

Betsy Layne homecoming
page A7

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FLOYD COUNTY Times

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briefs

Women's health topic of luncheon

by JESSICA HALE
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — In conjunction with the American Heart Association's nationwide movement to bring heart disease awareness to women, Highlands Regional Medical Center will be hosting a special luncheon focusing on what is the number one killer of all women in the United States.

According to the American Heart Association, the movement "Go Red For Women" empowers women with knowledge and tools so they may take positive action to protect their health and reduce their risk of heart disease. Information on healthy eating, exercise, weight maintenance, blood pressure control, and blood cholesterol management are a focus of these luncheons.

As part of this nationwide movement, cities across the country went Red by illuminating buildings and monuments in red lights to raise awareness. The Governor's Mansion in Frankfort Kentucky was one such monument which was illuminated in honor of the Go Red for Women campaign.

Highlands Regional Medical Center will be hosting a Go Red For Women luncheon at the Wilkinson Stumbo Convention Center on Tuesday from 12 to 2 p.m. Jean Dorton will be the speaker.

2 DAY FORECAST

Today
Evening showers
High: 55 • Low: 34

Tomorrow
Rain
High: 48 • Low: 30

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inside

- Regional ObituariesA2
- Opinion.....A4
- Lifestyles.....A5
- Sports.....A7
- Classifieds.....A11



First roundup suspect pleads not guilty

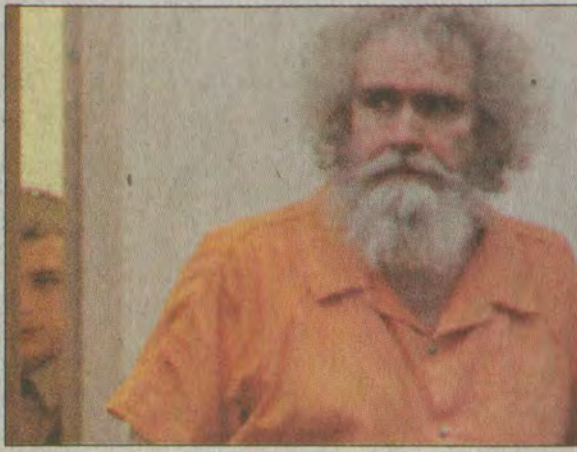
by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Fifty-six year old Larry Music was arraigned in circuit court Friday afternoon after being arrested during a drug roundup Monday morning.

Music, of Prestonsburg, has been charged with two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, including oxycodone and hydrocodone. He waived his formal arraignment and entered a not guilty plea to both charges. A \$30,000 bond was set and a pretrial conference was set for May

7. The roundup targeted seven individuals, netting five the day of the arrests. All five captured suspects have been charged with at least one count of trafficking stemming from alleged involvement in the sale of prescription pills to undercover agents working for the Kentucky Bureau of Investigation last year. Pills sold during the transactions included hydrocodone, oxycodone, methadone and Xanax. Each suspect was indicted by a Floyd County

(See PLEA, page three)



Larry Music was the first of five suspected drug dealers arrested during a roundup on Monday to be arraigned. His bond was set at \$30,000, higher than the \$20,000 set for the other defendants because Judge Caudill said his request to talk to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office before he had a lawyer and the fact that he sees a doctor in West Virginia makes him a flight risk.

photo by Alex Smith

UNPLUGGING THE NET



photo by Josh Byers

Prestonsburg economic development director Brent Graden, right, worked with Radiant Networks engineer Paul Zinda on Thursday to study the feasibility of providing wireless internet access in downtown Prestonsburg from the S-curve to Big Sandy Community and Technical College. Graden said the test appeared successful and the project could become a reality this year.

Several unions lining up against Lunsford in governor's race

by BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Organized labor generally hasn't decided which candidate to support in Kentucky's crowded governor's race, but several unions know who won't benefit from their political muscle — wealthy businessman Bruce Lunsford.

In recent days, several unions have lined up against Lunsford, a Democrat whose chief transgression, in their view, was endorsing Ernie Fletcher in 2003 and playing a role on Fletcher's transition team after the Republican was elected governor.

Fletcher angered unions in the past by wanting to repeal Kentucky's prevailing wage and open union-represented workplaces to nonunion workers. Fletcher failed on both efforts. Labor leaders haven't forgotten, or forgiven, Lunsford for backing Fletcher.

"We just feel like we can't trust him with his track record," said Lee A. Jackson, president of the Kentucky Association of State Employees, which represents 3,000 state workers and

whose board of directors voted not to support Lunsford.

Others coming out against Lunsford include Change to Win-Kentucky, a coalition of seven unions with 100,000 active and retired members, the United Mine Workers, the United Steelworkers District 8 and a Communications Workers of America local.

In a sign that labor may not be united, a member of the Change to Win-Kentucky coalition later said it didn't participate in deciding not to endorse Lunsford.

Meanwhile, the anti-Lunsford actions sparked tense conversations between Lunsford's running mate, Attorney General Greg Stumbo, and a couple of union leaders.

UMW official Steve Earle and KASE executive director Charles Wells said they received calls from an angry Stumbo after leaders of their unions rejected Lunsford.

"He told me the United Mine Workers would live to regret it," Earle said.

Wells said he had never heard Stumbo so angry. "He did say that he would get even

with those labor organizations that had decided to do this," Wells said.

Stumbo said he never threatened retribution. Stumbo, a former longtime Kentucky House majority leader, said he has been a longtime supporter of union miners and state employees and said his slate had been treated unfairly.

"To just arbitrarily say we're not going to even give you the chance is not the way that you treat your friends," Stumbo said.

Lunsford has reached out to organized labor, sending a letter to unions and rank-and-file members in which he said he wants to reclaim the governor's mansion "in the name of Democratic values." Lunsford asked union members to "clear your minds" and "judge our team on what you hear and see about our vision for Kentucky's future."

Lunsford has six Democratic rivals in the May 22 primary: former lieutenant governors Steve Henry and Steve Beshear, House Speaker Jody Richards, state Treasurer

(See LUNSFORD, page three)

Judge keeps Shepherd's bond at \$1 million

by ALEX SMITH
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Martin man will remain in jail on a \$1 million bond after a motion to reduce his bond on a charge of murder stemming from a fatal motor vehicle accident in October was rejected Friday.

Attorney Jerry Patton submitted several motions to Circuit Judge John David Caudill in defense of 32-year-old Tommy E. Shepherd, requesting a speedy trial and for the suppression of several witnesses' testimony if the case eventually goes to trial.

Patton asked for the bond to be reduced to \$50,000, stating that his client is not a flight risk and because the death of 36-

year-old Gene Thompson was not a wanton act, the bond should be reduced.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Wayne Taylor and Judge Caudill both disagreed with the motion, with Taylor arguing that because Shepherd was convicted in 2005 of a fleeing or evading police charge he was a flight risk and the bond should remain at \$1 million. Judge Caudill agreed, saying evidence showed Shepherd has a history of fleeing police and in his opinion the \$1 million bond was too low.

A pretrial hearing date has not been set.

Shepherd was arrested Oct. 8 three hours after he allegedly struck Thompson with his 1993 Ford

(See BOND, page three)

Mine safety sponsor says bill's been 'gutted'

by JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — The sponsor of a bill aimed at strengthening Kentucky's mine safety laws withdrew his support for the legislation Friday, saying it had been "gutted" by a committee.

Rep. Brent Yonts, the bill's sponsor, said he wasn't killing the legislation, but wouldn't push it either. That could spell trouble for the bill's chances for success this year.

"It'll stand as a monument, a memory, for those 16 coal miners who were killed last year of what might have been," Yonts, D-Greenville, told reporters.

The latest version of the bill deletes provisions such as requiring miners to be equipped with methane detectors, but it would still require more government coal mine inspections.

House Speaker Jody

Richards, D-Bowling Green, said the bill would strengthen mine safety laws, and legislators would continue working on the proposal.

"Around here, we use the Yogi Berra philosophy: 'It's not over until it's over,'" Richards said. "And, certainly I think most of us would like to have a good, strong mine safety bill. I certainly would."

A House committee approved the revisions Thursday, and sent it to the full House for consideration.

The legislation, which had stalled in the House committee earlier in the session, got a jump-start following lobbying efforts by labor groups and women whose husbands were killed in mining accidents.

Under the new proposal, state inspectors would have to increase their annual mine visits from three per

(See BILL, page three)

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

Emily Olga Rice Allen, 94, of Willard, a Floyd County native, died Sunday, February 11. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, February 14, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Chester Blankenship, 76, of Teaberry, died Tuesday, February 20, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Healthcare. He is survived by his wife, Bessie Hall Blankenship. Funeral services were held Friday, February 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Josephine S. Collins, 79, of Betsy Layne, died Wednesday, February 21, in the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 24, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Gladys Conn, 74, of Martin, died Tuesday, February 20, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Friday, February 23, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

John David Evans Sr., 87, formerly of Auxier, and Prestonsburg, died Friday, December 7, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Patsy Evans. Funeral services were held Monday, December 11, under the direction of W.R. Milward Funeral Home, Lexington.

Nannie Gayheart, 91, of McDowell, died Monday, February 19, at Highlands Regional Medical Center,

Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, February 22, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

William Justice, 66, of Harold, died Monday, February 19, at the University Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington. Arrangements, under the direction of Lucas and Son Funeral Home.

Billy Jack Moore, 66, of Lancaster, Michigan, a native of Printer, died Wednesday, February 14, at Oakwood Heritage Hospital, in Taylor, Michigan. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Tommy Slone, Jr., 78, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, February 21, at Corner Stone Hospital, Huntington, West Virginia. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 24, at the Carter Funeral Home Chapel. Interment was at Weddington Cemetery, in Prestonsburg.

Bonnie Jean Sword, 68, of Dwale, died Saturday, February 17, at King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 20, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Virginia "Ditty" Burchett Tackett, 82, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, February 15, at Central Baptist Hospital. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 18, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Warren Carl Wohlford, 83, of Martin, died Sunday, February 18, at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Pamela Vicars Wohlford. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, February 21, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

PIKE COUNTY

Vernon Adkins, 64, of Knob Fork, died Saturday, February 17, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Patty Charles Adkins. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 21, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

David Coleman, 73, of Castalian Springs, Tennessee, a native of Millard, died Monday, February 19, at the University Medical Center, Lebanon, Tennessee. He is survived by his wife, Frona Coleman. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 22, under the direction of Anthony Funeral Home of Hartsville, Tenn.

Nancy Damron Damron, 83, of Regina, Belcher Highway, died Tuesday, February 20, at the Parkview Nursing and Rehab Center. She is survived by her husband, Charlie Damron. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, February 25, under the direction of Lucas and Son Funeral Home.

Allyson Rachael Edmonds, 28-day-old daughter of Robert and Christine Conn Edmonds, died Saturday, February 17, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 20, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Mary Fleming, 58, of Lick Fork, died Sunday, February 18, at Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Brian R. Fleming. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 21, under the direction of Pikeville Funeral Home.

Luther Frazier, 93, of Elkhorn City, died Wednesday, February 14, at the Mountain View Health Care Center. He is survived by his wife, Goldenia Belcher Ward Frazier. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 18, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Mary Ruth Harris, 66, of Pikeville, died Sunday, February 18, at her home. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 20, under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home.

Augusta Harrison, 92, of Rockhouse, Sidney, died Friday, February 16, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Monday, February 19, under direction of Community Funeral Home.

Anderson "Anc" Hatfield, 76, of Pinsonfork, died Tuesday, February 20, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Glenna J. Ball Hatfield. Funeral services were held Friday, February 23, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

William C. "Bill" Justice, 66, of Hurricane Creek, died Monday, February 19, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Mag Thacker Justice. Funeral services were held Friday, February 23, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

Dorothy June Moon, 77, of Archdale, N.C., formerly of Pinsonfork, died Wednesday, February 14, at High Point Regional Hospital in High Point, North Carolina. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 18, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Chapel.

Randy Allen Mullins, 46, of Lancaster, Ohio, a Pikeville native, died Friday, February 16, at Lancaster Fairfield Medical Center. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 20, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

Albert Persinger, 78, of Hellier, died Tuesday, February 20, at Mt. View Health Care, Elkhorn City. He is survived by his wife, Palma Sue Knight Persinger. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 22, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Vadney Coleman Ratliff, 87, of Neenah, Wis., formerly of Lookout, died Monday, February 19, at her home. Funeral services were held Friday, February 23, under the direction of Lucas and Son Funeral Home.

Virgil Ray, 91, of Pikeville, died Thursday, February 22, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Emma Cline Ray. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

James Emmitt Reynolds, 60, of Hardy, died Tuesday, February 20, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Josey Baldwin Reynolds. Funeral arrangements were under direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Ola Susie Reynolds, 88, of Somerset, a Pike County native, died Tuesday, February 20, in Somerset. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 24, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

Brice Sanders, 83, of Regina, died Tuesday, February 20, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday, February 23, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Floyd Darryl Smith, 62, of Caney Highway, died Monday, February 19, at the Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Connie Smith. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 22, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

Joseph Slone, 85, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, February 21, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Cesterine Slone. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 24, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

Dorothy Stratton, 79, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, February 21, at her home. She is survived by her husband, Dale Stratton. Funeral services were held Friday, February 23,

under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

Muriel Thompson, 82, of Zebulon Highway, died Monday, February 19, at Lonesome Pine Hospital. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 22, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Howard Trout, 90, of Booker Fork Road, died Wednesday, February 21, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 24, under the direction of Lucas and Son Funeral Home.

William "Bill" Workman, 68, of Naugatuck, West Virginia, a native of Long Branch, died Saturday, February 17, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Kaye Davis Workman. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 21, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Chapel of Toler.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Buel K. Arms Jr., 50, of Martin, Michigan, a native of Paintsville, died Thursday, February 15, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Teresa M. Lukins. Funeral services were held Monday, February 19, under the direction of the Winkel Funeral Home.

Louise Salyers Bevins, 85, of Plainwell, Michigan, formerly of Paintsville, died Friday, February 16, at her residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 20, under the direction of Winkel Funeral Home, Otsego of Plainwell.

William Henry Conley, 85, of East Point, died Sunday, February 18, at the V.A. Medical Center, in Huntington, West Virginia. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 20, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Robert Jackson, 82, of Staffordsville, died Sunday, February 11, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, in Paintsville. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 15, under the direction of the Paintsville Funeral Home.

MARTIN COUNTY

Juanita (Nanny) Boblick, 76, of Inez, died Friday, February 16, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center, in Paintsville. Funeral services were held Monday, February 19, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Millard Maynard, 49, of Chattoary, West Virginia, a Martin County native, died Friday, February 16, in Chattoary. Graveside services were held Thursday, February 22, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Claude Stepp, 81, of Jacksonville, Florida, a Martin County native, died Tuesday, January 30. He is survived by his wife, Mary Branham Stepp. Funeral services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Jacksonville Memory Gardens Funeral Home, Orange Park, Florida.

Eula M. Vanderveer, 81, of Ashland, a native of Tomahawk, died Wednesday, February 14, at King's Daughters Medical Center, Ashland. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under direction of Preston Family Funeral Home, Ashland.

Marion "Everett" Williamson, 85, of Lovely, died Tuesday, February 13, at Three Rivers Medical Center, in Ashland. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 17, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

Lucy Marie Conley, 104, of Falcon, died Thursday, February 22, at the Salyersville Health Care Center. Funeral services will be held Sunday, February 25, at 2 p.m., under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Rev. Willie R. Johnson

Rev. Willie R. Johnson Jr., age 67, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, February 22, 2007, at Mt. Carmel West Hospital.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Virgie and John McCoart, his mother and father-in-law, Willie and Garnet Tackett, and a sister Madge (Junior) Mullins.

He is survived by his wife, JoAnn, of 48 years; and children Angie of Hilliard, Phyllis of Grove City, and Sam (Gina) of Hilliard; grandchildren Chris-topher, Cassandra, Kayla, and Karleigh; a brother, Mac-Arthur (Linda) McCoart of Inez; a sister Charlotte (Estill) Johnson of Port Huron, Michigan, and many brothers-in-law and nieces and nephews.

Willie was assistant pastor at Springfork Enterprise Baptist Church in London, Ohio, where he enjoyed preaching and teaching God's word with all.

Friends may call 2-4 and 6-8 pm Sunday, at the Tidd Funeral Home, 5265 Norwich St., Hilliard.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, at Springfork Enterprise Baptist Church, with Pastor Steve Hicks officiating.

Interment will be in Forest Grove Cemetery, under the direction of Tidd Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105.

www.tiddfuneralservice.com

(Paid obituary)

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Ruth Jones Tackett

Ruth Jones Tackett, age 83, of Price, died Thursday, February 22, 2007, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Healthcare.

Born May 14, 1923, in McDowell, she was the daughter of the late Pearl and Sadie Osborne Howell. She was a retired school teacher; and attended the Church of God of Prophecy in Hi Hat.

She was twice married; first to Silas Jones Sr., and later to Tramble Tackett. Both preceded her in death.

Survivors include a daughter, Phyllis Tackett (Cleveland) of McDowell; a daughter-in-law, Dorinda Jones of Lexington; a step-son, Kermit Tackett of Teaberry; two step-daughters: Sharon Parsons of Teaberry, and Eva Hamilton of Banner; a brother, Ruford Howell of Columbus, Ohio; three sisters: Arnetta Spencer of Martin, Buna Bentley of Marysville, Ohio, and Helen Reynolds of Beaver; six grandchildren: Melinda, Stevie, Miki Lee, Christopher, Charles Andrew and Danie Lee; nine great-grandchildren; and several step-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, and husbands, she was preceded in death by two sons: Silas Jones Jr., and Leroy Jones; a daughter-in-law, Greta Jones; a sister, Irene Horn; and an infant brother.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, February 25, at 2 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with John Hopkins, Ruford Howell, Jimmy Hall, and Clinton Moore officiating.

Burial will be in the Burton Cemetery in Ligon.

Visitation is Friday, at 6 p.m., at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

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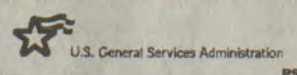


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Work begins on Mountain Parkway bridge project

JACKSON — Work is beginning this week on a \$1.4 million safety improvement project to replace the deck of the bridge carrying the Bert C. Combs Mountain Parkway over Route 30 at Exit 72 in Magoffin County.

Motorists who travel the Mountain Parkway at this location can expect

delays this week while construction crews place barrier walls and traffic signals to be used for traffic control during the project. Flaggers will periodically stop traffic while the setup work progresses this week.

Once the barrier walls and signals are in place, traffic in this area will be restricted to one lane and controlled

with traffic signals for the next five to six months while the project is ongoing. One 16-foot travel lane will be provided as contractors remove the existing bridge deck, make modifications to the support piers, and construct a new bridge deck.

On Route 30 beneath the bridge, motorists can expect periodic delays

as the work progresses. When necessary, traffic on KY 30 will be controlled by flaggers.

This safety improvement project will result in the modification of the super elevation of the Route 30 overpass on the Mountain Parkway. The \$1,371,138.50 contract was awarded in December.

Construction activities are scheduled on a tentative basis and are subject to change depending on weather conditions. Motorists are asked to "Drive Smart" in work zones and be aware of workers and construction equipment when traveling in areas where projects are ongoing.

Cervical cancer immunization gets OK from House

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Unless their parents sign a form in opposition, middle school girls in Kentucky would be vaccinated against a sexually transmitted disease that causes cervical cancer under a bill approved by the House on Thursday.

State Rep. David Watkins, D-Henderson, a physician,

urged lawmakers to approve the measure, calling development of the vaccine "a miracle" that will save lives.

The measure, which gives parents the option to exclude their children from the immunization, passed 59-39 after an emotional debate.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher, also a physician, had called on lawmakers to provide the vaccine to children on a voluntary basis. In his State of the

Commonwealth speech earlier this month, Fletcher recommended a \$4.1 million appropriation to cover the cost of voluntary vaccines.

The issue became controversial because the human papilloma virus that causes cervical cancer is spread by sexual contact, said state Rep. Kathy Stein, D-Lexington. She said people need to realize that women can contract the disease if they're raped or if

their husbands are carriers.

"Just because it can be spread by sexual contact does not mean that it is inappropriate to give to young girls," Stein said of the vaccination.

The governor, however, did not support the proposal that cleared the House.

"Without funding for uninsured and low income women, this is no option," Fletcher said in a statement.

The three-shot vaccination protects girls and women against strains of the sexually transmitted human papilloma virus that are responsible for most cases of cervical cancer. A government advisory panel recommended that all girls get the shots at 11 or 12, before they are likely to be sexually active.

Kentucky has the 12th highest cervical cancer incidence rate nationally and the second-highest cervical cancer death rate, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The bill would allow parents or guardians to withhold the vaccinations for any reason without the need for a written, sworn statement. Forms allowing parents to opt out of the vaccinations would be available at schools.

State Rep. David Floyd, R-Bardonia, one of the dissenters, said children should-

n't be forced to take the vaccine.

"I think it's pretty clear that the intent is to make it a mandatory vaccination," Floyd said. "This may be a good drug, but it should be left up to the parents. It should be truly, truly, truly optional."

The legislation is House Bill 345.

Lunsford

Jonathan Miller, Lexington attorney Gatewood Galbraith and Eastern Kentucky demolition contractor Otis Hensley Jr.

Fletcher is seeking a second term and is being challenged by two Republicans: former U.S. Rep. Anne Northup and Paducah businessman Billy Harper.

Lunsford ran for governor in 2003, spending \$8 million of his own money until dropping out days before the primary election. Before his abrupt exit, Lunsford was pitted in a bare-knuckled duel with Ben Chandler, the eventual Democratic nominee.

Lunsford now says that supporting Fletcher four years ago was a mistake.

"To be the party of Kentucky's future, we must forgive our differences in past elections," Lunsford said in the letter to union members.

Lunsford is not without union backing. One steelworkers local recently broke ranks and endorsed the Lunsford-Stumbo team, saying they have pro-union stances.

"They are committed on important issues such as protecting prevailing wage laws, fighting right-to-work legislation and reinstating Kentucky's Labor Cabinet to full status," Charles Cantrell, president of United Steelworkers Local 14581, which has about 3,000 members, said at the time of the endorsement.

On Thursday, one member

of the Change to Win-Kentucky coalition — the Indiana/Kentucky Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights — said it did not participate in the coalition's decision not to back Lunsford.

David Sharp, an executive with the Carpenters and Millwrights Regional Council, said it would not "close our ears" to any candidates.

Still, praise for Lunsford has been scant from organized labor.

"We don't believe that Mr. Lunsford has union values, and we believe that his actions in the last governor's race proved that," said Emmanuel S. Mason, assistant to the director for United Steelworkers District 8.

Steve Neal, chairman of Change to Win-Kentucky, said Lunsford was part of the Fletcher transition team that looked at reorganizing state government. Neal said one result was the Labor Cabinet losing cabinet status.

"That's an insult to all working men and women in this state," he said.

Neal said it's the first time he can recall unions coming out against a candidate.

He said it was a pre-emptive push against Lunsford, who could tap his personal wealth to saturate the airwaves with campaign commercials.

"We don't want him to be able to buy the primary," Neal said. "It's important for us to get out front and explain his record to our membership."

The latest anti-Lunsford salvo came from the Communications Workers of America Local 3372, which represents 1,000 members. The Lexington-based local's executive board passed a resolution Thursday stating it would not support Lunsford.

Michael Baranowski, a political scientist at Northern Kentucky University, said such union opposition could pose a significant setback but one that might not be insurmountable for Lunsford.

"Union support is important, and it becomes more important in a crowded primary," he said. "Of all the Democratic candidates, Lunsford is probably in the best position to weather this storm because of his financial situation."

Baranowski said Lunsford likely hoped that Stumbo would give him credibility with unions but said that plan doesn't seem to be working.

Earle said that Stumbo would have received a friendly reception from the UMW had he sought another term as attorney general. But Stumbo should have anticipated the unreceptiveness from unions when he joined Lunsford's team, Earle said.

"He chose the company that he's keeping," Earle said.

Stumbo said he and Lunsford will take their case directly to rank-and-file union members, and predicted they'll be more supportive.

Continued from p1

Bill

Continued from p1

year to six.

Yonts said after reviewing the revisions he decided not to support them.

The proposed mining legislation follows one of the deadliest years in recent history for coal miners in Kentucky. In all, 16 miners were killed on the job in 2006 — including five in a Harlan County mine explosion in May.

The legislation is House Bill 207.

Plea

grand jury in December.

The four remaining suspected drug dealers arrested during the roundup are all scheduled for arraignment March 1. Heather Castle, 21, of Eastern, Stefan Jervis, 45, of Prestonsburg and Danny Bentley, 54, also of Prestonsburg, have all been charged with one count of trafficking in a controlled substance. Forty-one-year-old David Paul Ousley, of Paintsville, has been charged

with one count of trafficking in a controlled substance and trafficking in a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school. Each charge brought against the defendants are Class D felonies, punishable by one to five years in prison.

All the suspects, excluding Jervis, remain housed in the Floyd County Detention Center on \$20,000 bond. Jervis posted a \$20,000 bond on Tuesday.

Continued from p1

Bond

Continued from p1

Explorer while traveling on Route 1210 near Martin.

Thompson was driving a small motorcycle when he allegedly attempted to move into the left lane at the same time that Shepherd was merging. Shepherd allegedly struck Thompson and ran over Thompson and dragging him 400 feet underneath his vehicle. During his preliminary hearing Det. Eddie Crum testi-

fied that his vehicle was found hidden on the side of the highway less than a mile from where the accident occurred. Shepherd was picked up by a friend and driven to a relative's home, where he was arrested later that day. In a statement given to state police, Shepherd said he did not stop because he figured someone else would stop and tend to Thompson.

GET OUT OF LINE



Now you don't have to wait in line for government services and information because now the government is officially online at FirstGov.gov. In an instant, you can print out tax and Social Security forms you used to wait in line for. You'll also find passport and student aid applications and more. FirstGov.gov. Lose the wait.

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The official web portal
of the Federal Government

For government information by phone, call 1-800-FED-INFO (that's 1-800-333-4636).
A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

PRESTONSBURG

FOODLAND

University Drive, Prestonsburg

Dear Prestonsburg,

I would like to thank you for welcoming me to your great city! Everyone has been tremendously gracious.

While purchasing the Foodland, I quickly noticed how great an asset the employees are to our company. We would like to welcome you to come visit our store and see some of the changes that have occurred in just two short weeks. I assure you that you will find a clean, customer-friendly store. In the coming weeks and months we will be working hard to add the variety and quality items that so many of you have asked for.

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Arvin Thompson
Owner-Manager



Sunday, Feb. 25th to Saturday, March 4th



24 Cans
Limit 2 cases
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\$10.00 purchase.

Additional Quantities
5⁹⁹
ea.

Pepsi Products

4⁹⁹

ea.

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

Protect state's social workers

Are the wheels coming off the Boni Bill bandwagon? The bill named after slain social worker Boni Frederick and designed to improve the safety of the state's social workers was approved by a committee and sent on to the full House.

But instead of the \$21 million in funding supporters had sought over the next two to three years, the bill as approved would allow only the shifting of \$2.5 million in existing funds to meet the most immediate needs.

Quite a difference from the week before when Gov. Ernie Fletcher and a bipartisan group of about 20 lawmakers announced the filing of the bill and its passage seemed a sure thing.

The hitch seems to be the view of some leading lawmakers that the state budget should not be reopened during this short session and that more funding can be made available during the next session of the legislature.

Boni Frederick was stabbed and beaten when she took a 9-month-old boy to his mother's house for a visit in Henderson last October. The case has focused much-needed attention on the very dangerous situations that our social workers must often face.

Among other steps, the legislation as originally introduced would fund the hiring of social workers to replace the hundreds who left the job since 2003. It would also equip all such workers with two-way radios equipped with panic buttons and require that supervised visits between birth parents and their abused or neglected children take place in neutral locations.

Two of the original bill's supporters, state Sen. Dorsey Ridley and state Rep. David Watkins, both Henderson Democrats, have expressed their disappointment at the most recent turn of events and their hopes that the measure will be fully funded, if not in the current session, then as soon as possible.

The Frederick tragedy brought a very serious heed to light, and it looked like our government was going to respond vigorously, perhaps preventing more such tragedies.

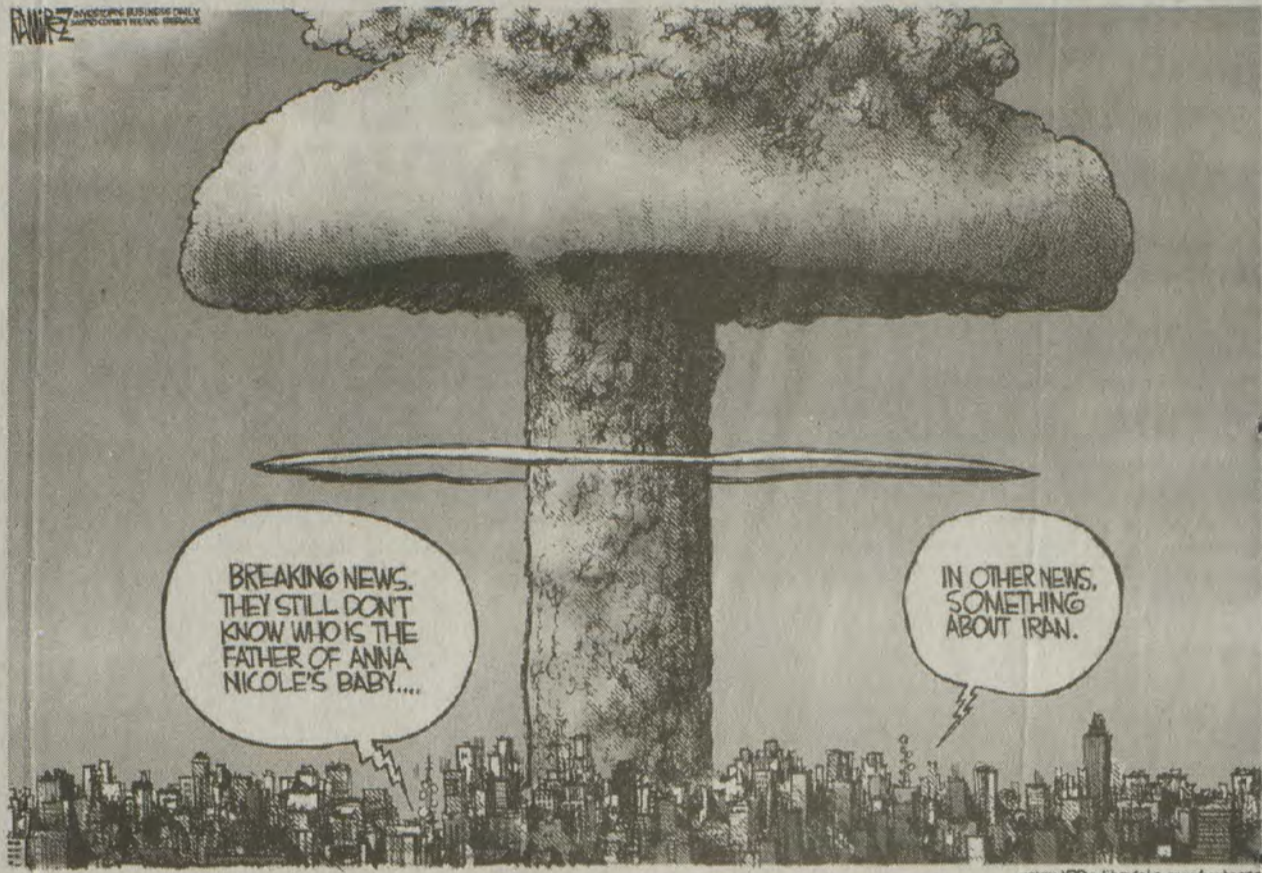
As Charles Wells, executive director of the Kentucky Association of State employees, told the House panel as it was stripping full funding from the bill — "We're in a crisis situation. Without the full funding of this bill, we're concerned we may lose (a) child, (or) another social worker."

Let's hope that doesn't happen.

Let's hope that Boni Frederick's legacy will not be another drawn-out government squabble over procedure or precedent.

Let's hope that legacy is meaningful: long-lasting improvements in safety and working conditions for public servants on the front lines of protecting children.

— The Gleaner, Henderson



— Rich Lowry Column

Hillary the calculator

When Hillary Clinton announced her presidential exploratory committee while sitting on a couch in her living room, she didn't project warmth so much as a sense that she was desperately trying to project warmth.

As TV producer Steve Rosenbaum wrote of her performance on the liberal Web site The Huffington Post: "Hillary is struggling with words that are not her own. You can practically see the teleprompter reflected in her eyes. Every word has been word-smithed, every phrase looked at by a team of consultants."

Welcome to the Hillary Clinton campaign, which will be the most blatantly calculated presidential campaign in memory. Almost all political campaigns involve falsity and play-acting, but it is Hillary's lot in life not to be able to fake it well, so the scriptwriting and the consultants' work show through. She seems to take the advice to "act naturally" literally, and the acting is always more in evidence than the naturalness.

Thus, the great battle is joined between the ruthless, highly effective inauthenticity of Hillary Clinton and the rapid, feel-good authenticity of Barack Obama.

Calculation has its advantages. But no one likes naked calculation,

and Clinton worries Democrats traumatized by the experience of their last few presidential candidates. Because liberalism typically doesn't sell in American presidential politics, liberal candidates tend to run as culturally conservative centrists — i.e., phonies. It sank both John Kerry, who couldn't even order a Philly cheesesteak properly, and Al Gore, who adopted three such utterly different personas in three national presidential debates that his performances could be a case study in abnormal-psychology classes.

The two tried, ineffectually, to duplicate the success of Bill Clinton. He was a liberal who could appeal — prior to Monica-gate — to conservative-leaning "Bubba" voters. He was a Southerner who had no problem negotiating fried food, and he governed as a centrist from 1994 to 1998. Just as importantly, his fakery was so deft and deeply ingrained that it was impossible to tell where it ended and the real Bill Clinton began. This constituted a kind of political genius, and it won't soon be repeated, certainly not by his wife.

If Bill was all id, Hillary is all superego. Comedians still make fun

of Bill's out-of-control appetites, but with Hillary, the mockery is about how she lets nothing be out of control (except perhaps her husband).

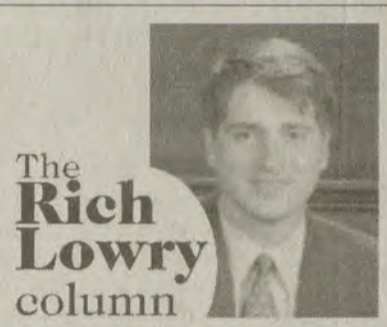
Last month, "Saturday Night Live" portrayed her

explaining her position on the war thusly: "I think most Democrats know me. They understand that my support for the war was always insincere. Of course, knowing what we know now, that you could vote against the war and still be elected president, I would never have pretended to support it."

Even Democrats would be hard-pressed not to see truth in that skit, and that's why, even if she's a strong favorite for the nomination, it's hardly a lock.

All that is certain is that at some defining moment during the campaign, Hillary Clinton will face an unexpected challenge. She will have to react to it without the benefit of careful handling or a script, and that moment will determine whether or not all her calculation goes for naught.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



The Rich Lowry column

beyond the Beltway

Iraq has worn out my patience

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

Several months ago, I shocked my Peacenik brethren by saying that despite my early opposition to the war in Iraq I did not think we should pull out. Like Hillary, I had my reasons.

To abandon the Iraqis to a chaos of our making would be less than honorable, I said, and if that chaos enveloped the Middle East, it could produce a disaster of historic proportions. The stakes were too high to pull out without giving the effort a fair chance.

You see, at the time, I thought we still had a chance of success in Iraq, an outside chance to be sure, but a chance. I no longer think that.

The latest National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) dragged me into reality on the Iraq war.

The NIE is no mere think-tank opinion, you understand; it is the consensus judgment of all U.S. intelligence agencies. And the judgment is bleak.

"Iraqi society's growing polarization, the persistent weakness of the security forces and the state in general, and all sides' ready recourse to violence are collectively driving an increase in communal and insurgent violence and political extremism," the report stated.

But...even if violence is diminished, given the current winner-take-all attitude and sectarian animosities

infecting the political scene, Iraqi leaders will be hard-pressed to achieve sustained political reconciliation."

In English, that means putting a stop to the bombings, shootings and kidnappings will be hard, dangerous work and even if we get it done, there is little chance order will last.

That's it for me, kids. Count me out. I quit.

This misbegotten war is lost. We have spent hundreds of billions of dollars building the best-trained, best-equipped army in the history of humankind and we have contrived to put it in a hopeless situation.

It takes talent to do that. No wonder they used to call Bush's foreign policy advisers "the dream team."

They tell us we can't leave because of the afore-mentioned catastrophic result. But staying will produce the same catastrophe, only with more American soldiers being killed, maimed and scarred for life. They also tell us that if Congress votes to cut off funds for the war or merely registers its disapproval, it will harm the morale of the troops.

Nonsense. You know what really hurts morale? It's coming to the end of your tour of duty and having that tour extended.

Show me a soldier in combat who doesn't know, to the hour, how much time he or she has before it's time to go home. It is a cruel joke to have that day pushed back at the last moment. And that's what we're doing.

If I were running things, I'd call in the warring factions of Iraq and say:

"We had a good idea here — democracy and all — but you guys screwed it up. We're going to go fight terrorism someplace else and spend the money we're spending here on making the United States safer.

"Adios chumps." Then we could get on with the business of ending the war with Iran. What? We're not at war with Iran, you say? You couldn't prove it by the stuff coming out of the White House and Pentagon of late.

Last week, in a series of hush-hush anonymous briefings, we stated we had proof that Iran was supplying Iraqi insurgents with armor-

piercing explosives and other weapons.

It could be true. Governments do this sort of thing. We did it ourselves when President Reagan's boys sold arms to Iran in order to fund the Contra insurgents in Nicaragua. But how can you tell? This could as easily be another Dick Cheney fantasy made flesh.

This administration has cooked the books on every issue it's laid its hand on, from the war to global warming to stem cell research to Social Security.

You think it wouldn't bend the truth a little in order to gin up a war with a charter member of the Axis of Evil?

Oh, please.

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

The Times

Published Sunday, Wednesday and Friday each week

263 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
PRESTONSBURG, KENTUCKY 41653

Phone: (606) 886-8506

Fax: (606) 886-3603

www.floydcountytimes.com

USPS 202-700

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:

In Floyd County: \$59.00

Outside Floyd County: \$76.00

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

PUBLISHER

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INSIDESTUFF

- Sportspage A7
- Classifiedspage A12

CAR TALK:

Can't see paradise by these dashboard lights

see pg. A6

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**This Town,
That World**

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

SOMETHING SPECIAL

This is Girl Scout Week. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Girl Scout movement. If you have a Girl Scout in your home, or ever have had one, congratulate her—and congratulate yourself...Girl Scouting is another of the finer things of human life that we are too prone to take for granted.

OF WORDS AND THINGS

Ever dally with words, savor their taste and smell? It's a good way to while away time, if you have any.

Bemused, with certain words, I wonder if Will Shakespeare wasn't a bit off base when he opined that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. Certainly it would not sound all sweet...Take skunk-cabbage, for instance, as a substitute moniker.

For years I was prejudiced against petunias because of their name, and even yet they lose charm, beautiful as they are, when that word describes them.

Is there anything prettier than a redbird perched in an evergreen with a snow-covered hillside for a backdrop? A blackbird with the sheen of his feathers sometimes glinting green, or a bluejay, is pretty, too. But does either name give you the lilt that that of a bluebird does?

Euphony doesn't govern always. The characteristics of the thing bearing the name count heavily. The redbird connotes a wild, free, darting thing; the blackbird, a sable thing that hints of the raven, night and melancholy; the jay of mischief and impertinence.

But the bluebird! Drag out your word associations, your synonyms. You think of spring, of happiness, of a shy, gentle spirit—a wild thing, true, but not wildly, violently so; a thing of beauty that hints of growing things and warmth and joy.

(For all this I apologize, but spring is only a week away, and I've got the jump on the season.)

CHANGE THE RECORD

A woman came to this desk today and handed me a slip of paper which stated that her home had burned to the ground two days ago. I have contributed to this "cause" on previous occasions, but, dumb as I am, I began to get suspicious when I noticed that the paper had worn through where it has so often been folded.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Not, till the year 2,000 will Easter ever again arrive as late as this year. We note this in advance for the benefit of many of us who, in all probability, will never have the opportunity to be in church on an Easter as late as April 22.



Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver return to the MAC on Saturday, March 3. Tickets are on sale now through the Mountain Arts Center box office.

Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver return to Prestonsburg

One of the most entertaining, respected and awarded groups in bluegrass music, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, will be performing once again at the Mountain Arts Center on Saturday, March 3. Recently, at the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) awards ceremony, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver picked up two trophies, including their sixth consecutive "Vocal Group of the Year" award, and record-setting

fifth "Gospel Recorded Performance of the Year" title, as well as a share in the "Album of the Year" award for the multi-artist Celebration Of Life. Lawson also recently received the National Endowment for the Arts' National Heritage Fellowship, the Endowment's highest honor granted to traditional and folk artists for career accomplishments. Although the band has numerous recordings of a classic bluegrass

repertoire, the group is best known for Lawson's stunning gospel vocal arrangements. In fact, it might be said that Doyle Lawson's efforts resulted in a renaissance of tight harmony bluegrass singing.

Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver
Mountain Arts Center
Saturday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.
Ticket Information: 1 - 888 - MAC
- ARTS or locally 886-2623
Opening Act: Fast Lane

Dorton named to Challenger Center board

The Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky (CLCK) recently welcomed Jean Dorton to its board of directors, noted Tom Cravens, director. Ms. Dorton will provide guidance to the operation of the center which has had more than 8,000 students from about 50 school districts in the region participating in the various programs offered there each year.

Jean Dorton is the community and legislative liaison for the Big Sandy Community and Technical College. In that position, she serves as a regional resource for legislators, businesses, government agencies and community members to familiarize and encourage use of and involvement with the college and the entire Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Ms. Dorton is looking forward to working with the Challenger Learning Center board to continue the excellent program for students and adults alike. She commented,

"The Challenger Learning Center provides more emphasis on math and science education in Eastern Kentucky which is truly needed in our area. I am excited about being a part of the board of this wonderful institution." Her other voluntary service activities include chairwoman of PRIDE, membership on the Big Sandy Regional P-16+ Council, Morehead State University Board of Regents, the Kentucky Arts Council Board and the Republican Party of Kentucky State Executive Committee.

The Challenger Center is one of 54 Challenger Learning Centers across North America and Europe created by the family members of the Challenger 51-L Astronaut Crew that lost their lives in the 1986 space shuttle explosion. These centers are devoted to continuing the educational objectives of Challenger's mission that was to be led by Christa McAuliffe, NASA's first "Teacher in Space."



Jean Dorton

**MOVIES FROM
THE BLACK LAGOON**

'The Long Good Friday'

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST

A day in the life of London's most powerful crime boss does not turn out anything like what he expected in this excellent British gangster film.

The story begins with several unexplained events that will bear significance as the film progresses. Amongst this hodgepodge we are witness to a briefcase full of money being delivered to three goons (after the bearer has secreted two packets of bills for his troubles). The viewer is also treated to a pickup sequence at a European gay bar, which is followed by three shocking scenes of violence during which two men (from the pub scene) are rudely tossed into the back seat of a car and even more rudely ejected from same without much regard for their collective health. This is followed by the machine gun execution of the three goons after they realize their funds are a little light.



Tom Doty
Times Columnist

Eventually we are treated to the main character, Harold Shand, who arrives in high 1970s style by landing at Heathrow Airport via the Concorde. Shand has a big day ahead of him and is in the midst of preparing for a luncheon aboard his yacht with visiting American gangsters, whom he hopes to tap for funds needed to go legitimate with a Thames promenade project that was put together by a councilman in his pocket.

This is not a good day to have anonymous toughs knocking off your crew, but that's just what happens as one of his men is knifed at a bath house, while yet another is blown to smithereens after driving Harold's mother to church. The problem becomes keeping these events from getting to the ears of the American backers while trying to figure out who has it in for Shand's gang.

Shand gets his capable wife, Victoria, to shepherd the Americans around London while he mobilizes his men to track down those responsible. Meanwhile the unseen adversaries also target the restaurant he planned to feed the Americans in and things get more confused when preliminary reports indicate that the acts of violence appear to be the handiwork of the Irish Republican Army.

Shand doesn't buy that theory at first and has his men line up all the midlevel cons in the area. They are brought to a meat packing plant and hung upside down for questioning in one of the film's best sequences. Unfortunately, it turns out to be a wasted effort when Harold learns from the policeman in his pocket that the IRA is definitely involved.

His day gets even worse when his wife reveals that she let the Americans in on what was going on, but that is nothing next to the startling

(See LAGOON, page six)

Career-minded

by MARIA NICKLESS

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE MOTHER OF PRESCHOOLER'S SOUL"

His given name is John, but we call him Jack after his great-grandfather, this miracle baby who blesses our family.

From the moment I first held him in my arms, I recognized his gentle nature, easygoing personality and sensitive spirit. I pondered who and what he might someday become, and — on the spot — I began to spin and weave my dreams.

Jack loves music, so every night I

sing a hymn to him as he melds his head into my neck. And when we play his favorite Jana Alayra video, he and Madison "jump to the light, light, light" while he imitates his sister's hand motions.

He's got rhythm, I think. I bet he'll lead the church choir. On a crusade. Worldwide.

When it's time for our nightly prayers, Jack darts and closes his eyes without any prompting from us.

He's spiritual. I glow with satisfaction. He'll be a man of the cloth, a beloved pastor someday. I wouldn't mind that a bit.

Yet Jack is all b-o-y — with a capital "B." He climbs everything in sight. An admired mountaineer, I decide. As he vroom-vrooms his toy trucks across my floors, I reconsider. An innovative automotive engineer?

He spends hours in the kitchen, opening and closing the cupboard doors. Hmmm, I dream on, a designer? No, an architect, I bet. I nod decisively. This kid is definitely destined to be and do great things!

Actually — I come to realize — he's obsessed with doors, and not just those in the kitchen. All doors. The front door, the back door, playhouse doors. Open and close, open and close, open and ... it's enough to drive a less career-oriented mommy nuts.

Which brings me to this evening.

Here we are, dining at our favorite Italian eatery — kid-friendly, with paper and crayons to occupy our little ones. But Jack, to my surprise, doesn't show an artistic bent. Instead, he bounces toward the restaurant's front door.

"Honey," I follow him, "get out of the way. People are coming in and out."

Jack isn't listening. He's too busy ... opening the door and stepping to the side as a couple enters.

"Thank you, young man," they

say, smiling at my preschooler. Encouraged, Jack holds the door as a woman walks through. "What a nice little gentleman," she praises my son.

He pushes it wide to accommodate a family of teenagers. "Hey, there, buddy. Thanks for muscling the door."

Jack beams, obviously hooked and happy in his newfound career.

I smile inwardly — more at myself than my son. I guess Jack has a mind of his own. And I nod my head in acceptance. My son ... the doorman!



Can't see paradise by these dashboard lights

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

I love my 2005 Honda CR-V, except for the dashboard. The numbers on the radio, the digital clock and the odometer — especially at night — are way too small and dark for me to see clearly (black on gray — who ever thought of THAT stupid combination?). Squinting doesn't help, and neither do bifocals. My friend has a Honda Accord, and I can see HIS dashboard just fine! Bright numbers, large enough to see. That was what Honda should have done in MY car. Is it possible to get a great dashboard panel, like the one in the Accord, put into my CR-V? Then I would have pretty nearly the car of my dreams! — Shay

TOM: Keep dreaming, Shay. You can't do a dashboard transplant. Even the Cleveland Clinic would shy away from this procedure. The pieces just don't fit.

RAY: The reason your dashboard gauges are hard for you to read is that the CR-V was originally designed by a team of young engineers, for an audience of younger buyers. Their first priority was utility. Seeing the dashboard was farther down on the list.

TOM: The Accord, on the other

hand, is aimed at a broader swath of the buying public, so the members of its design team over age 40 made sure the instruments were easily readable by folks of all ages.

RAY: But before you give up on your CR-V, Shay, check a couple of things. First, get your eyes examined again. A set of progressive lenses with the right correction might make a difference. It works for me in almost every car. Some dashboards are certainly better than others because of contrast, colors and lighting. But when I'm wearing glasses with the right prescription, I can always tell how fast I'm going when I miss my exit.

TOM: The other thing to check is the intensity adjustment for your dashboard lights. On most cars, the controller is located on the dashboard to the left of the steering wheel, or poking out of the instrument cluster itself. Turning it adjusts the brightness of the instrumentation. Make sure it's turned to its highest setting. If it's not, you might have set off your "Argh, I'm a geezer!" alarm prematurely.

Is low gear a no-no?

Dear Tom and Ray:

Is my transmission destroyed? My daughter-in-law drove my minivan in

low gear at speeds of up to 40 mph for several hours yesterday. I was giving her a driving lesson, and she thought I said it was "safer" to drive in low gear. I actually had told her to put it in low gear while we were coming up the steep hill of her driveway out of her backyard. I learned about this at the end of the day when I asked her to put it in low gear to drive back down the driveway hill. She told me she had been driving in low gear all day. I have never driven the car faster than 5 mph in low gear. What damages should I be looking for? — Marilyn

P.S.: My son says it was all my fault.

RAY: Well, it is all your fault, Marilyn. That's the bad news. The transmission is automatic. That means it goes into low gear automatically whenever it needs to — it doesn't require driver input to tell it what to do.

TOM: Especially for a new driver. There's enough to think about without toying with the transmission. So if it's an automatic, just put it in drive and leave it there.

RAY: The only time you'd want to put an automatic transmission in low gear yourself is when you're going down a long, steep hill and you want to keep the brakes from overheating.

But your average driveway is not what we'd consider a long, steep hill. We're talking about hills that are miles long, not feet long.

TOM: But the good news is that your daughter-in-law didn't do any damage. Modern cars are electronically prevented from going over the maximum engine speed in any gear. In fact, some transmissions are even smart enough to ignore stupid human input.

RAY: For instance, on all DaimlerChrysler four-speed transmissions that have "D3" and "LOW" on the shift indicator (which is what you'll find on their Dodge and Chrysler minivans), when you put it in low, it'll automatically shift to second gear at 35 mph to prevent someone from accidentally leaving the car in low gear and ruining the engine or overheating the transmission.

TOM: So my guess is that no damage was done. But since you guys drove around for hours, running the

car at fairly high rpms, it wouldn't hurt to ask your mechanic to check the transmission fluid. If it smells like my brother's cooking — i.e., burnt —

then it turns out you did heat it up pretty good, and it needs to be changed, along with the filter. In that case, I'd change the engine oil and oil filter at the same time.

RAY: But I'm guessing it's fine, and you can forget all about it.

TOM: Don't worry about the kids, either. Despite your son's ire, I'm sure your daughter-in-law is very grateful that you took the time to try to teach her how to drive. That was a loving gesture. And I'm sure that in a decade or two, she'll allow you to speak to the grandchildren again.

□□□

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.



CLICK & CLACK
Talk Cars

Odds & Ends

■ **WEATHERFORD, Texas** — Perhaps his \$24 billion electric bill will teach Richard Redden to turn down the thermostat a bit.

Redden and more than 1,300 Weatherford utility customers this week received billion-dollar electric bills marked as late notices. The mega-charges were attributed to a printing error.

Irving-based DataProse, which prints customer bills for Weatherford Electric, said the company was embarrassed by the error.

"Obviously, this is not something we are pleased about," said Curtis Nelson, DataProse vice president and general manager.

Weatherford Electric spokeswoman Pam Pearson said customers can expect their correct bills later this month. She said the company's records were correct and showed the right balances.

"I know they raised the rates on kilowatt hours a little bit," Redden said. "I guess we shouldn't have run the heater quite so much this month."

■ **CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.** — A business student at the University of Virginia has learned a hard lesson in risk management.

Hideki Inoue, dressed as a samurai to psyche himself, had a chance Wednesday to win \$17,500 if he had picked the correct briefcase during a class exercise in risk management. He picked the wrong one, and took it in stride.

"I started from nothing, so I didn't lose anything," said Inoue, a first-year graduate student from Japan.

Inoue was given the choice: pick one of two briefcases, with the chance of pocketing \$17,500, the contents of one of them. The money, from an

anonymous donor, equals one year of in-state tuition.

Inoue could have passed on the guessing game and settled for a guaranteed sum. He asked for \$8,000, but was offered only \$5,679.

His gamble led to Wednesday's drama in front of several hundred classmates.

Business professors Sam Bodily and Phil Pfeifer thought up the exercise to teach students about risk and luck in the world of business.

"We're interested in how prospective managers react to risk," Bodily said. "You use real experiments in physics and, well, this is a real experiment."

The unclaimed money will be used for a similar class experiment next year.

■ **ORANGE CITY, Fla.** — Gene and Dundee are free.

The father and son manatees were released Tuesday at Blue Spring State Park.

Gene is 32 years old and weighs 1,930 pounds. He was rescued in February 1977 from Indian Harbor Beach near Cape Canaveral after he was found suffering from injuries caused by a boat.

"We didn't know then if manatees could successfully be released after spending a long period of time in captivity," research scientist Monica Ross said. "We now know they can."

Gene fathered Dundee at Sea World in 1986. The 1,300-pound mammal was released last year but researchers discovered that he had been losing weight during his nine months in the wild, The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported.

Ross said Dundee has gained 300 pounds this year, and she feels confident this release will be a success.

Both manatees were brought to Blue Spring from

the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa. The animals were documented, given a health checkup and tagged with satellite tracking equipment before they were released.

■ **FELTON, Calif.** — A 3 1/2-ton yellow submarine has fallen off the radar.

The 10-foot-long sub, built by a resident to patrol Monterey Bay during the 1940s and 1950s, was reported missing Feb. 15 from its Santa Cruz Mountains berth by owner Carl Barker.

"It sounds bizarre," said Detective Kevin Coyne of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. "All I know is ... there's no suspects."

Irven Thomson built the vessel from an old propane tank about 60 years ago. He added a turret, hatch, windows and a cement keel, rudder and navigational instruments.

"One of the neighbors said they saw a tow truck loading it up," Barker, 38, said. "Someone knew they wanted it and came and took it. I don't think they stole it for any kind of recycling value."

Barker said Thomson went on vigilante patrols of the bay and used the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf as his home base. Neighbors said Thomson quickly gave up the patrols and beached the vessel on his land.

Thomson left the yellow submarine on the property when he moved years ago.

■ **LAS CRUCES, N.M.** — Paul Bosland recalls taking a bite of a chili pepper and feeling like he was breathing fire.

He gulped down a soda, thinking, "That chili has got to be some kind of record."

The Guinness Book of World Records agreed, confirming recently that Bosland, a regents professor at New

Mexico State University, had discovered the world's hottest chili pepper, Bhut Jolokia, a naturally occurring hybrid native to the Assam region of northeastern India.

The name translates as ghost chili, Bosland said.

"We're not sure why they call it that, but I think it's because the chili is so hot, you give up the ghost when you eat it," he said.

Bhut Jolokia comes in at 1,001,304 Scoville heat units, a measure of hotness for a chili. It's nearly twice as hot as Red Savina, the variety it replaces as the hottest.

By comparison, a New Mexico green chili contains about 1,500 Scoville units; an average jalapeno measures at about 10,000.

■ **ANNAPOLIS, Md.** —

Fake bull testicles and other anatomically explicit vehicle decorations would be banned from Maryland roads under a bill pending in the state legislature.

The measure was filed in the General Assembly Monday by Delegate LeRoy E. Myers Jr., who says children shouldn't be exposed to giant plastic gonads dangling from pickup truck trailer hitches. The bill also would ban displaying images of naked human breasts, buttocks or genitals, with offenses punishable by fines of up to \$500.

"It's time to take a stand," Myers told The (Hagerstown) Herald-Mail.

The American Civil Liberties Union objected to Myers' bill.

"The legislation is overly broad, and would probably make it illegal to have a sticker on your car of the Venus de Milo from an art museum," ACLU of Maryland spokeswoman Meredith Curtis wrote in an e-mail.

Pamela Campbell, whose Bullhead City, Ariz., business sells fake bull testicles, suggested that the swinging decorations can prompt healthy discussions about anatomy and reproduction.

"Do we have to neuter all dogs that walk by us?" she asked. "Where does it stop?"

Last week, Arizona's legislature rejected a measure that would have banned vehicle splash guards bearing racist terms or silhouettes of naked women.

Lagoon

revelation that his enemy might be closer to home. It all leads up to a brutal finale that sees Harry execute some ultraviolence at the English equivalent of a NASCAR track. Bullets fly and several bodies fall but the act sets the stage for more violence and Harold may have bitten off more than even he can chew.

There are a lot of reasons to love this film and paramount is the inspired direction by John Mackenzie. He knows when to let his actors loose and he seals the deal here, handing the role of Harold to Bob Hoskins, who hits it out of the park like a low hanging curveball.

Hoskins is a revelation here and insured he would never want for work by playing Harold as a three-dimensional gangster with delusions of grandeur. He accepted the role from a hospital bed where he was recovering from surgery after a tapeworm, acquired while filming "Zulu Dawn" in Africa and measuring half the

length of Noah's Ark, was removed from his intestines.

He gets fine support too from equally talented thespians like Oscar darling Helen Mirren, who refuses to play Mrs. Shand as a bimbo and instead invests her with a touch of class.

Shand's crew is filled out by capable character actors too, which include a fine turn by Derek Thompson as the college-educated thug who may be too smart for his own good. Good work also comes from Dave King, as a corrupt cop, and a young Pierce Brosnan making his screen debut here as an Irishman who is quite handy with a knife.

The film also gets points for a smart script by Barrie Keeffe that anticipated the rise of capitalism in England after Margaret Thatcher became prime minister. Harold comes off as the kind of gangster only Gordon Gecko ("Wall Street") could love.

What finally puts this one

over the net is a killer musical score by Francis Monkman that mixes jazz horns and techno beats to stunning effect.

Three cheers should also go to Eric Idle ("Monty Python's Flying Circus"). Hoskins showed the film to Idle after the studio sat on it for two years. Idle bought the film through his production company (which he co-owned with ex-Beatle George Harrison) and this film was finally released. Sadly it made little money when originally released here but today's audiences should get a kick out of this high octane drama that is only occasionally peppered with violence, a technique which makes those scenes even more formidable.

Best line: "Nothing unusual," he says. Eric's been blown to smithereens, Colin's been carved up and I've got a bomb in me casino, and you say, 'Nothin' unusual?'

1981, rated R.

■ Continued from p5

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FLOYD COUNTY Sports

Inside

- Bears • A9
- Lady Bears • A9
- NASCAR • A10

Blackcats edged by Hazard in overtime

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — Despite a game-high 26 points from junior Jordan Hall, Prestonsburg couldn't turn back Hazard when the two boys' high school basketball teams met up Thursday night. Host Prestonsburg, playing its third game in as many days, pushed Hazard, a 14th Region title contender. The Bulldogs, however, found a way to win. When the two teams ended regulation deadlocked at 60-60, Hazard hit eight-of-10 foul shots in an extra session. Hazard outscored Prestonsburg 14-10 in overtime, beating the Blackcats 74-70.

"Our kids played hard," said Prestonsburg Coach Jackie Day Crisp. "We knew going in that it would be a tough game and a challenge. Jordan shot the ball extremely well. Several of our kids stepped up and played well. Our inside game wasn't there against Hazard and that hurt."

Senior guard Justin Hicks led Hazard with 19 points. Hicks was one of five Hazard players with 10 or more points. Randy Lewis was right behind Hicks in the Hazard scoring column, finishing with 18 points. Michael Campbell, despite getting into some early foul trouble, added 12 points for the Bulldogs. Josh Kidd and Corey Martin tossed in 10 points apiece

for the Bulldogs.

Hazard led Prestonsburg at the end of each of the first two quarters. The Bulldogs owned a 16-13 lead at the end of the opening quarter. Hazard was out in front 32-24 when the second quarter ended.

Hall caught fire for Prestonsburg in the second half, hitting three three-pointers in each of the last two quarters. As a team, Prestonsburg had nine three-point field goals.

Hall had 12 points for Prestonsburg in the third quarter. The Blackcats were able to tie the game in the third period and send



photo by Jamie Howell
Prestonsburg junior Jordan Hall hit six three-pointers in Thursday's loss to Hazard.

(See BLACKCATS, page eight)

Wildcats to host eight home games in 2007 season

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — Changes in the University of Kentucky football schedule will give the Wildcats eight home games in the 2007 season, along with a Thursday night ESPN game at South Carolina.

The schedule changes are as follows:

At the request of the Mid-American Conference, Kentucky will play Kent State at home on Sept. 8 instead of a road game at Temple, giving the Wildcats eight home games during the coming season. It will be the first time in school history that UK will play eight contests at home.

The change was initiated by the MAC, with Temple joining the conference this year, in order to resolve some league scheduling issues. Temple will play at Kentucky as scheduled in the 2008 season and the Wildcats now will play in Philadelphia in 2011.

"We've had a good relationship with the Mid-American Conference and the league schools. We're glad to help them with this situation," said Rob Mullens, UK Deputy Director of Athletics, who coordinates football schedules. "We're excited to bring an eighth home game to the Wildcat fans this year."

The Kentucky at South Carolina game will be televised by ESPN on Thursday, Oct. 4.

The Kentucky at Arkansas game, originally scheduled for Sept. 29, has been moved to Sept. 22. The Florida Atlantic at Kentucky game, originally scheduled for Sept. 22, has been moved to Sept. 29.

These two dates were switched to help schedule the Thursday night game; otherwise Kentucky would have had to play back-to-back SEC road games with only four days between games.

"We appreciate the cooperation from Arkansas and Florida Atlantic to help make the nationally televised game at South Carolina a reality," Mullens said.

(See WILDCATS, page eight)

BLHS HOMECOMING



BOBCATS HOLD COURT: Betsy Layne High School Basketball Homecoming 2007, held in January, featured the crowning of Senior Crystal Osborne as this year's Queen. The rest of the court included class winners Rachel Hamilton (Junior), Bethany Newsome (Sophomore) and Courtney Hamilton (Freshman).

Osborne is the daughter of Jim and Linda Osborne of Banner. Her escort was Jason McKinney.



VSN to host annual Football Senior Game

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Grand Island, Neb. — College athletes who participated in football at the NAIA level will have one more chance to take to the field this spring thanks to the Victory Sports Network.

The Victory Sports Network's first annual senior game will take place April 21 at Platte County High School in Platte City, Missouri. The game is open to all seniors who played in the NAIA and have used all of their college eligibility. Pikeville College players are eligible to play in the game.

"Getting the chance to play one more game with and against your peers will be a great experience for these guys," said Jason Dannelly, owner of VSN.

"I originally fell in love with the concept a few years ago when the Great Plains Athletic Conference and Heart of

(See VSN, page eight)

Ladycats beat Jenkins

TIMES STAFF REPORT

JENKINS — The Betsy Layne Ladycats overcame a slow start on Monday night and defeated Jenkins 48-36 in a late regular-season girls' high school basketball matchup. Betsy Layne was outscored in each of the first two quarters, but owned the second half.

Krista Flanery led Betsy Layne with a team-best 16 points. Megan Hamilton added 13 points for the Ladycats, giving Betsy Layne two players in double figures. Kaitlin Lawson added seven points for the Ladycats. Taylor Hott had six points for the victorious Betsy Layne team.

Host Jenkins took a 13-11 lead out of the opening quarter and found itself out in front 23-15 at halftime. Betsy Layne

(See LADYCATS, page eight)

Reds counting on Gonzalez to anchor defense

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARASOTA, Fla. — Since Barry Larkin retired after the 2004 season, six players have filled his spot as the Cincinnati Reds shortstop. None stayed for very long.

Alex Gonzalez is the seventh to try.

The Reds signed Gonzalez to a three-year, \$14 million deal last November, hoping that one of the American League's top defensive shortstops can solidify one of the National League's worst defenses.

"It should give our pitchers more confidence," manager Jerry Narron said. "It should give our other infielders more confidence. It should give our manager more confidence."

The Reds are confident that he can become the long-term shortstop they've sought since Larkin ended his career. In the last two seasons, they've played Felipe Lopez, Royce Clayton, Rich Aurilia, Juan Castro, Brandon Phillips and Ray Olmedo at the position.

Gonzalez isn't much of a hitter. He batted .245 with 81 homers in seven seasons with

Florida, then hit .255 with nine homers for Boston last season. It's his defense that made him valuable as a free agent.

Gonzalez had a career-low seven errors in 111 games last season. He led AL shortstops with a fielding percentage of .985, the best in Boston history. He went 57 games without an error, also a Boston record for a shortstop.

When he became a free agent after the season, the Reds made him a priority. Switching leagues was one of the shortstop's priorities.

"I was looking for a multiyear deal," Gonzalez said. "(Boston) offered me a one-year deal. Other teams offered me two-year deals. I wanted to get back to the National League. I think it's a better league. I know the league better."

The Reds knew they had to do something about their defense, which ranked second-to-last in the NL. The Reds committed 128 errors last season, second-most in the majors to Washington.

(See REDS, page eight)



photo by Jamie Howell
BLACKCAT ROYALTY: Senior Whitney Bradley was crowned Prestonsburg High School Homecoming Queen during ceremonies held Thursday evening. She is pictured with escort senior Chayse Martin, a member of the PHS boys' basketball team.

VSN

Continued from p7

America Athletic Conference played an All-Star Game against one another. I decided there was no reason why VSN shouldn't be trying to do something nationally."

The VSN Senior Classic will pit small college players from across the country against one another on "National" and "American" teams. Players will be divided up in order give the most competitive game possible.

"We plan to attract some of the best NAIA football players from across the country for this game."

Platte County High School's athletic facility was remodeled in 2005 with the addition of Gameday Grass, an artificial turf, as well as general improvements to their stadium. The stadium also serves as the home for the University of Saint Mary of Leavenworth, Kansas.

Coaches for the game will be announced later this month. VSN has already begun evaluating players for the game and will have rosters available in March.

Ladycats

Continued from p7

pulled back even and went ahead of Jenkins in the third quarter, outscoring the Lady Cavaliers 19-5. The Ladycats held Jenkins to just 13 second-half points.

Lindsey Martin and Amby Tackett rounded out the Betsy Layne scoring with four and two points, respectively.

Ashley Williams paced Jenkins with a game-high 19 points. Williams was the only Lady Cavalier to reach double figures in the scoring column. Nicole Revis followed with eight points for Jenkins.

BETSY LAYNE 48, JENKINS 36
 BETSY LAYNE - Martin 4,
 Hamilton 13, Hott 6, Flanery 16,
 Lawson 7, Tackett 2.
 JENKINS - Caudill 7, Williams 19,
 Maggard 2, Revis 8.
 Betsy Layne.....11 4 19 14-48
 Jenkins.....13 10 5 8-36

Blackcats

Continued from p7

it into the final quarter knotted at 43-43.

Chayse Martin added 12 points for the Blackcats. Mason Vance narrowly missed double figures for Prestonsburg, adding nine points.

Hall hit a three to tie the game at 60-60 with just 22 seconds remaining in regulation. Hazard missed a chance to go ahead and possibly win the game on its next trip. Prestonsburg had a shot to win the game in regulation, but couldn't get a shot to fall, forcing the overtime.

With the loss, Prestonsburg dropped to 11-15. Hazard, thanks to the win, improved to 21-8.
 Hazard 74, Prestonsburg 70 (OT)
 Hazard (21-8) - M.Campbell 12,
 Hicks 19, Jones 5, Kidd 10, Lewis 18, Martin 10.
 Prestonsburg (11-15) - Hall 26,
 Hughes 17, Patton 2, Stephens 1,
 Martin 12, Vance 9, Clark 3.
 Hazard.....16 16 11 17 14-74
 P'burg.....13 11 19 17 10-70

Wildcats

Continued from p7

UK's Southeastern Conference games are against LSU, Florida, Mississippi State, and Tennessee. All four non-conference matchups will be played at home. Two games will be against in-state foes Louisville and Eastern Kentucky. The other two opponents are coached by former Wildcat players - Howard Schnellenberger of Florida Atlantic and Doug Martin at Kent State.

2007 Kentucky Football Schedule

Sept. 1 Eastern Kentucky
 Sept. 8 Kent State
 Sept. 15 Louisville
 Sept. 22 at Arkansas
 Sept. 29 Florida Atlantic
 Oct. 4 at South Carolina
 Oct. 13 LSU
 Oct. 20 Florida
 Oct. 27 Mississippi State
 Nov. 3 open
 Nov. 10 at Vanderbilt
 Nov. 17 at Georgia
 Nov. 24 Tennessee

Reds

Continued from p7

"We were really looking to improve our pitching this winter, and that was a big step," Narron said. "I'm hoping he and Brandon can work together extremely well, and if they do, we've got something for the next three, four years. They'll be as good as anybody defensively."

Phillips settled in as the everyday second baseman last season. He had 17 errors in 149 games, showing good range in the field. At the end of the season, the Reds considered moving him to shortstop.

Phillips is glad to be playing next to a proven shortstop.

"He's one of the shortstops you just watch take ground balls and you learn a lot from him," Phillips said. "He's won a World Series (with Florida in 2003) already, so he's got experience. I want to pick his brain a little bit to see what I can learn from his game to add to my game."

"I think we'll make a good combination. We just want to make the fundamental plays, and the spectacular plays also."

Hamilton thankful for opportunity with Reds

by FRED GOODALL ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARASOTA, Fla. - Cream-colored slacks and a long-sleeve striped shirt covered the much-talked about tattoos that will always remind Josh Hamilton of the troubled period that derailed his promising baseball career.

"There were many times I thought I wouldn't play again," the 25-year-old outfielder said Monday, recounting a bout with drug addiction that hurt his development with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and eventually landed him with the Cincinnati Reds.

"Just the lifestyle I was living," Hamilton added. "Nobody can do anything productive out of what I was doing."

Flanked by Cincinnati manager Jerry Narron and general manager Wayne Krivsky, who took the one-time "can't miss" prospect from December's Rule 5 draft, Hamilton answered questions for 40 minutes in what the Reds said will be the only time he discusses off-the-field topics during spring training.

He talked freely about using drugs, the people who helped him overcome his addiction and what he hopes will be a bright future with the Reds, who have to keep him on the 25-man major league roster for the entire season or risk having to offer him back to Tampa Bay.

"I didn't really expect it. I don't think the Devil Rays really expected it, either," Hamilton said of the Reds who made a deal with the Chicago Cubs, who made the Rule 5 selection with intention of sending him to Cincinnati for cash.

As far as Hamilton and the Reds are concerned, they couldn't be a better match.

Narron has known Hamilton since he was 15 and playing for a youth league team coached by Narron's brother. Hamilton is ecstatic about renewing ties with a fellow North Carolinian and joining an organization that is doing everything possible to give him a chance to be successful.

Plans are already in place to shield Hamilton from some of the temptations that undermined him in the past. He doesn't carry cash, he and his wife brought one car to Florida for spring training, and Hamilton says he'll even have someone hold his meal money on the road during the season.

"It's not that I need to be babysat," Hamilton said. "I trust myself, but it's just things I need in place."

The first pick in the draft coming out of Raleigh (N.C.) Athens Drive High School in 1999, Hamilton was selected ahead of another high school phenom, pitcher Josh Beckett. The Devil Rays thought the outfielder was a cinch to be an impact player not only because of his baseball skills but what the team also felt was impeccable character.

But injuries prevented Hamilton from playing a full season in the minors. He started using drugs some time after he and his mother were injured in a 2001 traffic accident.

When his parents left Hamilton's home in nearby Bradenton, Fla., and returned to Raleigh, N.C., so his mother could recuperate from her injuries, it left Josh alone for the first time with lots of money and extra time on his hands.

"I made bad choices. I went looking for something I shouldn't have to fill the void," Hamilton said.

"It's a vicious cycle. When you're involved in drug use and alcohol abuse, you look for anything to set you off. I'd be fine for a month, and then something would happen and I'd go back to using again."

Hamilton was suspended for violating Major League Baseball's joint drug treatment and prevention program on Feb. 18, 2004. By the time he was granted permission to participate in minor league games last summer, he had not played in a professional game since 2002.

The Reds, believing that the Devil Rays might leave Hamilton unprotected for the Rule 5 draft, began doing their homework on the outfielder. Krivsky kept their intentions a secret until the last minute.

Narron was shocked when he found out what the general manager wanted to do. He also was confident Hamilton, who hit .260 with no homers and 5 RBIs in 15 games at Class-A Hudson Valley last July, could succeed.

"I said: 'I've known him for a long time. If anybody can get this done, we can,'" Narron said.

"It's not going to be easy. We're not going to put pressure on him and say you're the everyday starting center fielder by any stretch. I know the work ethic is there. We won't have to worry about that. Someone with average talent probably would have no chance. But I think anybody who's ever seen him on a baseball field knows he's a special talent."

The only promise Hamilton is making is that he'll do his best.

He plans to talk to veterans like Ken Griffey, Jr., another No. 1 overall pick, and learn as much as he can.

"I have to be confident," he said. "If I wasn't confident, I wouldn't have a chance."



SENIOR HONORED: South Floyd High School senior Heather Dean was recognized Wednesday evening when the Lady Raiders hosted June Buchanan. Dean ranks as one of the state's top rebounders and shot blockers.



photo by Jamie Howell
 Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats Rikki Hughes (22) and Linsey Fields (33) eyed a shot during Thursday's home game against Lawrence County. Visiting Lawrence County won 50-47.

58th District Girls' & Boys' Basketball

Betsy Layne	-	Feb 27, 6:00 PM at South Floyd	-
South Floyd	-		Mar 1, 7:00 PM at South Floyd
Allen Central	-		
Prestonsburg	-	Feb 28, 6:00 PM at South Floyd	-
Allen Central	-		
South Floyd	-	Feb 27, 8:00 PM at South Floyd	-
Prestonsburg	-		Mar 2, 7:00 PM at South Floyd
Betsy Layne	-		
Prestonsburg	-	Feb 28, 8:00 PM at South Floyd	-



PHS LADY BLACKCATS: Senior members of the Prestonsburg High School girls' basketball program were honored Thursday night when Senior Night ceremonies were held.

photo by Jamie Howell

Legendary Coach: Oklahoma State honors Eddie Sutton

by JEFF LATZKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STILLWATER, Okla. — Eddie Sutton felt like his 368 coaching wins were his own way of repaying Oklahoma State for an athletic scholarship that years earlier had allowed him to get an education.

After just more than a year away, Sutton's alma mater stopped to honor him for all he did in Stillwater.

"I'm really honored that the university would see fit to do this," Sutton said Wednesday night before a ceremony at halftime of the Cowboys' game against No. 8 Texas A&M.

Texas A&M won the game 66-46.

Sutton's 798 wins at Oklahoma State, Arkansas, Kentucky and Creighton are the fifth-highest total for any men's NCAA Division I basketball coach. When his victories at Tulsa

Central High School and the College of Southern Idaho are included, he won exactly 1,000 games before retiring from coaching in May.

"I'll tell you one thing: I have greater appreciation for fans. Having been a head coach for 47 years at high school, junior college and four Division I schools, you could always have an impact on the game in some way. You could change the game," Sutton said. "When you sit up there, you are helpless."

The ceremony included a video tribute, and fans chanted "Eddie! Eddie!" as the former coach walked to center court alongside his wife, Patsy, with his family not far behind. University President David Schmidly announced that Sutton would be named coach emeritus.



Eddie Sutton

Sutton said the ceremony was "a big thing" for his family and he didn't think it was too early after his retirement for him to be honored.

"I'm not, in all likelihood, going to go back into coaching," Sutton said. "I think I could still coach some, because of the way I feel. I feel better than I've felt in a long time."

"The last couple of years I felt so badly I could hardly get up and down off the bench sometimes. If anybody tells me they've got back problems, I'll be the most sympathetic person because I didn't know you could hurt that bad."

Sutton, who pleaded no contest to misdemeanor aggravated drunken driving and two other charges following a February car accident that prematurely ended his time on the sidelines,

praised his former players, assistant coaches and mentor Henry Iba.

"I owe a lot to this school. I would have never been able to go to college without a scholarship, and Mr. Iba was kind enough to give me a scholarship," Sutton said. "I got a good education and found my bride, and we'll be married — if you can believe this — 49 years next June 1."

Sutton said he comes to the Cowboys' practices only when his son, current coach Sean Sutton, asks him to evaluate. He'll also sneak a quick peek if he has another reason to be on campus.

He said he misses basketball, mostly the chance to teach and the fellowship with athletes that he'd become used to during a career that included three trips to the Final Four — including two at Oklahoma State.

"It was really a Cinderella run,

especially when it's your alma mater," Sutton said. "At Arkansas, I got a thrill being able to get that program off and running, but when it's your school it's more meaningful."

Sutton last week was named one of 15 finalists being considered for induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame but said of his chances, "I am not that optimistic because I look at who's been nominated." He said he figures Phil Jackson, Roy Williams, and the 1966 Texas Western NCAA championship team will get in, along with a couple pro players and possibly Dick Vitale.

"It's an honor just to be nominated because there's a lot of coaches that never get nominated," Sutton said. "To get into the Hall of Fame is very difficult now for college coaches. You look at the last 25 years, there's been very few get in."

Sweep Complete: Colonels fall to Austin Peay

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — The Eastern Kentucky University men's basketball team held a 10-point lead midway in the second half, but OVC regular season champion Austin Peay rallied for a 77-68 victory Thursday night in the Dunn Center. With the win, the Governors (19-9, 16-3 OVC) complete the regular season sweep over the Colonels (17-11,

12-7).

Sophomore Mike Rose (21 points) paced EKV with his ninth 20-point performance of the season thanks to shooting 75 percent (8-of-12) from the floor. The guard also recorded a career-high six assists. Freshman Adam Leonard chipped in with 17 points.

For Austin Peay, Wes Channels led all players with 22 points and eight rebounds. Three other

Governors tallied double figures as APSU shot 50 percent for the game.

Rose tallied 16 of his 21 points in the opening 20 minutes, helping the Colonels take a 40-35 lead into intermission. The two teams combined to hit 14 three-pointers in the first half with Rose and Austin Peay's Landon Shipley each recording three trifectas.

Buckets on three consecutive possessions, capped by a Julian Mascoll

lay-in gave Eastern its largest advantage of the contest, 52-42. From there, the Colonels would go the next seven minutes without connecting on a field goal. Austin Peay went on a 19-5 run during that stretch and netted a trio of three-pointers to regain the lead, 63-57.

The Governors stretched their cushion to eight on two occasions before Eastern Kentucky made one final charge. Rose's fourth three-

pointer of the evening cut the Colonel deficit to one point, 69-68, with 1:27 remaining. However, Austin Peay converted all its free throws down the stretch to hold off Eastern.

Even with the loss, Eastern Kentucky will host an opening round OVC Tournament game next Tuesday night thanks to a Samford loss to Southeast Missouri Thursday night.

MSU Eagles fall to Tennessee State

TIMES STAFF REPORT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Ladrius Weaver came off the bench to score 26 points to lead Tennessee State to a 62-46 Ohio Valley Conference win over the Morehead State Eagles Thursday evening in Nashville.

Morehead State, now 1-17 overall and 7-12 in the conference, stayed alive in the hunt for an OVC Tournament berth thanks to a

Jacksonville State homecourt loss to Eastern Illinois, also on Thursday. The Eagles were led by Cordaryl Ballard who scored 14 points. Quentin Pryor had 12 points and a game-high eight rebounds.

TSU, now 12-17 overall and 8-11 in the league, also got 12 points from Clarence Matthews.

"We knew we would take a lot of three-point shots," said MSU Coach Donnie Tyndall. "And, we just didn't

get them to fall. We did a good job on the boards, but we didn't do a great job defensively."

"I believe our guys will bounce back on Saturday at Austin Peay. If we get a win there, we will earn a spot in the tournament."

The Eagles were without the services of senior forward Shaun Williams who has been suspended for the remainder of the season due to a violation of team rules.



DEFENSE: Andrea Conn and Chelsie Tuttle defended for the South Floyd Lady Raiders during a regular-season finale at home against June Buchanan earlier in the week.

Klimas-led Berea ousts Alice Lloyd

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE — The 2006-07 Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) men's basketball tournament got underway on Thursday at HOOPS. The quarterfinal round play took place Thursday. Berea College and Indiana University Southeast prevailed, advancing to Friday's semifinal round. Alice Lloyd College and St. Louis College of Pharmacy were eliminated from the 2006-07 championship.

No. 4 Berea defeated No. 5 Alice

Lloyd 86-75. The game was tightly contested most of the way. The battle inside proved key as Berea (13-16) had 26 rebounds compared to 18 for Alice Lloyd (10-18).

Thomas Klimas led Berea with a game-high 30 points. Klimas also had nine rebounds. Melvin Brown had 20 points and was eight-for-10 from the field. Jordan Samuels had 13 points and five assists for the winning team.

For Alice Lloyd, William Dillard had 20 points and seven assists. Allen Central High School graduate Shawn Newsome, playing in his final game as an Alice Lloyd Eagle, scored 19 and had two steals for the Eagles. Three players added four rebounds apiece for ALC.

Lindsey Wilson claims top seed with win over Lady Bears

TIMES STAFF REPORT

COLUMBIA — Lindsey Wilson College wrapped up the No. 1 seed in next week's Mid-South Conference tournament with an 81-56 win over Pikeville College on Thursday night.

Had Lindsey lost and Cumberlands won, the teams would have been tied heading into

Saturday's action, but the win secured the top spot for the Lady Raiders and their longtime coach, John Wethington, for the first time since entering the Mid-South Conference in the 2000-01 season.

Lindsey Wilson junior Terran Duncan led all scorers with 22 points and pulled down eight rebounds. The two senior members of the Lady Raider squad, Shola Aladejebi and Tiffany Reid, followed. Aladejebi had 18 points and five rebounds, while Reid had 12 points, five rebounds and five assists.

Pikeville (9-20, 0-9) was led by senior Tonya Amburgey, who had 18 points to go along with five assists. Sophomore Whitney Hogg followed with 12 points for the Lady Bears.

Blue Raiders run past Pikeville

TIMES STAFF REPORT

COLUMBIA — Play in the Mid-South Conference certainly hasn't gone the way Lindsey Wilson wanted, but for this one night, most everything clicked in a 75-49 win over Pikeville College.

The win raises the Blue Raiders to 3-6 in the league, matching Pikeville, which lost for the third straight game and the fifth time in six outings.

Pikeville (12-17) jumped out to a 7-2 lead in the early stages, but then went 8:38 without scoring. During that time, Lindsey scored 14 unanswered points to take a 16-7 lead, one they'd never relinquish. At the half,

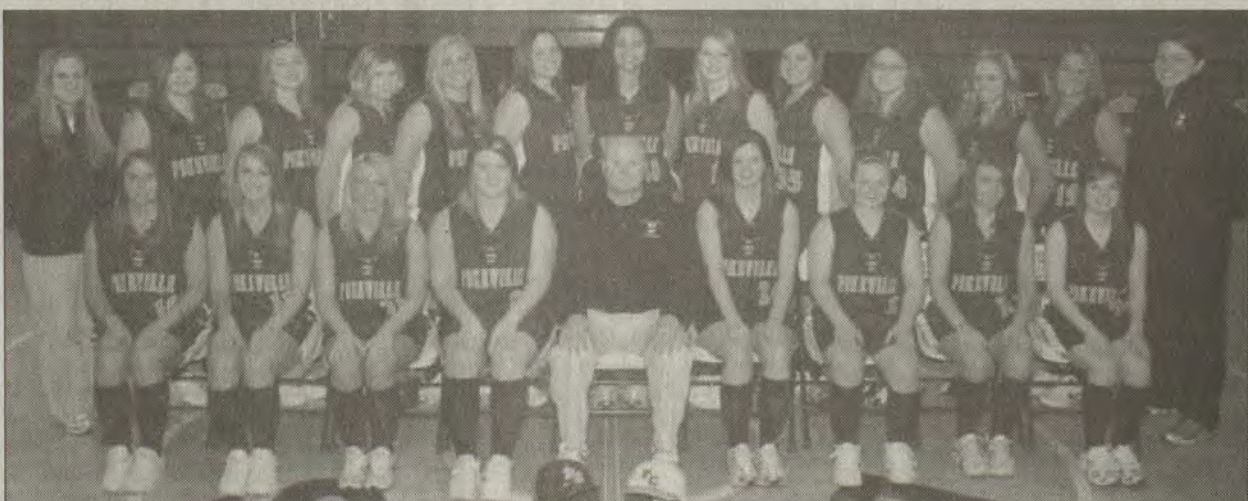
the edge was 31-17.

The Bears cut the lead to 11 (39-28) after back-to-back buckets by senior Will Holloman, but would get no closer. The Raiders went on an 11-2 run to push the lead to 20, 50-30.

Lindsey (18-10) led by as many as 30 late before settling for the 26 point win.

The Blue Raiders got 16 points and 13 rebounds from Brian Campbell, who averages 5.4 markers and 3.5 boards on the season. He was joined by John Fitzgerald with 16 markers. David Crawford came off the bench for four three-point baskets and 12 points, while Brandon Adams tossed in 10 points and handed out five assists.

Pikeville was led by Holloman's 16 points. Bo Harris followed with 11 points and a team-high seven rebounds.



ON THE NEXT LEVEL: The Pikeville College baseball and softball teams each have high hopes for the 2007 season. Both teams play in the Mid-South Conference.

Morehead women win at Tennessee State

TIMES STAFF REPORT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Morehead State women's basketball team got a career high 16 points from freshman Brandi Rayburn and a career high 17 rebounds from senior Holly Williams as the Eagles defeated host Tennessee State, 77-65, Thursday at the Gentry Center. The Eagles' win, coupled with losses by Tennessee Tech and Southeast Missouri tonight, secured third place in the OVC and a home game in the upcoming O'Reilly OVC Tournament.

The Eagles (14-14/13-6 OVC) will host a yet-to-be-determined opponent on Tuesday, Feb. 27 in Johnson Arena. It will mark the first time since 2001-2002 that MSU will be in the friendly confines of Johnson Arena for the OVC Tournament first round.

Williams also added 15 points for her first double-double of the year and pulled down seven offensive rebounds and 10 defensive rebounds. She also added two steals in 35 min-

utes of action. Rayburn tied a career high with three treys and produced 16 points to tie her career high. Jessie Plante also tied a season high with 15 points, and Tarah Combs added 11. Freshman guard Philnisha Lindsey, who had only scored nine points all season, came off the bench to score a career high seven points, hitting three straight layups in the second half.

Tennessee State got a game high 27-point outburst from Oby Okafor, while Nikki Rumph added 12 points. Morehead State also shot the lights out at the free throw line in the second half, hitting 15-of-17 charity tosses, after hitting just 4-of-9 in the first half. The Eagles also out-rebounded the Lady Tigers, 40-33.

Morehead State took a one-point, 33-32 lead at the half, but both teams battled tough in the first part of the second half. The Eagles were able to push ahead by seven, 53-46, with 9:38 left after a Combs' three-pointer. With 6:50 left, the Eagles held a 55-49, but pushed that out to a 12-point, 65-53, lead with a 10-4 run. Rayburn capped the run with a three-pointer at

3:52. The Lady Tigers, however, played scrappy defense, and forced the Eagles into three quick turnovers as they cut the lead to as low as five, 68-63, with 56 seconds left. The Eagles were 8-of-9 at the free throw line in the final minute to seal the game.

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NASCAR's top stars begin season behind

by MARK LONG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some of NASCAR's biggest stars left Daytona International Speedway in big holes.

Jimmie Johnson, Tony Stewart, Kurt Busch and Matt Kenseth — the past five Cup series champions — wrecked in the season opener and finished well back in the points race. Fan favorite Dale Earnhardt Jr. had similar results.

This weekend, the five drivers have little momentum heading to California. They do have lots of hope, because only two of the last 27 Daytona 500 winners have claimed series titles.

"The season, in some people's minds, starts this weekend," said Johnson, who accomplished the rare feat of winning the Great American

Race and the championship last season.

Others haven't been as fortunate.

Only four of the last 12 series champions even finished in the top 15 at Daytona. Stewart was last in 2002 but rebounded to win his first of two series titles; Ward Burton won the opener that year and ended up 25th in the standings.

"It's completely a clean slate," Earnhardt said. "You can't compare the two. Daytona is like a season of its own, and the superspeedway program is different than the rest of the tracks. So, we're not going out there feeling like we're in trouble in the points or worry about being in a big crash at Daytona.

"That was only the first race, and if we do what we know we can as a team, we'll be in the top 12 in points when the Chase begins."

NASCAR's opener has so much hype, buildup, attention and emphasis that what's often overlooked is the fact that the Daytona 500 means no more to the championship than less prominent races in Virginia, Delaware, New Hampshire and Kansas City.

But Daytona can set the tone for the season.

In 2004, six of the 10 drivers who made the Chase started the year by finishing in the top 10 at Daytona. The following year, seven of the 10 were in the top 20. Last year, six of the 10 were in the top 15.

Sunday's Daytona 500 top 10 featured Kevin Harvick, Mark Martin, Jeff Burton, Mike Wallace, David Ragan, Elliott Sadler, Kasey Kahne, David Gilliland, Joe Nemechek and Jeff Gordon.

So Kenseth (27th), Earnhardt

(32rd), Kurt Busch (41st), Johnson (39th) and Stewart (43rd) know they have ground to make up.

Kenseth might be in an even bigger hole, pending his appeal. Roush Fenway Racing formally appealed the 50-point penalty assessed to Kenseth and the team last week for illegal modifications during qualifying. If NASCAR upholds the punishment, Kenseth would drop from 26th to a tie for 40th in the points standings.

Kenseth, Stewart, Busch and Earnhardt had cars that seemed capable of winning Daytona before they wrecked.

Busch and Stewart started the crashfest when Stewart's car wiggled on lap 153. Busch, running right behind, tapped Stewart's bumper, causing both cars to lose control. Stewart finished last, and Busch was two spots better in 41st.

"We know that we've dug us a hole with that 41st-place finish at Daytona, and we'll have to work hard to get out of it," Busch said. "We'll go to work on it this weekend at California."

Next to go was Johnson. He was running well behind the leaders about 20 laps later when he lost control in turn two and triggered a multi-car crash. Then went Earnhardt, taken out in a crash just four laps from the scheduled finish.

But the real chaos came on the final lap, when Kenseth and Kyle Busch collided, causing a chain-reaction pileup that sent cars flying in all directions. Kenseth dropped to 27th as Harvick edged Martin for the victory.

"We've always bounced back in a big way after Daytona, so I'm expecting nothing less this weekend," Kenseth said.

Cheating scandal pushes competition director into spotlight

by JENNA FRYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Robin Pemberton stepped out of the spotlight when he gave up a successful career as a top-level crew chief following the 2001 season.

Six years later, he's a far bigger star than he ever wanted to be.

NASCAR's competition director became the center of attention at Daytona as he led the crackdown on cheating. The sport-coat clad Pemberton paced through the garage investigating corruption, then grimly faced the media on three consecutive days to announce the toughest penalties in NASCAR history.

"We're going to grab this one by the horns," Pemberton said on Day 1. "We've got people's attention now," he declared on Day 2.

"You couldn't stage this stuff, even if you wanted to," he wearily offered on Day 3.

It was trying times for Pemberton, one of the first people in the garage and one of the last to leave each day as he worked with NASCAR's top officials to prevent the Daytona 500 from becoming a joke.

When the race finally began last Sunday, six crew members had been thrown out of the garage, \$250,000 in fines had been levied and five drivers had been docked points. Most important, NASCAR had convinced a skeptical racing community the Daytona 500 would be fair.

"I don't think there's any doubt that Robin has helped NASCAR's credibility and confidence among the competitors," NASCAR president Mike Helton said. "He is a nice complement to the NASCAR staff, particularly as it relates to the high visibility of the competition department."

Pemberton, who led Rusty Wallace to 15 victories, joined the staff almost three years ago, and he's still trying to get comfortable in the job.

"The transition from being on one side of the fence to the other, how I manage relationships, how I work the garage area and work the teams, it's something that takes a while to figure out," said Pemberton, who spent 22 years working side-by-side with the people he now polices.

When he left Wallace's team after 230 races — a streak that had been the longest active driver-crew chief tandem in the Cup series — Pemberton had hoped to scale back a bit and spend some time with his two sons before they left for college.

But after brief stints with Petty Enterprises and Ford Racing, NASCAR wooed him to a position that requires more work and even longer days than he ever put in as a crew chief.

It was everything the 50-year-old Pemberton had been trying to escape after a career in which he missed less than a dozen races since 1979.

"I won't be the first to admit that plan didn't really go right for me," he

said. "Maybe it's because I've always worked seven days a week, even before I was in racing. I just gravitate to jobs that take seven days a week."

Because of Pemberton's experience in the garage and the relationships he had built, NASCAR felt he was the perfect fit.

The competitors, who praise Pemberton for his professionalism, agree.

"Robin brings a perspective to our sport that, for someone in that job, is much needed," said Jeff Burton. "He is someone who has been there recently, understands how this thing works, understands the mentality of the teams. It used to be that NASCAR never had that. It was their group, and it was our group."

"But Robin has made NASCAR understand some things and made us understand some things. He's very open-minded. He's very fair. He's easy to talk to, and he's not afraid to disagree with you."

It's important that Pemberton retain all those qualities. He had the unpleasant task of removing Michael Waltrip's competition director from the garage last week after the team was caught using a fuel additive before qualifying.

Pemberton has known Bobby Kennedy for years and did his best to keep the escorted walk out of the garage professional, not a perp walk.

"I've got a really strong relationship with quite a few people in the garage area," he said. "The trick now

is maintaining those relationships from being able to go in the back (of the NASCAR truck) to going to have dinner with a friend."

That includes his younger brother, Ryan, a crew chief at Ginn Racing for Mark Martin. Although Ryan Pemberton has yet to break any major rules on Robin's watch, the two fell on opposite sides of the fence at the end of the Daytona 500.

Martin was racing Kevin Harvick for the win when a multi-car accident erupted behind them on the last lap. Martin could have been awarded the victory depending on when NASCAR threw the caution flag, but it didn't come until after Harvick beat Martin to the finish line.

"My son called me after the race and said 'Dad, you sure are trying to make things awkward around here at Thanksgiving,'" Robin joked.

The brothers talked two days after the 500, with Ryan holding no grudge over the decision.

"We keep the business part separate," Ryan Pemberton said. "We don't put ourselves in position to do that. I don't call him to talk to him about it. I don't ask him any questions."

Robin Pemberton does the same, whether it's with his brother, a crew member he once employed or a car owner he used to work for.

"You look at those cars as dots on the screens, not as drivers or numbers," he said. "I have no problem with that."

2007 NASCAR Nextel Cup

Feb. 10 — x-Budweiser Shootout, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Tony Stewart)
Upcoming Races
Feb. 18 — Daytona 500, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Kevin Harvick)
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, Va.
April 15 — Samsung 500, Fort Worth, Texas.
April 21 — Subway Fresh 500, Avondale, Ariz.
April 29 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala.
May 5 — Goody 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, N.C.

OPENER: NASCAR writes its own 'Ricky Bobby' ending

by JIM LITKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first 150 laps of the Daytona 500 was like watching drivers circle the lot at the grocery store politely waiting for parking spots to open up.

Then the sun went down, a full moon popped up and everybody started behaving like the Wolfman — suddenly in a hurry and only too eager to mix it up.

The last 50 laps featured five wrecks, all involving multiple cars, and small wonder. There was no room. With three dozen circuits left, the top 20 were separated by a second. With six laps to go, the field was as tightly packed as it was at the start.

At the finish, as car parts, smoke and sparks flew through the air behind them like the climactic chase scene from "The Road Warrior," Kevin Harvick and Mark Martin were racing side by side at around 200 mph separated by the length of a car hood. Seconds later, providing a perfect exclamation point, Clint Bowyer skidded across the line with his car upside down — and on fire.

The guys calling the race on Fox, with decades of NASCAR experience between them, scoured their collective memory banks to come up with an ending nearly this wild.

One referenced "Joey Chitwood," the daredevil who performed death-defying auto stunts beginning in the 1940s, and whose best work is still available on youtube.com. Another nominated the 1979 Daytona 500, when Cale Yarborough and Donnie Allison locked up in a final-lap battle, spun into the infield, started throwing insults and then punches as Allison's brother, Bobby, pulled over and joined the fray. The fight garnered so much attention that a nation watching the first-ever live broadcast of a 500-mile race barely noticed Richard Petty making up a half-lap deficit and sneaking across the finish line.

Grand as that race was, driver-turned-broadcaster Darrell Waltrip came up with an even better one.

"This finish," he said, recalling last year's NASCAR-inspired hit comedy, "It's 'Ricky Bobby.' It couldn't have been any better."

Nor better-timed.

Think back to the events of last week, when NASCAR czar Brian France gave his upbeat state-of-the-sport address. He boasted about new TV partners, new sponsors, a new car-maker coming on-board to challenge America's Big Three, and the additional responsibilities all that money rolling in would place on the people who make the sport go.

Then an hour or so later, his handlers announced four teams caught cheating would lose their crew chiefs for Sunday's race. A fifth team, headed by owner-driver Michael Waltrip, was busted the following day. That may have been the most embarrassing development of all, since he was fronting for new series-entrant Toyota, a manufacturer that knew little about NASCAR's notorious past and liked seeing its reputation smudged with oil even less.

The funny thing is that hijinks have been on the way out the last half-dozen or so years, as NASCAR embarked on an NFL-style expansion plan, growing more homogeneous than homespun, more choreographed than chaotic in the bargain.

But this race was a throwback in the best sense of the word, at least once the sun went down and the cars found their grip on the ancient concrete oval. Drivers banged into the walls, off each other and the crazier it got, the more chances they took.

"Wildest thing I've been part of," Harvick said after officials posted his margin of victory at .020 seconds, "in a long time."

Martin, the sentimental favorite, was trying to win his first Daytona title in 23 tries.

"We were inches or feet or whatever. We were short. It was so close," he said finally, "but it was second."

It's small consolation, but it was as good and honorable a second-place finish as there's been in NASCAR. Even so, Martin could have whined about the lack of a caution flag seconds from the end. As he battled Harvick to the line, the final, seven-car crash was exploding just a few hundred yards behind them. Had the yellow flag been dropped, the field would have been frozen and Martin would have won. Instead, the green flag flew. "I was ahead of it all," Martin con-

ceded, "It was pretty decent where I was sitting."

And because Martin was a standup guy, France, Harvick and all the rest of the employees in his traveling circus are sitting pretty. Since the Daytona 500 is NASCAR's biggest event, the season effectively starts with its Super Bowl and builds momentum from there. Now there's a great race, a little controversy and enough highlights to fill up a week's worth of the nightly programs that ESPN has trotted out to promote the sport it just bought back into.

A few years back, France was asked whether all the changes he embarked on, from increased corporate involvement to a crackdown on the drivers' conduct, language and under-the-hood shenanigans wasn't driving his core audience away. He replied that coming up with magical moments wouldn't be tough so long as men and machines remained a volatile mix.

"Racing has always had them. The trick now," he said, "is to keep them coming on a bigger stage." So far, so good.

BMS to offer specially-priced Busch, pole day tickets

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Fans planning to attend the Car of Tomorrow test sessions at Bristol Motor Speedway Feb. 28 and March 1, also will have the opportunity to purchase specially-priced Pole Day and Sharpie MINI 300 Busch Series tickets.

The Car of Tomorrow makes its much anticipated debut on Pole Day (Friday, March 23) before making its historic first NEXTEL Cup start in the sold-out Food City 500 on Sunday, March 25. In preparation for the March events, Nextel Cup teams will visit Bristol Motor Speedway for two days of testing next week. The test sessions are open to the public free of charge.

Fans attending either day of the COT test session can purchase specially-priced tickets for Pole Day as well as the Sharpie MINI 300. A Family Four-Pack, two adult and two

children's tickets, to the Sharpie MINI 300 will be available for only \$99 while anyone purchasing a regularly priced ticket to the Sharpie MINI 300 also may purchase a Pole Day ticket for just \$5. Fans wishing to purchase Pole Day tickets only may do so for only \$10 each. The specially-priced tickets are available only during the two-day test. The discounts are not good with any other promotion or offer or on previous purchases.

The COT test sessions begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. each day. An hour break in on-track action is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. each day.

Fans wishing to watch the test sessions can enter BMS through the South entrance (near Peerless Woodworking) and access the backstretch grandstands through Gate 6. Free parking will be in the located in LOT B, directly across from Gate 6.

Spectator gates will open at 8:45 a.m. both days. Concessions also will be available for spectators.

During the two-day test, tickets for both Pole Day and the Sharpie MINI 300 Busch Series race will be available for purchase on the concourse level of the grandstands as well as in the ticket office.

Tickets for Pole Day and the Sharpie MINI 300 also are available online at www.bristoltx.com or may be purchased by calling the BMS ticket office at 423/989-6900.

Practice for both the Sharpie MINI 300 and the Food City 500 will take place on Friday, March 23. Qualifying for the Food City 500 is set for 3:45 on Friday while qualifying for the Sharpie MINI 300 takes place on Saturday at 11:10 a.m. The race gets the green flag later that afternoon at 3 p.m. Sunday's Food City 500 has a 2 p.m. start time.



file photo
DIRT TRACK 2007: Veteran Dirt Late Model driver Jackie Boggs, an Eastern Kentucky native, will keep up a busy 2007 schedule with races at tracks in several states.

The Times

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mile South of Martin across from Garth Technical School. Must have references. 285-9112.

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House

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2 BR 1 bath house available 3/1/07 at Martin near Nelson Frasure Funeral Home. References, security deposit required. 859-358-6362 or 606-478-8139.

Mobile Home

LOTS FOR RENT

New MH park. Allen/Dwale area. Restrictions apply. paved streets, lighted area. All sizes. 606-377-2357.

FOR RENT

One Mobile Home lots for rent 1/2 mile on right from Prestonsburg on Town Branch Road. Lots have city water, gas, sewage, and AEP electric. Call Karen 874-7155.

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2 BR 2 BATH recently renovated, central heat and air, public water, sewer, and trash. \$375 plus utilities. 285-1888

FOR RENT

MH for rent, 2 BR 2 bath 16ft. x 72 ft. Like new partially furnished on large private lot. 4 miles from M.A.C. on Rt. 114. 886-2896.

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United States Department of Labor
MSHA
 Mine Safety and Health Administration
COAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH INSPECTOR FEDERAL JOB SCREENING
 MARCH 2-4, 2007
 PIKEVILLE COLLEGE COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTER
 119 COLLEGE STREET
 PIKEVILLE, KY 41501
 The Mine Safety and Health Administration seeks candidates for Coal Mine Inspectors throughout District 6.
 A minimum of one-year of experience performing a full range of tasks and operating a variety of equipment is required. All applicants must bring a valid driver's license and a resumé in order to participate.
Friday, March 2, 2007
Testing Sessions
 Register 7:00 a.m.-until testing begins at 8:00 a.m.
 Register 12:00 p.m.-until testing begins at 1:00 p.m.
 Candidates who pass math and writing will be scheduled for Saturday or Sunday morning interview.
Saturday, March 3 and Sunday March 4
 Candidates can preregister on Friday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
 Register 7:00 a.m.-until testing begins at 8:00 a.m. Candidates who pass math and writing will be interviewed in the afternoon.
 For qualification requirements and information on MSHA's Inspector Career Intern Program, please visit our website at www.msha.gov.
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 Exciting opportunity to become part of the team at Mud Creek Dental Clinic in Grethel, KY.
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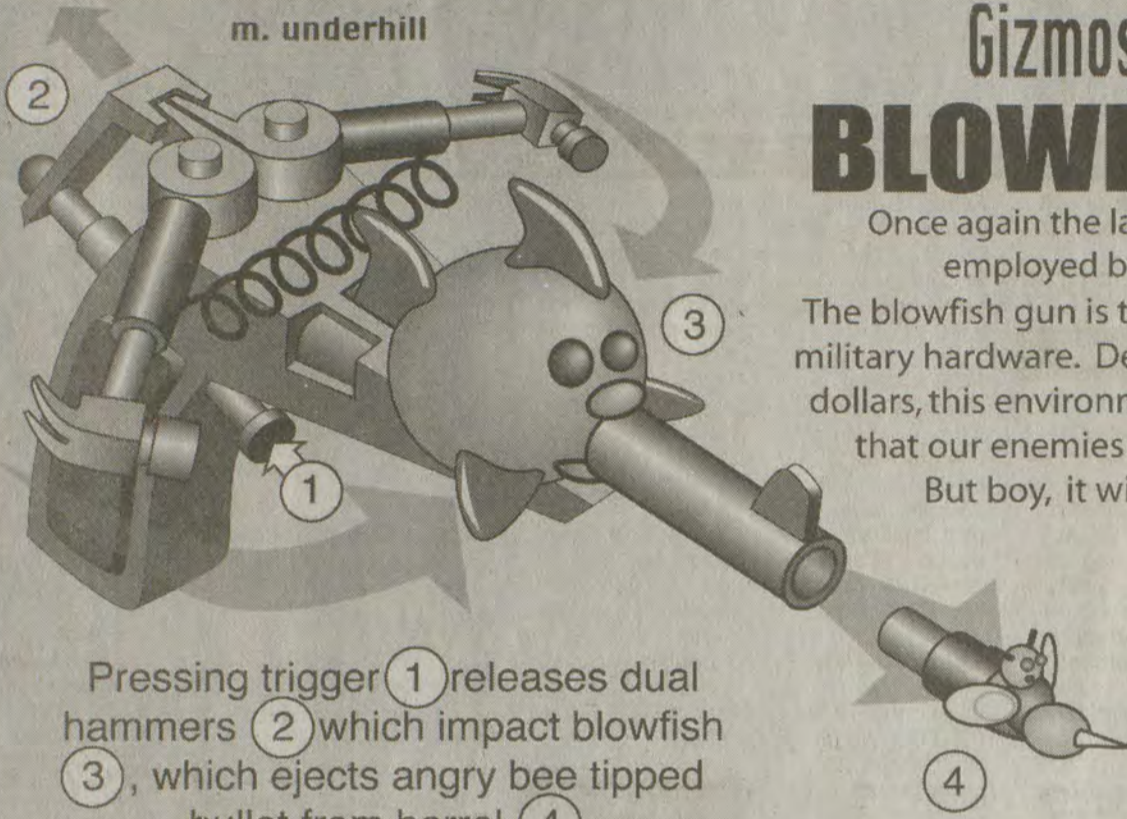


They all appear on this page

the fake G&G

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HIDDEN IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

ooh dat smarts
wake me when it's ovah



m. underhill

Gizmos & Gadgets BLOWFISH GUN

Once again the latest technology is being employed by our government.

The blowfish gun is the cutting edge of non-lethal military hardware. Developed for a mere 2.6 billion dollars, this environmentally safe weapon insures that our enemies won't sustain real injuries. But boy, it will really annoy them.

Pressing trigger ① releases dual hammers ② which impact blowfish ③, which ejects angry bee tipped bullet from barrel ④.

Angry bee's supplied by Moodtech Industries. When you need a ticked off bug. Moodtech delivers!

Gizmos & Gadgets MOUSE MAZE

EXPERIMENT 027 © m.under.

Can you help Gadget find the cheese, two flags and her wrench?

CARTOONINGLESSONS.COM

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LESSON 027. MINI PROFILE

One of the keys to an effective turned head is the way the nose, lips and chin overlap the cheek.

This gives strong direction to the head plus it reinforces the 3D quality of the drawing.

Gizmos & Gadgets

WHICH WAY?

When the crank is turned which way will the sign slide left (A) or right (B)?

michael underhill's

GADZOOKO

4x4

Each column, row and square must use #s 7,2,9,&4, plus the diagonals must add up to the #s shown. (diagonals can repeat #s)

too cold for that!

and we'll save money

bonk!

DECODER MOUSE EACH SYMBOL STANDS FOR A LETTER

Australian Dream®

Pain Relieving Arthritis Cream

***Experience Pain Relief with
No Odor, Burning or Staining
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Australian Dream® is for the temporary relief of minor aches and pains of muscles and joints associated with arthritis. Australian Dream® uses an active ingredient that produces vasodilation. Vasodilation provides penetrating pain relief by increasing blood flow to the specific area of your pain.

Australian Dream® has been a popular product for over nine years in pharmacies and health foodstores not only for what it does, but for what it doesn't do. Australian Dream® has NO ODOR! A number of products tend to have a strong smell. Australian Dream® will not burn your skin. Some products use ingredients that cause a reddening of the skin. And Australian Dream® uses no colored dyes that could stain you skin or clothing.

***Odor Free!
Capsaicin Free!
No Colored Dyes!***



Here is what a few Australian Dream® users are saying:

"I have rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis in my lower spine. I couldn't believe the difference it made in me walking and getting up and down in chairs. I even have my best friend's husband using the cream. It really works!"*

B. Bilby, Cincinnati, OH

"I have battled osteo and rheumatoid arthritis for many years. I have tried every kind of cream and liquid but to no avail. All the others smelled too much to leave the house or set you on fire. I tried your cream and in a very short time I could feel it working. Thank you for this great product!"*

D. Brumfield, Proctorville, OH

"I've tried all kinds of jells, creams and sprays for my RA over the years. I'd be lost without the Dream Cream."*

C. Wolfe, Fairfield, FL

**Pain results may vary with each individual.*

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Betsy Lane Pharmacy
111 Hays Complex Hwy 23
Betsy Layne 478-9474

Downtown Drug
90 Triangle Street
Martin 285-0786

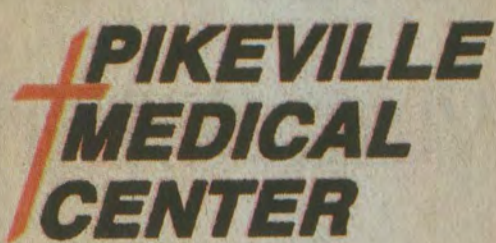
Cooley Apothecary
128 North Lake Drive Suite 1
Prestonsburg 886-8106

Lackey Pharmacy
Rt. 550 Millard-Allen Drive
Lackey 358-2661

Archer Clinic Pharmacy
400 University Drive Suite 100
Prestonsburg 886-1202

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- Medical Social Work
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- Respite

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 or services offered please call:
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 beside the Shelbiana post office, in the
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*Compassionate nurses and therapists providing
the care that your doctor orders.*