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briefs

Crowd turns out for reading

by JESSICA HALE
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Family Reading Night at Prestonsburg Elementary turned out to be quite a gathering on Tuesday as students and their families participated in a KLUTZ Build a Book event.

A total of 32 students and their families turned out for the event. Students from all five kindergarten classes prepared for the event by composing an individual story in their language arts class.

Each child was provided with a Scholastic KLUTZ Build a Book kit by the Family Resource Center with which they created a one of a kind memory for themselves and their family.

The event was coordinated by Martha Damron and Family Resource Director Rebial Reynolds.

Assisting in the event were kindergarten teachers Carey Davis, Lisa Hunt, Tina Petry, Stephanie Sexton, Angie Watts, Reading Resource teachers Charlene Horn, Debbie Goble, Reba Yeary, and Assistant Principal Terri Hall.

2-DAY FORECAST

Today

Scattered Storms

High: 71 • Low: 51

Tomorrow

Sunny

High: 76 • Low: 53

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inside

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CLEARING THE AIR



This trio of happy customers all said that dining out during Wednesday's observance of Kick Butts Day was a welcome change and one they hope to see continued.

photos by Kathy J. Prater

Smoke-free day receives mostly positive reviews

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — At a time when so many seem to focus on healthy living, one would think the problem would not exist but, it does. That problem is the continued use of tobacco products.

With statistics showing that young people under the age of 18 are continuing to use tobacco products such as cigarettes and smokeless or spit tobacco, the Floyd County Health Department encouraged local restaurants to observe the national "Kick Butts Day" campaign this past Wednesday.

Currently, about 55,400 Kentucky high school students smoke, with approximately 25 percent of all male high school students using smokeless or spit tobacco products. Jean Rosenberg, a consultant for the health department, says that these statistics are "alarming."

"We don't want to see anyone harming their health with tobacco products," Rosenberg said, "but it's even worse when it's our children."

To raise awareness about the dangers of the use of tobacco along with the health risks to others associated with second-



The majority of the diners patronizing Billy Ray's Restaurant this past Wednesday, when the favorite downtown dining establishment went smoke-free for Kick Butts Day, seemed to enjoy the clear air and did not mind the absence of ashtrays on the tables. Manager Brian Collins said that the restaurant experienced no loss of business due to the day's observance of shunning cigarettes.

hand smoke, Rosenberg led the local Kick Butts Day campaign in hopes of garnering community attention and support for smoke-free public spaces in Floyd County.

"Currently, we have about 19 Floyd County restaurants that are smoke-free every day," Rosenberg said. "By their

example, we hope to show other local restaurants that they, too, can become smoke free and not experience any loss of business."

On Wednesday, 12 Prestonsburg restaurants agreed to try being smoke-free

(See SMOKE, page three)

Governor's race offers no death penalty opponent

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Regardless of the outcome of this year's elections, Kentucky will have a governor who favors the death penalty.

And with legal appeals running out for several convicted murderers, the governor could likely be called on to sign death warrants.

The Rev. Patrick Delahanty, a Catholic priest who serves on the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, said he's not surprised that each of the three Republicans and seven Democrats in the race say they favor capital punishment.

"But I don't see how anyone who is intellectually honest can say they have no misgivings about the death penalty," he

said. The Associated Press asked the candidates their views on the death penalty. All of them, including the two physicians in the race, said it should remain an option in Kentucky.

"The protocol for administering lethal injections would need to be reviewed in order to determine if it is just or unjust,"

(See DEATH, page three)

U.S. 23 safety project prompts ire from residents

Complaints say wall dangerous, inconvenient

by JESSICA HALE
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The caution signs have already been placed, but local residents on U.S. 23 near Best Western say an upcoming barrier wall project will result in an increase in accidents instead of the projected decline.

According to information obtained from the Transportation Cabinet, from 2004 through 2006, there were nine reported fatalities and 17 injuries on this particular stretch of road. The Cabinet saw these statistics as a reason to try to eliminate the risk of cars crossing onto the other side of the highway.

Doug Wright, branch manager of construction for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, along with coworker Mary Holbrook, were present at a meeting held Thursday evening at the Texas Hold 'Em building on U.S. 23. The meeting's purpose was to inform residents along this stretch of highway that they will no longer be able to make left turns coming off the roadway when the project is finished.

The small meeting room was packed with residents who were obviously very upset with not only the decision to place the wall, but also what they call the

untimely manner in which they were notified of the project.

"We didn't know about this until two days ago," said Maxine Rose. "What can we do about it now if they say it's already going to happen?"

Most residents argued that placing the barrier wall will force them to drive further up the highway and make a u-turn in order to come back down and reach their driveways, which they say will create more of a risk that someone will get hurt.

A second concern was the depreciation of property values due to the limited access from the highway. Most residents say they have been offered a lot of money for their property, but once this project is finished their land will be worth nothing.

Several residents who live along this stretch of road are also concerned about emergency situations, with one resident saying that she's had to call an ambulance for her husband several times and the new wall will force emergency personnel to travel a longer distance, therefore risking his life in those few extra minutes.

Suggestions of a caution light and increased patrols in the area were prevalent during discussions along with drainage issues, which residents say contribute to many of the accidents.

Several years ago, this section of highway was repaved with what residents

(See SAFETY, page three)



photo by Jessica Hale

Judge-Executive R.D. "Doc" Marshall attended the regular meeting of the Prestonsburg Rotary Club on Thursday. Marshall spoke to members about his plans for the future, which include establishing safer drinking water and creating horse and all-terrain vehicle trails throughout the area that may eventually extend into surrounding counties.

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

■ Versa Addis, 82, of McDowell, died Saturday, March 24, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, James (Buster) Addis. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 27, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Mattie Gibson, 95 of Wayland, died Tuesday, March 27, in the Mary Breckinridge Hospital at Hyden. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 31, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Robert Scott Hall, 30, of Drift, died Sunday, March 25, near his home. He is survived by his wife, Cindy Ann Hall. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 29, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Ronald "Rusty" Hamilton, 56 of Teaberry, died Friday, March 23, at his residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 27, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Henry Jenkins Jr., 62, of Garrett, died Sunday, March 25, at his residence. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 29, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Clarence Ray Slone, 35, of Hueysville, died Sunday, March 25, at his residence. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Wanda Lee Symon, 57, of Dinwood, Martin, died Monday, March 26, at the King's Daughters Hospital at Ashland. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 29, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Ricky Lynn Tackett, 53, of Beaver, died Sunday, March 25, at the Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, in Paintsville. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 27, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Tameka Marie Ward, 23, of Pikeville, a native of Martin, died Saturday, March 24, in McDowell. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Gary Lee Wright, 37, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, March 25, at his residence. Funeral services were held Friday, March 30, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

MARTIN COUNTY

■ Vivien Maureen Fannin, 60, of Tomahawk, died Sunday,

March 25, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Thomas J. Fannin. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Larry Glenn Fitzpatrick, 51, of Tomahawk, died Thursday, March 22, at his home. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 24, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Bill Maynard, 88, of Pilgrim, died Sunday, March 25, at his home. He is survived by his wife, America Maynard. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Myrtle Moore, 78, of Lovely, a native of Pike County, died Sunday, March 25, at her home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Ruby Jude Scott, 65, of Pilgrim, died Friday, March 23, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, Wayne Scott. Funeral services were held Monday, March 26, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

PIKE COUNTY

■ Rodney Adkins, 55, of Elkhorn City, died Sunday, March 25, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Vicki Moore Adkins. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home of Elkhorn City.

■ Flossie Taylor Blackburn, 77, of South Williamson, died Sunday, March 25, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Jack Blackburn. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Stonewall Clark Jr., 79, of Pikeville, died Monday, March 26, at the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 29, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Carl Ray "Ferl" Collier, 24, of Kiser Lane, died Saturday, March 24, the result of injuries suffered in an automobile accident. He is survived by his wife, Stephanie Collier. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 27, under direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

■ Arvil Estep, 77, of Dorton, died Thursday, March

22, 2007, at Whitesburg Appalachian Regional Hospital. Arrangements, under the direction of Lucas and Son Funeral Home of Pikeville.

■ Cledith Darel Hill, 69, of Wolfpit, died Tuesday, March 27, at Pikeville Medical Center. Arrangements, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

■ Jessie Anne Taylor Sowards Justice, 63, of Pikeville, died Friday, March 25, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 27, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ John "Arvil" May, 74, of Buffalo Grove, Illinois, formerly of Pike County, died Tuesday, March 20, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, LaVerne Adkins May. Funeral services were held Monday, March 26, under direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Robert Ryan "Bobby" Maynard, 42, of Raccoon, died Sunday, March 25, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 1, in the Community Funeral Home Chapel. Arrangements are under direction of Community Funeral Home.

■ Ethel Louise Newman, 53, of Osborne Fork, Virgie, died Sunday, March 25, at her home. She is survived by her husband, Caner "Bo" Newman III. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Terry Runyon, 23, of Powells Creek, died Sunday, March 25, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 29, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ Bessie Simpson, 77, of Stopover, died Sunday, March 25, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. She is survived by her husband, William Simpson. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

■ Brandon Kyle Crum, 3, of Louisa, died Saturday, March 24, at his home. Funeral services were held Tuesday,

March 27, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

■ Roberta Maynard, 85, of Louisa, died Monday, March 19 in J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center in Louisa. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 21, under the direction of Young Funeral Home.

■ Ernest G. Pohlman, 81, of South Point, a native of Lawrence County, died Monday, March 26, in Community Hospice in Ashland. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Grove Pohlman. Graveside services were held Friday, March 30, at Highland Memorial Gardens Chapel in South Point.

■ Colten Jarrett Robertson, 3-month-old son of Brandon and Misty Hill Robertson of Louisa, died Monday, March 26, in Three Rivers Medical Center in Louisa. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 29, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

■ Carol Lou Brown Shannon, 63, of Louisa, died Saturday, March 24, in J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center in Louisa. She is survived by her husband, Willis "Hap" Shannon. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Young Funeral Home.

■ Dessie Elizabeth Townsend, 65, of Willow Wood, a native of Lawrence County, died Monday, March 26, at her residence. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 29, under the direction of Phillips Funeral Home.

JOHNSON COUNTY

■ Willie Delong, 92, of Van

Lear, died Wednesday, March 28, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 31, under the direction of Phelps & Son Funeral Home.

■ Millard Price, 82, of Offutt, died Thursday, March 22, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, May Wallen Price. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 24, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

■ Layla Faye Williams, 18 days old, of Williamsport, died Saturday, March 24, at her residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 27, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

■ Marsha Diane Howard Basham, 34, of Salyersville, died Sunday, March 25. Funeral services were held Thursday, March 29, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

■ Bub Patrick, 71, of Salyersville, died Saturday, March 24. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

■ Ellis Shepherd, 81, of Salyersville, died Saturday, March 24. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 28, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

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■ Brandon Kyle Crum, 3, of Louisa, died Saturday, March 24, at his home. Funeral services were held Tuesday,

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Continued from p1

Smoke

for one day. One of those businesses, Billy Ray's Restaurant, has long been a downtown gathering place where many patrons have adopted the habit of spending a great portion of their day hanging out, talking with neighbors and enjoying a cup of coffee and cigarette. So, was it "business as usual" this past Wednesday or did the locals rebel?

According to Brian Collins, manager and son of owners Lee and Sheila Collins, business was "as usual" and

few complaints were received.

"I think a few of the breakfast regulars may have complained a little, but only a couple. Most everyone is okay with it and many of them have said they like it better," he said. "I can't see that it has affected us."

And, according to owner Sheila Collins, who was contacted later in the week after Wednesday's numbers were calculated, business was not affected in any adverse way on Kick Butts Day.

Out of the 15 or so workers employed by the restaurant, few offered complaints about the smoke-free observance even though they were required to take their smoke breaks outside the restaurant on Wednesday.

"I don't really mind," said Melissa Lee, a Billy Ray's employee. "I have two boys, age 10 and 12, and they have been on to me to quit smoking, anyway. I've already signed up for the quit smoking classes at the health

department ... I want to be around for my grandbabies."

Lee said that her smoking habit, along with her husband's habit, costs her family "about \$3,000 a year."

"There's a lot more we could be doing with that money," she said.

In addition to Billy Ray's Restaurant, 11 other Prestonsburg restaurants went smoke-free for Kick Butts Day. Those restaurants were Dairy Cheer, Dairy Queen, El Azul Grande, Giovanni's, Kentucky Fried

Chicken, Jerry's Restaurant, Long John Silver's, Made From Scratch Dining and Catering, Pin-Zone Bowling Center, Pizza Hut, and Sharon's Pizza.

To learn more about the dangers of the use of tobacco products, second-hand smoke and what you can do to help yourself, your loved ones, and your community enjoy smoke free living, contact the Floyd County Health Department at (606) 886-2788.

Death

said former Lt. Gov. Steve Henry, a Louisville physician who is running for the Democratic nomination. "As governor, the death penalty would remain an option for the most heinous crimes."

Gov. Ernie Fletcher, a Republican who is seeking reelection, signed death warrants in his first term as governor, though no executions have been carried out.

"I do not see a need to change the current system," said Fletcher, a physician from Lexington. "I support the death penalty for societies' most heinous criminals."

Delahanty said some gubernatorial candidates take stands favoring the death penalty because they think it will earn them votes. However, the position may be losing its political favor, he said, in the wake of highly publicized cases in which the convictions

of death row inmates have been reversed.

"There might have been a time when that was a vote-getter," Delahanty said. "Given all the misgivings, I don't know why anybody thinks that it's still a vote-getter. I might very well be a position that loses you votes."

Kentucky's only two executions since the death penalty was reinstated 31 years ago took place in 1997, when Harold McQueen was electrocuted, and 1999, when Eddie Lee Harper was given a lethal injection.

The current method of execution is under court attack by condemned inmates claiming it is cruel and unusual punishment.

Thomas Clyde Bowling and Ralph Baze, who challenged lethal injection as cruel and unusual punishment in a 2004 lawsuit, have received

several stays of execution because of court challenges. Kentucky has not scheduled any executions since the lawsuit.

Bowling was sentenced to death for killing Edward and Tina Earley and shooting their 2-year-old son outside the couple's Lexington dry-cleaning business in 1990. Baze was convicted of killing Powell County Sheriff Steve Bennett and deputy Arthur Briscoe during an attempted arrest in 1992.

Kentucky has 40 death-row inmates, including 11 who have been there for more than two decades.

"Administering the death penalty is one of the governor's most solemn and difficult responsibilities, and I support the death penalty for those crimes for which it is clearly justified," said Louisville businessman Bruce Lunsford, one

of the Democratic candidates for governor.

Lunsford said the state needs to provide more funding for public defenders to make sure people who face the death penalty are properly represented in the courts.

Continued from p1

"As governor, I'll look for opportunities to change our process for carrying out the death penalty to ensure it is just and error-free," he said.

Safety

Continued from p1

say was a mixture of material that will not allow water to drain from the road in a proper manner. Since then they have seen an increase in accidents.

Despite this, Wright said he was not aware of any comparison studies done on this roadway regarding before and after the repaving.

When questioned about what they should do about the situation, Wright told the residents that work is set to begin

Monday and likely little can be done.

"This group cannot stop it," Wright said. "It will happen."

Residents plan to start a petition and get it into the right hands before the project begins in hopes that they may be able to postpone it until they can convince the Transportation Cabinet that they are making what some refer to as a "stupid decision."

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expression

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

— Felix Frankfurter

Our view

Where's the egg?

There is just a week to go in our annual Great Easter Egg Hunt, assuming it isn't found before then. Yes, at the time of this writing, the egg is still out there, waiting for one lucky person to find it and claim the \$500 prize.

As usual, we've fielded countless phone calls and questions, all from people who want to know where the egg is. As always, we're keeping our silence, except for the clues we publish each issue.

This year, we've heard from several people who have said the clues are harder this year. Good. We have tried to make them a little bit harder, at least in the beginning, to make sure the game lasts as long as possible. But don't worry, we've saved the easiest clues for this week, and we're confident that there will soon be a winner.

However, we need to add just a word of caution. While the contest is meant to be fun and, for one lucky person, profitable, it's best not to get too caught up in the action. We've had a few reports of some people going a little overboard in their hunt for the egg, venturing into areas they shouldn't be in.

Please, use a little old-fashioned common sense while you look for the egg. It isn't on private property. You don't need to destroy the landscape to find it. And, by all means, if someone tells you that you're in a place you shouldn't be in, leave.

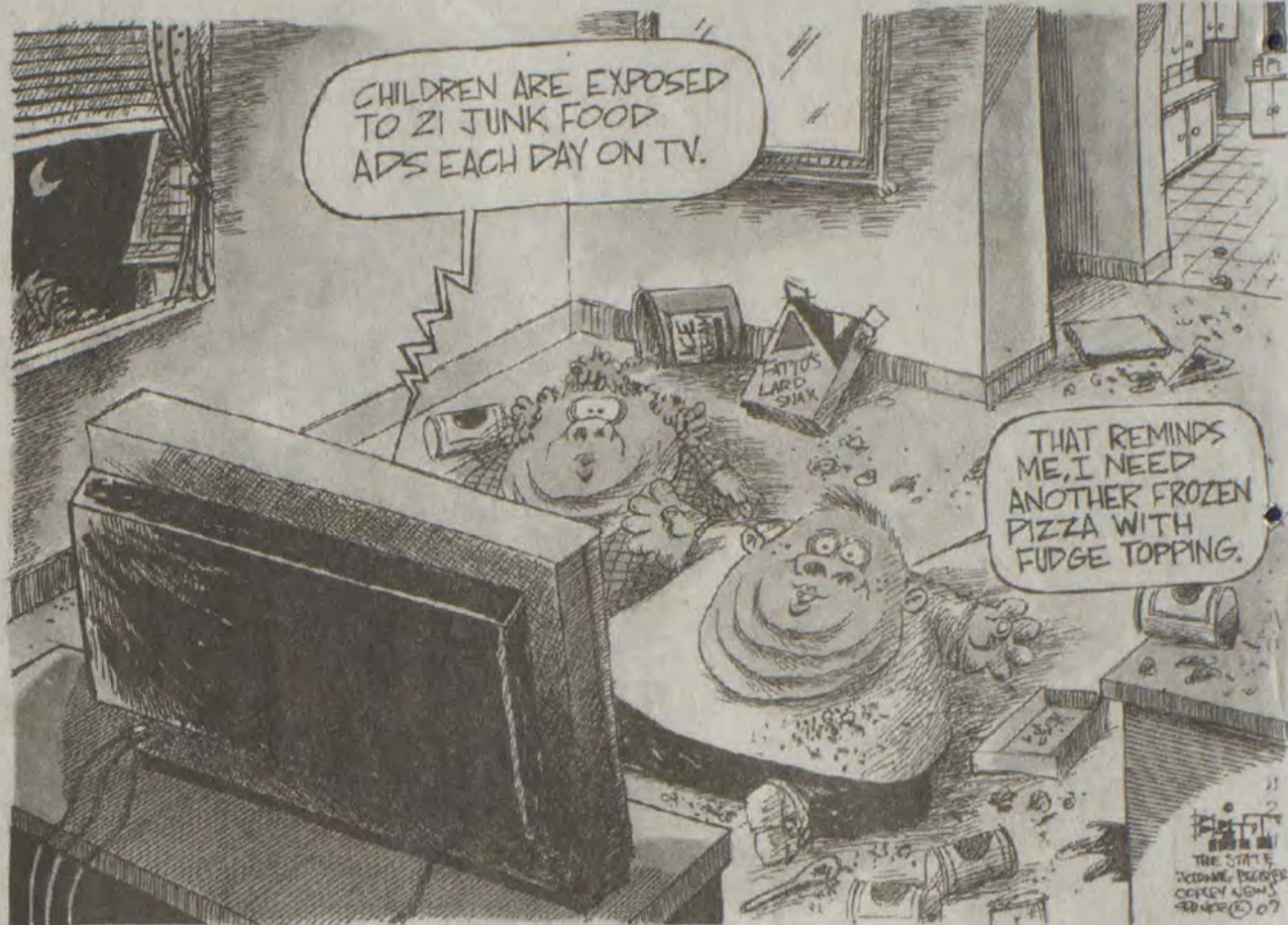
For the most part, however, the contest has been fun once again this year. It's easy to say that this contest is the most fun promotion we do each year.

Thank you to our sponsors for once again making this contest possible. Without you, this exercise in spring fever wouldn't happen.

And thank you to everyone who has taken part in our game. Without you, there would be no point.

The egg should be found in the next few days. Good luck and happy hunting.

— The Floyd County Times



Rich Lowry Column

The church of climate panic

Sophisticated people in Western societies don't stand in public and shout, "The end is near!" the way a nutty preacher does. They don't cut their scalps the way Shia Muslims do in a rite of self-flagellation to mark the Day of Ashura. They do none of these things, because they have the issue of global warming instead.

The planet is indeed getting warmer (by about .7 degrees Celsius during the 20th century), and carbon emissions are contributing to it. This is a problem that deserves study and debate about what realistically can be done about it. But it doesn't justify the bizarre panic that suggests the issue has become a trendy vehicle for traditional fears of the apocalypse and for rituals of guilt and expiation. The latest assessment of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — the Vatican of the Church of Climate Panic — prompted apocalyptic headlines worldwide. The New York Times dubbed it "a grim and powerful assessment of the future of the planet." Actually, the summary report was less grim than prior reports, but grimness is the only acceptable mood when it comes to climate change.

Christopher Monckton, a former

adviser to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, points to the neglected data in the IPCC summary. It "more than halved its high-end best estimate of the rise in sea level by (the year) 2100 from 3 feet to just 17 inches." In his scare-documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," Al Gore posited a catastrophic sea-level rise of more than 20 feet (feet, not inches).

Shock tactics inevitably mean simplifying in an area of unimaginable complexity. No one knows how to create a reliable model of the planet's climate, and inconvenient anomalies muddy the story line of the warming zealots. From 1940 to 1975, the global temperature fell even as CO2 emission rose. Since 2001, global temperatures have only gone up a statistically insignificant 0.03 degrees Celsius. And in recent years, the oceans have actually gotten cooler.

None of this, obviously, is to deny global warming, but to introduce a note of caution about the calls for individual and collective self-denial that accompany the warming panic. If people feel better about using compact fluorescent light bulbs, so be it,

but schemes to mandate drastic reductions in carbon emissions based on avoiding an entirely speculative calamity are folly.

Even the Kyoto Treaty, which would have only a slight effect on global climate even if fully implemented, is utterly unrealistic. Canada ratified the treaty in 2001, committing itself to reducing its carbon emissions 6 percent from

their 1990 level. But from 1991 to 2003, Canada's emissions increased 24 percent.

The sensible ways to try to mitigate global warming and counteract its effects in the long run are the development of new energy technologies in the West, as well as economic development and aid programs for those Third World countries that are most vulnerable to disease and sea-level rises. These solutions won't, however, satiate the deeper atavistic urges behind the global-warming panic. For that, people will have to head to their nearest place of worship.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The Rich Lowry column



beyond the beltway

Four years of fighting and fraud

by DONALD KAUL

The nation observed the fourth anniversary of the war in Iraq last week. I don't know how it was at your house, but our ceremony was very low key — no party hats, no gifts, just a few patriotic songs. ("Let's Kick the Kaiser in the Can" is a family favorite).

President George W. Bush used the occasion to issue a warning to Congress on the perils of cutting our losses in the war.

"It can be tempting to look at the challenges in Iraq and conclude our best option is to pack up and go home," he said in a brief address to the nation. "That may be satisfying in the short run, but I believe the consequences would be devastating."

And Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in a separate appearance, said that getting rid of Saddam Hussein had been "worth the sacrifice."

"Nothing of value is ever won unless there is sacrifice," she said on "Good Morning America."

Which is true, particularly when others are making the sacrifice.

I, a mildly affluent citizen firmly rooted in the middle class, have not been called upon to make a single sacrifice in this conflict.

During World War II, I dragged my little red wagon around the neighborhood collecting scrap paper to help the war effort. Korea found me

in the Naval Reserve, learning Morse code. But this time...nothing. Zilch. My taxes haven't even gone up.

That's my kind of sacrifice.

President Bush, when asked about the lack of general sacrifice in this war, said Americans "...sacrifice peace of mind when they see the terrible images of violence on TV every night."

Well sure, if they watch "24" or "The Sopranos." But if they watch the news? Not so much.

Someone clocked the war coverage on the major networks' nightly news shows for the week of Feb. 5 recently. ABC and NBC were tied with 14 minutes each on the war. CBS spent four minutes on it.

That sound you hear is Edward R. Murrow rolling over in his grave.

Opponents of the war turned out thousands strong in Washington to protest it. They were confronted by counter-protestors, fewer thousands strong, who yelled bumper sticker slogans at them. "America, Love it or Leave it," that sort of thing.

Oddly enough, the protestors seemed to be largely from a class of people like me, who had paid no discernible price for this war. The counter-protestors, on the other hand, were largely war veterans and other members of the class that has borne virtually its entire burden. Go figure.

I don't mean to make light of the sacrifices of this war. The ones who have sacrificed have sacrificed mightily. More than 3,200 American men and women have been killed, another 24,000 wounded, many of them grievously. No one knows how

many have been damaged psychologically by his or her experience, but it's many. That's no joke.

But the cynicism with which this administration took us to war and the ineptitude and corruption that have marked the conduct of it make it difficult to evade bitter irony when discussing it.

When I hear the president or one of his cabinet officers talk about this war, I feel as though I'm listening to a strange alien. We don't speak the same language.

In trying to explain away his low popularity ratings, Mr. Bush said, "We've got a fantastic economy here in the United States but yet when you think about the psychology of the country, it is somewhat down because of the war."

What fantastic economy is he talking about? Wall Street? Yeah, that's great, but Main Street is hurting. And it's not just the war we're down about. Mr. President, it's Hurricane Katrina and Abu Ghraib and the Walter Reed hospital scandal and the outing of Valerie Plame and the firing of the district attorneys and the relentless lies that come out of the White House daily.

Other than that, Mr. President, everything is going great. Happy anniversary.

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



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PUBLISHER
Joshua Byers
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MANAGING EDITOR
Ralph B. Davis
web@floydcountytimes.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Kim Frasure
advertising@floydcountytimes.com



INSIDESTUFF

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- Classifiedspage A12

CAR TALK:

Newer cars are safer for new drivers

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.

We cannot pass this opportunity to tell all and sundry that next Sunday is Easter. Give a good, long thought to the meaning of the day—and please do not stay home. Go to church!

□□□

Likely as not, those white-blooming trees you see on the hill-sides aren't dogwoods. They're "sarvices," if you know what I mean...By the way, I wonder if kids still eat "sheep sarvice," or if they're educated enough to know what it is.

RAILROAD TROUBLES

Once in a great while you read or hear about the railroads of the country being in hard straits. Most of the time, when I am reminded of the difficulties the railways are having, along with most of the rest of us, I think of how many animals ready for the bone-yard they have paid for, to the delight of the owners. There is a saying, you know, that if you would have a valuable cow, just cross her with a railroad track.

Along these lines, there is the story told of the mountaineer whose plug hoss ran afoul of a train with dire results to the horse. The owner did not deign to bother with taking his case to the local appraisers for the railroad. He up and wrote the head man, to this effect:

"Yore train hit my old plug hoss hard the crows can't find the peeces. You owe me \$50."

Back came, post-haste, a letter from the president of the company and a check for—not \$50, but \$75. Wrote he:

"You have the honor, sir, of having had the first plug horse killed in Kentucky, by a train. The bonus is for telling the truth."

MISTREATED YOUNGSTER

A younger of our community returned to town from the country, at his mother's insistence. And he was very unhappy with this revolting development. He had to come home from out there in the nice, quiet country where he was visiting his grandparents, just to take his music lessons.

"Just imagine!" he snorted "Bringin' me home to take that old music—and I could have had fun out there on the farm, haulin' manure!"

DIAGNOSIS

Never trust a youngster who is too glib of tongue and truthful, to boot! The doctor was taking this certain brat's old man's blood pressure (so the story goes), and the gauge was bouncing around something awful. The old practitioner yanked his glasses down on his nose and shook his head.

"That blood pressure—goodness! It's 90 over—"

"I know what his blood pressure's over," snapped the boy. "It's over that drunk he took last week."



Actors from the Lexington Children's Theatre entertained Floyd County children at W.D. Osborne Elementary as a reward for the school's excellent attendance.

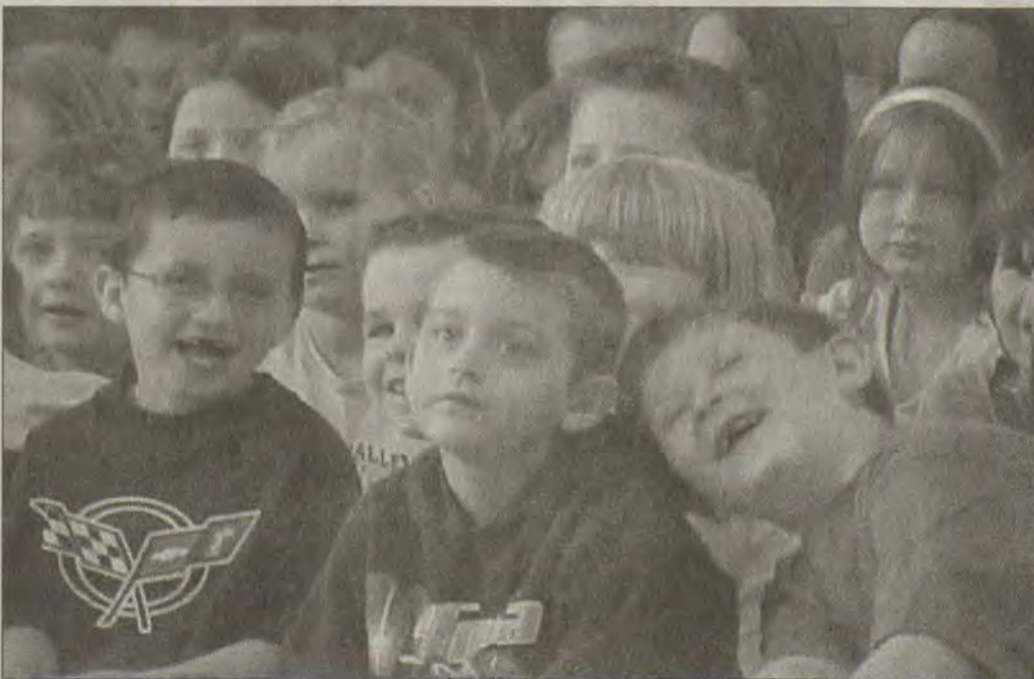
**Osborne students visted by
Lexington Children's Theatre**

W. D. Osborne Elementary students were recently treated to a live performance of "The Garden of Rikki Tikki Tavi" at their school. The play was presented by the Lexington Children's Theatre which is a professional, non-profit organization dedicated to the intellectual and cultural enrichment of young people. Students were treated with this day of fun as a reward for their fantastic attendance efforts. The play presentation also met with core content standards for drama and short stories. The production was introduced by Ms. Pat Bradley, arts and cultural outreach coordinator, and was presented with funding from The Center for Rural Development.

W.D. Osborne Elementary teachers and staff wish to say, "Way to go, students! Good attendance does get rewards!"



This little fella gets in on the fun and excitement created by the visiting actors.



The delight expressed on these little faces make going the extra effort worth the while in order to entertain and reward them for their hard work and good attendance record.

**MOVIES FROM
THE BLACK LAGOON**

'The Nest'

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST

The scenic island of North Port, off the coast of Washington, features a bevy of tourist attractions, which include good fishing, great weather, a classic lighthouse and a horde of steadily mutating cockroaches that have developed a fondness for human flesh.

The story opens with another sleepy island morning during which the sheriff is awakened with an especially large to-do list that includes picking up the mayor's daughter, investigating dog disappearances and checking out a vandalism complaint at the local grocery. Sheriff Tarbell doesn't mind the first assignment, as he used to date the daughter, Beth, until she left the island four years earlier.



Tom Doty
Times Columnist

Their reunion is about all that goes well for the law man, as he soon becomes aware that something is very wrong on the island. The first bell goes off for him when he investigates the grocery store to learn that all of the meat has been stripped off of every steak on sale. The only evidence left behind are small brown particles in every package, which local exterminator Homer identifies as roach poop (after licking one to be sure).

Tarbell wastes no time in seeking out the mayor of North Port and explains that the island could literally turn into a roach motel unless they take action. Mayor Johnson surprises him by saying he is aware of the problem but wants 24 hours to solve it, as it involves a Research and Development company, called INTEC, which has recently relocated to the island and bolstered its sagging economy.

Johnson calls in the scientist who created the critters, Dr. Morgan Hubbard. She turns out to be one of those mad scientist types who absolutely loves bugs and even screams in apparent pleasure when an errant roach puts the bite on her. She explains that the roaches were bred to eat other roaches and die off in one generation, but that their genetically altered appetites have gone off the charts and allowed them to assimilate whatever they eat.

This revelation is followed by several scenes of new roach hybrids attacking locals and include roach cats and roach people. Turns out that 24 hours may be more than enough time for Keifer Sutherland to save the world, but it won't do for an island population up against nature's longest living eating machine.

What follows is one very long night, during which the bugs turn the island into a buffet while the scientist, sheriff and mayor must team-up with Homer, who's sniffed way too many insecticides, to find the main nest and take out the queen of the roaches. It all climaxes in an ocean cave while a

(See LAGOON, page six)

You choose, you lose

by B.J. TAYLOR

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE DIETER'S SOUL"

"I've had it. I'm sick and tired of saying I can't have something," I complained to my best friend Linda. "I can't have chocolate cake. I can't have ice cream. I can't have a yummy éclair. Is there anything I can have?" "You can have lots of things," she said.

"Yeah, right. You're not the one trying to lose weight. The whole world is filled with things that are off-limits." I sulked in my chair as I

read the lunch menu in the restaurant.

Pastrami on rye. Cheeseburger. Tuna melt.

Roast beef au jus. French fries. Onion rings.

Cheesy broccoli soup. New England clam chowder.

Double-fudge brownies. Blueberry cheesecake.

The choices were endless.

As a teenager I could eat anything I wanted and as much as I wanted. Not anymore. Now I step on the scale every morning and peek at the numbers, hoping they haven't gone higher than the day before. I'm happy if I

haven't gained and elated if I've lost even half a pound. It's a daily struggle, and I'm tired of fighting. I'm even more tired of that word "can't."

There are so many things in life I just can't control. How tall I am (I always wanted to be short like my sister). My boss (I wish he'd save the big projects for Monday instead of Friday afternoons). The high cost of living (I wonder if I'll ever be able to retire). I have no power over so many areas of my life. Is there something I could take control of?

Then the light bulb went off in my head, one of those "aha" moments when it all comes together. There was something I could control — my own mind and my own decisions.

I did have a choice in this one area

of what I chose to eat. I could pick something I knew would be good for me, or I could pick something that wasn't in line with my goals. It was all a matter of choice. And it was all up to me.

Linda's voice brought me out of my thoughts. "How about the BLT? Or is that something you can't have?"

"You know what? Starting right now, right this minute, I'm not going to say 'can't' anymore." I sat up straight in my chair. "I'm going to say what I choose to

have instead."

"Sounds like a good plan to me," Linda said. "So what are you having?"

"I'm choosing the Chinese chicken salad, and I'm asking for the dressing on the side."

"Sounds terrific. But you can't have a soda with that, right?" she said. "Oops, I said can't. I'm sorry."

"That's OK; it will take a while to get used to it. But to answer you, I'm choosing ice water with a

(See SOUP, page six)



Newer cars are safer for new drivers

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

My fix-it-type father is offering to give my 16-year-old daughter (and new driver) his old car. It will be in perfect running order, with new brakes and a sound engine. He is even offering to pay for insurance. She is the apple of his eye. Unfortunately, his car is a 25-year-old GM sedan without any of today's safety features, such as air bags or anti-lock brakes, etc. He dismisses the lack of safety features by saying the car is "as solid as a rock," "you know where it is on the road" and "they don't make cars like this anymore." He has kept it going all these years. My maternal impulse is to say "thanks, but no thanks." He is my dad, and I don't want to seem ungrateful, nor do I want to accept the car only to not let my daughter drive it. We own two fairly new and well-built cars that she is able to drive. Having her own car would be great, but at what expense? — Donna

TOM: Gee, that's really nice of your father. It's a very sweet gesture. But I have to side with you, Donna.

RAY: Me too. He's right that they don't make cars like that anymore.

And I, for one, am grateful. Modern cars are much safer. Plus, they drive better, stop better, are more reliable and are easier to handle. That's especially important for a relatively new driver, who has enough to concentrate on without worrying whether the starboard outrigger is clipping a mailbox.

TOM: So here's what I'd do. I'd tell your dad that it's a wonderful, sweet gesture, and you're very grateful that he has such a great relationship with your daughter. But you want her to drive a car that has modern safety features.

RAY: If he's game, you can suggest that he sell the old heap, and then he and his granddaughter can make a project of using the proceeds to find her a newer used car. He'd get to spend time with her and help her check out and buy her first car, and he'd probably enjoy that.

TOM: And you can set the minimum conditions. You can say it has to have a driver's air bag, anti-lock brakes and a five-star crash-test rating. By the way, the more air bags (side, curtain, rear side, rear end), the better. Electronic stability control is also looking like a real life-saver, although that's been widely available

only for a few years now, and it'll be harder to find in the used-car market.

RAY: And if he doesn't bite on that suggestion, maybe he'll let his granddaughter drive his new Lexus once in a while (we know he's getting one with air bags, stability control, anti-lock brakes and seat heaters as soon as he figures out a way to dump his old clunker).

Dent in oil pan not always cause for action

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a 2004 Honda Accord, which I recently took to the dealer for the 30,000-mile service. The dealer tells me that my oil-pan underneath the car has a large dent, though there is no oil leaking. He says that I should spend \$400 on getting this replaced ASAP, since otherwise my oil pressure could drop to zero. I am not sure how big this problem is, since there is no leak. How urgent is it? Why would a dent affect oil pressure if the pan is intact? Thanks. — Amit

RAY: Well, there are two ways in which a dented oil pan can affect your oil pressure. The first is if it actually breaks. Then all of your oil will leak out and you'll have no oil to

pressurize!

TOM: But you're fortunate to have a steel oil pan on this car. Steel often can survive a dent. As long as there's no actual "crease" in the metal, you're probably OK. In our experience, the oil-pan dents that look like somebody punched them or you ran over a basketball rarely turn into leakers later on.

RAY: But the other potential problem is that the dent itself may be pushing up against, and blocking, the oil pickup tube. The tube that sucks the oil out of the pan and delivers it to the pump sits very close to the bottom of the pan. If the dent were in just the wrong place, it could create a phenomenon called "oil starvation" — especially at high engine speeds or on hills.

TOM: That might be why the dealer is urging you to replace it. But if you have some reason not to trust this dealership's opinion, you can



always have the engine tested. Another mechanic can perform a complete oil-pressure test for you. He can even jack up each end of the car to simulate going up and down hills. He'll hook up a gauge to your car, then run it at various RPMs, and see if the pressure meets specifications for all the engine speeds. If it does, you have nothing to worry about.

RAY: Of course, if the test determines that the oil pressure is low, you'll be out the cost of the oil-pressure test AND a new oil pan. So speak to your dealer again and ask him, specifically, why he's urging you to replace the pan. What, exactly, is he concerned might happen? That'll give you some more information to go on, Amit.

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.

Odds & Ends

ROCK HILL, S.C. — A man robbed a good Samaritan who had helped pushed his truck to a nearby gas station, police said.

Darvin Wayne Capps, 25, of York, was charged with strong-arm robbery in the incident, in which he pulled a razor blade and stole a necklace, according to a police report.

"It's getting to the point that it's hard to be a good Samaritan because you don't know who you're stopping to help," police Lt. Jerry Waldrop said.

Kevin Tucker, 21, said he will be more careful in the future, but still plans to help people when he can.

"Everybody's not like that," Tucker said.

According to the police report, Tucker and his girlfriend noticed a truck in the road around 2 a.m. Monday.

The driver asked the couple for money and a push to a gas station. Tucker used his car to push the truck and the driver asked again for gas money and to use a cell phone.

After using the phone and giving it back, the man pulled out a razor blade and started swinging at Tucker, according to the report.

Tucker's forearm was scraped. He said the man drove off after yanking off his necklace.

Police later arrested Capps, who had the broken necklace on him, according to the report. He remained in custody

Wednesday.

NORWICH, Conn. — A bank robbery suspect was arrested after leaving a trail of cyberclues, including an online search for "how not to rob a bank," police said.

Kevin Fitzpatrick, 32, was arraigned Thursday on charges of robbery and larceny for a Sept. 28, 2005, robbery. He was held on unrelated charges in New York at the time of his arrest.

Police said Fitzpatrick was staying with a woman at the time of the Norwich robbery and spent a great deal of time on her computer. They had met on the Internet and had never met in person when he asked to stay for several days, borrowing her car the day of the robbery and returning with a lot of cash, claiming he won it at the Mohegan Sun casino, police said.

Police allege Fitzpatrick walked into a Liberty Bank branch and handed a teller a note demanding money. A week later, a tip led police to the friend, who said she recognized Fitzpatrick from a surveillance photo posted on a newspaper Web site.

Police said when the friend checked the log of her computer, she noticed a search had been conducted for "Norwich bank robbery."

A police search of the computer revealed numerous searches concerning bank robberies.

"Most times when citizens

get involved, relaying honest and accurate information about what they see, it's a benefit to the investigation," police Capt. Timothy Menard said.

SEATTLE — The Seattle Animal Shelter found new homes Wednesday for 110 parakeets discovered in a one-bedroom apartment.

At least 30 people, holding cages the shelter required for free adoption of the bright, multicolored birds, were lined up waiting when the shelter opened at noon.

The birds were found after neighbors complained.

"You could hear the noise from the street," animal control officer Neil Deruyter said.

The birds were being kept in unsanitary conditions and were surrendered by their owner, an unidentified man in his 50s who had been collecting them for about five years, authorities said.

The owner told the officers he previously tried to give the small birds to another shelter, but said he had been told only five would be kept and the rest would be euthanized.

No animal cruelty charges were expected to be filed against the owner because of his cooperation, Seattle Animal Shelter executive Director Don Jordan said.

CLEVELAND — No soup for you!

A man and a woman accused of scamming stores

out of millions of dollars have been banned from the courthouse cafeteria after a police officer said the two were spotted lifting food.

"If they do that in here, then what are they doing out there on bond?" said Richmond Heights police Sgt. Chuck Duffy.

Duffy said Joan Hall, 65, loaded a takeout lunch into a plastic bag and set it atop a newspaper rack near the checkout counter. Then, he said, Roger Neff, 75, moved the lunch to the top of a trash can, where they waited for a few minutes, then left with the lunch.

Judge Nancy Fuerst banned them from the cafeteria during the trial. "You bring your lunch," she said.

Edward LaRue, Neff's attorney, said on Wednesday that he was prohibited by the judge from talking about the trial or what happened in the cafeteria.

Prosecutors said Hall masterminded a scam involving revolving-door department store returns, switched sales tags and phony identities. Neff, who prosecutors say is her longtime boyfriend, is a co-defendant in the case.

ANGELS CAMP, Calif. — A quarrel between the organizers of the Calaveras County Fair and its annual Jumping Frog Jubilee has led to plans for dueling frog-hopping contests this year.

Citing losses due to low

turnout at last year's fair, organizers said they couldn't pay the Angels Camp Boosters Club to oversee this year's frog jumping contest. The club has judged the jubilee since its inception in 1928.

Organizers invited boosters to judge this year's contest without pay, but the club decided to organize its own jumping frog contest that could compete with the fair's, said club member Bill Proctor.

The annual event, held from May 16-20 this year, is inspired by "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," Mark Twain's tale of a frog-jumping contest that is weighted in one gambler's favor when he secretly fills his opponent's frog with buckshot.

Thousands attend the five-day fair each year, which culminates in the competition featuring frogs from across the country. Winning frog owners get a \$750 prize or \$5,000 if their frog breaks the 1986 record of 21 feet, 5 3/4 inches set by Rosie the Ribeter.

NEW YORK — The Easter season unveiling of an anatomically correct chocolate sculpture of Jesus Christ, dubbed "My Sweet Lord" by its creator, has infuriated Catholics preparing to observe some of their holiest days of the year.

The 6-foot sculpture by Cosimo Cavallaro was to debut Monday evening, four days before Christians mark

the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. The final day of the exhibit at the Lab Gallery inside Manhattan's Roger Smith Hotel was planned for Easter Sunday.

"This is one of the worst assaults on Christian sensibilities ever," said Bill Donohue, head of the Catholic League, a watchdog group. "It's not just the ugliness of the portrayal, but the timing — to choose Holy Week is astounding."

The gallery's creative director, Matt Semler, said the Lab and the hotel were overrun with angry telephone calls and e-mails. The gallery was considering its options, he said.

"We're obviously surprised by the overwhelming response and offense people have taken," said Semler, adding that the Holy Week timing was a coincidence.

The artwork was created from more than 200 pounds of milk chocolate, and it features Christ with his arms outstretched. The Cavallaro creation does not include a loin-cloth.

A publicist for the gallery said the artist was not available for comment.

Cavallaro, who was raised in Canada and Italy, is best known for his quirky work with food as art: Past efforts include repainting a Manhattan hotel room in melted mozzarella, spraying 5 tons of pepper jack cheese on a Wyoming home and festooning a four-poster bed with 312

Bluegrass legends coming to Mountain Arts Center

Bluegrass music legend, Dr. Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys with Melvin Goins & Windy Mountain will perform at the MAC on Saturday, April 7, at 7:30 pm

Although he needs no introduction, we'll go ahead and give him one anyway. Ralph was born in Dickenson County, Virginia, where he still resides when he's not on the road. After 55 years in the business, he's still the best banjo picker and tenor singer in bluegrass music. As a recording artist, he has performed on more than 170 albums, tapes, and CDs. He's also written many songs himself and with his brother, the late Carter Stanley. Ralph's played throughout the United States and in many foreign lands, too, including several tours of Japan. In addition to the many honors Ralph has received as a bluegrass musician, including membership on the Grand Ole Opry, he is also a Shriner, a member of the Primitive Baptist Universalist Church, and active in his local community, having served on the

Dickenson County School Board. Ralph is married to Jimmi Stanley, and they have two daughters, Lisa and Tonya, and, of course, one son, Ralph II.

The Clinch Mountain Boys currently live in scattered communities in the mountains of Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky. They meet up in Coeburn, where their tour bus is parked and head out on the road. Their typical work week starts on Wednesday or Thursday and wraps up on Sunday, when they normally head in home for a couple days of well-deserved rest before starting out all over again.

Ticket information may be obtained by calling toll free, 1-888-622-2787 or locally, 886-2623.

*The Kentucky Arts Council

The Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet, provides operational support funding for the Mountain Arts Center with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Dr. Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys



Melvin Goins

Lagoon

Continued from p5

plane loaded with poison gas zeroes in on a mission to drop its payload on the island if the lighthouse is dark. If you guessed that these roaches just love those portable generators that come standard with lighthouse design, then give yourself a great big hand.

This one works for the most part if you can forgive a paltry budget. The mutations are a great idea but they are cheaply rendered, which is somewhat helped by dim lighting.

You have also check your logic at the door here as it is obvious that a resort community is not the ideal place for rogue scientists to conduct ultra-secret experiments. It makes about as much sense as giving Donald Trump a star on the Hollywood walk of fame (oops ... check that).

The film gets a big assist from the actors who compensate for some of the effects' shortcomings. Chiefly you have to credit the roaches themselves, who are always creepy when on screen. Kudos also go to Stephen Davies, who makes the most of his comic relief role as Homer. This guy gets some of the best lines here, such as, "The only natural predators they have are me, your foot and some sticky paper."

Terri Treas ("Alien Nation") also puts in some fine

work as the mad scientist character and gets to say, "I so admire their ability to reproduce without the contribution of their male counterpart."

Credit must ultimately go to director Terrance Winkless, who labors to tell a special effect driven story without access to the kind of budget he needed. It's a noble effort and everyone involved appears to be giving it their all.

Though "Mimic" would come along later and tell this tale with more authority, you can't do much better than this one if you dig bugs gone wild movies.

Best line: "Why are the roaches killing people and how do we stop them?"

1988, rated R.

Soup

Continued from p5

slice of lemon today."

I felt great when I came out of the restaurant after lunch. Not only did I not feel bloated from eating too much, but the salad filled me up just fine. And most of all, I felt more in control of my mind and of my eating habits.

It was something I could choose, and I love the feeling of power I have in that.

Sports Editor:
Steve LeMaster

Phone Number:
Floyd CountyTimes:
(606) 886-8506
Fax: (606) 886-3603

www.floydcountytimes.com

FLOYD COUNTY Sports

Sunday, April 1, 2007

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Statewide archery tourney to get underway Monday

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE – Nearly 1,600 of the state's best school-age archers, including a tandem from John M. Stumbo Elementary, will descend on Louisville's International Convention Center Monday for the fifth annual Kentucky National Archery in the Schools Program Championship.

John M. Stumbo qualified for the state event during regional competition.

Around 3,000 students competed in regional tournaments and qualifiers held throughout Kentucky during the first three weeks in March for the chance to shoot for the state championship. Tournament Coordinator Jennie Richardson predicts this year's event will be the most compet-

itive ever because only the best archers were invited. "The skill levels in the schools are unbelievable this year," she said. "These kids can really shoot."

Since its inception five years ago, the tournament has experienced tremendous growth. That's why entries were limited for the first time. "We were adding about 600 kids a year," Richardson said. "We had to have qualifying events, because at the rate we're growing, there's no place in Kentucky big enough for us to have a one-day tournament."

Approximately 160 elementary, middle and high schools will field teams for the tournament.

Each student shoots the same type of bow and cannot use shooting aids, such as sights or bowstring releases. Students take

15 shots at 10 meters and another 15 shots at 15 meters. The top male and female archers will compete for college scholarship funding.

The tournament will begin with the first flight at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time, followed by two other flights at 11:45 a.m. and 2 p.m. The awards ceremony will begin at 6 p.m.

General admission to the tournament is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Admission is free for children under five.

The top finishers in the state tournament will go on to compete in the national tournament scheduled for June 9 in Louisville. Teams from 21 states are set to compete in the nationals.



Adams Middle School students practiced archery earlier in the week prior to district competition Saturday morning.

Rebs edge Pikeville

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

ALLEN – Defending 58th District champion Allen Central secured its first win of the 2007 season Thursday evening. The Rebels, hosting Pikeville in a home game, got a strong pitching performance from Scott Little and held on to beat the Panthers 9-7.

Little picked up the win for Pikeville, fanning six batters in 5 1/3 innings. He allowed just one hit and walked four batters.

"We haven't been prepared for the past two games, but I

(See REBS, page eight)

Ladycats held hitless in opener

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE – The Betsy Layne softball team was held hitless in its season-opener Tuesday night at Johnson Central. Brogan Conley struck out 11 of the 16 Betsy Layne batters she faced as Johnson Central defeated the Ladycats 11-0 in five innings.

The Lady Eagles had 11 hits in the win. Johnson Central was held scoreless in the opening inning, but soon came across with some runs in its second at-bat.

Courtney Callis, Chelsey Salyers and Conley each went 3-for-4 at the plate for the Lady Eagles. Conley was Betsy Layne's leading run producer, driving in three runs. Salyers and Conley knocked in two runs apiece for the Lady Eagles. Sarah Williams, who stole home for Johnson Central's first run, added a single for Betsy Layne. Brianna Ritz also hit a single for the Lady Eagles.

Betsy Layne threatened to

(See LADYCATS, page eight)



photo by Jamie Howell

THROWING DOWN: Prestonsburg High School senior Wes Woods prepared to let go with a throw during a home Blackcat track and field meet Tuesday evening. The Prestonsburg boys' track and field team finished second to host Pikeville Thursday evening in a separate meet.

WMAs closed to riding during firearms hunting seasons

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT – Wildlife management areas across the state will close to horseback and mule riding during spring turkey seasons in April and May.

A new Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources regulation prohibits horseback riding on wildlife management areas (WMA) anytime that a firearms season for turkey, deer or elk is open. One exception does allow elk hunters to use horses.

The department has received an increasing number of complaints from hunters about casual horseback riding on WMAs during firearms seasons. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission enacted a new regulation prohibiting horseback riding during firearms seasons in response to hunters, who pay for

(See WMAS, page eight)

Humphries joins Eagle football staff

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD – Paul Humphries has been named an assistant football coach at Morehead State University. Humphries, a Chesnee, S.C. native, will coach the Eagle defensive backs. He'll work under Prestonsburg native John Gilliam, MSU's defensive coordinator.

Prior to joining the Morehead State University staff, Humphries had been a collegiate assistant at several schools, including East Tennessee, Coastal Carolina and Cumberland.

He is a graduate of Wofford College (1977) with a bachelor's degree in sociology/education. As a player at Wofford, Humphries earned NCAA Division I-AA All-American honors in 1994. After college, he was signed by both British Columbia (1997) and Toronto (1999) of the Canadian Football League.

An outstanding high school athlete in Chesnee, S.C., Humphries once held the South Carolina state high school record with 31 career interceptions.

MSU ended the 2006 season

Camper Appreciation Weekend set for April 27-29 at state parks

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT – Kentucky State Parks will hold its annual Camper Appreciation Weekend April 27-29 at all 31 campgrounds. Campers will be able to get two nights for the price of one and special programs will be held at campgrounds to open the season.

The park system is spending more than \$2.5 million on campground improvements across the state. This includes new fire rings, picnic tables, washers and dryers, dump stations and bathroom improvements. New campground stores will open at Green River Lake State Park near Campbellsville and Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park near Burkesville.

All state park campgrounds have water and electric services with dump stations or sewer hookups. State park campgrounds opened for the season

Friday.

Campgrounds are offering a variety of activities to kick off the camping season. These include entertainment, arts and crafts, putt-putt golf, bonfires, movies, cookouts and nature programs.

Check the Department of Parks web site at www.parks.ky.gov for more information on Camper Appreciation Weekend. Reservations are accepted (but not required) for the 2,600 improved sites by going to www.parks.ky.gov or calling 1-888-459-7275. (For the Camper Appreciation Weekend, campers will be charged half price for the nights of April 27-28.)

The following state parks have campgrounds: Barren River Lake State Resort Park; Big Bone Lick State Park; Blue Licks State Park; Carr Creek State Park; Carter Caves State Resort; Columbus Belmont

State Park; Cumberland Falls State Resort Park; Dale Hollow State Park; Fort Boonesborough State Park; General Burnside State Park; General Butler State Resort Park; Grayson Lake State Park; Green River Lake State Park; Greenbo Lake State Resort Park; Jenny Wiley State Resort Park; John James Audubon State Park; Kenlake State Resort Park; Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park; Kincaid Lake State Park; Lake Cumberland State Resort Park; Lake Barkley State Resort Park; Lake Malone State Park; Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park; My Old Kentucky Home State Park; Natural Bridge State Park; Nolin Lake State Park; Paintsville Lake State Park; Pennyriple Forest State Park; Rough River Dam State Resort Park; Taylorsville Lake State Park; Yatesville Lake State Park

StoneCrest to host MSC tourney

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG – StoneCrest Golf Course will host this year's Mid-South Conference Tournament. MSC teams scheduled to begin play at the Prestonsburg course on Thursday are Pikeville College, Campbellsville University, University of the Cumberlands, Georgetown College, Lindsey Wilson College, Pikeville College and West Virginia Tech University.

Traditionally, Lindsey Wilson and Campbellsville field the conference's top golf teams.

Thanks to cooperative weather, StoneCrest Golf Course has hosted numerous golfers over the last two weeks.

The Mid-South Conference spring golf season is in full swing. MSC golf teams

include many Kentucky players. A breakdown of the rest of the conference's golf season schedule follows.

April 9-10: Campbellsville, Cumberlands, Lindsey Wilson, Pikeville Georgetown at Georgetown College Spring Invitational.

West Virginia Tech at IUP Invitational. April 12-April 13: West Virginia Tech at West Virginia Wesleyan Invitational

April 16-17: Cumberlands, Lindsey Wilson at Brickyard NAIA Classic (Indianapolis).

April 23-24: MSC Tournament / NAIA Region XI Tournament at Old Silo Golf Club, Mount Sterling.

May 22-25: NAIA National Championship, Indiana National Golf Club, Plymouth, Ind



JBS HONORED

State Senator Johnny Ray Turner, D-Drift, honored the June Buchanan School boys' basketball team, 14th Region champion, this past week on the State Senate Floor.

Ladycats

Continued from p7

score at more than one time during the game. Amby Tackett walked to start the game for the Ladycats. Megan Hamilton was shot down at home in the fourth inning after reaching base on an error.

Ketarah Tackett threw four innings from the pitcher's circle for Betsy Layne (0-1) and was saddled with the loss. Tackett allowed eight hits, five earned runs and struck out one batter.

Betsy Layne committed three errors.

The win was Johnson Central's second straight over a Floyd County opponent. The Lady Eagles defeated Prestonsburg 12-2 Monday evening in a season-opener.

Betsy Layne.....000 00 — 0 0 3
Johnson Cent.....014 23 — 11 11 1

Rebs

Continued from p7

made sure our boys got ready for this one," said Allen Central Coach Kenneth Johnson. "We showed up at the field a couple of hours early, took some extra ground balls, got some running in, and a good long stretch. We were focused and ready when the game began and it showed. We played good fundamental baseball. This is a great win for our young squad."

Johnson, now in his second season at the helm of the Rebel baseball program, witnessed Little limit Pikeville batters.

"Little pitched a great game carrying a no-hitter into the sixth inning," Johnson added. "Logan Crowder took over for him and got us out of the sixth, but struggled a bit in the seventh giving up six runs before we finally ended the game."

Little helped his cause at the plate, going 3-for-3. The Allen Central starting pitcher drove in a run, scored once and stole a base.

Josh Prater carried a potent bat for the Rebels (1-2), finishing 3-for-4 with a double and two RBI. Prater scored twice and stole a pair of bases for the Rebs.

Logan Crowder went 2-for-3, doubling and driving in one run in Allen Central's victory. Crowder, a freshman, also stole two bases. Chad Nelson went 1-for-2, smacking a double, scoring one run and driving in a teammate for an RBI.

Luke Huffman took the loss for Pikeville (1-1).

WMAs

Continued from p7

the purchase or lease of wildlife management areas through their purchase of hunting licenses and permits, as well as a federal excise tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition. Although riders do not pay entry fees to most WMAs, the department has opened some 600 miles of trails and roads to horseback riders within these areas.

Most wildlife management areas in the state are open to gun hunting for the spring turkey seasons. Youth season for turkey is April 7-8, while the general season is April 14 through May 6. Likewise, many WMAs will be closed to riding at times this fall during specified firearms seasons for deer, turkey, and/or elk. Riders should consult the WMA section of a current issue of the Kentucky Hunting and Trapping Guide to determine when an individual WMA will be closed.

Wildlife management areas are closed at all times to all-terrain vehicles, or ATVs.

Reds option Majewski, Livingston

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARASOTA, Fla. — Left-hander Bobby Livingston, who was competing for the fifth spot in the Cincinnati Reds' rotation, was optioned to Triple-A Louisville on Thursday along with reliever Gary Majewski.

Also, a medical test on outfielder Chris Denorfia detected a torn ligament in his throwing elbow. Denorfia will have reconstructive surgery and be sidelined for about

six months.

Livingston was competing with right-handers Matt Belisle and Kirk Saarloos for the No. 5 spot in the rotation. Livingston, who was claimed off waivers from Seattle in December, made a good impression in spring training, putting up a 1.23 earned run average in five games.

Manager Jerry Narron hasn't decided whether Belisle or Saarloos will be the fifth starter.

"We're excited with the way Livingston has pitched," Narron said. "He's been very, very impres-

sive. It gives us a lot of confidence knowing there's a young guy pitching for us in Triple-A who looks like he's big-league ready."

The move with Majewski was expected. He has been limited to two appearances — both in the past week — because of weakness in his pitching shoulder.

The Reds also are expected to put five more players on the disabled list before the start of the season: left-hander Bill Bray (finger), infielder Jeff Keppinger (finger), right-hander Elizardo Ramirez (shoulder),

infielder Jerry Gil (elbow) and left-hander Eddie Guardado, who is recovering from reconstructive elbow surgery and hopes to be ready by the middle of the season.

Denorfia played in 49 games for the Reds last season, batting .283 with one homer and seven RBIs. He hurt his right elbow on a throw during a spring training game, and the pain didn't go away.

The Reds sent him for an MRI test on Wednesday that detected the torn ligament.

Harang, Arroyo helping Reds refocus

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARASOTA, Fla. — They are as different as a curve ball and a fast-ball.

Bronson Arroyo loves to get on a stage and sing, strumming his guitar to '90s songs while the crowd pulsates. Aaron Harang blends in with the crowd.

With his tinted, shoulder-length hair, Arroyo stands out from his teammates no matter what he's doing. Nothing about Harang's clean-cut appearance grabs attention.

One of them gets batters out by throwing different pitches from different arm angles. The other goes after them with the hard stuff.

Despite their differences, they became a duo last season, when they provided the Cincinnati Reds with their most formidable set of starters in a decade. They're the building blocks for the team's transformation from all-out offense to one that wins with pitching and defense.

"We've improved our defense, improved our bullpen, signed Arroyo and Harang (long-term)," center fielder Ryan Freel said. "I think we're getting closer to being a postseason team. If we don't have it

here now, I think we're really close." How close depends upon a number of factors, starting with those two very opposite starters.

Harang led the NL with 216 strikeouts and tied for the league lead with 16 wins last season, prompting the Reds to give him a four-year, \$36.5 million deal in February. Arroyo, who led the league with 240 2-3 innings and won 14 games, got a \$25 million extension two days later.

"You've got to have starting pitching," said Wayne Krivsky, entering his second season as general manager.

Theirs comes in two totally different packages.

The 30-year-old Arroyo came from Boston last spring in one of Krivsky's first big trades. He brought his guitar, his long locks and his outgoing personality to a rotation that was anchored by Harang.

"The most different thing? Aaron flies under the radar a lot," Arroyo said. "Aaron's just quiet. He's one of those guys that can walk down the street and he's so laid back that people might say, 'Are you sure? I don't think that guy pitches.'"

The 28-year-old Harang likes it that way. When Arroyo gave his first concert in the Cincinnati area last

summer, Harang was in the audience. He'd never even consider getting on a stage.

"That's the last thing I would be doing," Harang said. "It was fun listening to him. You hear him in the hotel every once in a while, if you're on his floor. You'll hear him rocking out sometimes at night. You just pray you're not pitching the next day and he's not next door."

Harang challenges batters with his fastball, slider and stoic demeanor. Harang messes up their timing with his high leg kick and his variety of pitches thrown at a variety of speeds from a variety of angles.

"It's one of those weird things," Harang said. "I'm going to go right at you and challenge you with everything I've got. He's going to keep you off-balance but throw strikes at the same time. It's a good difference when you go on back-to-back days."

The Reds are trying to build around the duo in another year of transition and, possibly, contention. They were in the NL Central race until the final month last season, when an offensive slump set up an 80-82 finish, their sixth straight losing season.

They improved their defense in the offseason by signing Alex Gonzalez, one of the AL's top short-

stops. They overhauled the bullpen by signing left-hander Mike Stanton and right-hander Dustin Hermanson to finish games. They moved Ken Griffey Jr. to right field, allowing Freel to roam in center.

They also set up one of baseball's most intriguing stories by giving outfielder Josh Hamilton a chance to renew his career after years of cocaine abuse. Hamilton was one of Cincinnati's most impressive players in spring training, locking up a job as the No. 4 outfielder.

"It's been all positive," Hamilton said. "Everybody says they're rooting for me."

The overriding question is whether the guys who come after Harang and Arroyo can hold their own. Left-hander Eric Milton has been a huge disappointment in his first two seasons in Cincinnati, and no other starter has done very well in recent years, either.

If the so-different duo at the top of the rotation can get some help, the Reds might be able to speed up the rebuilding process and stay in the race long enough to make it interesting.

"The more guys you have around you doing that, the more fun it makes it," Arroyo said.

Horsemen escape Ohio Valley with season-opening win

TIMES STAFF REPORT

WHEELING, W.Va. — Lexington running back Rayshawn Askew scored three touchdowns Saturday, March 24 and the Horsemen escaped WesBanco Arena with a 44-37 win over an improved Ohio Valley team to open the 2007 campaign.

The Horsemen (1-0), who won their season opener for the fourth consecutive season, broke out to an early 21-9 lead after the first quarter, but the Greyhounds (0-1) stormed back with 21 points of their own in the second frame to knot the score at 30 heading into halftime. Lexington scored a pair of touchdowns in third quarter and made several big defensive stops to secure the win.

"This was a good win for us to start the season," Horsemen head coach Mike Zuckerman said. "The first game is always the toughest because you have no film on your

opponent and you have to come out and be ready for anything. We struggled at times tonight, but we really stepped it up. I am happy with the way we played tonight."

Askew, one of the top receivers in indoor football history who is in his first year with the Horsemen, carried the ball 11 times for 66 yards with three touchdowns to lead the Lexington offense. The Horsemen out-gained Ohio Valley 100-56 on the ground.

"Rayshawn did a great job for us tonight," Zuckerman said. "I thought our running backs stepped up for us, got some key first downs and blocked well. They were right there when we needed them and I'm happy with how well they played together."

Wide receiver Harry Lewis led the Lexington receiving corps with three catches for 44 yards, while John Cooper had three catches for 23 yards through the air.

The Horsemen got on the board

first when wide receiver Chad Spencer hauled in an 8-yard pass from first-year quarterback Jarrod Rouanzoin to give Lexington an early 7-0 advantage. Keith Brooks scored on a 3-yard run for Ohio Valley, but the Horsemen blocked the Greyhounds' kick to hold on to a 7-6 lead. William Mulder then returned the ensuing kickoff 45 yards before Askew scored on a 3-yard run to extend the Lexington advantage to 21-9 to end the third quarter.

Ohio Valley came on strong in the second quarter as Fred Ray and Edward Smith scored back-to-back touchdowns to pull in front at 24-21. Kicker Collin Barber connected on a 47-yard field goal to knot the score, but Ohio Valley's Darrell Dowery caught a 29-yard touchdown pass to put the Greyhounds back ahead at 30-24. Askew scored on a 4-yard run just as time expired before intermission and Barber missed the extra

point to send the two teams into half-time tied at 30.

Stewart and Askew both scored touchdowns in the third quarter, to extend Lexington's advantage to 44-30 before Ray rounded out the scoring for Ohio Valley with a 1-yard plunge for score in the fourth quarter.

The all-time series between Lexington and Ohio Valley is now tied at six games apiece. Ohio Valley won each of the first five meetings between the two teams, but since that time the Horsemen have won six of the last seven contests with their border rival.

Lexington was on the road last night (Saturday, March 31) in St. Louis against the River City Rage. The game ended too late to make this edition.

Score by Quarters

Lexington....21 9 14 0-44
Ohio Valley....9 21 0 7-37

Blackcats beat Phelps, fall to East Ridge

TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Prestonsburg High baseball team posted its first win of the season Tuesday night, beating host Phelps 12-5. Chris Schoolcraft helped Prestonsburg even its record to 1-1. Schoolcraft pitched the Blackcats to the win, opening the campaign 1-0 from the pitcher's mound.

Cleanup hitter Josh Rodebaugh, a junior, went 3-for-4 and scored a trio of runs for the Blackcats. Rodebaugh, a junior, smacked a single, double and triple, ending.

Bobby Hughes also went 3-for-4 for the Blackcats. Leadoff hitter Allan Craynon hit two singles and scored twice for Prestonsburg.

The Blackcats outscored Phelps 4-0 in the first inning and never trailed. Prestonsburg scored five runs in the fifth inning.

Robert Gannon pitched and suffered the loss for the host Hornets.

Prestonsburg fell to East Ridge Thursday evening. East Ridge outscored Prestonsburg 10-1 in the first three innings and held off a late Blackcat rally. Prestonsburg put together a five-run fifth inning before falling short.

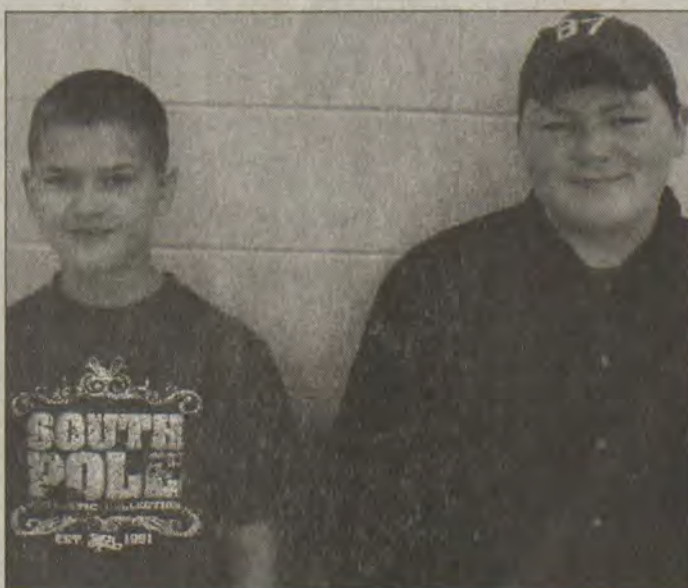
The Blackcats outhit East Ridge 10-8. Rodebaugh and Seth Setser each had a double for the Blackcats.

Cory Tincher (0-1) took the loss for visiting Prestonsburg.



photo by Tony McGuire/Hazard Herald

ROUGH START: South Floyd could never get going Monday evening on the road at Perry County Central in a season-opener against the Commodores. PCC rolled over South Floyd, beating the Raiders 11-0.



Stumbo archery team members headed to state tourney

GRETHEL — The John Stumbo Elementary archery team competed in the 9th Region Tournament held March 16. The team competed in group competition as well as individual competition. Joe Howell (pictured on right) ended the event in second-place for individuals overall and Cody Akers finished fifth. The two Stumbo student-athletes will compete in the state competition Monday in Louisville.

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Gov. Fletcher announces Get Healthy Kentucky sponsorship

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT — Governor Ernie Fletcher and officials from the Governor's Office for Wellness and Physical Activity's Get Healthy Kentucky (GHK) program Wednesday announced GHK's sponsorship of the 2007 Bluegrass State Games and unveiled the new marketing logo for the annual sporting event that draws thousands of athletes from across the commonwealth. The announcement was made during a press conference in Lexington.

"Since their inception in 1985, the Bluegrass State Games have served as a fun and exciting athletic competition for amateur athletes from all parts of the commonwealth," said Governor Fletcher at an announcement in the lobby of Rupp Arena in downtown Lexington. "Bluegrass Games partici-

pants are the best ambassadors we could have to help us spread the Get Healthy message."

The sponsorship agreement grew out of Get Healthy Kentucky's continued work to change the health of Kentuckians through targeted initiatives that emphasize prevention. The program has consistently sought out partnerships with communities, organizations, groups and events that share the GHK mission of wellness and prevention of chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

"Lexington has been home to the Bluegrass State Games for 20 years. It is a tradition we enjoy and one that adds about \$6.5 million each year to our local economy," Mayor Jim Newberry said. "We are proud to welcome Get Healthy Kentucky as a title sponsor. This partnership makes sense: The games and Get Healthy

Kentucky share the same goal, helping Kentuckians help themselves to better health through exercise."

Other sponsors of this year's Bluegrass Games are: Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, Ashland Inc., Kentucky Utilities, Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau, McDonald's of Central Kentucky, Best Western, Central Bank, Lexington Hotel/Motel Association and the Radisson Plaza Hotel, among others. Most events will take place in and around the city of Lexington. A regional softball tournament in Bowling Green also has been added to this year's events.

Get Healthy Kentucky is a statewide wellness initiative that incorporates physical activity, nutrition and tobacco cessation and prevention components. GHK has created an opportunity for individuals and groups

to have a one-stop, central location for information and resources that will improve the quality of life for Kentuckians and help prevent chronic illnesses.

GHK is designed for residents of all ages and includes access to reliable, unbiased information on the GHK Web site, www.gethealthy.ky.gov. The site provides information about the Governor's Challenge program, an incentive-based fitness program designed to help participants set personal fitness goals and track progress online.

The Bluegrass State Games is an annual athletic competition founded in 1985. The event draws thousands of athletes of all ages and skill levels, who compete in a broad range of sporting events. The Games include more than 60 venues in Fayette and

surrounding counties with participants ranging in age from 2 to 86 years old.

"We're excited to sponsor the 2007 Bluegrass State Games and spread the Get Healthy Kentucky message to our athletes," said GHK Executive Director Chris L. Corbin. "GHK is thrilled to support this event and we feel that our program and the Games are a natural union."

For more information about Get Healthy Kentucky or to participate in the Governor's Challenge, visit www.GetHealthy.ky.gov. The Web site contains information to help Kentuckians lead healthier, more active lifestyles and information on incentives to motivate Kentuckians to continue to challenge themselves.

To learn more about the 2007 Bluegrass State Games, visit www.bsgg.org.

LOUISVILLE FB: Kragthorpe era set to begin for Cardinals

by WILL GRAVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Sky-high expectations. A Heisman Trophy hopeful quarterback. A burgeoning fan base and at least six nationally televised games so the whole country can examine you under the spotlight.

Sure, there's pressure for Steve Kragthorpe to win right away at Louisville. Then again, it's nothing compared to the situation Kragthorpe entered when he took over at Tulsa in 2003.

"When you walk in at Tulsa and they tell you if you don't win in three years they are dropping football, that's pressure," he said.

Kragthorpe responded by leading the once struggling Golden Hurricane to three bowl games in four seasons. To succeed at Louisville, he knows

he'll have to do even better than that. He'll get his first real look at what he has to work with on Friday when the defending Big East champions open spring practice.

"This is what you live for as a coach, the opportunity to get on the green grass with the white lines," said Kragthorpe, who took over in January after former coach Bobby Petrino left to join the NFL's Atlanta Falcons. "It has been fun to jump into the culture of the city of Louisville and this university, this athletic department, but now it's time to go to work."

There are plenty of questions that Kragthorpe hopes will be answered over the next three weeks. Who will step up on a defense that lost seven starters? Will a number one running back emerge? How quickly can the Cardinals adjust to Kragthorpe's way

of doing things after spending four seasons under the always intense Petrino?

"I think there is an adaptation that has to happen for me as a coach and also for the players," he said. "I have a way of doing things, and I'm going to continue to do them that way because I have had a lot of success over the past four years. And (Louisville has) had a lot of success with the way John L. (Smith) and Bobby did it over the last nine years. It will be a blend of both of those things."

Having a healthy Brian Brohm should help speed the process. Brohm underwent minor shoulder surgery on his left (non-throwing) shoulder following Louisville's win over Wake Forest in the Orange

Bowl. He's spent the last two months devouring Kragthorpe's playbook, which isn't too far removed from the one Petrino used to turn Louisville into a national power.

"He is not limited at all," Kragthorpe said. "I don't know if there is ever such a thing as an easy surgery, but these doctors sure claim it is. I think he's in good shape and ready to go."

Brohm will work behind an offensive line that will have to replace two starters and in a crowded backfield that returns three major contributors from a year ago in Anthony Allen, George Stripling and Brock Bolen. There's plenty of depth at receiver,

which Kragthorpe hopes can help the coaches figure out who to play in a secondary that lost three starters.

"Our corners are going to be challenged," he said. "That's how you get better, by going out and working against good players who can challenge you."

The challenge for Kragthorpe will be finding out who fits where as fast as possible.

"There certainly will be some surprises," Kragthorpe said. "We need some guys to step up that the fans, the media and even us coaches don't really know about yet because there hasn't been a huge body of evidence of them playing in football games."

The school's annual spring game will be held on April 20. The Cardinals open the 2007 season at home on Aug. 30 against Murray State.



Steve Kragthorpe

Brooks says he is impressed by Wildcats' speed in first practice

by JEFFREY McMURRAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Heavy storms pushed Kentucky's first football practice of the spring indoors Wednesday morning, but coach Rich Brooks and some of his stars say the on-the-field forecast is far brighter than a year ago.

"I feel like we're clicking," said receiver Keenan Burton, who passed up a chance at the NFL to return to Kentucky.

The Wildcats feature a group of offensive playmakers largely intact from the team that won the Music City Bowl, the school's first post-season victory since 1984.

This team is faster than that one on both sides of the ball, Brooks said, but it's also a little older.

"I don't think there's any question we have more speed and athletic ability on the field than we had a year

ago," said Brooks, whose contract was extended after what was by far the best season in his Kentucky tenure. "The good news is, a lot of it is even more experienced."

When asked about position battles, Brooks talked about linemen and long-snappers — a far cry from last spring (and even last fall) when the race for starting quarterback was too close to call.

This year it isn't close. Andre Woodson, who beat out Curtis Pulley for the starting job a year ago, is entrenched as the starter after a season in which he joined Tim Couch as the only Kentuckians to top the 30-touchdown mark. But Woodson says he isn't about to coast through camp.

"If I start to relax, I'm not going to get any better," Woodson said. "I just need to keep competing like the next

two guys behind me are capable of taking my spot."

Perhaps the most closely watched battle this spring is again between two quarterbacks — the battle to back up Woodson. That task will fall to one of two tall and highly recruited freshmen — Will Fidler and Mike Hartline. Pulley, who left school at the semester break, is expecting to sit out next season before returning to the Wildcats.

"It definitely is a battle," Hartline said. "With Curtis gone, it's a totally different story. Obviously a light bulb goes off for me when we've got a backup spot going on."

Early returns were mixed on how the freshmen fared, but it's just day one.

"Today their heads were spin-

ning," offensive coordinator Joker Phillips said. "They made some throws. They missed some throws. I don't worry about their arm strength, things like that. The thing is, their footwork is bad right now. Still, those guys have got big bodies, they can see. The only they've got to do is just learn what to do."

The defense has a new look under new coordinator Steve Brown, and Brooks said he liked the aggressiveness he saw on that side of the ball Wednesday.

Although the team is short several players this spring because of various suspensions and academic matters, Brooks said the absence of starting safety Marcus McClinton would only be temporary. McClinton, who was suspended indefinitely for a legal matter earlier this week, will be back Monday because the charges against him were reduced to a misdemeanor, Brooks said.



Rich Brooks



photo courtesy of South Alabama
CLIMBING THE COACHING LADDER: Paintsville native John Pelphrey probably won't land the Kentucky job, but will continue to rise up the basketball coaching ladder. Pelphrey currently guides the University of South Alabama men's basketball program.

Football Eagles open spring practice Tuesday

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD — The Morehead State University Football Eagles will

open their 2007 spring practice Tuesday. Spring drills will continue through April 26 with the Spring Game scheduled for 7 p.m. that evening.

Prior to last season, MSU had averaged eight wins in the previous four seasons and had won four consecutive Pioneer Football League South Division titles. The 2006 Eagles finished 2-9 against a very tough schedule.

Offensively, Coach Matt Ballard and staff must replace fullback Jabari McGee and receiver Daniel Vagni. But, nearly everyone else returns, including quarterback Brian Yost, runningbacks Ricky Cornelius and Erik Fitzpatrick, wide receive Nick Feldman and tackle Grant Jennings.

Defensively, only tackle Justin Nichols is gone from the starting lineup. Heading the list of returnees are linemen Kyle Sands and Aaron Diaz,

linebackers Brett Mazaro and Andrew Sturzenbecker and backs David Hyland and Jordan Shafer. Shafer missed last season with a knee injury.

Special teams return kickers Mason Webb and Max Hammond, along with Feldman and Fitzpatrick, who are outstanding kick returners.

The spring practice schedule is as follows: April 3, 3:30 p.m.; April 5, 3:30 p.m.; April 6, 3:30 p.m.; April 7,

10 a.m.; April 10, 3:30 p.m.;

April 12, 3:30 p.m.; April 13, 3:30 p.m.; April 14, 10 a.m. (practice with scrimmage); April 17, 3:30 p.m.; April 19, 3:30 p.m.; April 20, 3:30 p.m.; April 21, 10 a.m. (practice with scrimmage); April 22, TBA; April 24, 3:30 p.m.; April 26, 7 p.m. (spring game);

Practice times and dates subject to change due to weather conditions.

MSU Athletics announces spring promotions

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD — Morehead State University Athletics is making spring even more exciting by adding several promotions during the spring sports season. The spring promotions will kick off Tuesday with another BEAT EKU Day as the Eagle tennis teams take on Eastern Kentucky. MSU students in attendance will receive free BEAT EKU gear.

The upcoming promotions are: Tuesday, April 3: Eagle Tennis vs. EKU, BEAT EKU day and Senior Day, Free BEAT EKU stuff and honoring of our Eagle Seniors.

Friday, April 6: Eagle Baseball vs. Tenn. Tech; Eagle Softball vs. Tenn. State, National Student Athlete Day - Free Admission to all MSU Faculty and Staff with ID.

Saturday, April 7: Eagle Baseball vs. Tenn. Tech, Holiday Egg Hunt in the outfield after the game.

Thursday, April 12: Eagle Softball vs. EKU, Stacy Barker and the TUBA

ensemble will perform throughout the game.

Friday, April 20: Eagle Soccer vs. EKU, Soccer Spring Game, 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 21: Eagle Baseball vs. Murray State, Little League Opening Day, Kids with uniforms admitted Free, parents (2 adults) with little leaguers admitted for \$1.

Tuesday, April 24, Eagle Baseball vs. Berea, Bring your Dog to the Park Day. Free dog biscuits to all dogs in the stands. Prizes for the best behaved dog and the most school spirited dog. \$1 hot dogs at the concessions stand.

Thursday, April 26: Football Spring Game, 7 p.m., Jayne Stadium, Free T-shirts and a half time performance by a local band.

Saturday, May 5: Eagle Baseball vs. Samford, Eagle Softball vs. SEMO, Carnival Day. Free face painting, food booths and blow up games in the softball field parking lot. Softball Friends and Family Day.

Sunday, May 6: Eagle Softball vs. SEMO, Softball Senior Day.

Saturday, May 19: Eagle Baseball vs. EIU, Recognition of the 1977 championship team and Senior Day,



SAFE AT HOME: South Floyd catcher Branda Hamby awaited the throw at the plate as Perry County Central's Heather Sturdivant slid in safely during a game earlier in the week.

photo by Tony McGuire/Hazard Herald

DIFFERENT VIEWS: Drivers divided on Car of Tomorrow

by JENNA FRYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — There's a comfort level behind the wheel of your own car, a familiarity that sometimes makes it easier to break the speed limit, blow through a red light or cut off another driver.

That feeling often disappears in a borrowed car. It takes time to adjust to the vehicle, so the driver is a bit more cautious.

Maybe that's how the top talent in NASCAR felt Sunday when the Car of Tomorrow debuted at Bristol Motor Speedway.

The car was big and boxy, some might even say ugly. It looked different from their normal cars and felt nothing like what they were used to. And it turned what's normally a rough-and-tumble race into a rather ho-hum affair.

"I can't stand to drive them," race-winner Kyle Busch said after beating Jeff Burton in a last-lap sprint to the

finish line. "I didn't see any highlights out there."

"The car was terrible," he added. "It's hard to set up and it's hard to drive. I don't remember anyone complaining about the old ones. I told my team before the race that I hoped I could win it so that I could tell everybody how bad it is."

There was initial skepticism when NASCAR chose Bristol as the first venue for the COT. Because the 0.533-mile oval is so tight, the bearing and banging typically begins the moment the green flag flies.

Because teams worried the COT would fall apart on impact, everyone believed the track would be littered with splitters and rear wings.

But as NASCAR closed in on the debut, Bristol actually began to make sense. Since the track routinely produces such thrilling racing, would anyone even notice the COT was out there?

Initially, no. When the race began, everything appeared rather ordinary.

Then Tony Stewart humiliated the field, opening an insurmountable four-second lead as he dominated the first half of the race.

Big, bad Bristol suddenly became a snooze-fest.

There was no swapping of sheet metal, no bump-and-runs and very little banging. Of the 15 cautions, only three were for multicausal accidents.

Even Mark Martin, who ended his streak of 621 straight races to watch Bristol from his living room, noticed how calm things were.

"I thought the COT handled poorly enough that the guys actually didn't run over each other because they didn't have good control of their car," Martin said. "It was a cleaner race than what we normally see because the cars were so hard to control, they weren't able to get in there and mix it up."

"It's hard for me to understand how they are ever going to get this car to race well consistently."

But opinions differed across the garage.

"I may be wrong," Burton said, "but from my point of view, it seemed like just another race at Bristol."

And noted COT critic Jeff Gordon had softened his stance after a third-place finish.

"There were positives," he said. "We made passes on the outside I was surprised by. I'm still not crazy about this thing, but it's growing on me."

But Gordon also explained that his main beef with the COT is that it's different from what he's used to. Chevrolet rolled out an Impala SS for the COT, which will be phased into competition over the next year, and Gordon prefers his old Monte Carlo.

"The current car drives better, it's got more downforce, it's got more grip, it has better feel," he said. "So if you compare (the COT) to that car, you're not going to like it."

"But if NASCAR sees the results that they want to see on the race

track, then we need to get rid of the Monte Carlo and just go to this thing because you're never going to like it compared to the car that we have."

NASCAR seemed pleased after the race. Competition director Robin Pemberton praised the way the COT held up in accidents and helped midlevel teams compete.

"Probably 99 percent of the time, you have really good races here. From the tower, I thought it was a good race," he said. "We had a couple of hard impacts, and the car did what it was supposed to do and absorbed energy."

The COT now goes to Martinsville Speedway, another short track that will make it difficult to determine the car's impact. So it will take at least another month, when the car goes to Phoenix and Darlington Raceway, to understand this new era of NASCAR.

Until then, everyone will just have to try his best to get comfortable with the new car.

Gordon discusses fatherhood, current hot streak

by JOHN ZENOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — This much Jeff Gordon knows for sure: His life will change dramatically when his daughter is born this summer.

And maybe, just maybe, his NASCAR career won't seem quite so important.

"I think it's going to be one of two things: It's either going to make me work that much harder and appreciate racing that much more and enjoy it that much more," Gordon said. "Or it's going to make me go, 'I don't even want to do this.'"

The prospect of fatherhood — the baby is due in late June or early July — certainly hasn't diminished his enthusiasm for racing. The four-time Cup champion is off to a career-best start and leading the points race for the first time since February 2005.

The 35-year-old Gordon is fresh off a third-place finish at Bristol Motor

Speedway, his third top-5 already this season.

"I think that our team is really strong right now," said Gordon, seeking his first Cup title since 2001. "Every time we go through something like we went through Sunday, where we faded to the back and fought our way to the front, it only makes us stronger."

More than a few skeptics wondered whether Gordon's off-the-track good fortune — his November marriage to supermodel Ingrid Vandebosch and then the news of the baby — would have the opposite effect.

Crew chief Steve Letarte, however, is convinced the baby will be a blessing for Gordon on and off the track.

"He's lived for this sport. When he has a chance to go home and hold his little girl and have time to spend with his wife, I think that puts it all in per-

spective," said Letarte, who has two young children. "I think it's going to help us. I think it's going to be the best thing ever."

Jimmie Johnson, the reigning Nextel Cup champion and Gordon's teammate, agreed.

"There are a lot of people who have started families and had successful families and racing careers," Johnson said. "Jeff Gordon is one of the best on the track, and I don't see it changing him."

Gordon happily admitted he has trouble imagining the changes a baby will bring. Maybe he should compare notes with Tiger Woods, also awaiting his

first child. Gordon said he and Woods, an acquaintance, haven't discussed impending fatherhood, but he figured things won't be the same.



Jeff Gordon

NASCAR Nextel Cup Driver Standings

1. Jeff Gordon, 791
2. Jeff Burton, 788
3. Jimmie Johnson, 716
4. Matt Kenseth, 697
5. Kevin Harvick, 647
6. Kyle Busch, 639
7. Mark Martin, 629
8. Clint Bowyer, 621
9. Denny Hamlin, 606
10. Carl Edwards, 598
11. David Stremme, 587
12. Tony Stewart, 575
13. Elliott Sadler, 543
14. Bobby Labonte, 525
15. J.J. Yeley, 522
16. Greg Biffle, 512
17. Dale Earnhardt, Jr., 512
- (tie) Jamie McMurray, 512
19. Juan Pablo Montoya, 510
20. Kurt Busch, 497

Slow start in new ride has Mears racing to catch up

by JENNA FRYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jeff Gordon leads the Nextel Cup standings, Jimmie Johnson won two of the first four races and Kyle Busch picked up his first victory last Sunday at Bristol.

Casey Mears? Well, he's not doing quite as well.

Hendrick Motorsports' newest member has gotten off to a slow start in his first season in the No. 25 Chevrolet, leading many to wonder whether Mears belongs with one of NASCAR's super teams.

"The tough thing for Casey is the other three Hendrick teams, the chem-

istry is there, we are running well and we're all up in the points," said Gordon, the four-time series champion. "So it's easy to point fingers and ask 'How come you aren't running so good?'"

"But the reality is, we all know what it takes to pull the finishes off and a lot of it has to do with chemistry that takes time to build."

Mears has had little time to settle into his new ride.

Although he announced last summer that he was leaving Chip Ganassi

Racing to replace Brian Vickers at Hendrick, Mears couldn't actually test drive his new car until the season was over. That gave him less than two

months to build a rapport with his new team.

When things were slow to click with Lance McGrew at the helm, Darian Grubb was shuffled over to Mears' team for his first full-time crew chief job — just four days before teams reported to Daytona.

Grubb had a short but successful stint as a crew chief last season, leading Johnson to two wins during Chad Knaus' four-race suspension. When Knaus was reinstated, Grubb returned to his role as Johnson's lead engineer.

With no real desire to become a crew chief, Grubb carefully considered Hendrick's request to lead Mears' team. A veteran crew chief has very little free time, let alone a new one who inherits a team the same week the season begins.

Mears opened the season with four

finishes 20th or lower and dropped all the way to 34th in the standings.

With the team teetering too close to the pivotal top-35 cutoff point, Mears and Grubb headed to Bristol Motor Speedway last week in need of a solid finish. Despite a history of struggles at the short track, Mears had a career-best top 10 finish, lifting the team to 26th in the standings heading into Martinsville Speedway this weekend.

"Bristol is one of Casey's toughest tracks, so for him to knock down a top 10 there, I know he's really happy with that," Johnson said.

Although one bad race could put him right back into the hole, Mears is confident he and Grubb are finally clicking.

"Looking at where the team was when we first got a hold of it, and Darian's seen some areas where we've

really improved," Mears said. "I think we've seen all the room we've had for improvement, and I think we should be pretty good pretty soon."

Mears, who had limited stock-car experience when he got his Cup ride in 2003, has had to adjust to a Chevrolet after four years of driving a Dodge. And he's had to do it with a Hendrick team that has always lagged behind. Although Hendrick gives his teams equal resources, the No. 25 always has struggled.

"I realized from talking with Brian Vickers and the team what we were getting into," Mears said. "We're uncovering a lot of little things that we need to improve on ... and it definitely needs a lot of work in a lot of little areas. We're getting there, slowly but surely knocking down those walls and getting where we need to be."

Pikeville, Mountain State split doubleheader

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — The Pikeville College softball team ended a five-game losing streak on Thursday when it split a doubleheader with Mountain State University. The Lady Cougars took the first game 3-2 before the Lady Bears bounced back with a 4-2 win in the nightcap at Paul Butcher Field. Following the split, Pikeville

fell to 9-17.

Pikeville couldn't take advantage of some solid pitching from senior Kelley Neace in the opener. Neace scattered 10 hits and allowed only three runs thanks to no walks in the complete-game effort.

Mountain State scored in the fourth when Lauren Howell singled and scored on a double by winning pitcher Stephanie Barrow. Pikeville tied the game in the fifth when junior center-fielder Anna Bevins blasted her second home run of the season over the fence in left-center.

Each team scored once in the sixth. MSU posted its run thanks to back-to-back doubles by Howell and Natalie

Hanson to lead off the inning.

Pikeville responded with a two-out rally in the sixth. Sophomore Katie Parsley had the first of three straight singles and scored on Bevins' safety two batters later.

MSU had one more in it, though, and got the winning run in the top of the seventh. Genesis Coll doubled to left with one out and Bre Rist followed with a single to plate the winning run.

Neace fanned four in the loss. Parsley and Bevins had two hits apiece for Pikeville. Cortney Bentley tripled while Melinda Ratliff, Krista Kouns and Heather Robbins all singled.

MSU wasted no time in getting on

the scoreboard in the second game. Coll singled and scored on a Hanson single in the top of the first.

Pikeville plated two in the bottom of the frame in support of Bentley, its freshman pitcher. Ratliff reached on a single and Kouns was hit by a pitch. Ratliff scored on an error and junior Terri Mullins delivered Kouns with a single.

But the Lady Cougars answered with a run in the top of the second to tie the game. Brittany Lantz led off with a single and later scored on a two-out hit by Rist.

But after that, Bentley settled down. Having already allowed five hits, she gave up two more in the third

and then only two over the last four innings.

Pikeville plated the winning runs in the fifth inning. Freshman Brittany Chapman led off with a single, was moved into scoring position on a sacrifice by Cindy Varney and scored on a double by Ratliff to give the Lady Bears a 3-2 lead.

Bentley later singled, stole second and scored on a hit by Kouns to add an insurance run.

Bentley (3-5) struck out two and walked none in the complete-game win.

Chapman led the Lady Bears with two hits, while Ratliff, Bentley, Kouns and Mullins added one.

Two Bears honored for play, four student-athletes in classroom

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — Six Pikeville College student-athletes have been honored by the NAIA for their work either on the playing floor or in the classroom.

Men's basketball players Will Holloman and Bo Harris were named honorable mention All-Americans at the NAIA Div. I level, while Ben Valentine was joined by Lady Bears Tonya Amburgey, Tiffany Howard and Jessica Lovell on the Daktronics All-American Scholar-Athletes list.

These honors were announced recently by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics from the corporate headquarters in Olathe, Kan. Holloman, a 6-0 senior from

Jacksonville, led the Bears by averaging 19.3 points to go with 4.9 rebounds per game. He shot 51.5 percent from the floor and an impressive 40.2 percent from the arc while hitting 69.4 percent from the line. He also handed out 4.6 assists per game.

Harris, a 6-7 sophomore from Winchester, averaged 18.4 points and a team-high 9.2 rebounds per game this year. He shot 52.4 percent from the floor and 34.9 percent from the arc while finishing at 68.8 percent from the free-throw line. Harris also had 43 of Pikeville's 69 blocked shots this season and recorded 37 steals.

Valentine, a senior from Nelson, New Zealand, was named to the Scholar-Athlete team for the second time. He will graduate in May with a degree business administration emphasizing management.

"We're very proud of these young men and their accomplishments this season," said Coach Kelly Wells.

"While we're obviously excited about Will and Bo being on the honorable-mention list, we're equally pleased to see Benny be recognized for his work in the classroom."

"We want our young men to be winners both on the floor and off, and this is a perfect example of a young man making that happen."

Three Lady Bears joined Valentine on the scholar-athlete team. They were Amburgey, a senior from Pinetop who majors in communication with a minor in psychology; Howard, a senior from Oil Springs majoring in criminal justice and sociology; and Lovell, a senior from Belfry majoring in psychology/human services.

Amburgey, like Valentine, is enjoying her second season on the scholar-athlete list.

"These three young ladies have a lot to be proud of," said Coach Bill Watson. "All of them will graduate in May and will be successful members

of our society. I'm proud to have coached them and hope our younger players will follow their example in the years to come."

In order to qualify for as a 2007 Daktronics-NAIA Division I All-

American Scholar-Athlete, student-athletes must be nominated by their head coach, have achieved junior academic status and maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.



THUNDER: Drag racers invaded Bristol Dragway this weekend, just one week after the Food City 500 was held next door.

Features Editor
Kathy Prater
Phone: (606) 886-8506
Fax: (606) 886-3603

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FLOYD COUNTY Around Our Schools



Abigail Hamilton



Students worked hard at doing their very best coloring jobs.

Dental Health coloring contest held at JMS

The Mud Creek Family Resource Youth Service Center, along with the Floyd County Health Department, recently sponsored a dental health coloring contest for 2nd and 3rd grade students who participated in the Healthy Floyd County 2010 Dental/Oral Health Initiative. In addition to the students being presented with certificates, they received pencils, tooth brushes, and tooth paste.

Abigail Hamilton, contest winner, also received a backpack filled with dental hygiene products and a teddy bear. Congratulations to Abigail and to all the contest participants!

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2007 Floyd County Board of Education student representatives

Four Floyd County students are now serving on the Floyd County Board of Education as student representatives to the Board. Marcus Bozick, Prestonsburg High School; Brennan Case, Betsy Layne High School; Kory Henry, South Floyd High School; and Zach Hamilton, Allen Central High School. The student representatives met on Monday, January 8, at the Floyd County Area Technology Center with KSBA representative Arlene Burnette. The meeting was part of a training session designed to assist the students in their leadership roles.

The Floyd County Board of Education began the student representatives program in 2003, as one of the first districts to engage in the process. The process provides that students will be nonvoting representatives to the board. Students will meet as needed/agreed upon to define issues or positions that concern them. The student representatives will rotate participation in the board meetings. They can attend all meetings if they wish, but they will have specific responsibilities at assigned meetings. Principals of schools determine the process used to identify nominees. Once the nominations are received and approved by the superintendent they are submitted to the board for approval. Each selected student will serve a one-year term on the Board, advocating the priorities of students in the district schools to the board members.



FIT Club gets active

The FIT Club kids get together each week at Prestonsburg Elementary to learn about the importance of exercise and good nutrition in leading balanced, healthy lives.

Floyd County leaders get ideas on strengthening student learning, leading local schools

Testing before high school to measure college preparedness. Managing school budgets from uncertain funding sources. Assessing bus driver safety training. Meeting multilingual parent notification requirements.

These could have been among the headlines of a daily newspaper covering the 71st annual conference of the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA). They represent only a portion of the research and information Jeff Stumbo, Sherry Robinson, and Dr. Chandra Varia, were exposed to when they took part in the KSBA conference Feb. 23-25 in Louisville.

An estimated 1,100 school board members, superintendents, state officials and other education advocates participated in the more than 50 sessions and workshops during the conference. The topics, tied to the theme Kentucky public schools - Great Expectations, covered such areas as research into raising math scores, reducing alcohol and drug use among youth, the ins and outs of merging school systems, effective superintendent evaluations, successful programs for gifted and talented students and preventing environmental accidents such as mercury spills in school science labs.

Participants heard national perspectives from Jane Gallucci, president of the National School Boards Association and Ken Kay, president of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a consortium of Fortune 500 businesses focused on strengthening high school graduates' skills for today's jobs. Eight of the 10 candidates to become governor of Kentucky, including the incumbent Ernie Fletcher, spoke of their elementary and secondary education goals for 2008 and beyond.


KSBA President Ed Massey, a member of the Boone County Board of Education, said, "The board members and administrators who gave up three days for these discussions will take ideas on improving schools and learning back home. We learned, we shared and we recommitted ourselves at this conference to doing whatever it takes to give every child the skills they need to excel in school and achieve in their lives." Kentucky law requires all school board members to receive annual professional development training. Many board members obtain a substantial portion of their training hours at the KSBA conference.

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ground screening. Call 789-5301, ask for Jenny.

JOB OPENING

Are you 55+, low income, need extra income? Apply for the SCSEP older workers program today! (Breathitt, Knott, Leslie, Perry, Letcher, Pike & Floyd counties) For an application call the Kentucky River Area Development District at 606-436-3158.

JOB OPENING

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JOB OPENING

Sandy Valley Transportation Services, Inc. (SVTS) is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Maintenance Assistant. The position is Forty (40) hours per week.

JOB OPENING

Mountain International Trucks is seeking a technician with a minimum of three years experience in the medium heavy duty truck, diesel engine

Must be at least 21 years old, and pass a Pre-Employment Drug Test. Phone 1-888-444-RIDE / 7433 or write to SVTS at 81 Resource Court, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653-7850 for an Application for Employment and more information. SVTS is an equal employment opportunity employer. M/F/D/V.

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JOB OPENING

Otter Creek Correctional Center is currently accepting applications for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner and Family Practitioner. Must be licensed in the state of KY. Interested applicants may apply in person at 327 Correctional Road, Wheelwright, KY 41669, online at www.correction-scrcorp.com or you may fax your resume to 606-452-9703. Otter Creek Correctional Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Mountain International Trucks is seeking a technician with a minimum of three years experience in the medium heavy duty truck, diesel engine

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JOB OPENING

Drivers needed seeking f/t and p/t on call drivers for 7 passenger minivan's in Shelby and Martin. Drug screen, clean MVR and 7 years. Valid DL required. 1-800-471-2440. References # 26, EOE.

JOB OPENING

Dietary Aide/Cook: Apply in person at Mtn. Manor of Painstville, 1025 Euclid Avenue, Painstville, KY from Monday -Friday between 8am and 4pm.

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Mountain Manor of Painstville is taking applications for LPN, RN and CMA (7a to 7p) positions. Excellent wages and benefits. Apply in person at 1025 Euclid Ave, Painstville Ky 41240 between 8a and 4p. Mon-Fri.

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Wurtland, KY 41144-0742.

JOB OPENING

Renos Roadhouse in Prestonsburg is now hiring for all positions. Shifts- Day and Night. Apply in person only.

Misc.

JOB OPENING

On call in home assistance caring for the elderly. Call Joyce at 606-889-8529. Also, accepting applications for caregivers.

Services

LAWN CARE

If Lawn Care and tree trimming needed throughout Summer months. Please call Rondell at 606-358-2117 morning or evening.

MERCHANDISE

Animal

LOST!!! David/ Hippo area. German Shepherd black/brown answers to Buckley. Also Solid black Lab Mix answers to Oscar. REWARD OFFERED. 886-3374 OR 226-5774

FOUND!! Large Breed dog.

To identify call 874-5269. Anonymous callers rejected.

FOR SALE TO A GOOD HOME

A Neutered male Doberman Mix. Great watch dog but is also very affectionate to owners. \$50.00. CALL 424-1707. Also FREE TO A GOOD HOME. A Neutered male cat, gray s tiger stripes. Excellent mouse! 424-1701. Leave MSG.

Yard Sale

YARD SALE

3 Family yard sale! Clothing, plus size, women's, toddlers, furniture and toddler items. 1134 Riverside Drive, Prestonsburg, April 6 and 7. 8am-?

ESTATE SALE

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 5th, 6th, 7th. Treadmill cookbooks, lots of glassware, kitchen items, and much more. Different items each day, rain or shine! Rote 80 at Watergap, Right Fork of Bull Creek, first right and up hill to brick house.

Misc.

WOLFF TANNING BEDS NEW & USED.

Monthly payments, free delivery within 100 miles of London. Parts - Lamps - Services. 1-888-554-0058.

FOR SALE

3 Lawn Mowers, 2 new, 1 slightly used. Call 886-6378

FOR SALE

Glass Antique show case and other antique items available. Call 259-8411 or 874-2421

FOR SALE

2 Gravelly tractors with attachments. Call after 4pm 447-2728.

LOT FOR RENT

Located at Old Allen Road. \$200 per month. City sewer available. 874-2421 and 259-1844.

Wanted To Buy

WANTED TO BUY

Interested in buying land or home from Hindman to Martin or McDowell area. 606-634-2960

Real Estate

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

Gas well interest for sale. Owners desire to sell their 20% interest in 2 gas wells at Viper, Ky. If seriously interested call 478-1002

Houses

HOUSE FOR SALE

3.5 acres 3 BR 2 bath, attached 2 car garage with work shop or 1/2 acre lot for sale. Prestonsburg, meadows branch area. Call 889-0149.

HOUSE FOR SALE

4 BR Brick house apx 1500 sq. ft. 2 baths, living room, family room, kitchen, utility room, large deck, double carport on nice corner

FOR SALE

1996 Jayco pop up camper w/ 5x8 awning, screen RM very nice- Air conditioner, stove, ref, nice oak cabinets, porti-potty, sleeps 8. Call 886-3721 \$3,000

FOR SALE

Antique show case and other antique items available. Call 259-8411 or 874-2421

HOME FOR SALE

2 1/2 Miles on Abbott, at 111 Creekside. Maple Cabinetry, carpet, 2 BR, fireplace. Recently remodeled. Call 886-0893.

Storage Units for rent

10x10 \$40.00
 10x20 \$60.00
 10x30 \$80.00
 Located on 1428 Old Allen Rd. Call 874-4511.

WELDING POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Excellent pay, drug screening required. Call Mon-Fri 8a-5p 285-9358.

House for sale

Very well build home with heritage. Corner lot across from old Allen Grade School. 4 BR, LR, DR, LR built in kitchen, Utility room, family room. Lots of closets and storage space. Carpet covered hardwood floors. Full sized unfurnished basement and new roof. Shown by appointment. Interested buyers only. 606-874-9520 606-874-917

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Chesapeake Appalachia L.L.C. is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer.

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HIGHLANDS REGIONAL

HRMC 886-8511 www.HRMC.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Director of Registration

One of Eastern Kentucky's best hospitals is searching for an experienced Director of Registration. This position is responsible for the overall functions of the registration and outpatient scheduling departments, including registration services for inpatient, outpatient and emergency department, insurance verifications and pre-admission services. The Director will also manage the registration employees and ensure teamwork and produce quality services in a fast paced environment and excellent customer services.

Requirements
 Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or equivalent experience with thorough knowledge of third-party payer requirements. Two to three years' previous experience in Registration or Patient Accounting is preferred. Previous experience in a supervisory or lead position in a hospital registration or business office is desired.

HRMC offers a competitive salary, and a generous benefits package.

Interested applicants may apply to the Human Resources Department, HRMC 5000 Ky. Rt. 321, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653 (606) 886-7530 Fax (606) 886-7534 E-mail: tclark@hrmc.org

Highlands is an equal opportunity employer. Please visit Highlands web site at: www.hrmc.org "Think Healthy, Think Highlands!"

WELDING POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Excellent pay, drug screening required. Call Mon-Fri 8a-5p 285-9358.

House for sale

Very well build home with heritage. Corner lot across from old Allen Grade School. 4 BR, LR, DR, LR built in kitchen, Utility room, family room. Lots of closets and storage space. Carpet covered hardwood floors. Full sized unfurnished basement and new roof. Shown by appointment. Interested buyers only. 606-874-9520 606-874-917

Shown by appointment.
www.sharphome.com

HOUSE FOR SALE
3 BR 2 bath house completely remodeled inside and out. South River view lane. Prestonsburg. 886-8991.

HOUSE FOR SALE
Newly constructed house for sale located at Abbott Creek. Vaulted living room ceiling, 3 BR, bonus room, fireplace, with cherry hardwood floors and cabinets with spacious attached garage. Located 4 miles from us 23. Panoramic view located in new subdivisions. Seller willing to help with closing costs! Call 606-285-0051, evenings 606-377-6042

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE! 1 MONTH WITH A PICTURE INCLUDED JUST \$75.00. CALL LEIGHANN WILLIAMS TODAY TO SALE YOUR HOUSE FAST! 886-8506.

Sale or Lease

FOR SALE
Mobile home and pontune boat for sale. Call 606-791-1411 or 606-791-2481.

FOR SALE
2003 16x80 mobile home. Fire place, dishwasher, garden tub, walk in shower, shingle roof, gutters, used for short time. Good price. Central air. Located outside City limits. Call 886-2474

FOR SALE
Commercial property 12 acres next to Walmart & McDonald's in Prestonsburg. 886-3023 after 5pm.

FOR RENT
Beauty shop equipt with 3 stations and tanning bed. Would consider renting for commercial use other than beauty shop. Rt. 122 1 mile South of Martin across from Garth Technical School. Must have references. 285-9112.

FOR SALE
Property for sale between Prestonsburg and Painstville. Also, double wide for rent. \$500 plus deposit. Call 606-789-6721 or 792-792-6721. No pets.

FOR SALE
Baby farm for sale possible commercial site 6.50 acres with house and out-building approximately 3/4-1 acre building site out of floor plain. Location: Just above Mtn. Arts Center on Mountain Parkway. Contact Franklin Fitzpatrick at 886-3533 after 6pm. Interested parties only.

FARM FOR SALE
Floyd county 75 acres more or less, rt. 1100 off US 23 East Point Upper Little Paint. Lum Derossett Branch. Call 606-325-4430 or 606-325-2809. Level- Sloping and timber.

RENTALS

APARTMENT

FOR RENT
Furnished apartment, real clean, quiet near Jenny Wiley lake. Suitable for 2 people. NO drugs. Call 886-3941.

FOR RENT
2 BR apt for rent. Unfurnished, nice, quiet neighborhood. Deposit and references required. Call 358-9123 Leave message.

FOR RENT

Branham Heights Apartments - Now accepting applications for 1 and 2 BR apts. Rent based on 30% of income. Appliances furnished, very nice, central heat and air, water, garbage and sewer included. Please contact the manager 606-452-4777.

Equal Opportunity housing.

FOR RENT
2 BR Apt for rent 2.5 bath, garage, W/D hookup, 1 year lease. \$790 per month \$790 deposit. 874-1660

APT FOR RENT
Newly remodeled 2 BEDROOM 1 Bath apartment located in Prestonsburg, above safelite autoglass. Call 478-8100 for price.

MARCH MADNESS Park Place apartments first month rent FREE w/deposit paid in full -\$280, 2BR -\$304. Offer valid thru 3/31/07. All electric and HUD accepted. Call 886-0039.

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

House's

HOUSE FOR RENT
Beautiful 2 story home with white columns for rent at Ivel, KY.

3 BR for. \$750 includes water and garbage bill plus utilities. Owner pays water and garbage bill. No HUD, NO pets. Quiet neighborhood. Large yard. References required. Central Heat and Air. Dish washer/washer dryer stove and refrigerator furnished. Office with Computer link. Call 437-6507 or 434-9008.

HOUSE FOR RENT
Very nice, 2 BR, equip. kitchen, new paint, new carpet. Must have references! Call 886-0825 OR 886-2944 after 5.

HOUSE FOR RENT
2 BR house at Riverside drive. \$550 per month plus utilities and deposit. Call 886-0124 after 5pm.

Mobile Home

FOR RENT
2 1/2 Miles from MAC on Jim Potter Branch. Spurlock Creek, Prestonsburg KY. 889-9825

FOR RENT
Nice 3 BR MH for rent in Prestonsburg. 874-0875 or 226-3207.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF BLASTING SCHEDULE

In accordance with the provisions of 405 KAR 16:120, FCDC Coal, Inc., P.O. Box 77, Ivel, KY 41642, (606) 889-8440, intends to conduct blasting operations on permit No. 836-5518, located at latitude 37 degrees, 33 minutes, and 02 seconds; and longitude 82 degrees, 41 minutes, and 11 seconds, located on Prater Creek, on the Harold Quadrangle Map, in Floyd County, KY. The acreage affected by this operation consists of 3.40 acres of surface disturbance.

Blasting shall be conducted daily. No blasting will be conducted before sun-

rise or after sunset, unless an unavoidable hazard occurs that would cause a safety hazard if delayed until the next day. Five minutes prior to the detonation, the area shall be cleared and secured of personnel and equipment, and a warning signal of a one-minute series of long blasts of an airhorn will be sounded. One minute prior to detonation, the blast signal will be given. The blast signal will consist of a series of short blasts of an airhorn, followed immediately by the detonation of the shot. After the blast, the area will be inspected. After the area has been inspected, an all-clear signal of a prolonged blast of an airhorn will be sounded.

Notice is hereby given. David Martin, 1991 Turkey Ck., Langley, KY, has filed an application with Natural Resources/Environmental Protection Cabinet to place a fill on property near Rt. 80 bridge on Front St., Garrett, Ky. Direct comments/objections to Division of Water, Frankfort Office Park, 14 Reilly Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601.



Be A Disaster Relief Hero

Victims of the recent hurricane need help immediately. The American Red Cross is on the scene—providing shelter, food and counseling. But your help is urgently needed. Your contribution will help the victims of the recent hurricane and thousands of other disasters across the country each year.

Make a financial contribution to the Disaster Relief Fund.

Please contact the Red Cross at

1-800-HELP NOW

redcross.org



American Red Cross

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Be an Angel.
Become a Kentucky organ & tissue donor.
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1-800-525-3456, or
www.trustforlife.org

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Once, she needed care. And Americans united to restore her as a symbol of freedom. Today, nearly 35 million Americans are still working to stand tall and free themselves from poverty. You can help light the way and rekindle a spirit of community with those in need. Find out how at www.povertyusa.org.

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Drive way, Parking lots, Roads.

Eastern Kentucky author Patricia West will be holding a book signing at the Floyd County Library on Saturday, April 7, from 11:30 to 2:30 come out and meet the author as she signs her latest book of spooky and unexplained tales from the mountains.

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JUST FOLLOW THESE OFFICIAL RULES:

1. Follow the clues. A new clue will be printed in the Floyd County Times each publication day between Sunday, March 11 and Friday, April 6.
2. Each clue will be printed in paper only once. Previous clues can be found at Official Sponsor Locations. Clues are posted at Official Sponsor Locations 24 hours after each publication.
3. Discover the egg. The egg is located on public property in an easily accessible hiding place. No Fear Factor® stunts required!
4. Bring the egg and the enclosed certificate to the Floyd County Times Office at 263 S. Central Ave. Prestonsburg, between 9-5 weekdays, and you win \$500!
5. Employees of the Floyd County Times and their families are ineligible to win.
6. The Floyd County Times and the Official Sponsors are not liable for any injuries, damages, or losses resulting from your participation. Your attempt to locate the egg is acknowledgment that you agree and hold said parties harmless.

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