inc., Carl Reed, Jimmy & Carl Reed, I. Richmond-Heirs, Dosie Bailey, et al., Delphia M. Hale & Carol S. Wireman, and Knott Floyd Land Company, Inc. The operation will underlie surface area owned by Dosie Bailey, et al., and Knott Floyd Land Company, Inc.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

PAD
PEOPLE AGAINST DRUGS
"Come Walk With Us"

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Mountain Manor Nursing Home of Paintsville, Kentucky, a long term care facility, will accept residents and render services without distinction due to race, color, national origin, handicapping condition or age. Patient referrals can be made at the facility at 1025 Euclid Avenue, Paintsville, Kentucky, or by phone, 606-789-5808.

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NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
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APPLY AT 263 S. CENTRAL AVE.
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E.O.E.

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Donate a Box of Girl Scout Cookies
Girl Scouts
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It's that time of year again!

YARD SALE SEASON IS HERE, and for a limited time you can get your yard sale advertisements at a special price. For only $20.00, get a 2x2 display ad for one week, plus a FREE yard sale kit. (Includes magic marker, sign, and pricing labels).

Hurry, before it's too late!

EXAMPLE:
YARD SALE
Everything Must Go.
122 Mayberry Rd.
Rain or Shine.
Today Only!

Call Jessica at the Floyd County Times
606-886-8506

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