

riefs

Bills aims to protect mountain strea

Lowe's to hold local job fair

by ALEX SMITH STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG -The Prestonsburg Office of Employment and Training will be hosting a job fair next Thursday for Lowe's Home Improvement Center of Paintsville in hopes of finding people to fill more than 50 positions available for the spring through fall season.

A representative from Lowe's will be at the **Employment Service** Office in Prestonsburg from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 15, to conduct interviews. Positions avavilable include telephone operators, customer service associates, garden center personnel, load pullers, loaders, cashiers and assemblers.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend on the day of the fair. For more information contact the Employment Office at (606)889-1772



by JESSICA HALE STAFF WRITER

FRANKFORT — Local Floyd County residents are teaming up with state legislators to try to save the areas streams and rivers from the drastic effects of mining wastes.

House Bill 385, or the "stream saver" bill, if passed would prohibit the dumping of mining wastes into any stream in the state.

According to the citizens group Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, not only are the immediate streams close to the mines affected, but areas much further downstream are seeing negative impacts of heavy sediment pollution caused by the release of overburden soil and wastes being pushed into nearby streams by strip mining companies.

For communities downstream, heavy sediment pollution means increased costs for treating municipal water supplies and the loss of recreational and economic return from the rivers and lakes fed by Eastern Kentucky headwaters. Most of HB 385's cosponsors represent districts

downstream from the coalfields.

Representative Don Pasley (D-Winchester), HB 385's chief sponsor, says the issue will directly impact the lives of future generations.

"To me this issue is about our children's future," Pasley said. "It's obvious to me this (pollution) is coming

(See STREAMS, page three)

CAUGHT H --MI D

photo by Alex Smith

Louisville native Ezrael Allen was in the wrong place at the wrong time Friday afternoon when he was arrested as part of a drug bust that originally targeted four people in Floyd County. Allen was stopped and charged with driving under the influence and possession of marijuana and contraband after he pulled into the driveway while the drug bust was taking place. His passenger was one of the raid's targets and was also arrested.

Top lawmakers say spending will be selective this session

Man gets six years for selling cocaine

by ALEX SMITH STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Beaver man will spend six years in prison after he pleaded guilty on Thursday to four counts of trafficking cocaine.

Thirty-four-year-old John Robinson Jr. also pleaded guilty to two additional counts of trafficking controlled substances. which included several prescription pills as well as ecstasy, which netted him two 12-month sentences. All six guilty pleas Robinson agreed to will run concurrent with one another, and will also run concurrent with a sentence he is currently serving in federal prison.

A sentencing hearing has been set for March 16.

Robinson was indicted in November 2005 after agents working for Operation

UNITE raided his home July 29 and found a variety of drugs scattered throughout the dwelling. Xanax, ecstasy, plastic bags of cocaine and scales, cutting devices and other paraphernalia where found on tables, shelves and even in a backpack.

Robinson was not home during the raid but was arrested a few days later. When he was arrested over \$1,000 was found in his pants, \$60 of which had serial numbers matching money used by UNITE to purchase drugs from Robinson.

Robinson sold cocaine the first time to a UNITE detective on July 26-at his home. Two days later an informant was used to perform a second buy, both of which had been recorded for later prosecution on audiotape.



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Regional Obituaries .	A2
Opinion	A4
Lifestyles	A5
Sports	
Classifieds	A11
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by BRUCE SCHREINER ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT - House and Senate leaders said Friday that lawmakers will likely be selective in spending a \$401 million budget surplus that spurred Gov. Ernie Fletcher to propose a broad range of initiatives.

House budget chairman Harry Moberly said the governor outlined some good priorities, but said action will likely be limited to matters needing

urgent attention before 2008, when lawmakers put together the next two-year state budget.

'We will not open up the budget to the extent that the governor has proposed," Moberly, D-Richmond, said in an interview.

Leaders from both chambers met Friday to discuss their priorities for the current 30-day General Assembly session, including to what extent lawmakers might tinker with the current \$18.1 billion budget passed by lawmakers last year.

"What should or should not be open, or what rises to the level of compelling, is what we're talking about," Senate President David Williams said of the budget talks.

Williams, R-Burkesville, said there appeared to be a sentiment not to reopen the budget "anymore than absolutely necessary.

In his State of the Commonwealth speech this week, Fletcher proposed using

(See **BUDGET**, page three)

Trucker pleads guilty to selling methadone

Thursday.

by ALEX SMITH STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG - A former truck driver who sold methadone while he was driving a coal truck pleaded guilty to two

Wornald David Slone, 35, of Auxier, entered a guilty plea to two counts of

counts of drug trafficking

(See TRUCKER, page three)

trafficking in a controlled

Bill would require schools to provide physical activity

by BRUCE SCHREINER ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT - Baretta Casey, who treats plenty of overweight children at her eastern Kentucky medical practice, offered a prescription Thursday to make youngsters leaner and healthier - more exercise

Casey, president of the Kentucky Medical Association, was among health advocates who endorsed legislation that would require public elementary and middle schools to include 30 minutes of physical activity daily, or 150 minutes each week

A bipartisan group of lawmakers

took up the cause of making physical fitness part of the school routine. They said it could prolong lives and cut health care costs.

"It's preventive medicine at its finest," Rep. Robin Webb, D-Grayson, said at a Capitol news conference.

The proposal is a follow up to legislation passed two years ago that put restrictions on the types of food and drinks sold at Kentucky schools to promote healthy eating and curb childhood obesity. It also required elementary schools to have a wellness plan that includes daily physical activity but gave no time

(See **ACTIVITY**, page three)



The frigid temperatures in the area this week left little room for swimming, but didn't deter these geese at Dewey Lake boat dock from taking a dip in one of the few areas of water that wasn't frozen over.



A2 . SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2007

Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

James E. Allen, 88, died Thursday, February 1. He was 88. He is survived by his wife, Violet Coburn Allen. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, February 4, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Ranny Gene Blankenship, 57, of Beaver, died Saturday, February 3, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Healthcare emergency room. He is survived by his wife, Judy Pennington Blankenship. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 7, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Juanita Hatfield Boatwright, 81, of Prestonsburg, died Monday, February 5, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 8, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Jack Booth Jr., 81, of Stone, died Sunday, Feb. 4, at his home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 7, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

Elma Y. Bryant, 76, of Douglas Parkway, died Friday, February 2, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Monday, February 5, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Beruice Marie "Vernie" Hall Hampton, 70, of Jonancy, died Friday, February 2, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Clarence Clemit Hampton. Funeral services were held Monday, February 5, under direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

Annie Handshoe, 83 of is survived by his wife, Lillian Hueysville, died Friday, February 2, at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 6, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Emogene Hicks, 79, of Nelsonville, Ohio, died Saturday, February 3, at the James Cancer Center. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 6, under the direction of Moreland Funeral Home.

Joey Edwin Howell, 30, died Saturday, February 3, at his residence in McDowell. He is survived by his wife, Misty Dawn Howell. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, February 5, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Erma Johnson, 80, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, February 1, at her residence. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 4, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Glen H. Martin, 60, of Wayland, died Sunday, February 4, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Cook Martin. Funeral services were conducted. Thursday, February 8, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home

Margie Lee Ward Morrison, 83, of Auxier, died Thursday, February 1, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 3, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Willard L. Ousley, 86, of East Point, a native of Spurlock, died Friday, February 2, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. He

Griffith Conley Ousley. Funeral services were held Monday, February 5, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Christa "Chris" Spears, 56, of Martin, a Knott County native, died Friday, February 2, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin. He is survived by his wife, Helena Shepherd Spears. Funeral services were held Monday, February 5, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Bill Wells, 75, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, February 7, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Pauline Sparks Wells. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 10, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

PIKE COUNTY

Mable Baldridge, 82, of Virgie, formerly of Allegheny, died Sunday, February 4, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 7, under direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Jack Booth Jr., 81, of Stone, died Sunday, Feb. 4, at his home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 7, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

Arnold Lee Hamilton, 79, of Hager Hill, formerly of Sookeys Creek, died Sunday, February 4, in Jackson, Mich. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 8, under the direction of Hall and Jones Funeral Home.

Frances Helton, 82, of McRoberts, died Friday,

Obituaries

Eula Hughes Hurd

Eula Hughes Hurd, age 71, of Martin, died Thursday, February, 8, 2007, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg.

Born June 6, 1935, in Prestonsburg, she was the daughter of the late Estill and Bessie Marsillett Hughes. She and a member of the Martin First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Violet Wright Hurst.

Other survivors include three sons: Charles Glen Hurst and Gary Rex Hurst, both of McDowell, and David Lynn Hurst of Knott County; three daughters: Mary Alice Howell and Sharon Hurst, both of McDowell, and Sherry Hurst of Chapel Hill, Tennessee; a brother, Bobby Hurst of Goshen, Indiana; 18 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

judge/executive and a former magistrate of District No. 1. He was a member of the Spurlock Bible Church, and a member of Zebulon Masonic Lodge No. 273, and was a 32nd degree Mason.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lottie Francis (Billie Jo) Fitzpatrick Wells, who died October 12, 1988.

February 2. Funeral services Funeral Home. were held Monday, February 5, under the direction of Carty Funeral Home of Neon.

Dathel Inaz Hinkle, 79, of Stone, died Wednesday, February 7, at Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 11, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

Pearl Hunt, 83, of Blackburn Bottom, Pikeville, died Friday, February 2, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 6, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Everett E. Justice, 71, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, February 6, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Donna Sue Mullins Justice. Funeral services were held Friday, February 9, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Ancel Little, 75, of Virgie, died Friday, February 2, at Parkview Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Robinson Creek. He is survived by his wife, Linda Thompson Little. Funeral services were held Monday, February 5, under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home.

Mary Lowe, 104, of Big Branch, Brushy, a Floyd County native, died Sunday, February 4, at Pikeville Health Care Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 7, under the direction of Community Funeral Home of Zebulon.

Cecil Prater, 71, of Edgarton, W.Va., died Saturday, February 3, at the Charleston Area Medical Center, Charleston, W.Va. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 6, under the direction of R.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home.

Ricky Dale Queen, 35, of Stone, died Saturday, February 3, at his home. A memorial service was held Tuesday, February 6, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

Robert Rayburn, 67, of Cincinnati, Ohio, formerly of Majestic, died Wednesday, January 31, in Cincinnati. Funeral services were held Monday, February 5, under

Mary Pearl Callaham McCoy, 93, of Inez, died Monday, February 5, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, February 10, under the direction of Richmond-Callaham Funeral Home.

James Everett Preece, 67, of Lovely, died Thursday, February 1, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Ollie M. Preece. Funeral services were held Sunday. February 4, under the direction Richmond-Callaham of Funeral Home.

Armentie Jude Maynard Ward, 92, of Beauty, died Monday, February 9, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, Elmer Ward. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, February 8, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Howard Charles Borden Sr., 84, of Paintsville, died Sunday, February 4, at Mountain Manor Nursing Home, in Paintsville. Funeral services were held in Michigan.

Oscar Jason Gray, 79, of Wittensville, died Thursday, February 1, at J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center, in Louisa. Arrangements, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Catheryn Rebecca Lemaster, 69, of Flat Gap, died Sunday, February 4, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, in Paintsville. She is survived by her husband, Willis Lemaster. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 6, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

 Anna Marie Lemaster, 90, of Cardington, Ohio, a Johnson County native, died Wednesday, January 31. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 3, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Dollie G. Salyer, 85, of Westwood, a Johnson County native, died Saturday, February 3, at the King's Daughters Medical Center, Ashland. Funeral services

were held Monday, February

5, under the direction of

Preston Family Funeral Home

of Ashland.

David K. Thomas, 47, of formerly Albany, of Paintsville, died Sunday, February 4, at Clinton County Hospital. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 6, under the direction of the Campbell Funeral Home of Albany.

LEGAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association will hold its Annual Meeting of membership at its Tobacco Farmer Appreciation Day at 2:00 p.m., Friday, February 16, 2007 in Room 101 of the South Wing at the KY Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, KY during the National Farm Machinery Show.



was a homemaker. She was preceded in death

by her husband, Glen E. Hurd. Survivors include three sons: Ross Keith Hurd, Mark

Hurd, and Paul Hurd, all of Martin; a daughter, Gwyen Meade of Martin; four brothers: Oliver B. Hughes of Prestonsburg, Toby L. Hughes Huntington, Indiana, of William H. Hughes of Rochester, Indiana, and Glen E. Hughes of Mentone, Indiana; three sisters: Betty J. Collins of Winona Lake, Indiana, Brinda K. Bocook of Claypool, Indiana, and Linda L. Evans of Silver Lake, Indiana; seven grandchildren: Mary Marsillett, Mark Hurd, Estill Hurd, Marshavie Meade, Phillip Meade, Robert Meade, and Melinda Hurd; and two great-grandsons, Logan Meade and Nicholas Meade.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Charlotte Hurd; a brother, Elmer Hughes; and two sisters: Doris Conley and Jewel Hughes.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, February 11, at noon, at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home in Martin, with Phillip Meade officiating.

Burial will be in the England Cemetery in Prestonsburg, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation is at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

000 **Charles** Edward Hurst

Charles Edward Hurst, 67, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at the V.A. Medical Center, in Lexington.

Born December 6, 1939, in Minnie, he was the son of the late Kenneth and Edna Mosley Hurst. He was a disabled coal miner; a U.S. Army veteran;

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Gary Rex Hurst; and a sister, Betty Carol Hurst.

Funeral services were held Saturday, February 10, at 1 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home in Martin, with Bill Campbell, Joshua Meade, and Andy Wright officiating. Military services were conducted by DAV Chapter 128 in Garrett.

Burial was in the Drift Cemetery, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home

Visitation was at the funeral home, with nightly services at 7 p.m. (Paid obituary)

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Bill Wells

Bill Wells, 75, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Born, April 23, 1931, in Glo, he

was the son of the late Everett Wells and Bessie Whittaker Wells. He was a retired president and general manager of RECC, a former Floyd County

He is survived by his second wife, Pauline Sparks Wells of Prestonsburg.

Other survivors include two sons: Kenneth Ray Wells (Jan) of Prestonsburg, and Michael Keith Wells (Heather) of Prestonsburg; two stepsons: William McGuire of Emma, and Worth McGuire of Richmond; two sisters: Betty Palmer and Peggy Conley, both of Lexington; four grandchildren: Zack Wells, Todd Wells, Kalan Wells and Cameron Wells; five greatgrandchildren: Madison, Dakota, Zachary, Hunter, and Olivia; three stepgrandchildren, and one stepgreat-grandson.

Funeral services were held Saturday, February 10, at 1 p.m., at the Carter Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Jim Stephens and Rev. Steve Pescosolido officiating.

Interment was in Richmond Memorial Cemetery, Prestonsburg.

Visitation was Friday, 5 p.m., until 9 p.m. Masonic services were conducted Friday, at 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to: Spurlock Bible Church, 6227 Spurlock Creek Road, Prestonsburg.

Active pallbearers: Zack Wells, Todd Wells, Wesley McGuire, Worth McGuire II, William McGuire, Dan Hitchcock and Cameron Wells.

Honorary pallbearers: Frank Fitzpatrick, Richard Fitzpatrick, Worth McGuire, Albert Burchett, Dr. Charles Arnett, Dr. Larry Leslie, Dr. Chuck Tackett, Dr. Jack Kendrick, and Henry (Mutt) Harris Jr.

The family has entrusted arrangements to Carter Funeral Home. (Paid obituary) direction of R.S. Jones and Son Funeral Home.

Teresa Ann Sesco Stewart, 50, of Elkhorn City, died Wednesday, January 31, at her home. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 4, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Blanche Tackett, 73, of Williams Hollow, Pikeville, died Tuesday, February 6, at Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Franklin E. Tackett, Funeral services were held Saturday, February 10, under the direction of Pikeville Funeral Home.

Jimmy Chase Thompson, 68, of a Pikeville Harrodsburg, native, died Saturday, February 3, at the V.A. Medical Center, Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Carole Roland Thompson. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 6, under the direction of Ransdell Funeral Chapel.

MARTIN COUNTY

Arthur Dingess, 66, of Goodman, W.Va., a Martin County native, died Sunday, February 4, at Trinity Healthcare of Mingo County, W.Va. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 7, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

John L. Howard, 91, of Hode, died Friday, February 2. He is survived by his wife, Otta Mae Dingess Howard. Funeral services were held Monday, February 5, under the direction of Phelps and Son





www.americanheart.org

Card of Thanks

During the recent and unexpected loss of Barbara Akers, the outpouring of love and the many acts of kindness, shown to her loved ones, proved as a testimony of the very person she was. We would like to thank everyone who stopped by to honor our family with stories of the many ways she touched their lives.

A special thanks for all the beautiful flowers. Thank-you to all our kind friends for the wonderful and much needed food. A heartfelt thank-you to Eukia Johnson, and others, for their beautiful songs. Thank-you to Maverick and Teddi, Barbara's dear friends, for sharing memories of her. No words could express the love and gratitude we share for John Caudill. Thank-you to Hall Funeral Home, Floyd Sheriff's Department. I have always known that my sister, Barbara Akers, was a wonderful caring, upfront person. After what I have seen this past week, I know that she was loved and respected. I feel truly blessed to have been part of her life.

By Nancy Stephens Meade

THE STEPHENS AND AKERS FAMILIES



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2007 • A3

Coal mines must provide four days of air

by TIM HUBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -Underground coal mines must provide up to four days of breathable air to keep miners alive in emergencies such as an explosion or a tunnel collapse, federal regulators announced Thursday.

A law enacted last year after a string of deadly accidents, including the deaths of 12 miners at the Sago Mine in January 2006, required mine operators to provide enough air to keep miners alive in an emergency but did not specify how much.

On Thursday, the federal Safety and Health Mine Administration gave mine

\$50 million to protect retire-

ment systems for teachers and

state employees from financial

problems that could put their

health care and pensions at

who is seeking re-election this

ment financial aid for needy

retraining of workers at two

antiviral drugs to guard against

cost of voluntary vaccines

against a sexually transmitted

Ford plants in Louisville.

The proposals by Fletcher,

■ \$25 million to supple-

\$10 million to pay for

\$5.8 million to purchase

■ \$4.1 million to cover the

risk in coming years.

year, also included:

college students.

bird flu.

Budget

operators several options to comply with the requirement.

Among the options were providing a 96-hour supply of air in a shelter or an area of the mine designated for barricading against contaminants or drilling boreholes to provide a constant flow of fresh air to a designated area or shelter.

Mine operators have 30 days to submit plans to the agency, which has been criticized by the United Mine Workers labor union and members of Congress for not implementing the law quickly enough after it took effect in June.

If miners cannot evacuate in an emergency, "they need a safe location that maintains an adequate supply of breathable air for them to use while they await rescue," said Richard Stickler, MSHA's director.

A National Mining Association spokesman had not heard of the new requirement and declined to comment

Bill Raney, president of the Virginia Coal West Association, said he was concerned the rule would disrupt similar efforts by the state.

The state Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training is in the process of approving underground shelters that can provide 48 hours of air. Mine operators have until mid-April to submit plans for installing the shelters.

"We're on a very thoughtful, practical path here in West Virginia," Raney said. "Now all of a sudden we seem to get a press release that dictates different times, different dates, different things."

In the Sago accident, one miner was killed in an explosion and 12 others were unable to escape. Eleven died of car-

Trucker

substance and received fiveyear sentences for each count. Slone will serve two years while the remaining three years will be suspended and probated for three years.

Slone received a call Feb. 13, 2006, from an informant working with a detective for Operation UNITE to arrange a drug deal. Slone told the infor-

Activity

requirement.

Now, the so-called "Healthy Kids Act 2007" would require elementary and middle schools to include a half hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day by the 2008-09 school year.

Schools would have the flexibility to tailor their physical activity programs.

director of governmental relations, agreed that good health habits should be promoted to students. But she said in an interview that the proposal would eat into classroom time and weaken local school officials' authority to make deci-

This is a mandate that not only diverts a phenomenal amount of time from instruction, but also erodes local decision-making authority," she said.

Southgate, said it's time for

bon monoxide poisoning and only one, Randal McCloy Jr., was rescued after more than 40 hours trapped underground. A company trying to get a

mine shelter approved in West Virginia said it supported the 96-hour rule from the beginning.

mant that he was driving a

black coal truck and that he

would meet them near the park-

ing lot of Highlands Regional

Prestonsburg. The informant

and detective were both present

and purchased methadone from

Slone and recorded the transac-

tion on audiotape, which took

stronger action to promote

healthy lifestyles among

enough to know that the time

has come to make a firm com-

mitment, to save our children

from this epidemic and to

improve the quality of life for

Supporters cited statistics

"Kentucky's children are in

appalling condition," said

Boone County Republican

Rep. Addia Wuchner.

"We have studied this issue

Kentucky's children.

place inside the coal truck.

Center

in

Medical

Ed Roscioli, chief executive of Allentown, Pa.-based ChemBio Shelter Inc., said he wants to give rescuers plenty of time so they don't risk their own lives out of fear that trapped miners have only a few hours of air.

Continued from p1

A second drug deal was scheduled for the next day at Slone's residence in Auxier. Both the informant and detective were present during the second drug deal, which occurred inside of Slone's car and was recorded on audio and videotape.

Slone will be formally sentenced March 16.

Continued from p1

spend \$1.1 billion a year on medical expenses resulting from being overweight.

Casey said a pilot research project in Perry County in eastern Kentucky showed that 64 percent of children in the first through fifth grades were obese. She said obesity is linked to a host of medical problems, including diabetes and heart disease.

"Those are preventable diseases for our children," she said.

She said physical activity can lead to better performance in the classroom.

"An unhealthy mind cannot learn," she said.

Famous Hot Salsa?

PSA

Stine noted that Kentuckians

U.S. General Services Administration



from Eastern Kentucky, where they are taking off the tops of mountains and pushing the overburden into the streams below.'

Hueysville resident Rick Handshoe says he is very concerned about all of the areas that are being affected and, like some others, he places all of the blame on the coal companies themselves.

"The coal companies above me have killed everything in the streams," said Handshoe. "It's time our elected officials fix the problem.

virus known to cause cervical cancer.

recommended Fletcher putting \$151 million into a trust fund used in emergencies.

"We didn't open up the budget and start doing a lot of new projects, only what we felt was essential and has short-term needs," Fletcher told reporters Friday.

Moberly said his priorities include reinforcing the retirement systems for teachers and state employees and hiring more social workers and making their jobs safer. Moberly said he also supports putting money toward the anti-cervical cancer vaccinations.

ignore this law and allow coal

companies to dump their min-

ing wastes into massive valley

fills that are sometimes hun-

dreds of feet high and up to a

mile long. In 2005, there were

79 new stream buffer zone

waivers granted by the

Department of Mining

Reclamation and Enforcement

that allowed mining waste to

bury 146 named streams.

Across the state, valley fills

have buried more than 420

Handshoe is confident the

miles of mountain streams.

House Speaker Jody Richards, a Bowling Green Democrat who is running for

Continued from p1

governor, said that taking care of the pension systems and the rainy day fund were priorities.

One Fletcher proposal with widespread support is restoring more than \$351.6 million in construction projects that he vetoed last year, primarily at the state's public colleges and universities. Moberly estimated the projects would cost the state's general fund about \$11 million, and the rest would be paid for with agency bonds.

"Everybody is looking at restoring the projects," Richards said. "Not adding anything, not subtracting anything.'

protect our streams and

by the Kentucky Division of

Water at a meeting of the

Commission in Pikeville, 87.5

percent of the streams in the

Big Sandy basin are "impaired"

by human activity. This encom-

passes mining, logging and oil

or gas drilling. These types of

human activity reported to be

impairing the streams account for three times more pollution

According to data presented

wildlife for everyone.'

Environmental

than any other source

Quality

People know Pueblo for its... 2 sions about curriculum. Snazzy Web Site? (www.pueblo.gsa.gov) In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Dip into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. Or call toll-free 1-888-8 PUEBLO to order the Catalog. Sorry, saisa not available through our web site or Catalog.

Katie Stine, R-Sen.



the next generation of Kentuckians," she said. The proposal, introduced this week in both the House indicating large numbers of and Senate, drew criticism Kentucky children are overfrom the Kentucky School weight, saying it was part of a larger national health problem.

Boards Association. Alicia Sells; the group's Continued from p1 Saver Bill gets passed. It will

Federal and state law requires that the impacts of surface mining operations be kept at least 100 feet from a stream, an area known as a "stream buffer zone." But according to Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, state and federal officials routinely

ate legislature will correct the problem.

"It's clear the legislators who are sponsoring the Stream Saver Bill care about our future," said Handshoe. "Water runs downhill and what happens here is affecting everything downstream to the Ohio River. I hope the Stream line, (800) 372-7181.

Reps. Brandon Spencer and Hubert Collins, who both sit on the Natural Resources Committee, will have the first vote on the HB 385. Floyd Countians can express opinions concerning the bill using a toll free legislative message



Your health is our focus.

Welcome Bradley Thomas Moore, DO **McDowell ARH Professional Clinic**

ARH welcomes Bradley Thomas Moore, DO, who has begun his practice at the McDowell ARH Professional Clinic.

Bradley is the son of John and Wilma Moore of McDowell. He and his wife, Crystal (Jones), have three children, Trey, age 7, Dylan, age 2, and Ashley, age 1.

He was a member of the first graduating class of South Floyd High School, is a graduate of Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes and the Pikeville Osteopathic School.

Dr. Moore is a Family Practice physician who has been practicing at the Hope Medical Center in Salyersville, and is looking forward to retuning to his hometown in McDowell.

Accepting Patients ARH McDowell Professional Clinic Route 122

To schedule an appointment, call (606) 377-3427.



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 **Governor** counting chickens too soon

There are practical reasons some expressions we use frequently in our daily lives become clichés: Though trite, they work. Sometimes there's no better way to say what you mean.

Take for instance the admonition, don't count your chickens before they hatch.

Since November, Gov. Ernie Fletcher has been touting a projected \$279 million surplus the state will collect by the end of the fiscal year June 30, as a result of his tax modernization plan. He even has been asking taxpayers how they would like to spend the leftover money projected by his budget director, Brad Cowgill.

Encouraged by December's general fund receipts of \$900.3 million, the largest in the commonwealth's history, the governor has been promising people around the state he would consider spending the surplus on their suggestions and pet projects. He said he would restore some of the \$350 million in projects approved by the General Assembly but vetoed by the governor too late for the lawmakers to override.

Budget Director Cowgill, at Fletcher's direction, asked the Consensus Forecast Group, an independent group that formulates the official revenue estimates for the state budget, to update its last forecast, December 2005. The group said state revenues would exceed the year-old estimates by \$401 million by June 30, 2008, the end of the state's twoyear budget cycle.

Eight paragraphs later, a press release pointed out that revenues for the current fiscal year ending in about six months would be \$232 million. That's about \$47 million less than the governor's budget director estimated in his Quarterly Economic and Revenue Report in November. Revenue for the Oct. 1, 2007-June 30, 2008, budget year would be an additional \$169.3 million above previous estimates.

Cowgill told The Associated Press he did not see the \$47 million difference as a "significant reduction." Hmmm.

Sounds as if legislative leaders were right to suggest that any surplus be retained in the state's rainy day fund to balance the next state budget. The rainy day fund today is at a level only slightly more than half of the statutory target of 5. percent of the state's general revenues.

Of course, we have to excuse the governor for being so enthusiastic about any unanticipated budget surplus. He is seeking re-election this year under the dark cloud of a state hiring scandal, for which he was indicted, and abuse of his pardon privileges hanging over his head. And his biggest threat to date is not those scurrilous Democrats, but challengers from within his own party.



-Rich *f*owry Column

A campaign for order

President Bush didn't talk about the yearning of the human heart for freedom in his latest Iraq speech. Such reductive anthropology used to be a staple of his pronouncements --everywhere human hearts were hungering for freedom, and the global mission of the U.S. was to release this pent-up desire for liberty.

Bush still talked of advancing liberty, but his key claim about the hearts of Iraqis was a stripped-down (but still somewhat dubious) one: "Most of Iraq's Sunni and Shia want to live together in peace.'

If this is the case - and it becomes ever less so as the civil war. intensifies - it speaks less to a hunger for freedom than for order, which the Bush administration has foolishly neglected at both the conceptual and practical levels.

Calls for order do not make for stirring lines in poetic presidential speeches. It is a cliché to say we take freedom for granted, but it is not so. Freedom is constantly invoked by all sides of the American political debate. It is order - the underpinning of freedom — that is taken for granted.

attained, nor can freedom be anything better than violence until order gives us laws."

This is why Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's infamous statement during the rioting after the fall Saddam of Hussein that "freedom is untidy" was so wrong-headed. Freedom ultimately has to be

tidy, because it depends on boundaries and rules - a societal consensus — that have existed for so long in the West that we often forget about them. The historian Theodore Von Laue called them "the invisible substructures of individual and collective discipline."

Iraq had few such substructures. In the Saddam era, it had only the top-down coercive power of the state. When that was removed, there was chaos, without the U.S. ever substituting enough force to give the Iraqi people the blessings of order — an

a tolerable civil social order is and death eliminate the people's support for the government, leading to an increase in violence, as individuals and groups undertake to protect and

> avenge themselves independently of state structures, legal institutions or government sanction." In other words, they cling to militias, insurgents and all the other forces bedeviling us in Iraq.

The surge is meant finally to check this process. But American troops won't be able to do it alone. There is a reason that so many democracies have been created out of reforming authoritarian governments. They provided the prerequisite of order, but with enough breathing space so that eventually freedom could flourish.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki already has a kind of democratic mandate. Now, he needs to act with enough strength to hold his country together. So far, he simply



Important to remember also is that the governor does not have the authority to spend one penny that has not been authorized by the General Assembly has gathered for a brief session in Frankfort.

Regardless of the final revenue figure, touting a surplus and asking the public how to spend it puts the governor in the position of being able to tell voters later this year that he tried to get the General Assembly to spend the money the way their constituents wanted, but the lawmakers declined.

That might be good politics for the governor, even if he is counting his chickens too soon.

- The News-Enterprise, Elizabethtown



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In his book "The Roots of American Order," the conservative intellectual Russell Kirk explained that "justice cannot be enforced until

- beyond the beltway Consolidating control of the **Titanic**

by DONALD KAUL MINUTEMAN MEDIA

Is it safe to come out now? Is the Super Bowl finally over? Of all the over-hyped works of our hype-weary society, the so-called "Super Bowl" tops the list. It's a football game, for crying out loud. What's the big deal? Somebody wins; somebody loses. So what?

The best thing about it is that it means Baseball isn't far behind. Good riddance to it. But on to more substantial fare:

Admit it, you were fooled. You listened to that wimpy State of the Union address and you thought President Bush was in full retreat before an angry electorate.

Yet again you misunderestimated the man. The retreat was merely tactical.

Less than a week after the speech. he returned to the fray, guns blazing. He signed a Presidential directive that, in effect, grants him effective control over all federal rules and policies developed to protect public health, safety, the environment, civil rights and privacy.

The directive, which does not need Congressional approval, requires regulatory agencies to have a policy office run by a political appointee who makes sure proposed regulations don't cost the regulated industries too much. (And by "too much," I would imagine, they mean

order that obviously would be more just and free than that imposed by Saddam.

As Fred Kagan of the American Enterprise Institute --- the intellectual godfather of the Bush "surge" - has noted, the absence of order is fatal to any government: "Continual violence

has been demonstrating Edmund Burke's insight that "nothing turns out to be so oppressive and unjust as a feeble government."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

"anything.")

In the past such regulations have been the responsibility of career civil servants and scientists. From now on, political hacks will be running the show, preferably ones who don't believe in abortion, stem cell research or evolution. If you liked Katrina, you're going to love the next two years.

As Rep. Henry

Waxman (Dem.) said: 'The executive order allows the political staff at the White House to dictate decisions on health and safety issues, even if the government's own impartial experts disagree. This a terrible way to govern, but

great news for special interests."

It occurs to me that what President Bush is doing, in his way, is resurrecting the administration of Richard Nixon. Like Bush Nixon tried to put his political operatives at key positions in virtually every department of the government, better to exercise power. Like Bush he wiretapped his enemies, opened their mail and spied on them. He also had a burglary team working for him and we don't know whether President Bush has one of those - yet.

The genius of Bush, however, is that while Nixon had to resign his Presidency and nearly went to jail for his crimes, Bush commits them openly and no one lays a glove on him.

It's the War on Terror, don't you know. Everything he does is legal because he's a war president and he says it's legal.

It's a terrific hustle and you have to give him credit for pulling it off. So he's down in the polls a little, so what? The people he's taking care of now will take care of him down the road.

I do worry about our Vice-president, however. He seems to have gone a little...I don't know...soft in the head I guess you'd call it.

A couple of weeks ago Mr. Cheney sat down with CNN's Wolf Blitzer and answered critics of the



Iraq. war in "Hogwash." That's what he called the criticisms. The war, far from being a failure, has been a string of "enormous successes," he said. We got rid of Saddam, we got rid of his sons, we established a democracy in the Middle East, we gave

Iraqis a constitution.

"The world is much safer today because of it," he said.

I don't know what else he said because I had to go lie down and put a cold cloth on my forehead.

He reminds me of Saddam's Minister of Information, Muhammad Said al-Sahhaf. All through the invasion he scoffed at reports of American successes. He rejected the validity of telecasts, showing American tanks on Baghdad streets, His last press conference featured American tanks advancing on him in the background, even as he denied their existence. That's our boy Dick.

People worry about Iran getting the atom bomb. Not me. I worry about Cheney getting it.

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Don Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-losing Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. Email him at dkaul1@verizon.net.



Kentucky Press Association National Newspaper Association

INSIDESTUFF

Sportspage A7 Classifieds.....page A11

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"The BEST source for local and regional society news"

Big Sandy

Idol

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MOVIES FROM

THE BLACK LAGOON

'Rapid Fire'

by TOM DOTY

TIMES COLUMNIST

drug runners and a corrupt FBI agent

learn that it's never wise to mess with an art student in this action fest from

seasoned director Dwight Little

student protests that led to the Tiananmen Square massacre. Jake Lo

can only watch in horror as his father is ground into the pavement by a tank

while several fellow students pull him

to safety. The scene then shifts to Las

The film opens in China during the

("Hard to Kill").

art studies

Tony

Meanwhile, a

Chicago gangsters, Hong Kong

see pg. A6

Page A5

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.

The Ides of March once was a time of foreboding. To us in Floyd County, the time of dread is the "tides" of February.

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At a time such as this, when so many are facing property damage and deep discouragement from the ravages of floodwaters, we struggle harder than usual to come up with a column that is neither dreary nor over-carefree. But we can find solace in the fact that things could be, and have been, worse ... that better days are ahead, and the clouds will part.

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The busiest woman in Floyd County, during times of flood or vother disaster, is Dame Rumor. Some of the tales we've heard are lulus.

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Now comes one to contribute something of a lighter nature, saying, "George Washington, I will agree, never told a lie-but he never had to fill out Form 1040."

000

IT WORKS!

Here's a little formula this column may have printed, years ago, but lest you have as much trouble as I do remembering it, we hurry to get it down in print again. Try it!

BSCTC, MAC looking for 'Big Sandy Idol'

Big Sandy Idol Regional Music Scholarship Competition

Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. at the **Mountain Arts Center**

Tickets: \$5 general admission Call 1-888-MAC-ARTS locally

at the Mountain Arts Center for the Big Sandy Idol Regional Competition, held Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. each evening.

The Friday night show will feature the runners-up from each school and the Saturday night show

No mechanical damage; what about marital damage?

11

Tickets go on sale Friday, Feb. 9 and are \$5 each. 50 percent of sales will go to promote the Music and Drama Community Outreach Program at BSCTC and further scholarship opportunities for vocal music students.

In addition to the Big Sandy Idol

Chicago mobster, Serrano, legs it to Hong Kong to try and shake down his cocaine connection, Tau, for more bucks by appealing to his sense of nostal-

Tom Doty gia. Turns out he **Times Columnist** helped give Tau his start but that

doesn't stop Tau from taking memory lane off his travel itinerary. A rebuffed Serrano heads back to the States with a plan to wipe out Tau's middleman.

This all comes together when the middleman is revealed to have a political bent. He hosts a student gathering to protest Tiananmen Square and Jake attends the meeting after being lured in by a comely artist's model. Lo is still in denial about the incident but stays on and rues that decision when Serrano crashes the party and shoots the Hong Kong connection in front of him.

This gives Lo a bird's eye view of Serrano and makes him an ideal witness for the FBI team charged with investigating Serrano. They are totally taken with Lo, who produces a sketch of Serrano, drawn from memory, that is spot on. They quickly induce him to fly to Chicago to testify before a grand jury. Lo reluctantly takes the trip but becomes downright opposed to working with the feds when he learns that the officer in charge of the investigation is deep in Serrano's pocket and plans to have him killed. Lo winds up on the run in the windy city, with no one to trust until a rogue cop convinces him to play a deadly game of cat and mouse in which they plan to turn the FBI agent to their side and use him to deliver Lo to Serrano while recording the meet alongside a trigger-happy SWAT team. Well, everyone knows how the best laid plan of mice and men turn out, but things get even worse when one of the mice is a major rat. Covers get blown and a lot of bullets fly as Lo must take out the armed mobsters from inside an Italian restaurant while lead flies through the air from both sides. Lucky for lo he is an adept martial artist and his fists of fury level the playing field considerably.



- 1. Put down your age.
- 2. Double it.
- 3. Now add five.
- 4. Multiply by 50.

5. Subtract 365, the number of days in the year.

6. Add the amount of loose change in your pocket, less than \$1.00.

7. Add 115.

The first two figures of your answer will be your age, and the last two will be the amount of loose change in your pocket.

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I'M STRUGGLING

Temptation appears in the most unusual forms, and so pleasing. This week's tempter is Walter Hall, who spoke at length of the stripers in the Ross-Santee reservoir, down in South Carolina, of the big bass, the record crappie, et cetera, of how little it would cost a fellow to go fishing there if he camped out - and then extended the invitation...I appreciate the invitation, but to tempt a fellow after a long, hard winter, and just when the fishing fever has him in its grip, is sort of slipping up on his blind side, so to speak.

886-2623 for ticket information Tickets go on sale now.

Get your tickets now for **BSCTC's BIG SANDY IDOL**

This year, Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC) launched its new music scholarship program for high school students. Big Sandy Idol, sponsored and organized by the Music Department of BSCTC, is a talent and scholarship competition that offers two winners from 14 high schools in Pike, Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, and Martin Counties, a chance to compete for a demo CD recording, an full-album recording, a \$1,200 vocal scholarship to attend BSCTC, along with a cash prize and a spot with the Big Sandy Singers who are directed by Laura Ford Hall.

Clayton Case, BSCTC's Music and Drama Assistant Director, serves as the coordinator of the Big Sandy Idol Program. Case, Hall and Technical Director Timothy Cooley, have worked to organize sign-ups, auditions, recordings, and shows for each high school.

Through the sign-ups and audition process, approximately 10 to 15 students were chosen to compete at the local high school level - in front of the student body at their own high school. Now, all of the winners have been chosen and two winners from each high school will compete will feature the first place winners.

The students who will be competing in the BSI Regional competi-

Friday Night

tion are:

James Greer - Allen Central High: Hillarv Keesee – Belfry High: Carmi Baxter - East Ridge High; Ashley Hall - Johnson Central High; Lindsey Carty - Magoffin County High; Tyler Childers -Paintsville High; Trusonda Dotson -Phelps High; Daniel Zienkiewiez -Pike Central High; Kara Hall -Pikeville High; Katie Lemaster -Prestonsburg High; Holly Pack -Prestonsburg High; Britta Hall -Shelby Valley High; Candace Preece - Sheldon Clark High; Savannah Bartley - South Floyd High

Saturday Night

Josh Martin - Allen Central High; Caleb Tackett - Belfry High; Brennan Case - Betsy Layne High; Waylan Nelson - Betsy Layne High; Isaac Thacker - East Ridge High; Kristina Pescosolido - Johnson Central High; Nathan Arnett -Magoffin County High; Katelyn Webb - Paintsville High; Ryan Lester - Phelps High; Eric Madden -Pike Central High; McKinzie Carter Pikeville High; Holly Rice -Prestonsburg High; William King -Shelby Valley High; Daniel Tungate Shelby Valley High; Allison Daniels - South Floyd High; Tierra Davis - Sheldon Clark High

program, the college also offers the following community programs: Children's Music and Drama Summer Camp; The Big Sandy High School Singers; InHarmony Community Women's Chorus; Serenade Community Women's Ensemble; Community Theatre Troupe; and the college's elite student singing ensemble The Big Sandy Singers.

"We are so excited about the Big Sandy Idol Regional Competition,' said Case. "We hope everyone will come out to support the representatives of their school and to see the show. It would be hard to beat the talent we have among our eastern Kentucky high school students. It is amazing!'

Out of the 14 students competing on Friday night, one will be crowned the "wild card." The "wild card" will receive a recording contract for a ten song album from BSCTC Productions Studio and then go on to Saturday's competition to compete for the other prizes.

"We hope the community will come out and support these kids," Case concluded. "We are excited to provide an opportunity for our high school students to receive performance and recording experience, and ultimately a college scholarship.

For more information on Big Sandy Idol, contact Clayton Case at 886-3863 or ccase0005@kctcs.edu.

Unfortunately, Serrano isn't a very helpful witness, which leads to an excellent finale during which Lo must infiltrate Tau's drug laundering site,

(See LAGOON, page six)

The princess and the toad

by JOAN SUTULA "CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE CAT & DOG LOVER'S SOUL")

Some years ago, our family expanded to include a 1-year-old Siberian husky named Princess Misha. Like all Siberian huskies, Misha had an innate love of the outdoors, and, of course, the cooler the better. She would lie curled up in a ball on top of a snowdrift on the coldest of winter days; with her tail flicked over her only vulnerable spot - her nose. When fresh snow fell, she would lie so still that she soon disappeared under a blanket of snow and became part of the landscape. Every so often, she stood up, shook off, turned in a few circles, and then laid back down to keep watch over her domain.

On warm summer days, she found the coolest corner in the house and spent her days napping. Then after her nightly walk, she'd spend the rest of the evening stretched out on the cool cement of the front patio. All through the hot summers and into the fall, this was her nightly ritual.

One summer evening, as we sat out on the front patio relishing a late-

evening breeze, we saw a small toad hop out of the grass, then down the sidewalk to a few feet away from where Misha was lying. Suddenly, Misha stood up, walked over to the toad, picked it up in her mouth and then walked back to her resting place and lay back down. She then put her chin down on the walk, opened her mouth and let the toad hop out while we watched in astonishment. The toad sat there in front of Misha's eyes, the two seeming to stare at one another for some time. Then the toad hopped down the walk and back into the grass.

On other nights that summer, we noticed this same ritual. We commented on the fact that Misha seemed to have a fondness for toads.

We worried because some toads can toad within inches of her face. At be poisonous, but since she

never experienced any ill effect and never hurt them, we didn't interfere. If she spotted a toad in the street on one of her walks, she would actually run over to it and nudge it with her nose till it had safely hopped off the street and back onto the grass, out of harm's way.

same. Misha enjoyed cooling off by lying out on the front patio after nightfall. Many times, we noticed a

other times, we watched as

she walked into the grass and came back to her resting spot with a toad in her mouth, only to release it. The toads always stayed near her for some time before hopping off into the night. The only difference from the previous summer was that she spent

more nights in this manner, The following summer was the and the toads were bigger. A toad always seemed to be close at hand.

for the Sou

No mechanical damage, but what about marital damage?

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

I sometimes roll-start our new Honda Fit. My wife didn't care when I did this to our old '91 Civic, but she claims it hurts the new car. My wife says her father taught her that rollstarting is only for when the battery is dead or the starter breaks. I'm sure my father-in-law, a food scientist and automatic-transmission driver for the past 30 years, would admit no expertise in the more esoteric areas of manual-car usage. So she ordered me to contact you two. She knows you have the wisdom to always side with the wife. What damage or benefits result from roll-starting a car down a lightly sloped driveway once or twice a week? - Michael

RAY: Well, there are two types of damage to look at, Michael. There's the mechanical damage, and there's the marital damage.

TOM: As far as mechanical damage, there is none. Zilch. You're not harming anything. You're simply replacing the function of the starter motor with rolling wheels.

RAY: And as long as you pop the clutch at, say, 3 mph to 5 mph, and not 40 mph, no harm is being done to any-

clutch wear might even be offset by your lighter use of the starter motor and battery.

TOM: But in the interests of marital harmony and father-in-law relations, Michael (you don't want to be served nothing but turkey butt at Thanksgiving, do you?), I would suggest you say the following: "Hon, I checked with Tom and Ray. They said there's no real damage done from rollstarting the car, but there are no real benefits either. So if it bothers you, I won't do it.'

RAY: Then only do it when she's not in the car, Michael.

Is collision coverage worth it? Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a 2001 Saturn SL2 with 87,000 miles on it. The car is paid off. I live in the congested New York City area and drive it on weekends only. My boyfriend suggests I drop the collision coverage on the car to save money, and says that the car is not worth keeping under collision coverage. I am undecided. My gut instincts tell me to keep the coverage, but at a high deductible. I am known to be overly cautious, though. Do you have a "system" that helps you determine

thing. I suppose that any additional when it is time to drop the collision insurance bill probably is not. coverage on a car? Thanks! -Jennifer

> RAY: Our system is that anything my brother might conceivably be interested in owning is not worth having collision coverage on.

> TOM: Actually, there's not a system, per se. But we can help you think through the logic.

> RAY:' The collision and comprehensive portions of your insurance policy pay for damage to your car, whether it's caused by an accident, vandalism or a toilet that lands on the hood after a neighbor throws it out of his second-floor window while doing a particularly frustrating bathroom remodel.

> TOM: If your car is totally wrecked, the insurance company will pay you UP TO the book value of your car, minus your deductible. So, in your case, let's say your car is worth about \$4,000 right now. You probably have a \$500 deductible. So, in the case of a total loss, you could collect up to \$3,500 to put toward a replacement car

> RAY: But remember, for each year that goes by, your car will be worth less, so your potential payoff is decreasing all the time, while your

Odds & Ends

TOM: Now, how much do you pay for collision and comprehensive insur-

ance? You can look on your insurance binder. Let's guess it's about \$500 a year. It could be more in New York City, just like everything else.

RAY: It's impossible to know the odds of you totaling your car in the next few years. After all, that's why they call them "accidents." So there's no absolute right or wrong answer here. The question is what makes you feel comfortable.

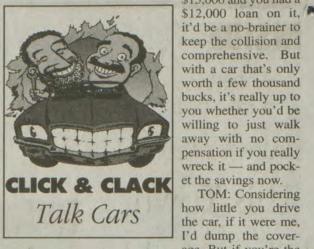
TOM: If you're in a position to either

buy another car if you need to or live without a car if you need to, then you can drop the coverage and take your chances, knowing that if worse comes to worst, you'll have to lay out some money for new wheels or rent a car for your weekend excursions.

RAY: Or borrow the money for another car from your devil-may-care boyfriend.

TOM: And in exchange for accepting this risk, you'll have an extra \$500 in your pocket.

RAY: Now, if the car were worth \$15,000 and you had a



bucks, it's really up to you whether you'd be willing to just walk away with no compensation if you really wreck it - and pocket the savings now. TOM: Considering how little you drive

the car, if it were me, I'd dump the coverage. But if you're the

kind of person who would be up nights worrying about it, Jennifer, then keep the collision and comprehensive coverage for now. And when the book value of your car gets low enough so that you really wouldn't care if it was a total loss, dump it then. The good news is, it won't be long until that day arrives.

FARMINGTON, W. Va. It was bad enough that police say a man and his father illegally killed two bucks on the first day of hunting season, but what got them into trouble was bragging about it on the Internet.

Robert Daniel "Murphy" Kane II, 26, and his father were fined after the state **Division of Natural Resources** was tipped off Jan. 23 to the Internet posting, which included photos, on an outdoors-related message board.

In the posting, Kane bragged of killing two bucks on the first day of the 2006 buck season, even though the legal limit is one buck a day, said Sgt. Roy Cool of DNR's District 1 law enforcement section in Farmington.

"I guess you can say that Kane's boasting of his deer kills on the Web drew plenty of attention, but not the kind he wanted," Cool said in a news release.

Kane, of Bridgeport, was charged on Jan. 27 with five wildlife violations, including conspiring to violate wildlife checked and verified by a booking officer, Undersheriff Blue Corneliusen said.

Once outside, authorities say Sparks spotted a beer van at a convenience store, which he commandeered.

Eventually, Sparks showed up at a different convenience store, where workers who had heard about the escape called authorities.

There was some really good work done by the clerks," Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Cheryl Liedle said

Sparks left the store and was stopped by Lewis and Clark County sheriff's deputies about a mile down the highway. He was arrested without incident, Liedle said.

Sparks has outstanding warrants on felony deceptive practices and theft charges from Billings and Texas. He had been jailed in Cascade County on Jan. 8 and now faces new charges of felony escape, misdemeanor theft and misdemeanor criminal trespass to a vehicle, Corneliusen said.

stuff. It's not an unusual thing. We just made her throw it up.' Fung gave Missy some per-

oxide and the ring came out intact.

MANCHESTER, N.H. - Two men have been accused of breaking into a probation and parole office in an apparent attempt to retrieve drug-tainted urine samples.

Peter O'Neill, 33, who was on parole at the time of the Jan. 4 break-in, is accused of giving a friend dark clothes, a mask and tools and sending him off to burglarize the Manchester Office of Probation and Parole.

When the friend, Michael Neuner, 19, was unsuccessful. O'Neill returned with him to finish the job, court records show

People on parole or probation routinely provide urine samples to prove they are not using alcohol or drugs. The samples are stored in freezers at parole offices until being sent to the State Police Laboratory for testing, said Jeff Lyons, spokesman for the

Bears fan, will legally change his name to that of the Indiana Colts quarterback after signing a pledge in front of a crowd at a Decatur bar last Friday night. He vowed to adopt Manning's name if the Bears lost Sunday's Super Bowl.

The final score was Colts 29, Bears 17.

So on Tuesday, Wiese went to the Macon County Courts Facility and started the process of changing his name.

"I made the bet, and now I've got to keep it," said the 26-year-old, who lives in Forsyth, just north of Decatur.

Wiese will now have to advertise his intention in the local newspaper - the Herald & Review - for several weeks and then have a judge give him the OK to become, anyway, Peyton legally Manning.

The men have little in common, Wiese acknowledges.

Manning the quarterback is 30 years old, stands 6-foot-5 and has a contract with the Colts worth more than \$100 million

improve the city's image.

Officials have announced a range of measures including "punishment and reward" programs to improve conduct.

One campaign for "civilized behavior" will be kicked off Sunday in the upmarket Wangfujing shopping area, located just east of Tiananmen Square. This will be the first "Queuing Day," which will take place on the 11th of each month.

The 11th was picked because the two numbers -1-1 — resemble two people lining up.

People spitting could be fined up to 50 yuan, equal to about \$6.50, the daily income of a Chinese college graduate. It can buy 16 subway tickets on the Beijing system.

"Fifty yuan is a fairly hefty warning for spitters," said-Zhang Huiguang, director of the Beijing Civil Affairs Bureau. "The amount of money is not the most important, the most important is to warn people."

KUALA LUMPUR

restrooms have long nauseated citizens and tourists with their lack of basic items such as toilet paper, soap and sometimes even toilet seats.

Lau said his ministry plans to soon introduce a system for the public to lodge complaints about filthy toilets via cell phone text messages.

Other recent measures have included setting up modern self-cleaning toilets in popular shopping districts of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's largest city, and scrapping the business licenses of restaurants found to have foul lavatories.

SEATTLE — An 82year-old Seattle man whose walking stick was damaged when he struck a younger man who witnesses say had doused him with lighter fluid is getting a replacement cane from the Seattle Police Officers' Guild.

Gus Jones responded to the Jan. 31 downtown Seattle attack by smacking his assailant with his cane. Police say the attacker then ran over to two women, doused them with lighter fluid and lit a match, singeing their coats and one woman's hair. The women were not seriously injured.

laws.

Kane has pleaded no contest before Magistrate Gizzy Davis and paid \$861.50 in fines and costs, including a \$200 replacement fee for the illegally killed buck. Investigators also confiscated Kane's 10-point rack, which was waiting to be mounted at the taxidermist, the DNR said.

His father, Robert Daniel Kane I, 53, of Clarksburg was fined \$381 on charges including conspiring with his son in game law violations.

GREAT FALLS, Mont. - Richard Sparks was on the run. A beer run.

Authorities say the 33year-old Sparks fled the county jail by changing his clothes, hair and mattress to impersonate another inmate who was scheduled to be released Thursday morning.

When guards called for the other inmate to be released, Sparks stepped forward and out the door after being

RAISINVILLE TOWN-SHIP, Mich. - Tina Burlett thought someone broke into her house and stole her custom made, \$5,000 wedding ring, so she called the police.

But Burlett's grandmother had a different suspect in mind: the family pooch.

X-rays proved the grandmother right. The valuable bauble was inside the belly of Burlett's pit bull, Missy, who has a taste for diamonds.

"I couldn't believe it," Burlett told The Monroe Evening News for a story Thursday. "I didn't think so at the time, but it's funny now."

Missy had previously been caught gnawing on VCRs, electric blankets and even Burlett's diamond earring.

Dr. Linda Fung of the Country Creek Animal Hospital said she was not surprised to learn that Missy swallowed jewelry. "I did have a dog eat a

watch once," Fung said. "Animals swallow a lot of Department of Corrections.

'I think they had an idea of whose samples were in there," Lyons said.

The burglars destroyed the keypad entry system on the building's front door, used a crowbar to try to pry it open and smashed a window to get in. More than a dozen samples were stolen.

O'Neill was arrested soon after. When he was searched, police found a letter written by Neuner to his sister in which he confessed to burglarizing the office, according to court records.

Neuner later told police he didn't want to burglarize the office but did it because he was afraid of O'Neill. He said O'Neill told him to smash the office's computers to make it look like juveniles broke in.

DECATUR, III. — Scott Wiese is a man of his word. But soon his friends will be saving that about Peyton Manning.

Wiese, a die-hard Chicago

Wiese is 5-foot-11 and works at a Staples office-supply store for somewhat less.

"I think I kind of represent all Bears fans," he said. "Not that I'm saying they're all idiots like me, but I represent their passion because I really care about my team, you know?"

While he pledged to take on the new identity, Wiese didn't make any promises about how long he would keep it.

BEIJING - No spitting and get in line.

That's the message Beijing city officials are trying to get across 18 months before the Olympics open in China's capital.

"Everyone will be fined for spitting," read the headline in Thursday's Beijing Daily Messenger.

In a chaotic city of 15 million, jumping ahead in line is common. So is spitting and littering, which officials hope to restrain in an effort to country

Malaysia — It's never too late for toilet training.

Some Malaysian colleges may soon offer courses on how to keep public restrooms clean, the national news agency reported Thursday.

The effort is meant to help Malaysia's public lavatories become as hygienic as those in countries such as Britain and Singapore, Deputy Local Housing and Government Minister Robert Lau was quoted as saying by Bernama news agency.

"Clean toilets cannot merely be judged by the eyes," Lau was quoted as saying. "This matter also involves the use of cleaning equipment, soap, fragrances and proper tissues.'

Courses would involve managing washrooms by the highest standards in design and sanitation technology, said Lau.

Malaysia's government recently said it wanted to start a "toilet revolution" in a where public

Paul Pearson, 50, arrested shortly after the attacks, has been charged with two counts of first-degree assault.

The older man survived the ordeal with just a cut to his ring finger. His cane, however, was bent in the attack and rendered unusable.

When the Police Guild heard about the case, its board decided to buy Jones a replacement aluminum cane, inscribed with his name, said Sgt. Richard O'Neill, guild president.

"Hopefully he won't have to whack someone with it," O'Neill said.

"Maybe if he didn't take the action he did, more people could've been hurt," O'Neill said. "He was going to fight back - he wasn't going to be a passive victim."

Lagoon

which turns out to be, of all things, a Chinese laundry. The final fight is a doosy, with Lo punching out Tau while an el train hurtles towards them and the third rail is perilously within inches of their wheel kicks.

While this may all sound routine, it is well rendered and totally saved by a charismatic turn by Brandon Lee as Lo. Lee, the son of martial arts legend Bruce Lee, turns out to be a worthy successor to his father's mantle. He displays a fair amount of chopsockey skills here as well as an "aw shucks" screen presence that makes it all look easy. This was the first movie built around his skills and it shows that he had an awesome future ahead of him which was, unfortunately, cut short when he was fatally shot by a prop gun while making "The Crow" in April 1993. That film solidified what audiences who had seen this film already knew, that Lee was destined for superstardom.

The DVD edition of this film is available for \$6 at Wal-Mart and is a steal at that

Continued from p5

price. It also includes two short featurettes wherein Lee and the cast are interviewed. The cast members, which include veterans such as Powers Boothe and Nick Mancuso, lavish heaps of praise on Lee and note that he is the real deal who can act as well as he can punch and kick.

Lee also acted as one of the film's fight choreographers and it's obvious that he knew how to mesh action with the local scenery. His fight scenes include inventive use of any objects lying around and have the same aesthetic as the work of Jackie Chan, who is definitely the master when it comes to incorporating imagination with action.

All this and you get a happy, if a little sappy, ending in which Lo gets to save a surrogate father from doom as he could not do at the film's outset.

Best Line: "Jake, why don't you take those 'fists of fury' of yours outside?"

1992, rated R.

Soup

One night early in the third summer, after letting Misha out, we watched as a large toad hopped out of the grass and over to her, stopping inches in front of her. Misha gently laid her head down so that her nose almost touched the toad. That was when it finally dawned on us - perhaps there was just one toad! Could Misha have shared the past three summers with the same toad? We called a local wildlife expert who told us that toads can live three to six years, so it was entirely possible. Somehow these two unlikely companions had formed a bond. At first it seemed so strange to us. But then we realized we were very different from Misha too, but the love between us seemed completely natural. If she could love us, we marveled, why not a toad?

Misha had a minor operation that summer, and we kept her indoors for a while afterward to recuperate. Each night she went to the front door and asked to be let out, but we didn't let her. Instead, leash in hand, we took her for short walks. One evening a few days later, I went to the front door to turn on the porch light for guests we were expecting. When the light came on illuminating the front stoop, there, to my utter amazement, sat Toad (as we came to call him), staring up at me through the screen door! He had hopped up the three steps from the patio, and we supposed he was looking for Misha. Such devotion could not be denied. We let Misha out to be with her pal. She immediately picked the toad up in her

Continued from p5

mouth and took it down the steps, where she and Toad stayed nose to nose until we brought her in for the night. After that, if Misha didn't come out soon enough, Toad frequently came to the door to get her. We made sure that the porch light was turned on before dark and posted a big sign on the porch: "Please don't step on the toad!"

We often laughed about the incongruous friendship - they did make a comical sight, gazing into each other's eyes. But their devotion sometimes made me wonder if I should regard them so lightly. Maybe it was more than just friendship. Maybe in her stalwart toad, Princess Misha had found her Prince Charming.



Sunday, February 11, 2007

Inside

Food City 500 • A8 PC Hall of Fame • A9 ■ NASCAR Preview • A10 Sunday Classifieds • A11

Rebels dismantle David in front of small crowd

by STEVE LeMASTER SPORTS EDITOR

EASTERN - In a much-debated boys' basketball game played in front of a sparse crowd Thursday night, host Allen Central didn't have any trouble prevailing over the visiting David School. The Rebels cruised to their 16th win of the season, defeating the Falcons 95-41.

Allen Central and David finally met for the regular-season matchup that was originally scheduled to be

protest, postponed.

No fans nor members of the media were allowed inside the gym for Thursday night's game.

Floyd County Schools Superintendent Dr. Paul W. Fanning made the decision to not allow the public to attend the boys' basketball game. Only parents, team players and school

played earlier in the season, but under attend the regular-season game held at The Rebels outscored David 33-9 in J.E. Campbell Arena, home to the

Rebels. Allen Central Fanning and additional school district officials wanted to avoid any problems that might arise from individuals and organizations who had expressed concerns about Allen Central's use of the Confederate flag and "Rebel" mascot.

In the game, Allen Central jumped district employees were allowed to out in front early on and never trailed.

the opening quarter. Allen Central held a commanding 64-23 lead at halftime.

"Glad the game is over," said veteran Allen Central Coach Johnny Martin. Clearly relieved to have the game behind him and his program, Martin added, "this has been a major distraction in what has been a wonderful season.

Allen Central held a convincing 75-29 lead over David at the end of the third quarter. Eleven different Allen Central players played and scored in the non-district contest.

The win was Allen Central's third straight and seventh in eight games. Allen Central came into Thursday's game knowing a key Floyd County Conference/58th District game against longtime rival South Floyd loomed. The Rebels and Raiders were doing battle Friday night at J.E. Campbell Arena. In the loss to Allen Central, Andrew Conn accounted for the majority of David's scoring. Conn hit seven three-pointers and led the Falcons with a game-high 36 points.

Floyd Youth

signups

County

Soccer holding

by STEVE LeMASTER

SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG - Floyd

Soccer

Youth

Association has announced that

registration for the Spring 2007

season will be held on Saturday,

Feb. 17 and Saturday, Feb. 24 at

the Prestonsburg McDonald's.

League volunteers will be pre-

sent at McDonald's to accept reg-

istrations between the hours of

10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The fee,

which covers uniforms and the

other costs associated with the

soccer program, is \$40 per child.

children online by accessing the

league website at HYPERLINK

http://www.kysoccer.net/ekysa,w

ww.kysoccer.net/ekysa. The reg-

istration form posted online

should be printed, completed by

the parent, and mailed to Robin

Simpson Smith, Registrar, P. O.

Box 746, Prestonsburg, Ky.

41653. A check or money order

in the amount of \$40 should be

included for registration fees.

Parents may also register their

Eagles edge Cavs

TIMES STAFF REPORT

WISE, Va. - UVA-Wise let go of a 13-point lead early in the second half before the Alice Lloyd College Eagles scored twice in the final 40 seconds for a 76-73 men's basketball victory. The Highland Cavaliers had two three-point attempts in the final 12 seconds but neither fell.

The Eagles finished the season series with two wins, improving to 9-13 overall. The Highland Cavaliers dropped to 8-20.

Jarred Soles paced UVA-Wise with 27 points on 10-of-20 attempts with five three-point field goals. Zydrunas Rackausk turned in a double-double, scoring 24 points on eight-of-12 shots to go with a game-high 17 rebounds. Cassidy Vaughn handed out five assists for the host Cavs

Alice Lloyd had five double figure scorers. Rodney Mitchell made six of 12 shots for 17 points before fouling out for the Eagles. Eric Mullins had 14 points while Chris Hurt and William Dillard

(See EAGLES, page eight)

Helton leads * UVA-Wise over

RACING HISTORY



"A major oil company brings huge resources and depth of knowledge to racing. Lubricants. Fuel science. Technology. Even metallurgy. You can learn from a sponsor like that."

LORIN RANIER * Head of Driver Development Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates

DRIVING ON A FULL TANK

Texaco/Havoline is currently celebrating 20 years in racing. The company has produced a new book which chronicles its past 20 years in racing. Included in the book is Prestonsburg native Lorin Ranier and information on the Ranier family and its involvement with Texaco/Havoline and NASCAR. Lorin Ranier, who is now heavily involved with Chip Ganassi Racing, met with Texaco Havoline officials in Prestonsburg last fall. Copies of the Texaco/Havoline racing book are available inside the Prestonsburg Tourism Building, which also houses the Ranier Racing Museum.

2009

Floyd County Youth Soccer is

(See SOCCER, page eight)

MSU releases '07 football schedule

Lady Eagles

TIMES STAFF REPORT

WISE, Va. - For the second time in three nights, the University of Virginia's College of Wise claimed a women's basketball victory on the strength of



Sarah Helton's 33 points over Alice Lloyd, 88-79

The Lady Cavaliers swept the season series with the vic-

improve to 8-

and

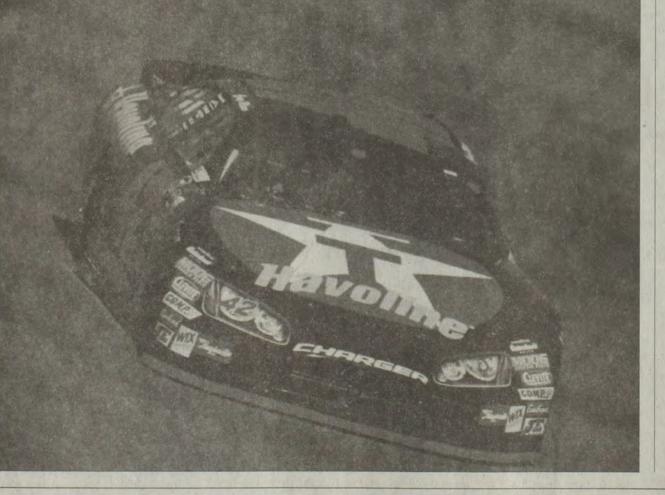
Becky Thomas

19. The Lady Eagles, following the loss, fell to 13-10.

tory

Helton connected on 12 of 20 points for 33 points, 22 of which came in the first half, to go with a game-best eight rebounds. Chelsea Lee hit for 16 points and Terri Ann Hill added 14. Rachel Helton dished out a

(See HELTON, page eight)



TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD - A renewal of a series with Western Kentucky and games against Northeast Conference members St. Francis (Pa.) and Robert Morris highlight the non-conference portion of Morehead State University's 2007 football schedule released Thursday. Seven Pioneer Football League games and a home contest against West Virginia Tech complete the 11game slate.

"We open the season with three non-conference games that should prepare us well for our PFL schedule," said MSU Coach Matt Ballard. "Then, after seven consecutive league games, we will face a truly outstanding Western Kentucky program.

"It's a challenging schedule as always, but also one we believe we can have success with. The PFL will be more balanced than ever. It will be a battle every week."

Prestonsburg native John Gilliam guides the MSU defense as its coordinator.

(See MSU, page eight)

Driver boycott at Talladega kills NASCAR union

by MIKE HARRIS ASSOCIATED PRESS

In September 1969, NASCAR's best-known drivers formed the Professional Drivers Association, an organization they hoped would make their jobs safer, guarantee their futures and raise their paltry incomes.

Just weeks later, the PDA was dead, victim of the iron hand of NASCAR founder William Henry Getty "Big Bill" France and genuinely bad timing.

"The week before Talladega we had a meeting in Detroit," explained Richard Petty, one of the biggest names in racing and a key union organizer. "Everybody sat down and said, 'It's time we did something like this.'

That included drivers such as David Pearson, Cale Yarborough, Buddy Baker and Bobby Allison.

An earlier attempt to organize drivers - by NASCAR pioneer Curtis Turner and the Teamsters Union - was crushed by France in 1961. He banned Turner for "life," which wound up being four years.

But eight years later, the drivers were talking union again.

NASCAR ran 54 races in 1969, some paying as little as \$1,000 to the winner. In a far more dangerous era, drivers were insured for a maximum of \$15,000.

"When you go back to me and Allison and Pearson and all of them, we was just making a living," said Petty, who was elected president of the PDA. "I drove 35 years and didn't take in but \$7 1/2 million dollars. It took me 15 years to win the first million.

These guys today start out with \$2 or \$3 million dollars in their hand before they ever get in the race car. Then they go out and win another \$2 or \$3 million dollars or whatever. ... If they can't take care of themselves with the money flowing through their hands now then nobody could look after you.'

Today's drivers appreciate the fact that NASCAR and the Frances, the founding family, have given them the

(See NASCAR, page eight)



RACING RELICS: Memorabilia of Cale Yarborough – a former driver for Ranier Racing - is on display inside the Prestonsburg Tourism Building as part of the Ranier Racing Museum.

Eagles

Helton

Lloyd turnovers.

each scored 12 points for the ALC men's team. Corey Hairston chipped in 10 points for the Eagles.

Leading 38-35 at the half, UVA-Wise opened the first six minutes on a 16-6 spurt to lead 54-41. Alice Lloyd chipped away at the difference until taking its first lead of the latter stan-

career-high six assists with eight

points. UVA-Wise won the board

battle, 40-29, and forced 28 Alice

15 attempts for 25 points to lead the

visiting team. Allen Central High

School graduate Becky Thomas

dumped in 20 points for the Lady

Kaylan Richardson made 10 of

za, 65-64, on a three-pointer from Mullins. The Eagles increased its new lead

to five points before Rackauskas drained a three-pointer, Daniel Adams tipped a miss in and Rackauskas added another layup for a 71-69 Cavs lead at 2:57.

Eagles. Whitney Lykens, a Betsy Layne High School graduate, added

The game was close with a mar-

gin of no more than five points in the

opening 12 minutes as the Lady

Eagles led 25-24. UVA-Wise went

on an 11-2 run in the next four min-

utes to lead 35-27 and would never

13 points of her own for ALC.

Continued from p7

Dillard stole the ball from Vaughn and tied the contest, 73-73, with 41 seconds. The Cavs' Soles missed a jumper in the lane on the ensuing trip before former Allen Central High School standout Shawn Newsome made a conventional three-point play for the deciding points.

Continued from p7

trail again even with a 44-42 intermission score.

The Lady Cavs built an advantage of as many as 10 points, 69-59, on a three-pointer from Crystal Ratcliffe at 7:08. The home team led by 12 points five minutes later before going on for victory.

NASCAR

platform to earn millions. But they huge racetrack in Talladega, Ala., a also see NASCAR taking in massive amounts of television and sponsorship revenue, just like other major pro sports, without giving its athletes the benefits other players receive.

"Nobody is wanting to strong arm or anything like that because the sport is good; we don't want to rock the ship," said four-time champion Jeff Gordon.

That's probably not going to change.

Veteran Kyle Petty, who saw his father's effort to start a union fizzle, subscribes to the idea that today's drivers don't care about anything beyond who has the swankiest house on Lake Norman or the biggest flatscreen TV in his motorhome.

"Can you imagine Kasey Kahne and Denny Hamlin sitting talking about a pension plan?," Kyle Petty said. "They're not thinking about it, and they won't think about it, because they'll make enough money during a period of time where when they get ready to think about it, it'll be too late to do something.'

Privately, drivers said they believe a union only would work if Gordon, Tony Stewart and Dale Earnhardt Jr. were on board. Without that trio, an organized effort wouldn't hold any weight!

Even then, there's skepticism.

"Trust me, nobody wants the drivers in charge of anything," Kevin Harvick said. "And I really doubt that even if there was some sort of union, nobody would agree on everything."

There's also the issue of who ould be in charge. In the six years since Dale Earnhardt was killed, no driver has stepped up to replace him as the leader in the garage.

2.66-mile superspeedway oval.

In testing, neither Goodyear nor Firestone came up with a tire that stayed together for more than a handful of laps at speeds near 200 mph.

Charlie Glotzbach won the pole at 199.466 mph, and the drivers were in an uproar over the high speeds and tire quality.

Tom Higgins, now retired motorsports writer for the Charlotte Observer, witnessed the showdown between the drivers and France the day before the race.

Although Richard Petty said, initially, nobody wanted to boycott the event, Pearson asked France to postpone the race until there was a better tire. He wouldn't consider it.

"We run tomorrow," Higgins reported France as saying. "If you don't want to run, then load your car and go home."

That's exactly what they did, driving their rigs out in an impromptu parade.

France patched together a 36-car field, and 60,000 spectators watched Richard Brickhouse, a relative newcomer who quit the PDA to run the race, win. It was his only NASCAR victory, and he ran just eight more NASCAR events in his career. The PDA was in trouble.

"The very next week all the promoters and NASCAR called a meeting in Charlotte, and that's where they started coming up with the Winner's Circle program and all that," explained Petty, referring to the program that still pays money to winning drivers who run the entire series

Continued from p7

For at least one driver, the boycott was the start of a great success story.

"It was the biggest break that I got in racing," said Childress, then a struggling 23-year-old owner-driver who raced in a Grand American event on Saturday and stuck around to drive his first race in NASCAR's top series Sunday. "I was down there and didn't even have hardly enough money to get home.

"I won some money on Saturday, and they paid me extra money to race on Sunday. I came home with \$10,000 or \$12,000 and I thought, 'Hell, I'll never have to work again.' That's the most money I'd ever seen," he said. "But I came back and bought some land and built a shop with that money. So that race means a lot to me today.'

His racing team went on to win six championships with Dale Earnhardt in the driver's seat and remains a major Nextel Cup team.

Jim Hunter, vice president of communications for NASCAR, said it would be unlikely for today's drivers to start a union because times are so different.

"I think we would say that we represent the drivers and would certainly have discussions with them," Hunter said. "I would hope they would want to have discussions with us."

Petty, long retired as a driver but still the primary owner of the Petty Enterprises team, said he doubts the PDA ever would have had any power - "from the standpoint of dictating anything to NASCAR" - had it survived.

"It would be the same now,"

Soccer

not responsible for mail delivery, and registrations are accepted on a 'first come, first served" basis.

All children at least four years of age, but less than nineteen (19) years of age on August 1, 2006, are eligible to participate in recreational soccer. Parents may be asked to provide a birth certificate or other record for verification of the child's birthdate. Players in the Under 6 and Under 8 divisions play against

Continued from p7

other Floyd County teams only. Teams in the Under 10 division and older also play teams from surrounding counties. Games are played on the fields at the Christ United Methodist Church at Allen. During the fall season, approximately 180 boys and girls from Floyd County participated in youth soccer. For more information, call Smith at 886-9562.

MSU

The complete 2007 schedule follows. Date Opponent Time Sept. 8 at St. Francis (Pa.), TBA Sept. 15 West Virginia Tech, 7 p.m. Sept. 22 Robert Morris, 1 p.m. Sept. 29 *Dayton, 1 p.m. Oct. 6 at Davidson, TBA Oct. 13 at Jacksonville, TBA Oct. 20 Butler (Homecoming), 1 p.m.

Apply now for

summer fun at

TIMES STAFF REPORT

Boating. Bow shooting. Swimming.

There's a whole lot of fun in store

for Kentucky kids this summer at

taken for all three conservation

camps operated by the Kentucky

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Resources. Each weeklong camp

session promises a world of adven-

ture for kids in the fourth through

the city, and camps may be the first

time that they catch a fish, shoot a

bow or shoot a real gun," said Jay

Webb, assistant director of

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's

Division. "Not only do kids meet

new friends at camp, but they can

test their skills and try things that

Conservation camps are situated

Information and

they don't get to do often."

"A lot of our campers are from

Applications are now being

Fishing.

Education

conservation

FRANKFORT

conservation camps.

sixth grade.

camps

Continued from p7

Oct. 27 at Valparaiso, TBA Nov. 3 Drake, 1 p.m. Nov. 10 *San Diego, TBA Nov. 17 at Western Kentucky, TBA Dec. 1 Gridiron Classic, TBA (PFL Winner vs. Northeast Conference Winner) *Pioneer Football League Game. All Times Eastern and subject to change.

in some of the most beautiful areas of the state. Camp Currie sits on the banks of Kentucky Lake. Camp Earl Wallace is located on Lake Cumberland. Camp Robert C. Webb is on Grayson Lake. All have rural settings perfect for kids to roam and experience nature.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife employees staff each conservation camp. The department provides transportation to and from camps from a central pick-up point. Each camp session runs from Monday through Friday, beginning June 4 and going through Aug. 3. The registration deadline is May Enrollment is \$215. The fee includes transportation, insurance, overnight lodging, meals and all activities.

Camps are a great experience for kids staying away from home for the first time. In addition to numerous outdoor activities, kids can earn their boater education certificate and their hunter education certificate. It may be cold outside now, but it's a good time to plan for some summer fun.

For an application or more information, call 1-800-858-1549 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time) Monday through Friday. Receive a \$15 discount when you apply online at fw.ky.gov.

Even so, today's drivers have several issues they'd like to see addressed, with no leader and no leverage to force NASCAR to change.

In 1969, the drivers decided to fight for the help they needed, and the PDA seemed like the way to do it.

Its first test came a week after its inception - the debut of France's

"In the overall deal, (the PDA)

was a benefit to racing, because I think it woke NASCAR up to looking at some of that stuff. They just didn't want it organized. Of course, I can't blame them for that."

Four nights after the Talladega race, Petty and Pearson raced in a NASCAR event in Columbia, S.C. A week later, nearly all the drivers who took part in the boycott were back racing at Martinsville, Va.

The PDA was dead.

added Petty. "NASCAR wasn't as big as it is now, and the drivers weren't as big as they are now. But NASCAR is still bigger than the drivers.

"It would hurt them for a while if all the drivers of today went away and they had to start next week with a bunch of local guys coming in to run in Cup. But the first thing you know they'd develop heroes out of them. The best ones would step forward, and, all of a sudden, you'd have Cup racing again."



FIGHT NIGHT: David Slone is pictured in action against Daven Plaiseance in GFC XI, held in Jenkins in late-January.

Mobile ESPN to relaunch through Verizon Wireless

by BRUCE MEYERSON ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - ESPN is relaunching its shuttered cell phone service through Verizon Wireless, this time delivering its flashy feed of sports scores, news and video highlights through a top industry player instead of competing for subscribers with its own full-blown wireless brand.

The multiyear agreement giving Verizon Wireless exclusive U.S. rights to offer the Mobile ESPN application on its V Cast phones was announced Thursday.

ESPN also announced that a broadcast TV service for cell phones that Verizon plans to introduce soon will feature an ESPN channel with sports programming drawn from its cable networks. Verizon expects to offer the service over MediaFLO - a separate wireless network developed by Qualcomm Inc. that can broadcast up to 20 TV channels - in at least one market by the end of March. Sprint Nextel Corp. has been testing MediaFlo, but no launch has been announced.

The Mobile ESPN service, expected to launch in the coming months, is to be included free as part of the \$15 a month or \$3 a day charge for V Cast's assorted multimedia offerings, the executives said.

The Verizon relationship is the first example of the new strategy that ESPN executives promised last September in announcing they were pulling the plug on Mobile ESPN as a standalone cell phone company featuring its own handsets, calling plans, customer service and monthly phone bills.

That ambitious venture, launched in late 2005 by parent company Walt Disney Co., is believed to have signed up fewer than 30,000 customers despite drawing positive reviews for the sophisticated multimedia application that ESPN created to deliver its popular TV and Web content within the cramped constraints of a cell phone.

By contrast, Verizon Wireless has 59 million subscribers, a third of whom have phones compatible with V Cast.

Not all people with V Cast-capable handsets use V Cast. We expect ESPN will drive additional adoption," the Verizon executive said.

The companies declined to disclose the financial terms or exact length of the deal, though one executive noted that a multiyear arrangement is lengthier than a typical wireless content agreement.

The Mobile ESPN application will be adapted to all phones compatible with V Cast, starting with perhaps a couple of models at the outset, the executive said.

Mobile ESPN offers real-time scoring updates, video highlights, short newscasts and news alerts. Many features can be customized around a user's favorite sports or teams. Participants in ESPN.com fantasy sports will be able to manage their teams via cell phone.

Verizon has been beefing up V Cast with marquee names in hopes of generating more revenue from nonvoice services as it invests billions to upgrade its cell network for speedier data connections. In late November, the company reached deals to feature user-generated video from YouTube and Revver.com.

The shutdown of Mobile ESPN as an independent wireless carrier marked the first major bust in a rush of specialized cell ventures targeting niche audiences they contend are underserved by the Cingulars and Verizons of the world.

Last year, Disney said it had invested a combined \$150 million in developing Mobile ESPN and Disney Mobile, another so-called "MVNO," or mobile virtual network operator, that is still available. An MVNO doesn't have its own wireless network. Instead, it puts its brand on another wireless operator's service whose name is hidden from the customer - and offers its own lineup of handsets and calling plans.

Food City 500 is 50th straight sellout

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BRISTOL, Tenn. - The cost of a first-class stamp was 20 cents. Martina Navratilova and Jimmy Connors were Wimbledon champs. Ronald Reagan was president. The world population was 4.6 billion. And Michael Jackson's vaunted Thriller album (yes, it was an album back then) was the talk of the music world.

When did all those events occur? In 1982, the same time that Bristol Motor Speedway's consecutive streak of Nextel Cup sellouts, which reaches 50 with the upcoming Food City 500 on March 25, began.

No other speedway NASCAR's stable can boast of such an impressive statistic. It began on Aug. 28, 1982 when Darrell Waltrip's Buick edged Bobby Allison by .70 second in front of a sold-out crowd of 30,000 to capture the Busch 500 title. Twenty-five years later, the world's population is a couple billion more and the seating capacity at BMS has grown to nearly 160,000. Yet the fans continue to come and the track, home of the toughest tickets in the sport to come by, is always filled to capaci-

"It's a pretty significant accomplishment," said BMS President and General Manager Jeff Byrd. "I don't know of any race track that can even come close to 50 straight sellouts. The amazing thing about

the streak is that no matter what the seating capacity was throughout the years, the fans always bought tickets and always came to Bristol to fill those seats.

"It all goes back to the loyalty fans feel toward Bristol and the fact that they love the experience that is Bristol Motor Speedway. The short track action, the high banks, the ability to see everything that's happening on the track? it's very unique and they appreciate it."

Since the streak began there have been 17 different winners at Bristol. Leading the pack is Rusty Wallace with nine wins, followed by Dale Earnhardt and Darrell Waltrip, both with seven, Jeff Gordon and Kurt Busch with five apiece and Terry Labonte, Alan Kulwicki, Mark Martin and Matt Kenseth, all with two each. Tony Stewart, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kevin Harvick, Dale Jarrett, Elliott Sadler, Bill Elliott, Ernie Irvan and Davey Allison each had one victory during the streak.

The spring race of 1996, the first under Bruton Smith's ownership, and that sellout registered 71,000 fans in attendance. One year later an additional 47,000 seats had been built and sold. In August of 1998, 135,000 people were part of the sold out half-mile oval while the sellout of March 2003 boasted the first nearly crowd of nearly 160,000.

Pelphrey-coached Jags hold off Western Kentucky University

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

MOBILE, Ala. – The University of South Alabama Jaguars held off a furious second half rally by Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers on Thursday night and needed overtime for a 73-71 victory at the Mitchell Center. With the win, the Jags improved to 18-7 overall and 12-2 in conference play, while extending the nation's fourth best winning streak to 11 games.

"This was an unbelievably exciting basketball game," Jaguar head coach John Pelphrey, a Paintsville native said. "I thought we played well for much of the game and you have to give WKU a lot of credit coming back like they did in the late stages of the second half."

"I am really proud of how our guys persevered tonight, we hung in there and got the job done."

In the second overtime game of the season for the Jaguars, USA took the early one point lead on a free throw by junior Daon Merritt. WKU's Courtney Lee put the Hilltoppers up one with a putback, but senior Leandro Buboltz hit a big time 3pointer in the corner to put USA back up 67-65 with just over two minutes left. Junior Demetric Bennett drove to the hoop on the ensuing possession to put the Jags up four with 90 seconds left.

WKU's Jeremy Evans cut the deficit in half with another putback and two free throws by Evans evened the game at 69 with 56 seconds left. Junior Daon Merritt drove to the hoop and was fouled putting him at the line where he made both free throws with 34.4 seconds left.

The Hilltoppers went for the quick score by A.J. Slaughter giving the Jags the final possession with 17.2 seconds on the clock. Merritt drove to the hoop for the go-ahead score with 2.2 seconds left.

WKU had one last chance as it put the ball in play and had to go the length of the court. Lee heaved a ball from just inside halfcourt to no avail.

The Jaguars built a 26-16 on a layup by Merritt with just over five minutes to play in the first half. A trey by Hilltopper Orlando Mendez-Valdez cut the deficit to 26-19 with four minutes to play and another trey by Tyrone Brazelton cut the deficit to five points at 27-22 with two minutes left in the half.

Bennett countered with two treys in the final minute of the half to put the Jags up 35-25 at halftime.

For the half USA shot 43.8 percent from the floor on 14-of-32. The Jags were five-of-13 from beyond the arc and two-of-four from the line. Bennett had 10 points to lead the team, while Merritt and Davis each had eight.

WKU was led by eight points from Brazelton as the Hilltoppers shot 10of-26 from the floor for 38.5 percent, after starting the half making just two of their first 12. WKU was four-of-12 from beyond the arc and 1 of 2 from the line.

WKU held a 20-16 lead in rebounds. The Jaguars played much of the first half without junior Ernest Little who had two quick fouls early in the game.

Each time WKU cut the deficit under ten, the Jags responded and pushed the lead back to nine or 10. Little hit two free throws to put USA up 53-42 with 11 minutes to play in regulation.

WKU rallied from a 60-48 deficit to tie the game at 60 with two minutes and change left. Courtney Lee hit a key bucket as the shot clock was winding down to put the Hilltoppers up 62-60 with 33 seconds left. USA ended the 14-0 run by WKU with a 3-pointer by junior Daon Merritt to tie the game with 21.8 seconds left. It was in just about the exact spot where he hit the game-tying 3-pointer against North Texas to send that game to overtime.

For the game, USA was led by Merritt who tied his career-high with 24 points on seven-of-nine from the floor and eight-of-11 from the line. Also in double figures was Bennett with 14 and Davis had 10 points off the bench.

Lee led Western Kentucky with 21 points. Brazleton scored 15 points and Evans added 11 for the Hilltoppers.

"I am very happy for our kids," Pelphrey added. "It is not every day that your are fourth in the nation in something. I am very happy for our school and our fans were awesome tonight."

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2007 • A9

photo courtesy of South Alabama Paintsville native John Pelphrey guided his University of South Alabama Jaguars to a close win over the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers Thursday night.

Cardinals, Wildcats try to reload on National Signing Day

By WILL GRAVES ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE – Steve Kragthorpe was in a mall somewhere in California recently when the new Louisville coach realized he didn't have to worry so much about selling the Cardinals to prospective recruits.

There, in a store a thousand miles away from Papa John's Stadium, was a Louisville hat mixed in with gear from more traditional college football powers.

"It's all over. People know about Louisville football now," Kragthorpe said. "When you look at all four corners of the country, you look at all 50 states, you ask somebody who is a football fan or who follows football, "Tell me about Louisville football," they'll tell you about Louisville."

The challenge for Kentucky coach Rich Brooks on the recruiting trail was a little different. Rather than convince recruits that better days are ahead, as he's had to do the past, Brooks went into living rooms trying to build on the momentum the Wildcats created after going 8-5 last season and winning a bowl game for the first time in 22 years.

Brooks didn't lack for volunteers.

The Wildcats signed 28 players on National Signing Day on Wednesday, splitting the class evenly between offensive and defensive players.

"I think this class is as talented as last year's class, if not more talented," Brooks said. "There are guys in this class that are clearly an upgrade for us."

The Cardinals signed 15 players Wednesday, including former University of Miami linebacker Willie Williams and quarterback Matt Simms, son of former NFL quarterback Phil Simms.

While not a large class in terms of numbers, Kragthorpe said the Cardinals got the players they wanted. Not bad for a coach who's been on the job less than a month.

"It was tough, I spent a lot of times in planes and rental cars (and places) I didn't know existed," Kragthorpe said. "It's been fast. It's been furious, but I do my best work under the crunch."

Many of the signees may have to wait to make an impact on a team that returns plenty of starters from a squad that went 12-1 and finished sixth in the final Associated Press poll. Williams, who will be a junior next fall, is expected to play right away. Kragthorpe said the off-the-field troubles that followed Williams to Miami three years ago – he was arrested 11 times during his high school career – are gone. Kragthorpe and

Louisville Athletics Director Tom Jurich spoke extensively with Williams and his family during the recruiting process, and both believe Williams has put his legal troubles behind him.

"He's had some challenges in his life, but he's distanced himself from those things," Kragthorpe said. "It's been three years since he's had any issues come up."

Kragthorpe also hopes he continued a tradition started by former Louisville coaches Bobby Petrino and John L. Smith: keeping the city of Louisville's best players close to home.

Running back Doug Beaumont, who won the state's Mr. Football Award last fall after rushing for 1,169 and 24 touchdowns as a senior at Louisville Male, will play wide receiver for the Cardinals, while St. Xavier star Victor Anderson will play running back and return kicks. The Wildcats focused on bolstering a defense that was the team's Achilles' heel last season. Kentucky signed four defensive backs and four linebackers, including La Grange (Ga.) High team-

mates Mychal Bailey and Randall Burden. The two are among eight players from Georgia the Wildcats brought in, one more than the number of players they signed from Kentucky.

Brooks credited the Georgia pipeline to current Wildcats like linebacker Wesley Woodyard, who is also from La Grange.

"It just makes it a lot easier when you have someone who is having success in your program and can turn right around and tell them, 'Yeah, that's what it is, it is what they are telling you it is," Brooks said. "They bring a pretty good work ethic, and they are not shy from contact."

Brooks hopes this class has the kind of speed that will allow the Wildcats to keep up with the likes of Florida and Georgia in the Southeastern Conference.

"I think there are guys in this class – not only from the linemen but from the skill, DB-type guys – that when

after a pair of free-throws by Danetra Forrest with 14:17 remaining. From there, the Wildcats used a 9-0 run and

they get off the bus they look more like the type of player you see in the SEC," Brooks said. "There is speed in this class, quite a bit of speed."

Things at Louisville have been moving so fast for Kragthorpe since he took the job on Jan. 9, he admits he's dizzy. But the Cardinals kept nearly all the recruits who committed when Petrino was still the coach, including Simms, who originally wavered after Kragthorpe took the job.

"I don't know if I actually changed his mind, but I think I reassured him that this situation was going to be very positive for him," Kragthorpe said. "He was kind of back and forth for quite a bit of time there but ... (assistant head coach) Jeff Brohm did a great job during the recruiting process with Matt and with the family."

Kragthorpe will wait until training camp begins to determine whether Simms will redshirt. But with quarterback Brian Brohm returning next fall, there's no rush to get Simms on the field. In fact, Kragthorpe said his biggest recruit was the one he got a week into the job, when Brohm chose to return for his senior year rather than enter the NFL Draft.

"Brian will be included in this class," Kragthorpe said with a laugh.

n The Wildcats shot an impressive

* UK women

rebounding edge in a conference game this season – and had two players tally double-figure rebound performances

seven second-chance points.

Junior guard Samantha Mahoney (Detroit) scored 13 points, all in the second half, brought down a seasonhigh eight rebounds and dished out five assists. Sophomore point guard Carly Ormerod (Louisville, Ky.) scored in double figures for the fifth time in the last six games with 11 points to complement six assists. Kentucky, which trailed by 16 points at 24-8 with 6:51 remaining in the first half, began employing a stifling 3-2 zone that allowed the Wildcats to close the period on a 15-3 run to enter the locker room down just four, 27-23. Kentucky stormed out of the locker room after intermission and quickly knotted the score at 30-30 on a lay-up by Ormerod at the 17:11 mark of the second half. After another tie at 32-all, Ole Miss went back in front 36-33

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Kragthorpe

top Ole Miss

TIMES STAFF REPORT

OXFORD, Miss. – The Kentucky women's basketball team used a big second half Thursday to overcome a 16-point first-half deficit and notch a 69-61 win against Ole Miss in C.M. "Tad" Smith Coliseum. Senior guard Jenny Pfeiffer (North Vernon, Ind.) scored a team-high 16 points, including 8-of-8 free throws, to lead four Wildcats in double figures as the Cats posted their second consecutive win.

Kentucky (16-9, 5-5 Southeastern Conference) out-rebounded the Rebels by 20 (47-27) – its largest

for the first time since Nov. 18, 2006. The Wildcats, who dropped a 67-65 overtime decision to Ole Miss (18-7, 7-3) in Lexington earlier this season, have now won five of the last seven meetings between the two teams and two consecutive in Oxford.

Senior forward/center Jennifer Humphrey (Memphis, Tenn.) led the UK rebounding effort for the 15th time this season with a game-high 16 boards, while junior center Sarah Elliott (McKee) charted her fourth double-double this season with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Elliott also tallied a double-double against the Rebels earlier this season. The Cats held Ole Miss, the league's leader in offensive rebounds at 20.0 per game, to just 12 offensive rebounds and held Ole Miss scoreless for more than three minutes to take a 42-36 advantage after back-to-back baskets by Elliott and Mahoney. A pair of freethrows by Pfeiffer pushed the Wildcats ahead by seven, 46-39, with 6:54 left, but Ole Miss would not go away.

A basket by Shawn Goff and a three-point play from Alliesha Easley allowed the Rebels to get back into the game at 46-44 with 6:09 remaining. With UK leading 50-48, the Wildcats went on a 9-0 run that was capped off by a three-pointer from Pfeiffer to take an 11-point lead at 59-48 with 1:47 left in the game. Ole Miss began fouling, but the Cats were clutch. Kentucky made 10-of-11 charity shots in the game's final 1:08 to seal the vic65.6 percent (14-of-22) from the floor in the second half to finish with a 47.9 percent (23-of-48) mark from the field for the game. Ole Miss shot just 33.3 percent (11-of-33) in the final period and connected on 36.5 percent (23-of-63) of its shots for the game.

Ashley Awkward scored a gamehigh 22 points to lead Ole Miss. Senior Armintie Price, who is second in the SEC in scoring at 18.9 ppg, was limited to 13 points to complement 10 rebounds.

Kentucky will return to action Sunday when it travels to Knoxville, Tenn., to face the No. 3 Tennessee Lady Vols. Tip-off is slated for 5:25 p.m. EST in Thompson-Boling Arena. The game will be carried live on ESPN2 and the Big Blue Sports Network (radio) with Neil Price.

Redhawks too much for MSU women

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. – Junior Tarah Combs scored a careerhigh 25 points, hitting on a career high seven three-pointers, and senior center LaKrisha Brown posted her second 20-point game of the season, but the host Southeast Missouri Redhawks outscored the visiting Morehead State women's basketball team, 30-5, at the free throw line, as SEMO outlasted MSU 84-70 Thursday at the Show Me Center. Despite the setback, MSU remains in a tie with SEMO and Murray State for first place in the OVC at 11-4.

Combs was 4-of-6 from beyond the arc in the first half, leading to a team-best 14 points. She nailed three more three-balls in the final 20 minutes as she now has 128 career treys in less than three seasons. That figure moved Combs past former Eagle Kelly Downs and into sixth place in career treys at MSU. She now needs just eight more to eclipse former Eagle and last season's teammate

Megan Gearhart. Combs also connected on a pair two-pointers, giving her a career-high nine field goals made.

Brown had by far her most productive OVC game so far with 20 points as she hit 9-of-14 from the field in 35 minutes. She also collected a team best six rebounds. As a team the Eagles tied a season high with 11 three-pointers, but were able to hit just 5-of-12 on free throws. Meanwhile, Southeast Missouri, which improved to 16-7 overall, hit 30-of-38 at the charity stripe on its own floor.

For the Redhawks, Missy Whitney had a game high 28 points and had 10 of the Redhawks' 39 rebounds. Whitney shot as many free throws (12) by herself as MSU did for the game. Lachelle Lyles also had a double-double of 12 points and 12 rebounds. MSU was able to hold her five below her nationally-leading 17rebound-per-game average. Ashley Lovelady and Tarina Nixon also added 14 each as well as SEMO improved to 12-1 in its own facility.

For the game, Morehead State outshot the hosts as it hit 48 percent (27of-56) from the field. SEMO shot 44 percent from the floor.

MSU trailed throughout the first half but took its first lead with 1:02 left before the break after a Strayer trey. Lovelady though hit jumper on her end of the floor and SEMO held a 35-34 halftime advantage. The Redhawks pushed their lead to 43-38 with 16:42 left, but the Eagles put together an 8-0 run and moved ahead 46-43 with 15:02 left. Combs' seventh three-pointer put her team on top 56-55 with 11:10 left, but the hosts strung together a 12-0 run to seal the game. At the 7:54 mark, SEMO held a 67-56 lead it never relinquished. Morehead State was only able to climb to within as low as eight the rest of the way.



PC HALL OF FAME



HONORED: David Collier (top left), Craig Delong (top, right), Johnnie LeMaster (bottom, right) and Claire Fuller West (bottom, left) were inducted into the Pikeville College Athletics Hall of Fame on Saturday during a ceremony held in the Booth Auditorium.

2007 promises to be season of change for NASCAR

by JENNA FRYER ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Buckle up. race fans, for a season that promises to be like nothing ever seen before.

With the mandated Car of Tomorrow, changes to the Chase for the championship, Toyota's arrival, ESPN's return and the introduction of former Formula One driver Juan Pablo Montoya, 2007 will prove this ain't your Daddy's NASCAR.

Indeed, this season will be a pivotal one for NASCAR, which looks to rebound after a mediocre 2006 that saw television ratings slip and made many wonder if the sport had reached its plateau.

But NASCAR chairman Brian France hasn't strayed from his belief that all is well in his family-owned business.

"We're in a very strong position," he insisted. "We are still the No. 2 sport on television. Promoters continue to enjoy great ticket sales throughout the year, and I know 2007, with all of the things that are going on, will make for an exciting season.

It starts this weekend at Daytona International Speedway, where the best of the Nextel Cup Series will kick-start the season with Saturday

exhibition night's Shootout.

Preparations begin the very next day for the Feb. 18 season-opening Daytona 500. The race will mark the first time a Japanese automaker will take the green flag in NASCAR's top series as Toyota's expected to have at least a handful of its Camrys in the field. Seven different drivers will race Camrys this season, including twotime Daytona 500 winner Michael Waltrip and 1999 Cup champion Dale Jarrett

The inclusion of a foreign maker in a decidedly American sport has rankled many longtime fans, which Jarrett believes is closed-minded.

"I'm as American as the next person that's here and I pay my taxes just like everybody else and I love this country," Jarrett said. "Toyota is a big part of the United States economy. They're going to put a lot of dollars in the sport, in promoting our sport, and that's going to be good for our sport as a whole.'

The race also will include Montoya, a native of Colombia who will be the only non-white driver in NASCAR's top series this season. A CART champion, former Indianapolis 500 winner and popular F1 driver, Montoya is starting what is

from open-wheel dominance to stockcar struggles.

An aggressive and outspoken driver, he's also proven to be a quick study, leading many to predict he'll visit Victory Lane at least once this season.

Montoya just wants to take it one race at a time.

"This is a learning process for me, and there's no rush for me to be perfect," Montoya said. "But I am also not here for fun. This is serious business, and I plan on winning races."

Montoya is expected to bring new fans to NASCAR, and they'll have no problem finding him as he'll be featured heavily on satellite radio and television.

NASCAR is ramping up its exposure through Sirius Satellite Radio, which has an entire NASCAR channel that will provide flag-to-flag coverage on race day, and by welcoming back ESPN after a long hiatus.

ESPN was one of NASCAR's original broadcast partners, but the network was frozen out of coverage in the 2001 television package that awarded the TV rights to Fox and NBC

But the sports network is back with a vengeance, promising to

Budweiser expected to be a bumpy transition devote hours upon hours of air time and a nightly "NASCAR Now" news program.

> "A lot has changed at ESPN since we did our last race in 2000," said John Skipper, vice president of content. "We no longer think of the races as a three-hour event. We think of the races as an opportunity for us to establish ESPN as the 24-7 home of the NASCAR fan."

The network also will be home to the Busch Series, promising NASCAR's junior varsity the first stable programming schedule in its history

All that coverage should make it easy to decide if NASCAR's Car of Tomorrow helps or hinders the sport.

The futuristic vehicle, designed and developed by NASCAR, will be phased into competition this season with 16 races, beginning with the March event at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Intended to improve racing, cut costs and bolster safety, the CoT has drawn a wide difference in opinion around the garage. And many believe the team that adapts the fastest will be crowned Nextel Cup champion - the car will be used in five of the 10 Chases

"I think it's really going to come

down to who has the best feel for that car," said two-time champion Tony Stewart, a vocal critic. "It's a crapshoot, I think, and we're all going to have to wait and see who has their stuff together on the Car of Tomorrow.'

It also comes down to winning, as NASCAR puts an emphasis on finishing first through tweaks to the Chase format.

NASCAR always has been an exercise in consistency, with most drivers content to settle for a top 10 finish. But France hopes to change that by awarding five more points for victories this year.

Those wins also will be good for bonuses when the Chase begins - for every victory scored during the "regular-season," a driver will get a 10point cushion to be used in seeding the playoff field.

It's all a lot to ingest, but France is confident fans will adapt.

"We're very careful with our fan base and loyalties, and we're not going to squander that away," he said. We're going to make changes that we think they'll like, and that enhance competition on the track first and foremost. That's where it starts for us.'

GOING AT HIGH SPEEDS IN THE CLASSROOM: Schools now a proving ground for various racing teams*

by JOHN SEEWER ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIMA, Ohio - Michael Klenke learned in class how to assemble a race-car engine and tear apart its transmission. He also learned the best way to handle a problem that crops up when a stock car is flying around a dirt race track at 60 mph.

"It's more than just step on the gas and turn left," Klenke said of driving for the University of Northwestern Ohio's stock-car team. "It makes you realize you really are going to use what you learn here."

Klenke's school is one of a handful of places where students can study how to build a race car from the bottom up. The high-performance motorsports program readies them for a career in auto racing - whether it be working in a pit crew or in the shop.

"A lot of people just see NASCAR on Sundays," said Steve Klausing, an instructor who works with the school's race club. "There's a lot that goes into the six days before the race."

Auto racing's growing presence on television and its widening appeal to mainstream fans has led to more ARCA series. "But it requires more than turning wrenches in a garage. We're seeing more and more drivers and crew members who are college graduates.

ARCA has become a stepping stone race league for not only the drivers, but also crew members.

About 20 students from the Ohio school spent their weekends last year working with ARCA teams. A group from the school traveled to Florida this week to work at the ARCA 200 on Saturday at Daytona International Speedway.

They'll work on the engines, clean the cars for the race and watch how the pros adjust the aerodynamics of the cars to make them run faster.

"It gives any racing program a place to look for help," said Bill Kimmel, crew chief for eight-time ARCA champion Frank Kimmel. "If you take a kid off the street, we have to show them every step of the way.'

He usually pairs a student with an experienced crew member. Kimmel's team, based in New Albany, Ind., hired one of the students who worked for him a year ago to be a mechanic.

Motorsports students at Indiana University-Purdue University in the IUPUI motorsports program.

ARCA car owner Wayne Hixson, of Soddy Daisy, Tenn., said there's still a learning curve when students start working with a pro team.

"We're looking for somebody who can carry tires over the wall and put them on," he said. "I teach them how to carry tires, put them on and put air in them.

About 1,000 students are enrolled in the motorsports program at the University of Northwestern Ohio, which offers two- and four-year degrees in business and technologies.

The new \$7 million motorsports complex is where they learn about building transmissions, welding frames and shaping fenders.

Classrooms are attached to the garages where stock cars and dragsters are taken apart and put back together, "There's a lot of big-boy toys here," said Tom Grothous, a dean in the college of technologies.

In one of the garages, the metal frame of a stock car sits on a lift, but soon it will be fitted with an engine and ready for the racing season in April. Outside, there's a 500-foot track for drag racing and a small oval for stock cars. Mounds of rocks and summer to work on the pit crews with weekend drivers who come to the Limaland Motorsports Park.

Anywhere from 2,000 to 5,000 fans show up on race night to watch the sprint cars, stock cars and trucks.

The university's first stock-car team started competing there last year. This season, it will have two teams racing in cars with "student driver" on the rear bumper.

"It lets everyone know that they're out there to learn and not to push the other guys into the wall," said university president Jeffrey Jarvis, who can be found on race nights talking with fans and drivers.

The motorsports program at the Ohio school started in 1993. Other colleges have since added the training, including Lincoln Tech in Indianapolis and WyoTech at its campus in Fremont, Calif.

The University of Northwestern Ohio doesn't track how many graduates end up in racing. But former students now work for teams in NASCAR, the Indy Racing League and minor league circuits.

The education in the classroom can't compare with practicing at the track, Klausing said.

2007 NASCAR Nextel Cup Schedule

Feb. 10 - x-Budweiser Shootout, Daytona Beach, Fla. Feb. 18 - Daytona 500, Daytona Beach, Fla. Feb. 25 - Auto Club 500, Fontana, Calif. March 11 - UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400, Las Vegas. March 18 - Atlanta 500, Hampton, Ga. March 25 - Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn April 1 - Goody's 500, Martinsville, April 15 - Samsung 500, Fort Worth, Texas April 21 - Subway Fresh 500, Avondale, Ariz. April 29 - Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala. May 5 - Crown Royal 400, Richmond, Va. May 12 - Dodge Avenger 500, Darlington, S.C. May 19 - x-NASCAR Nextel All-Star Challenge, Concord, N.C. May 27 - Coca Cola 600, Concord, June 3 - TBA, Dover, Del. June 10 - Pocono 500, Long Pond, Pa June 17 – TBA, Brooklyn, Mich. June 24 – Dodge/Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif. July 1 – LENOX Industrial Tools 300, Loudon, N.H. July 7 - Pepsi 400, Daytona Beach, Fla. July 15 - USG Sheetrock 400, Joliet, July 29 - Allstate 400 at the Brickyard, Indianapolis. Aug. 5 - Pennsylvania 500, Long Pond, Pa. Aug, 12 - NEXTEL Cup at The Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y. Aug. 19 - TBA, Brooklyn, Mich. Aug. 25 - Sharpie 500, Bristol, Tenn. Sept. 2 - TBA, Fontana, Calif. Sept. 8 - Chevy Rock-and-Roll 400, Richmond, Va. Sept. 16 - Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H. Sept. 23 - TBA, Dover, Del. Sept. 30 - Kansas 400, Kansas City, Kan. Oct. 7 - UAW-Ford 500, Talladega, Ala. Oct. 13 - Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C. Oct. 21 - TBA, Martinsville, Va. Oct. 28 - TBA, Hampton, Ga. Nov. 4 - Dickies 500, Fort Worth, Texas. Nov. 11 - Checker Auto Parts 500, Avondale, Ariz. Nov. 18 - Ford 400, Homestead, Fla. x-non-points race

leagues, teams and job opportunities in a sport that increasingly needs highly skilled crew members.

"It used to be that growing up with your dad in the garage was good enough to get you through," said Don Radebaugh, spokesman for the

Indianapolis compete for internships in the Champ Car World Series and with the Panther Racing team in the Indy Racing League.

"We work with teams to configure the classes around what the teams need," said Peter Hylton, director of

dirt are for the off-road racers.

The school also boasts what it calls the world's largest motorsports classroom – a 1/4-mile banked dirt track that the university bought nine years ago. As many as 100 students line up on Friday nights in the spring and

"It's just not the same thing as when the car's coming in all hot," he said. "It gets your adrenaline going.'

- On the Net:
- University of Northwestern Ohio: http://www.unoh.edu/

Harang gets \$36.5 million, 4-year deal from Reds

by JOE KAY ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI - Right-hander Aaron Harang avoided arbitration by agreeing to a \$36.5 million, four-year contract Tuesday that made him the Cincinnati Reds' highest-paid pitcher.

Harang emerged as one of the NL's top starters last season despite pitching in a ballpark that is one of the most homer-friendly in the major leagues. He tied for the league lead with 16 wins and led the NL with 216 strikeouts and six complete games.

"They showed me dedication by coming to me with this type of deal before I was a free agent," Harang said.

General manager Wayne Krivsky talked to agents Sam and Seth Levinson about an extension last summer, but they were far apart in years and money.

"We kind of had a stalemate," Krivsky said. "We both agreed we

were too far apart. We decided to rekindle those talks once the numbers were filed for arbitration. We made an offer, and they weren't that far apart."

Harang made \$2.35 million last season, and wanted \$5.5 million in arbitration. The Reds countered with a \$4.25 million offer in arbitration, then went about trying to avoid the hearing by getting a long-term deal.

Harang gets base salaries of \$4.25 million this season, \$6.75 million in 2008, \$11 million in 2009 and \$12.5 million in 2010. There is a club option for 2011 at \$12.75 million with a \$2 million buyout.

If Harang pitches 210 innings in 2010, the option increases to \$13 million. If he is traded, the option becomes mutual and increases to \$14 million, with a \$2.5 million buyout.

The 28-year-old pitcher's deal eclipses that of left-hander Eric Milton, who is entering the final season of a \$25.5 million, three-year contract.

Cincinnati acquired Harang from Oakland as part of their 2003 midseason trading splurge. The ballclub moved into Great American Ball Park that season, and fired general manager Jim Bowden when it failed to contend. The Reds traded their veterans for prospects, and obtained Harang for outfielder Jose Guillen.

Since he joined the Reds, Harang has been the most dependable member of a pitching staff that has been the club's biggest weakness. He had his best season last year, going 16-11 with a 3.76 earned run average in 35 starts.

Harang was the only Reds player in arbitration. Less than an hour before the Reds held a news conference to announce his signing, Krivsky received a copy of the brief that Harang's agents had prepared to argue for the bigger amount in arbitration.

The agents' brief pointed out that Harang is one of only eight pitchers since 1960 to lead the NL in wins and

strikeouts. The others: Johnson, John Smoltz, Dwight Gooden, Steve Carlton, Tom Seaver, Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale.

"So Aaron had a heck of a year," Krivsky said. "He's just gotten better and better every year. He keeps setting the bar higher each year.'

He also got some help in the rotation after the Reds acquired right-hander Bronson Arroyo from Boston during spring training. Arroyo went 14-11 with a 3.29 ERA in 35 starts, and led the team by pitching 240 2-3 innings. Arroyo will make a total of at least \$8,075,000 during the two remaining years of his contract.

Harang is impressed with the way Krivsky has retooled the team since he took over a year ago.

"I'm looking forward to the direction we're going," Harang said. "I think they've done a lot to improve it. Just last year, it showed in how much better we got."



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Reds extend Arroyo's contract through 2010

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS'

CINCINNATI - The Cincinnati Reds extended right-handed starter Bronson Arroyo's contract through 2010 on Thursday.

The two-year extension makes Arroyo's contract worth about \$33 million. There is a club option for 2011.

It comes two days after the Reds signed their other star starter, Aaron Harang, to a four-year deal worth \$36.5

million through 2010. The team also has a 2011 option on Harang, 28, also a right-hander.

Arroyo, a National League All-Star, led the major leagues with 240 2-3 innings pitched and was 14-11 with an ERA of 3.29.

He and Harang, who won 16 games and pitched 234 1-3 innings, became the first pair in Reds history to each pitch at least 200 innings and have at least 184 strikeouts. Harang led the National League with 216 strikeouts.

The Reds obtained Arroyo, 30, from Boston last March in a trade for outfielder Wily Mo Pena.



RETURNING TO FLOYD COUNTY: Gladiator Fighting Championships XII will be held Saturday (Feb. 17) at the Wilkinson-Stumbo Convention Center at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. Start time for the event is set for 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2007 • A11

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Authority Prestonsburg has an opening for an Assistant Property Manager/Intake Worker. Assistant Property Manager/Intake Worker must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus at least three vears office experiincluding ence basic computer skills. General requirements include the ability to communicate orally and in writing, organizational skills, the ability to work with confidential information and to work

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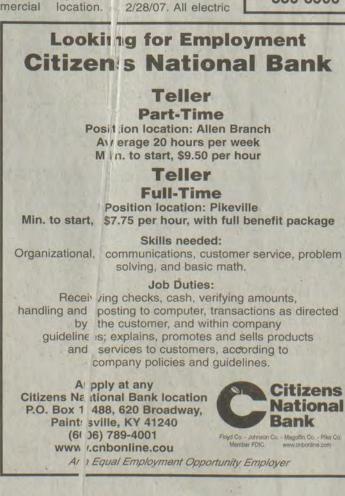
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