

# The Times

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**P'burg falls again**  
 page B1

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### In brief

**ARH hospital lays off 17, blames nurse strike**

The Associated Press

BECKLEY, W.Va. — Beckley Appalachian Regional Hospital says a strike involving nurses has forced it to lay off 17 workers and close one floor.

Beckley-ARH is one of nine Appalachian Regional Healthcare hospitals in Kentucky and West Virginia. About 650 nurses who work for Appalachian Regional Healthcare walked out Oct. 1 and 500 remain on strike in the two states.

Beckley-ARH Chief Executive Officer Rocco Massey says 17 support staff, such as licensed practical nurses and clerical workers, are being laid off.

Massey announced the layoffs Thursday. He says the hospital's utilization rate has fallen since the strike and the layoffs are necessary to keep it viable.

## County extends hours of liquor sales

by JACK LATTA  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A resolution to extend the hours of liquor-by-the-drink to 2 a.m. passed the fiscal court in a 3-to-1 vote during a special called meeting Friday, but not without protest from one magistrate.

"Right now, they're allowed to sell drinks from 9 in the morning to 12 at night, six days a week," said Jackie Edford Owens, magistrate of District 2 and the resolution's lone opposition. "If a person can't drink

liquor by the drink to close at midnight.

"I support the church leaders in my district who don't want alcohol to be sold into the seventh day," Owens said.

Owens also voted against a motion to table a resolution that would give a salary increase to Lon May, the county's floodplain coordinator.

"They've been promising Lon a raise for two years, and I want him to get it," said Owens.

According to Owens, May works in several capacities for the county, including ecology officer and homeland security.

enough in six days, 15 hours a day, I feel like they ought to get a jug and go to the house."

According to County Attorney Keith Bartley, the resolution essentially matches the city of Prestonsburg ordinance, which allows hotels that have at least 17 rooms to sell liquor by the drink until 2 a.m.

"This just levels the playing field for businesses in the county," said Donnie Daniels, District 3, magistrate.

The resolution had passed last year, but due to a miscommunication, the court received an older version of the ordinance that called for business serving



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Hundreds thronged the city's Archer Park Thursday evening as children and their families showed up to participate in the annual "Christmas in the Park" event sponsored by the City of Prestonsburg, Archer Park and the Prestonsburg Woman's Club. Each child, age 12 and under, who showed up to register, was presented with a gift of their own from Santa Claus. Games and refreshments were also a part of the celebratory evening.

## Bank manager pleads guilty to fraud

by JACK LATTA  
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — A former U.S. Bank employee pleaded guilty to a charge of fraud in Pikeville on Tuesday.

Justin F. Moon, 26, entered a plea agreement in U.S. District Court, in which he pleaded guilty to one count of entering false entries in a bank record.

"Justin is a fine young man who made a mistake, and he was man enough to own up to it," said Darrell Sammons, attorney for Moon.

According to court

records, in July 2006, while Moon was a branch manager for U.S. Bank in Pikeville, he knowingly entered false loan information with the intent to defraud the bank and deceive officials of the bank.

The records indicate that Moon intentionally altered a flood insurance document regarding a \$110,555 loan so that it would falsely claim that the policy covered the property in the amount of \$126,000.

A Pike County couple attempting to obtain a mort-

(See GUILTY, page three)

## Judge scolds defendant while delivering sentence

by JACK LATTA  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Two years in a state penitentiary for Dennis Fields, 47, wasn't enough to suit Judge John David Caudill on Friday.

"I wish I could sentence you (Fields) to 10 years," said Judge Caudill during sentencing. "You used your father's death as a con, and you got your own mother thrown in jail. You're despicable!"

Dennis Fields Sr. was on

parole from an earlier sentence of complicity to second-degree trafficking. According to Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner, Fields failed his drug test, and then ran.

During his statement Judge Caudill, blasted Fields for his history of cons, saying that it was time for Fields to "see how the real world works."

According to court records Fields has previously been in court for domestic violence, public intoxication and controlled substances, and most

recently hindering prosecution or apprehension.

### Drugstore robbers sentenced

Adam Chaffins and Adam Jones, both 19, were also sentenced Friday after having been found guilty in October of this year for robbing the Family Drug Store in Wheelwright. Jones and Chaffins were both given the recommended sentences of 10 years in a state penitentiary.

## Osborne steps aside as Beshear's communications director

by ROGER ALFORD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — A public relations executive who Gov. Steve Beshear had hand-picked to be his communications director said Friday he will not accept the position.

Phil Osborne, owner of a Lexington public relations firm, made the announcement just hours after an ethics panel cleared the way for him to serve in the key position.

Some of Osborne's clients either do business or are regulated by state government, and questions had arisen about whether that created a conflict of interest that would pre-

clude him from taking the job. The Executive Branch Ethics Commission concluded it would not as long as Osborne had no involvement in government-related discussions, decisions, actions or recommendations related to any of the clients.

Even so, Osborne said he felt it best not to take the position in the fledgling Beshear administration.

"I can't be a distraction to the administration," said Osborne, a longtime Lexington public relations person. "There would always be questions about it."

The ethics panel cleared the way

(See APPOINTMENTS, page three)

## Beshear begins talking casinos

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON — Gov. Steve Beshear is wasting no time pushing his plan for allowing casino gambling in Kentucky.

In a speech Friday at a Kentucky Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Beshear said the state is facing tough financial times ahead. He says the state could use the approximately \$500 million a year in addi-

tional revenues that casinos could bring in.

The governor tried to quell fears that casinos would proliferate around the state by recommending that a proposed constitutional amendment that would state precisely how many casino licenses would be available.

Beshear said he also wants to ensure that revenues be spent on education, health care and economic development.



photo by Jack Latta

The Floyd County Bar Association presented a check for \$8,000 to Sue Schafer of the Auxier food pantry on Friday, as part of the Bar's annual holiday fundraiser.

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# Regional Obituaries

## FLOYD COUNTY

■ Haze Blackburn, 70, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, December 11, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday, December 14, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Patsy Lou Banks Cesco, 63, of Wecksbury, died Saturday, December 8, at her residence. She is survived by her husband Tommy Cesco. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 12, under the direction of the Roberts Funeral Home.

■ Alka Blevins Fitch, 85, of Martin, a Paintsville native, died Sunday, December 9. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 12, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Patricia Ann Isaacs, 42, of Indiana, formerly of Wheelwright, died Wednesday, December 5. Funeral services were held Friday, December 14, under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home, Robinson Creek.

■ Una Turner Moore, 94, of Garrett, died Sunday, December 9, in the King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 12, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Eugene "Gene" Mullins, 79, of Wayland, died Thursday, December 6, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Sunday,

December 9, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Jerlydine Tackett Petty, 56, of Wecksbury, died Monday, December 10, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, William Petty. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 13, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Clark Ray Ratcliffe, 75, of Winchester, Va., a native of Wheelwright, died early Saturday, November 24, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Ratcliffe. Funeral arrangements were private.

■ Ruth Brown Spears, 77, of McDowell, died Friday, December 7, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, in Lexington. Funeral services were held Monday, December 10, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Ruby Mae Tackett, 74, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, December 7, in the King's Daughters Medical Center, Ashland. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 9, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

## PIKE COUNTY

■ Lois Adams, 59, of Sidney, died Thursday, December 13, at her home. Arrangements, under the direction of Pikeville Funeral Home.

■ Lillian Childers Baker, 82, of Ashcamp, died Wednesday, December 12, at Mountain View Health Care

Center, Elkhorn City. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 15, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Zella Belcher, 85, of Earling, W.Va., a Pikeville native, died Friday, December 7, at the Logan Regional Medical Center, Logan, W.Va. Funeral services were held Monday, December 10, under the direction of Krantz-McNeely Funeral Home of Man, W.Va.

■ Beulah Mae Belcher, 85, of Elkhorn City, died Saturday, December 8, at her residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 11, under the direction of the Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Ralph Blankenship, 57, of Stopover, died Sunday, December 9, at his home. Funeral services were held Thursday, December 13, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

■ Drake Ian McJace Hunter Eldridge, infant son of Michael and Jamie Eldridge, died Sunday, December 9, at Pikeville Medical Center. A graveside service was held Saturday, December 15, under the direction of R.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home.

■ Dixie Harmon, 83, of Virgie, died Wednesday, December 5, at the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday, December 7, under the direction of the Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

■ Bill Harmon Hite, 66, of Meta, died Monday, December

10, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Peggy Hite. Funeral services were held Thursday, December 13, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

■ Shirley Mae May, 67, of McAndrews, died Thursday, December 6, at Williamson Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were held Monday, December 10, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Grover Carmel Meade, 91, of Feds Creek, died Friday, December 7, at the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Monday, December 10, under the direction of the Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Melissa Lynn Meadows, 55, of Pinsonfork, died Friday, December 7, at her residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 11, under the direction of the R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Arlen Raines, 71, of Cullman, Alabama, a Pikeville native, died Wednesday, December 5, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Reavil E. Raines. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 8, under direction of Nichols Funeral Home of Addison.

■ Edith Smith, 77, of McAndrews, died Sunday, December 9, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Tony Smith Jr. Funeral services were held Thursday, December 13, under the direction of the R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Alfred Loc Tackett, 79, of Madison Heights, Michigan, formerly of Pikeville, died Thursday, December 6, in Michigan. He is survived by his wife, Loraine Tackett. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 11, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Bruce Thacker of Williamsburg, Va., formerly of Pike County, died Friday, December 7, in Williamsburg. He is survived by his wife, Jean Thacker. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 12, under the direction of Nelson Funeral Home Chapel, Williamsburg.

■ Justine Smith Trivette, 84, of Pikeville, died Saturday, December 8, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 12, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

■ Ronald L. Webb, 62, of Elkhorn City, died Friday, December 7, at Salyersville. A memorial service will be held Sunday, December 16, at 2 p.m., under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Jimmy Wellman, 71, of Belfry, a native of Louisa, died Saturday, December 8, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Doris Wellman. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 12, under the direction of Rogers Funeral

## Home.

## MAGOFFIN COUNTY

■ Thelma Young Gamble, 72, of Salyersville, died Wednesday, December 5, at the Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 8, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

■ Beulah Hoskins Long, 89, of Leesburg, Florida, died Friday, December 7. Funeral services and burial was held at Florida Memorial Gardens, in Melbourne, Florida, on December 11.

■ Eva Saylor, 87, of New Concord, Ohio, a Magoffin County native, died Tuesday, December 11, in Zanesville, Ohio. Funeral services were held Friday, December 14, under the direction of the Preston Funeral Home.

■ Ellievenas Hale Shepherd, 79, of Gunlock, died Saturday, December 8, at her residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 11, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Edna Wjreman, 79, of Gunlock, died Tuesday, December 4, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 5, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

## JOHNSON COUNTY

■ Enis Church, 83, of Lorain, Ohio, a Lawrence County native, died Saturday, December 8, at New Life Residential Center. He is survived by his wife, Barbara VanHoose Church. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 12, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Mary Rebecca Jones Lewis, 77, of Paintsville, died Wednesday, December 12, at King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 15, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

## MARTIN COUNTY

■ Caden Ander Chafin, 18, of Leesburg, Alabama, a native of Inez, died Monday, December 3, at his residence. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 8, under the direction of Pery Funeral Home.

■ Charley Fletcher Sr., 52, of Pilgrim, died Saturday, December 8, at his residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 11, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Eugene "Gene" Moore, 63, of Batavia, Ohio, formerly of Pilgrim and Lovely, died Thursday, December 6. Funeral services were held Monday, December 10, under the direction of John H. Evans Funeral Home, Milford, Ohio.

■ Virgil (Bobbi) Stepp, 75, of Lovely, died Thursday, December 6, at King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. She is survived by her husband, Russell Stepp. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 10, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Joe Webb, 85, of Lovely, died Wednesday, December 5, at his son's residence at Wittenerville. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 8, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

## Obituaries

### Haze Blackburn

Haze Blackburn, 70, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

Born October 9, 1937, in Endicott, he was the son of the late Roland M. and Lockie Endicott Blackburn. He was a retired Ford-Motor Company employee.

Survivors include four sons: Larry Blackburn of Prestonsburg, Haze Blackburn Jr., of Michigan, Gerald Blackburn of Livonia, Michigan, and Jeff Blackburn of Belleville, Michigan; a daughter, Deborah Blackburn of Wayne, Michigan; three brothers: Thurman Blackburn and Sam Blackburn, both of Ypsilanti, Michigan, and Roy Blackburn of Prestonsburg; two sisters: Stella Endicott of Ypsilanti, Michigan, and Zella Mae (Sally) Blackburn Flavell of Westland, Michigan; and six grandchildren: Christina, Brandon, Kenny, Keith, Tara, and Jeff Jr.; and four great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Bill Blackburn.

Funeral services were held Friday, December 14, at 1 p.m., at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Jim Smith and Mark Hunt officiating.

Burial was in Davidson Memorial Gardens, in Ivel, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.  
www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com  
(Paid obituary)

### Deborah Gwynn Frey

Deborah Gwynn Frey, 47, of Woodman Avenue, Ashtabula, Ohio, died Thursday, December 13, 2007, at the Hospice Unit of Ashtabula County Medical Center, after a heroic 14-month battle with cancer.

She was born January 22, 1960, in Paintsville, Kentucky, the daughter of Robert and Lorene (Mosley) Maple, and the late Ernest Little, and had been an area resident for 43 years.

A graduate of the Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School, she attended Kent State University, Ashtabula Campus for two years.

She had been working at UH-Geneva Medical Center, prior to her illness, and previously worked for the Ashtabula County Medical Center, and as an office man-

ager for Dr. Popovic and Dr. Depau.

A member of the Pentecostal Church of God (where she was baptized this past year), she loved gardening and flowers, attending her son's sporting events and activities, and the color purple. She also enjoyed crafts, decorating, cooking, and country and gospel music.

Her survivors include her husband, John Frey, whom she married November 15, 1997, in Scott County, Kentucky; a son, Loren Julian Frey at home; two stepchildren: Tim (Pebbles) Frey of Ashtabula and Christie (Tom) Sr. Angelo of Eastlake; her parents: Robert and Lorene Maple of N. Kingsville; six stepgrandchildren; five sisters, Teresa (Mark) Bates of N. Kingsville, Carrie (Joe) Bailey of Kentucky, Roshwanda (Tim) Portice of Tennessee, and Lois Newsome and Karen Waldren, both of Indiana; four brothers: Robert (Jackie) Maple of Jefferson, Eugene Little of Alabama, and Ernest Jr., and Lee Little, both of Florida; nieces and nephews: Burgundy and Joshua Bates, and Derek, Ashley, and Alex Maple; and a great-grand-niece, Kylie Bates.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ernest Little; her maternal grandparents: Bailey and Fanny Mosley; her uncles: Thaniel Mosley and Garnett Haydon; and her aunts: Jewel Osborne and Jean Layne.

A service will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, December 17, at the Pentecostal Church of God, 2201 Cook Rd., Ashtabula. Rev. Kenneth Roberts, pastor, will officiate.

Burial will be in Saybrook Cemetery.

Calling hours will be held at the church, Sunday, December 16, from 4-7 p.m., with a short prayer and memorial tribute at 7 p.m., to conclude calling hours.

Contributions may be made to the church.

Ducro Funeral Services and Crematory, 4524 Elm Avenue, Ashtabula, is in charge of arrangements. www.ducro.com  
(Paid obituary)

### James Ellis (Jim) Gibson

James Ellis (Jim) Gibson, 71, of East Point, died Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

Born December 18, 1935, in Goodloe, he was the son of the late Lincoln and Dora Bailey Gibson. He was a retired

ambulance driver and First Responder for P&B Ambulance, and a member of Calvary's Call Church.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law: Lindsey and Lisa Gibson of East Point; a brother, Arvil Jack Gibson of West Prestonsburg; three sisters: Julia Ousley of Martin, Jolene Castle of Auxier, and Bobbie Wright of Fayetteville, North Carolina; two grandchildren: Whitney Gibson and Nicholas Gibson; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Henry David Gibson; four brothers and three sisters: Everett Gibson, Henry Gibson, Herbert Gibson, Willie Gibson, Stella Smith, Thelma Gibson and Janet Sue Gibson (twin).

Funeral services will be held Sunday, December 16, at 2:00 p.m., at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Arthur Sam Smith and Ron Shepherd officiating.

Burial will be in the Gibson Family Cemetery, in David, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

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

www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com  
(Paid obituary)

### In Loving Memory of Cret Caudill

December 17, 1959 - September 4, 2007

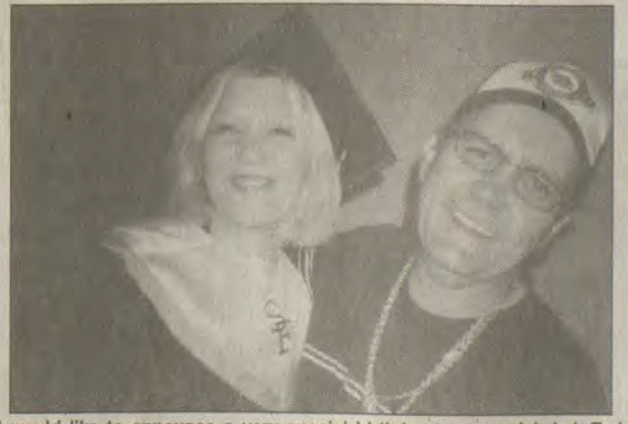


I would like to announce a very special birthday to a special man in my life. Me and Cret were together for 10 long years and lived at Beaver, Ky. The last five years were the best years of my life. If you saw Cret, then you saw me. We lived together. When I met Cret he was lonely and had nowhere to go. He was just staying anywhere he could lay his head. I met him one day and I moved him into my life the next. My life with Cret was the best time of my life—he would give the world to me and my kids. He had two kids, Sabrina and Jason, who loved him very much; a grandson, Braxton, who also loved him very much. I wish he could come back to me and see some of the little things that's going on, but God took Cret for a reason, and Cret has a better home. My days and nights are lonely without him. I can't sleep right without him in my arms. I never thought that anyone could love someone as much as we loved each other. The special things that he could say, the looks he made would make my day. I will never replace him or forget him in any way. I think about him every hour of the day. When we first met, I knew he was my love. I miss taking our evening ride. I can't wait until the day I see you in Heaven. I stood by his bedside from day one. I miss when he was sick and he would always want to kiss me over and over again. Also my two kids were there with me. No one will have to worry where Cret is any more; no one will have to look to see if Cret is coming to knock at their door to be turned away, because God took him to a home to stay. There will always be a place in my heart for Cret that no one can or will ever replace.

Written by his fiancée,  
Annie

### In Loving Memory of Cret Caudill

December 17, 1959 - September 4, 2007



I would like to announce a very special birthday to a special dad. Today would have been a special day, but now he's in Heaven, so far away, who holds a very big spot in our hearts. Cret was in my life for 10 years. This was the best 10 years of all. We had so many laughs and cries. He watched me grow from pretend boyfriends, get my own phone, driving cars, proms, high school, my first boyfriend. His grandson growing then most of all living home. He was there for me when tears would fall, he was my angel all day long. I stood beside him when he needed a shoulder to cry on, I was the one who he called when he was in trouble. I will miss him so much, but I know he cared for me in many ways. Someday I could cry a river, but I keep on going with our good memories. Everyone has a big spot in their lives for a baby and I took that spot in Cret's heart. When he got ill, I never left his side. I sat by his bed from good days, sad days, and his very last breath, but I never left. I wish he was here, but I can't change time. There will always be a spot in my heart for a special dad like you. I wish everyone could have seen the side of you, like me and your grandson, Braxton, did. Because we never miss a day at your grave, rain, shine, no matter how hard it takes us to get up the hill, but someday we will be with you in Heaven. I miss you deeply—everyone knows I am having a hard time, but things have to go on. I love you, Cret, Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas. Christmas will never be the same, because Braxton asks for you everyday and we tell him you're in the sky, but he doesn't understand, but your memories will never leave his head.

With love,  
Your Daughter, Sabrina Johnson  
Grandson, Braxton Johnson

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**In Loving Memory of Cret Caudill**  
December 17, 1959 - September 4, 2007

I would like to announce a very special birthday to a special dad. Today would have been a special day, but now he's in Heaven, so far away, who holds a very big spot in our hearts. Cret was in my life for 10 years. This was the best 10 years of all. We had so many laughs and cries. He watched me grow from pretend boyfriends, get my own phone, driving cars, proms, high school, my first boyfriend. His grandson growing then most of all living home. He was there for me when tears would fall, he was my angel all day long. I stood beside him when he needed a shoulder to cry on, I was the one who he called when he was in trouble. I will miss him so much, but I know he cared for me in many ways. Someday I could cry a river, but I keep on going with our good memories. Everyone has a big spot in their lives for a baby and I took that spot in Cret's heart. When he got ill, I never left his side. I sat by his bed from good days, sad days, and his very last breath, but I never left. I wish he was here, but I can't change time. There will always be a spot in my heart for a special dad like you. I wish everyone could have seen the side of you, like me and your grandson, Braxton, did. Because we never miss a day at your grave, rain, shine, no matter how hard it takes us to get up the hill, but someday we will be with you in Heaven. I miss you deeply—everyone knows I am having a hard time, but things have to go on. I love you, Cret, Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas. Christmas will never be the same, because Braxton asks for you everyday and we tell him you're in the sky, but he doesn't understand, but your memories will never leave his head.

With love,  
Your Daughter, Sabrina Johnson  
Grandson, Braxton Johnson

# Odds & Ends

■ GRESHAM, Ore. — A tow truck driver upset over a recent ticket tried to tow a police cruiser, authorities said.

The 32-year-old man was arrested after he hooked his truck to the marked police vehicle while an officer was responding to a domestic disturbance call, police said.

Authorities said the driver released the cruiser when another officer ordered him to. He later locked the doors of his truck and refused to cooperate, police said.

The driver then called the police station, "apparently unsatisfied with the police response he had generated when he tried to tow a marked police vehicle," according to a police report.

The manager of the tow company was summoned and eventually coaxed the driver into surrendering.

The driver was charged with unlawful use of a vehicle, obstructing governmental administration, interfering with a peace officer and criminal mischief.

■ OBERLIN, Kan. — A postcard featuring a color drawing of Santa Claus and a young girl was mailed in 1914, but its journey was slower than Christmas. It just arrived in northwest Kansas.

The Christmas card was dated Dec. 23, 1914, and mailed to Ethel Martin of Oberlin, apparently from her cousins in Alma, Neb.

It's a mystery where it spent most of the last century, Oberlin Postmaster Steve Schultz said. "It's surprising that it never got thrown away," he said. "How someone found it, I don't know."

Ethel Martin is deceased, but Schultz said the post office wanted to get the card to a relative.

That's how the 93-year-old relic ended up with Bernice Martin, Ethel's sister-in-law. She said she believed the card had been found somewhere in Illinois.

"That's all we know," she said. "But it is kind of curious. We'd like to know how it got down there."

The card was placed inside another envelope with modern postage for the trip to Oberlin — the one-cent postage of the early 20th century wouldn't have covered it, Martin said.

"We don't know much about it," she said. "But wherever they kept it, it was in perfect shape."

■ ROXBURY, Conn. — Karaoke can be scary, but threatening?

A school custodian's impromptu after-hours karaoke performance prompted a police response when a teacher thought she was being threatened over the loudspeaker.

State police say the teacher at Booth Free School barricaded herself inside a classroom Wednesday when she mistook someone singing a Guns N' Roses song over the public address system for a threat.

She was working after hours and thought no one else was in the building. Then she heard someone say over the loudspeaker that she was going to die.

Six troopers and three police dogs showed up and found three teenagers, one of them a custodian at the school, who had been playing with the public address system.

Police say one of them sang "Welcome to the Jungle" into the microphone. The song contains the lyrics "You're in the jungle baby; you're gonna die."

The teenagers were cuffed

for about 15 minutes while police investigated. They didn't realize anyone else was in the school at the time. No charges will be filed, said state police Sgt. Brian Ness.

■ SCRANTON, Pa. — A woman who was cited for loudly cursing at her overflowing toilet — and then at a neighbor who told her to quiet down — has been acquitted on First Amendment grounds.

District Judge Terrence Gallagher dismissed the disorderly conduct charge against Dawn Herb, 33, ruling Thursday that she was within her rights when she let loose a string of profanities Oct. 11.

Although the language she used "may be considered by some to be offensive, vulgar and imprudent ... (it is) protected speech pursuant to the First Amendment," the judge wrote.

Herb was cited after Patrick Gilman, a police officer who lives near Herb, called authorities to complain.

At a hearing Monday, Gilman testified that he was at home, off duty, when his 12-year-old daughter ran in and said she had heard loud curses coming from a house down the street.

Gilman said he went outside, heard the bad language and yelled out to Herb to "watch your mouth." He said that she cursed at him instead. That's when Gilman called authorities.

In Pennsylvania, someone can be convicted of disorderly conduct for using obscene language in a way that causes "public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm."

But Barry Dyller, who represented Herb on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, said rulings over the past 20 years have established

that "colorful language" isn't illegal. He praised the judge's ruling.

"He's exactly right ... in his reasoning," Dyller said. "And it's important that the public understands this."

Herb did not testify at the trial earlier this week, and her lawyer advised her not to speak to reporters. She could have faced up to 90 days in jail.

■ VALLEY VIEW, Ohio — An Ohio mayor will marry couples for free — but perhaps the bride and groom might consider a donation to his campaign fund?

Mayor Randall Westfall's e-mail reference to donations landed him in trouble Tuesday, when state Auditor Mary Taylor referred the matter to the Ohio Ethics Commission.

"Ceremony is at No Charge," the suburban Cleveland mayor said in a 2006 e-mail, "however, sometimes people choose to donate to my campaign (no more than \$50)."

Taylor cited Westfall for two violations of state law: Soliciting a donation for village work and failing to turn over such donations to the village.

Westfall said he's never gotten or sought a dime from weddings for himself, his campaign or the village. He said the donation mention described a common response

from couples when they hear marriages are done without charge.

■ HAGERSTOWN, Md. — A judge has granted a man convicted of armed robbery a new trial because the jury that found him guilty in October also found a wad of cash in his coat during the trial that police and prosecutors overlooked.

A money roll totaling \$1,300, a rubber glove and a bandage apparently went unnoticed by police, prosecutors and the defense until jurors detected them while examining the garment during deliberations in October.

Circuit Judge Theresa M. Adams granted the defense motion Wednesday for a new trial in Frederick at what was to have been Moscs M. Streete's sentencing hearing. She ordered Streete held without bail.

"You would think with all the law enforcement people that had been involved with the case that everything would have been gone over with a fine-toothed comb. And then that fine-toothed comb would have had another fine-toothed comb going over it," said Christine Bowersox, one of the jurors in Streete's trial.

Frederick County State's Attorney J. Charles Smith said Thursday that Assistant State's Attorney Deborah Kemp had checked the coat pockets before the trial and found no

money. He said it must have been in hidden pockets or in holes in the pockets of the charcoal gray parka.

Defense attorney Scott L. Rolle said he had seen the coat before the trial but hadn't gone through the pockets.

Gregory Shipley, a spokesman for the Maryland State Police, which had custody of the coat, declined to comment because a new trial is pending.

Although the overlooked evidence resulted in a new trial for Streete, the cash and glove, had they been offered as evidence, would have helped prosecutors more than Streete because his defense relied partly on the absence of any cash or fingerprints.

Rolle said he planned to fight the admissibility of the new evidence.

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## Appointments

Friday for two other top Beshear appointees, Robert D. Vance and Nikki Jackson, to take seats in his executive cabinet, finding that they do not have conflicts of interest that would preclude them from serving.

Beshear had chosen Vance to serve as secretary of the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet and Jackson to serve as secretary of the Personnel Cabinet.

Sworn into office earlier this week, Beshear has been working to fill key positions. In doing so, the administration asked the ethics panel to determine whether the three appointees had conflicts that might have hampered their ability to serve.

Beshear, speaking to reporters during a stop in Lexington, said he hadn't yet seen the ethics panel's opinions but that he would be reviewing them later in the day.

"We went up front to the Ethics Commission to ask for any guidance and input that they could give us on various appointments," Beshear said. "We reviewed the law ourselves, and we felt comfortable that they could serve in these positions. But there were areas

that we wanted to ask the commission about upfront, and that's what we've done."

Commission Chairman Patrick Moores lauded the administration for seeking the opinions before the appointees started their jobs.

"The governor needed an answer to proceed on with starting his administration, and I think this commission has given that to him," Moores said.

The commission said Vance, a banker, eliminated his potential conflict by resigning from the board of directors of Integra Bank Corp. The resignation was necessary because the Kentucky Office of Financial Institutions, which regulates banks, would be one

of the government agencies that he would oversee in his role as head of the Cabinet for Environmental and Public Protection.

Jackson would simply have to abstain from decisions relating to Humana Insurance, a Louisville-based company that handles the a medical plan of state employees. Her husband is director of customer service operations for Humana.

The ethics panel also found that Osborne, if he had taken the job, would need to avoid involvement "for a reasonable period of time" in issues related to the Kentucky Equine Education Project because he had served as a member of the organization's board of directors.

Continued from p1

## Guilty

Continued from p1

gance from U.S. Bank was told that because their property was in the a flood hazard area, they could only get a loan if they were covered by flood insurance. Court documents show that the couple was only covered by a State Farm flood policy with a \$21,000 limit. According to the bank's lending policy this would not qualify the couple for a mortgage loan.

Moon altered the policy in order to get the loan approved

by the bank.


"No one lost any money in this," said Sammons. "Banks have several checks and balances, and the mistake was caught quickly."

For his guilty plea, Moon could face a maximum sentence of up to 30 years in prison, a \$1 million fine and five years of supervised release.

Sammons was unaware if any legal action would be taken against the couple.

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# expression

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

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

## 10 years behind the times

It's long been our philosophy that throwing money at a problem, whether it's crime, education or anything else, isn't necessarily the answer to solving the problem. But there comes a point when absurdity gets in the way of thoughtful planning for what the public needs.

A case in point is the state's funding of Kentucky's community and technical colleges. What is it other than absurd that, in a time when high-wage jobs are needed in parts of the state to replace those lost to international manufacturing, the state last year spent the same as it did 10 years ago?

Christian County is not alone among counties throughout the state struggling to provide the kinds of jobs that keep their citizens from moving away. The world economy has forced these communities to find alternatives to the kinds of jobs that used to keep local economies going.

What is the answer? A big part of it is increased education to provide the skills needed to keep the job marketplace thriving. Here, a key goal of Hopkinsville Community College is the construction of a building to house its health care program, the money to equip that building and to staff the expanded program.

This is a well-thought-out plan to furnish local facilities with home-grown talent and thereby pump money into the local economy for housing, education and overall quality of life.

We acknowledge that times are tight for state spending as well as local spending, but adequate funding of these hometown colleges and technical schools is the best investment toward ensuring that communities thrive.

This week, HCC President Dr. James Selbe and Dr. Michael McCall, president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), told local legislators that the schools need much more adequate funding than is now being received. McCall said that the KCTCS's 16 schools received only 45 percent of what was sought in the last legislative session.

We agree with Selbe and McCall that such funding is "unacceptable," and we can't imagine the state funding four-year institutions with the same short-sightedness.

We can only wonder why these important, two-year institutions are being treated as the state's higher education stepchildren. We urge our local legislators to go to Frankfort early next year and fight for these schools like our communities depend on it.

Because, to a large extent, they do.

— Kentucky New Era, Hopkinsville



Another Children's Health Care Veto . . . Just in Time for Christmas

### Rich Lowry Column

#### Obama joins the right-wing attack machine

In the early 1990s, few right-wing bugaboos loomed as large as Hillary Clinton's secret health-care task force. Conservatives who still routinely invoke the task force can seem obsessed with rehashing the greatest anti-Clinton hits of yore. But look who's talking about the task force now.

"They took all their people and all their experts into a room, and then they closed the door, and they tried to design the plan in isolation from the American people," said, no, not Rush Limbaugh or Newt Gingrich or Rudy Giuliani, but the nation's foremost liberal tribune of hopefulness, Barack Obama.

The latest turn in the Democratic primary race is the best thing to happen to Republicans since the 2006 elections. Two high-profile Democrats, Obama and John Edwards, are validating a core part of the anti-Hillary case that Republicans have made for years — that she's a slippery cynic who cares only about power.

In the initial phase of the Democratic primary fight, her opponents attacked Hillary for voting for the Iraq War and refusing to apologize for it. This was an ideological

attack that Hillary cleverly defused, while remaining more hawkish — and therefore better positioned for a general election — than her opponents. To the extent such attacks from the left make her seem more centrist, they help her.

The latest round of criticisms is more insidious. They aren't so much ideological — though they still come from the left — as characterological. Hillary is a calculating and poll-driven double-talker. This line of attack amounts to millions of dollars' worth of free advertising for the eventual Republican nominee and for conservative groups that will attack Hillary on these grounds next fall.

The character attacks box Hillary in. Her primary strategy so far has been to placate the left of her party while not saying anything that will hurt her in the general election. The strategy involves careful positioning that necessarily opens her to the charges that she's calculating and evasive. Hillary has a bitter choice: either to hew to her (otherwise sensible) primary strategy and get tagged as a shrewish triangulator, or to swing left and risk alienating general-election voters.

How can Hillary escape the trap? She probably can never convince people that she's a straightforward politician of courage, but she certainly can convince them that John Edwards is a fraud and that Barack

Obama has no experience, no accomplishments and no defining issues, beyond his vaporous abstractions.

The hit against Hillary as a triangulator wouldn't have as much punch if her husband

hadn't lived off poll-driven, situational politics for eight years. In a general election, a key point of thematic contention will be whether a Hillary presidency will represent change or — as Republicans will argue — an unwelcome return to the 1990s. Here, too, Obama is making the Republicans' case, saying that we shouldn't spend "the next four years refighting the same fights we had in the 1990s."

Hillary now faces the potential of a more drawn-out, and much more damaging, nomination fight. If Obama needs more material, surely Rush Limbaugh will be eager to provide.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

#### The Rich Lowry column



### beyond the beltway

#### Iran news disappoints some

by DONALD KAUL  
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

So it turns out that Iran, that evil remnant of the Persian Empire, has been out of the nuclear weapons business since 2003. That at least is what the new National Intelligence Estimate (the consensus opinion of all U.S. spy agencies) is saying.

You are free to take that with a grain of salt, of course. In 2005, the same bunch said, with "high confidence," that "Iran currently is determined to develop nuclear weapons despite its international obligation and international pressure...." Now they're saying: "Never mind."

They claim their confidence in the Estimate is even higher this time around, because their methods and their sources are much better. That could be.

It has been my experience that intelligence agencies have a tendency to exaggerate threats to the national security, not minimize them. Who's going to fund a security agency lavishly if the agency is telling them there's no security threat to worry about?

All of this is to the good — one less country we have to invade. (Don't tell Dick Cheney. He was so looking forward to a Christmas bombing.)

It's kind of bad news too though or at least, as Sen. Joseph Biden put it, "extremely troubling."

"Here in October," said Biden, "President Bush raised the specter of World War III with Iran because, as he said, its pursuit of a nuclear

weapon — months after he'd been told by our intelligence community it's likely that Iran had halted its weapons program as far back as 2003.

"And after all we've been through, for this president to knowingly disregard or once again misrepresent intelligence about the issue of war and peace, I find it outrageous."

But didn't President Bush, when asked about that very thing, say that he had received the intelligence assessment only the week before.

"That's not believable," burst out Biden. "I refuse to believe that. If that's true, he has the most incompetent staff in...modern American history and he's one of the most incompetent presidents in modern American history."

That's what you like about Biden; he talks good sense. I do think he let Mr. Bush off a little easy, however. George W. Bush is one of the most incompetent presidents in all of American history.

The new Estimate did little to change the dialogue in the presidential primary contests.

The Republican candidates, most of whom seem to be running for Toughest Kid on the Block, still huffed and puffed about the threat posed by Iran and beat their chests a lot.

The Democrats continued to beat on President Bush, although they were careful to take time out to beat also on Hillary Clinton for her support of the resolution that declared an Iranian military unit a terrorist group. "We have a real division here,"

said John Edwards, "I mean among the Democratic candidates; there's only one that voted for this resolution. And this is exactly what Bush and Cheney wanted."

And Barack Obama weighed in with: "What I've been consistent about was that this saber-rattling was a repetition of Iraq, a war I opposed and that we needed to oppose George Bush again. We can't keep on giving him the benefit of the doubt, knowing the ways in which they manipulate intelligence."

All in all, it was a pretty good day for Democrats, if you don't count Hillary Clinton.

Perhaps the most encouraging assessment buried in the document was the assertion: "Tehran's decisions are guided by a cost-benefit approach rather than a rush to a weapon irrespective of the political, economic and military costs."

In other words, even though their President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad seems crazy, they are not crazy. And, given the retaliatory power of the United States, it would take a crazy country to attack us with a nuclear weapon.

So we really don't have to bomb Iran; not now, probably not ever. They're not going to attack us.

Sorry Dick. Why don't you go out and shoot some little birds? Or a lawyer. That'll cheer you up.

□□□

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

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**INSIDESTUFF**

**CAR TALK:**

Go ahead, restore that family heirloom

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.*

**BELETED ITEM**

The Floyd County Times DID NOT observe its 42nd birthday on Nov. 20. We got so busy, we forgot. And some of us are so old we like to skip birthdays.

**RAN FASTER THAN I READ**

I learn now that I didn't read far enough into Joe Creason's humor-on-gravestones item. If I had, I would have learned he told therein the same anecdote that appeared in this column last week in re the guy who reminded all and sundry that "I told you I was sick."

**WHAT A LOVER!**

Driving home the other afternoon, I listened to a radio program originating at a Kentucky college and discussing that fashionable bit of the occult, the horoscope. The interview was with a male student, and he was asked if he read his horoscope and believed in the stuff enough to follow it.

"Oh, yes," said the student. "I read my horoscope daily and follow its directions, though perhaps not as closely as I should. To show you how much I trust it...A few years ago, a certain girl and I were very much in love. Then I learned that she was a Gemini. I am a Gemini, too, and Geminis aren't compatible. So I broke off our courtship."

And I there in a car, alone, with nobody to register a gripe to, muttered to myself:

"Gemini crickets!"

**PROPOSITION**

I have restrained myself like a man, ever since I became a grandpappy, and have refrained from quoting the grandchildren. But this little one, the other night, came up with one that broke down my resistance. She was trying to persuade her older sister to stay with her at our house and wasn't getting very far with her argument. Finally she made this proposition:

"Tell you what, you stay, and next time I lose a tooth, I'll give you all the money."

**ONE LIMITATION**

Charon—remember him, the mythical ferryman who transported departed spirits from This Side over to the Other? The story is told that, once upon a time, he had a boatload of fishermen and that when he got them across, he congratulated them upon being the fortunate ones. "There you can fish to heart's content. The tackle is waiting for you. The signs are always right and you'll always get your limit. This gentleman, is called the River of Life. But I must warn you—you'll never be able again to lie about the big one that got away."

□□□

I nominate for the biggest improvement made hereabouts in some time what has been done at the postoffice. And all they did was to take out two doors and a vestibule that never belonged there in the first place.

**A Special Toy**

by LANCE GREENLAY

At Christmastime, it was an old custom to put all of the second grade student's names in a small basket the teacher provided and then watch as she stirred them from side to side to mix them thoroughly. Each student in the old three-room schoolhouse was so excited! Drawing a name meant a toy or candy to eat on the last day of school before Christmas vacation. We were not allowed to draw our own name; if we did, we drew again.

"Locus Krumb, Locus Krumb," I said to myself over and over, "what must Arlie and I do?" Arlie and I had both been told by Mom that we couldn't afford to draw a name and so we shouldn't put our own in the basket. I raised my hand. "May I be excused," I asked the teacher.

"I suppose so," she answered. Well, I didn't know what that word "suppose" meant, so I sneaked out the door in the next room and ran outside with Arlie right on my heels. The tears fell hard from both of us knowing we would miss out on all the really good times the other children were going to have. I told Arlie I was going home and hide until suppertime. We both felt so ashamed.

It sure was cold in mid-December in 1947 and I could just see all the children gathered around that old pot-bellied coal stove drawing names. I had built many fires in that old stove. The teacher would give me two pennies and a nickel at times. I gave the money to Mom. Arlie would lift me up to the window and I would crawl inside and start the fire going before anyone else got there. I could hear the teacher unlocking those two big doors every morning and she'd come in and walk over to that warm stove and the fire we had going. She would look at her watch every little bit and at the right time, she would walk over to a rope hanging from above and ring that big bell which could be heard a mile or more away. The start of another school day was at hand.

After school was out for the Christmas holiday, everyone was at home playing with the new gifts they had received from those who had drawn their names. Sadly for me, one of them asked me where my new toy was. I stood in silence. I didn't believe there was a Santa Claus, anyway, because I had never seen him and I knew of no one that had. The pressure the kids were putting on me almost made me cry. "Oh, Arlie," I whispered, "help me." But Arlie wasn't around. The kids in my neighborhood were laughing now and pointing at me. "You've been a bad boy, Locus, and Arlie, too!" they laughed. "You don't have a toy or anything to show us, not even a simple candy cane!"

Broken-hearted and so lonely without my big brother near, I didn't know what to do. So, I made up the excuse that I did have a toy hidden and that I didn't want anyone to know who drew my name, knowing secretly, I had no toy to show them and no one had drawn my name at all.



"Lance Greenlay," aka Stephens Branch resident Carl Layne, enjoys writing about his childhood memories of growing up in Floyd County. Today, he shares a special Christmas memory.

We all lived in two different mining camps; one was the upper camp where me and Arlie lived, the other was the lower camp, which was close to our school. Everyone finally got tired of me and went on their way to their homes to play. I thought, "Finally, I've got it made for now." But, a few minutes later, they all came back. I was caught alone once more and their troublesome questions were once again aimed in my direction, only harder this time around.

"Show us your precious toy, Locus, show it to us! Liar, liar, liar!" they yelled at me.

"Arlie, Mom, Pop, anybody," I whispered inside. "Lord, help me, please!" I wanted to scream out.

"We want to see it now, Locus, right now!" they cried.

I could feel the tears working their way into my eyes and I knew they were going to break loose any moment if they didn't leave me alone. And they didn't. All at once, my anger, instead, came over me and I told them I would be right back with my beautiful toy!

I then crawled under the floor of the old company house we lived in. The floor was so low to the ground, there was no way to the chimney base but to crawl really hard on my belly. I intended to stay under there until they all finally left for good. Well, they wouldn't leave and they got up closer to where I had planned my escape route and tormented me even harder than before. I put my hands over my ears and started crying so hard, my stomach began to hurt. My heart was pounding harder than I had ever experienced. I started losing control of myself for the first time in my short life. I yelled for them to go away and leave me alone. I couldn't seem to hear myself screaming. I put my hands down and I realized I couldn't see for the tears and all the dust mixing in my eyes. The cobwebs weren't helping and the millions of spider webs scared me. Covered from head to foot, I knew I was going to be in bad trouble when Mom saw me. I was, I knew, in an awful mess, an awful, dirty mess. I tried to wipe my eyes with my dirty hands and now, I knew for sure I was a muddy sight to look at.

All at once, even in that darkness, something caught my burning eyes. Slowly, with a trembling hand, I reached out and picked up an object so shiny that turned out to be, to my surprise, a small, most beautiful little drum. The little drum had sticks attached to it with springs on each side about an inch long

above the drum. In color, it was gold all around and yellow on top. I started flipping those little sticks with my thumbs until they sounded to a balanced beat. Slowly, I crawled from my hiding place to cover the tracks of my pride with a dirty, muddy, cobwebby face.

Out from my cover, revealing my face and my newfound treasure, the taunting children were now speechless as their eyes were glued to my little toy drum. They couldn't believe what they saw and, honestly, it was hard for me to even believe. But, I did. All at once, I ran into the house to Mom who was frightened half to death at the very sight of me. "Locus!", she said, "You go down by the creek and wash some of that mess off your face! As much as you can!" she directed.

She had been busy scrubbing clothes and cooking. I knew she had not paid any attention to all the commotion outside earlier. She wanted to know where I had gotten the toy drum. "Now, Locus," she said, "take that back to the one it belongs to before you get called a thief. Be a good boy and mind Momma, now."

With so much newfound joy, I ran back outside to where the tears didn't seem to matter, anymore. I had myself a new toy which I believed had meant for me and me only. I wasn't about to give it up. I wanted all my "teasers" to see it. But first, as I stepped off the porch into the yard, I asked every one of them if they had seen such an unusual, beautiful toy before. They all said no.

"Would any of you go, one at a time, under that floor there, in the dark, in all that dust and spider web to get your own drum like I did?" I asked. They all answered, again, no. "We don't want to get our clothes all dirty like you," they said. About that time, the teasers all decided it was about time to go home for supper.

With all of my troublemakers gone, I looked up, all around and high toward Heaven. "Thank you, Lord!" I said. "Thank you, thank you so much," I cried aloud. "I'm so glad You drew my name!"

So, if anyone ever asked Locus Krumb, after that day, if he believed in Santa Claus, he would reply, "I sure do, in my own way."

And today, a grown man, I still, most assuredly, do. Growing up in Molly's Cabin holds many wonderful memories and many stories that are yet to be told.

**MOVIES FROM  
THE BLACK LAGOON**

**'Dragon's  
Infernal  
Showdown'**

by TOM DOTY  
TIMES COLUMNIST

Look in any dollar DVD rack and you'll probably spot a ton of kung-fu flicks. The best way to find a good one is to move away from the dollar section, but if you're willing to take a chance on a cheap chopsocky effort, then you can do no worse than this revenge fueled tale from Godfrey Ho (Hong Kong's answer to Roger Corman).

When a farmer won't give up his land to a pair of thugs he gets a visit from said goons and their boss. The farmer isn't impressed with the top guy and is soon kung-fueled into an early grave. When his loving wife runs over to hold him for the last time, she too is mercilessly killed. Despite the fact that they tried to keep this act quiet, the whole shebang was witnessed by a young child hiding in some nearby shrubbery. Meanwhile the wife's sister runs off with one of the farmer's sons while the criminal themselves decide to take the farmer's daughter and raise her to be an evil land stealing snake.

The film jumps ahead now and we meet the boy, named Shen Tai. He has been raised by his auntie, next door to a girl named Shirley, who is totally into him. When auntie dies, she decides to tell Shen what happened to his parents. Shen swears revenge and heads out, with Shirley in tow, to meet his destiny.

Meanwhile, the criminal, now known as Master Hu, is sitting pretty on top of a collection racket scheme that has netted him a big home and plenty of extra goons to help look after his adopted offspring (whom he has christened Chu Ching).

However there's a fly in the ointment. A mysterious stranger has been routinely robbing Hu's men of their collections and then spiriting the loot back to those who forked it over in the first place (if only Visa and Mastercard had such enemies). His kung fu is awfully good and he employs a split sectioned staff that converts into a whip and resembles one of those Ronco gadgets (anyone remember the Pocket Fisherman?) which can do anything but make lasagna. The stranger also makes it a point to show up when Shirley's about to be jumped and appears to be a benevolent soul.

Shen and Shirley, posing as beggars (not too tough since they're broke), determine that Hu is the man they are seeking. After a few brawls with various thugs (apparently no one works during this period in Chinese history and instead makes money from mugging each other) the pair make it to Hu's area and receive a visit from the stranger.

The stranger turns out to be in poor

(See LAGOON, page six)



Tom Doty  
Times Columnist

**The power of choice**

by ANGELES ARRIEN

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL: LIFE LESSONS FOR LOVING THE WAY YOU LIVE"

There was an event in my life that had a very deep impact on me. It is one of the memories I always go back to in meditation, because it's a deep source of inspiration. I was waiting for the shuttle to take me to the airport. Sitting next to me was this woman reading her newspaper. But my eyes were on a 14-year-old boy who was on his skateboard.

He wore his baseball cap turned

around with the bill in back, the cool look, you know. And he buzzed us once. He buzzed us twice. Then he came back around a third time for his grand finale, and he inadvertently knocked the newspapers out of the woman's hand.

She immediately started yelling, "Oh, you teenagers! No wonder the world is going to pot, because you're in it! I can't stand it!" And so on.

The boy went down to the corner to talk to his buddy, and they turned back to look at us. Then they talked together some more. In the meantime, she began to roll up her news-

paper and get it all back together. She put it under her arm, walked to the middle of the block and motioned the boy to come over.

Very slowly and reluctantly, he came on his skateboard, and almost as an act of defiance, he turned the baseball cap around, put the bill straight up in front and said, "Yeah?"

And she said: "What I meant to say is, I was afraid that I would get hurt, and my comments were coming from a place of fear. They weren't right, and I hope that you will accept my apology."

That boy's face has been an inspi-

ration for me ever since, because he looked at her and smiled, then he said, "How cool."

I was deeply moved and touched by that moment.

In Latin America, in some of the Hispanic societies of the world, that moment would be seen as a healing moment, a holy moment. They would call that moment a milagro pequeno. Milagro, miracle. Pequeno, small. A small miracle. Within 10 minutes

time, through conscious awareness, this woman made a choice. She made a life-affirming choice to create a Blessing Way between herself and that boy. A milagro pequeno. He will never forget that moment. I will never forget that moment.

And she who shapeshifted that moment through conscious choice will not forget that moment. There comes a time in the spiritual journey when you start making choices from a very different place. One of the most

(See SOUP, page six)



# Go ahead, restore the family heirloom

by TOM and RAY  
MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

OK, perhaps life begins at 50 with a 55-year-old sports car. My brother Eddy (No. 3 out of six), acquired this wonderful chick magnet of a car back in 1964. My parents swear that the only reason they assented to the purchase of this risky vehicle was that Eddy had already been given a death sentence — Hodgkin's lymphoma, diagnosed in early 1964, which would end his life just before Christmas in 1965. After Eddy, Joel (No. 4) took over behind the wheel, under the hood and under several skirts. He was, by far, the most successful handler of the fire-engine-red sports car. When Joel went off to college three years later, it was Billy's (No. 5) turn. He had to wait a year before he was old enough to drive, but he made up for lost time by running it out of oil twice during his reign. I think it was the second thrown rod that convinced my mom and dad that the car (or was it my brother Billy?) was just too much trouble. The white knight, my brother Bruce (No. 1), swooped in with an offer my folks couldn't refuse. He

took the car off their hands. And there I was, brother No. 6, a year before my 16th birthday, denied my destiny! Until today, when the white knight rolled in, trailer in tow! He'd driven all night to get from Rockford, Ill., to Baltimore, where I live now. So, here I am, some 35 years later, the proud owner of a magical 1952 MGTD. That's the good news. The bad news? It's not exactly in pristine condition. I'm thinking of restoring it. Any thoughts, other than "run away, as fast as you can!"? — Tom

TOM: Go for it, Tom. As you may know, I also happen to be named Tom. And I also happen to be the proud owner of a 1952 MGTD. And it has brought me nothing but joy.

RAY: And repair bills, oil leaks, foul odors, drenched clothes when it rains, and lots of worn shoe leather from walking when it wouldn't start.

TOM: Hey, I never get wet in that car when it rains. It never starts in the rain.

RAY: This car has a wonderful history in your family, so you have to restore it, Tom. But give yourself plenty of time — like decades, so you won't be frustrated by the

inevitable setbacks.

TOM: You shouldn't have any trouble getting parts, since they're all still available.

RAY: Yeah, just drive along behind any other MGTD and catch what you need as it falls off.

TOM: The problem is that — your parents were right — it's not a very safe car.

RAY: Yeah, important structural parts of it are made of wood. And in an accident, the steering column is angled to go right through your thorax like an apple corer.

TOM: So, once you get it restored, restrict your driving to back roads at low speeds. I only drive my MG on roads that existed when the car was built. I don't take it on any expressways or highways built after 1952.

RAY: I'd restrict it even further — to Shriners parades. But that's ultimately up to you, Tom. This is indeed your curse — I mean your destiny. And as

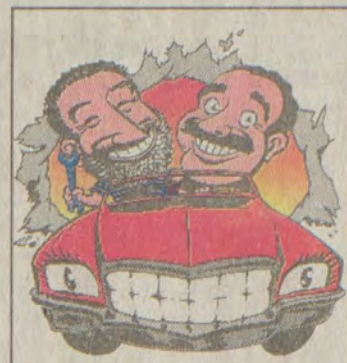
such, you have no choice but to restore it and care for it ... until you can foist it on an unlucky member of the next generation. Good luck, and be careful!

### Overfill warning could save you bucks

Dear Tom and Ray:

My Ford diesel has a warning about not overfilling the fuel tank. Precisely what would happen if you did this? Would damage to the engine or other systems occur? Most of us tend to "double-click" the automatic-shutoff fuel nozzle after it stops. Is this too much? Does this adversely affect performance? — Ray

TOM: I don't think it has any effect on your truck's performance, Ray. But it might affect the performance of your pants. If you spill diesel fuel on them, they probably won't last as long. Plus, with that smell on your clothes, you'll never get a date.



**CLICK & CLACK**  
Talk Cars

sending diesel fuel out through the overflow vent of the fuel tank. For obvious reasons, nobody wants to see diesel fuel spilled, nor do you want to pay for fuel that's on the ground under your truck.

RAY: So for all kinds of cars, it's best to trust the fuel pump. When it clicks off, that's it.

TOM: Right. If you top it off every time you refuel, you might save yourself one extra trip to the gas station during the course of your lifetime. That's hardly worth it.

RAY: But you'll be likely to spill some fuel or ruin your emissions system at some point. Or a perfectly good pair of chinos.

□□□

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](http://www.cartalk.com).

## Soup

Continued from p5

important teachers in my life told me that you know you've touched the beginning of spiritual maturity when you review a choice considering five things: Is this choice in alignment with truth? Is this choice in alignment with health? Is this choice in alignment with happiness? Is this choice in alignment with wisdom? Is this choice in alignment with love?

And if the choice lines up so that it supports truth, health, happiness, wisdom and love, it's the right choice. That's a choice that indeed furthers life-affirming action and can create the Blessing Way in our own lives as well as other people's lives. Then we have the ultimate experience of being the steward of our new life, and the experience of internal and external success.

## Lagoon

Continued from p5

shape after losing a battle to Hu's chief muscle, called Master Ma. The stranger reveals that Ma and Hu have weapons which are powered by red jewels. Ma had his jewel embedded in his sword, which gave him the power to turn his blade into a huge magnet that subsequently stripped the stranger of his weapon and gave a decisive edge to Ma. Shen takes this knowledge and crafts a pair of reverse magnets to fight the bad guys.

The stranger also imparts that he is Shen's older brother and then apologizes for not being able to stick around because his wounds are too great.

It comes down to Shen to take on the villains and he commands Shirley to stay behind with his brother's remains. Shen then sets out for his final battle, which includes plenty of hopping, fighting and name-calling. Just when it looks like he's in big trouble, a surprise assist from a stubborn Shirley gives him the edge he needs to ensure that a colossal tray of smackdown is served up cold.

This one fares pretty well as bargain basement kung fu goes and has enough goofy moments to supply viewers with ample laughs as well as fights. I particularly loved the climactic fight scene, where Shen loses his pants and must evade blows for 30 seconds while trying to retie his drawstring.

It helps that an accomplished martial artist was enlisted to play the role. Dragon Lee (one of many actors to cash in on the Bruce Lee vacuum) makes the most of this role and even offers up some choice comic bits, such as Shen's fighting style which he apparently learned at the Temple of Larry, Moe and

Curly. When enraged he just gets silly and tickles his opponents on their backs, sides and armpits until they let down their guard for his finishing blows.

What would have put this film into the upper stratosphere is embracing its inner Curly. They should have dubbed in a few "nyuk, nyuk, nyuks" rather than have every character use the same insults before starting a fight. That's right, folks, this movie loves the "B" bomb. One gets the impression that the either the writer was lazy or everyone in old China was unclear about their parentage.

Regardless this is a fun effort that actually could have used a bit more silly to qualify for cult status.

Best line: "I'm going to use the money to buy women's clothes."

1986, unrated.

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# Letters to Santa



The Floyd County Times will be publishing Letters to Santa in our annual Season's Greeting Section on Friday, December 21st, 2007.

Letters will be accepted until Noon, Monday, December 17th, 2007.

SEND LETTERS TO:

"Letters to Santa"

The Floyd County Times

P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653

or drop your letter off at

The Floyd County Times

263 S. Central Ave., Prestonsburg.

All letters need to be legible, have your full name, age, and address.

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# FLOYD COUNTY Sports

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 ■ Piarist Girls • B2  
 ■ Frank Kimmel • B3

## Changes proposed to elk hunting permits, areas

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT — At its quarterly meeting on December 7, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission proposed to raise the number of quota elk permits available for 2008 and change the framework for quota elk hunting areas. The Commission also recommended a change to the current restriction on the supplemental feeding of wildlife, to go into effect March 2008, and changes to small game hunting, which would take effect in fall 2008.

The Fish and Wildlife

Commission recommends all hunting, fishing and boating regulations for approval by the General Assembly and approves all expenditures by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. All recommendations must be approved by legislators before they become law.

The Commission voted to raise the number of quota elk permits for the 2008 fall hunting season to 400, up from the 2007 season total of 300. The total number of permits would include 100 permits for bull elk and 300 permits for cow elk. Commissioners may change

the number of elk permits, if needed, after elk population research and all harvest data are complete this winter.

Commission members voted to change the framework for quota elk hunt areas. Under the recommendation, the 16-county elk restoration zone in southeastern Kentucky would be divided into six Elk Hunting Units, which would replace the previous zone system. The initial application procedure to apply for Kentucky's quota elk hunts would remain the same — hunters still apply by purchasing the \$10 Elk Lottery Application by April 30, 2008,

and successful applicants are drawn for a bull or cow elk permit. Those drawn hunters would be able to specify their preference of Elk Hunting Unit and would then be entered into a second drawing to get their assignment.

Assistants to quota elk hunters would be required to comply with Kentucky's hunter orange clothing law, a requirement already in place for quota elk hunters.

The Commission also voted to allow air rifles in calibers from .17 to .22 to harvest small game. Previously, .22-caliber and larger air rifles were the

only air rifles legal to harvest small game.

Rabbit and quail quota hunts would be available on a 3,000-acre tract of Peabody Wildlife Management Area, following similar quota hunt application procedures already in place for pheasant quota hunts. This area would be closed to non-quota rabbit and quail hunters during the rabbit and quail season.

The Commission voted to alter the period of time when supplemental feeding of wildlife is prohibited. Currently, feeding wildlife with grain, seed or manufactured animal feed outside the cur-

tilage of the home (the area immediately surrounding a home or group of homes) is prohibited March 1 through July 31. Beginning in 2008, this regulation would only be in effect March 1 through May 31.

In other business, the Commission voted to create a \$5 shooting preserve license which hunters could purchase in lieu of a statewide annual or short-term hunting license. The shooting preserve license would be valid for an entire license year only on the shooting preserve for which it is bought.

## Senior-laden Paintsville pounds Magoffin County

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PAINTSVILLE — Paintsville won its second 57th District game in as many outings Thursday night, defeating long-time rival Magoffin County 73-54.

Landon Slone led Paintsville with a game-high 23 points. Slone, one of the top players in the state, made five steals and pulled down four rebounds for the host Tigers.

Six seniors accounted for all of Paintsville's scoring.

Blake Bundy added 18 points for the Tigers. Shane Grimm netted 13 points and J.D. VanHoose scored 11 as four different Paintsville players reached double figures in the scoring column.

Paintsville opened the game strong, outscoring Magoffin County 20-9 in the first quarter. The Tigers led 41-22 when the game entered halftime.

Justin Murray and Jeremy Pack rounded out the Paintsville scoring with five and three points, respectively.

The two teams played even in the second half.

Nine different Magoffin County players made it into the scoring column. Only one Hornet reached double figures scoring status.

PAINTSVILLE 73,  
MAGOFFIN COUNTY 54  
MAGOFFIN CO. (1-3) —  
Hundley 6, Francis 8, Minix 2,  
Marshall 5, Russell 3, LeMaster 9,  
Shepherd 11, Carty 7, Harvey 3.

PAINTSVILLE (4-0) — Slone 23,  
VanHoose 11, Bundy 18,  
Grimm 13, Murray 5, Pack 3.

MC.....9 13 16 16-54  
Paintsville.....20 21 16 16-73

### PAINTSVILLE TIGERS UPCOMING GAMES

Dec. 21 Bates Creek, 7:30 p.m.  
(Paintsville Tiger Hoops Classic)

Dec. 26 TBA  
(5/3 Bank Classic at Lexington Catholic)

Jan. 4 Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 8 Lawrence County, 8 p.m.

Jan. 12 George Washington, W.Va.

(Kentucky/West Virginia Shootout at Sheldon Clark/Williamson, W.Va.)



photo by Jamie Howell

FROM THE FREE THROW LINE: Prestonsburg sophomore Michael Burchett lofted a foul shot earlier in the week during a game versus Allen Central. Burchett ranks as one of the 15th Region's top young players.

## Valley too much for Prestonsburg

by STEVE LeMASTER  
SPORTS EDITOR

ROBINSON CREEK — Defending 15th Region Champion Shelby Valley outscored Prestonsburg 56-20 in the first half Thursday night and never trailed on its way to an 88-56 win.

Logan Bryant and Curby Tackett led Shelby Valley with 14 points apiece. Five different Shelby Valley players scored 10 or more points. Elisha Justice added 13 points and Tanner Newsome tallied 11 for the Wildcats. Jacob Bryant flipped in 10 points for host Shelby Valley, which moved to 3-0 following the victory.

Ashley Hatfield narrowly missed double figures for Shelby Valley. Hatfield tossed in nine points for the home team.

After doubling up Prestonsburg 22-11 in the opening quarter, Shelby Valley outscored the Blackcats 34-9 in a lopsided third quarter.

Nine different Shelby Valley players produced points.

Jordan Hall led Prestonsburg with a game-high 35 points. Hall was the only Prestonsburg player to reach double figures in the scoring column. Jody Tackett was Prestonsburg's second-leading scorer, finishing with eight points. Taylor Clark tossed in seven points for the visiting Blackcats (0-3).

Nathaniel Stephens, Josh Rodebaugh and Seth Setser added two points apiece for Prestonsburg in the loss.

SV 88, P'BURG 56  
P'BURG (0-3) — Hall 35,  
Stephens 2, Rodebaugh 2, Tackett 8,  
Clark 7, Setser 2.

SHELBY VALLEY (4-0) — E. Justice 13, Hatfield 9, J. Bryant 10, Ta. Newsome 11, L. Bryant 14, T. Newsome 6, C. Tackett 14, T. Tackett 6, Varney 5.

P'burg.....11 9 16 20-56  
SV.....22 34 16 16-88

## Kentucky AD Barnhart gets contract extension

by JEFFREY McMURRAY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Mitch Barnhart has signed a five-year contract extension that will likely keep him as Kentucky's athletics director at least through 2012.

The agreement, which President Lee Todd Jr. announced Thursday to the University of Kentucky's Athletic Association board, calls for an annual base salary of \$475,000. His previous contract was last renewed in 2005 and set to expire in 2009.

The new deal eliminates a clause that had required a buyout if Barnhart left for another AD job before the end of his term. Instead, it provides a \$50,000 longevity bonus beyond his salary for each year he stays.

Barnhart said he has no plans to leave, particularly now that some of the sports programs, including football and baseball, have achieved success under his watch.

"If you're ever going to run from something, you'd probably run from it when it was darkest," Barnhart said. "My first two or three years here were really hard. We're still here, enjoying

(See BARNHART, page two)

## Busch, Truex among Cup drivers honored

TIMES STAFF REPORT

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — NASCAR's Loop Data has completed its third year of existence, and a banner year it has been. Nextel Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson earned season bests in two key categories — Driver Rating with a 110.3 and Fastest Laps Run with 962.

To celebrate the three-year anniversary, NASCAR pored through the Loop Data and assigned a few awards to drivers not named Johnson. You can call them "partying gifts." We're calling them "The Loopies."

The "It's Not How You Start, It's How You Finish" Award: This award goes to Dale Earnhardt Jr., who had one of the weirdest seasons of his career. He finished the season 16th in the Cup standings, yet owned some of the top statistics — like an eighth-best 93.2 Driver Rating. So what gives? All you need to look at is Earnhardt's "Closer" number, which is the number of positions gained or lost in the last 10

percent of races. He's last. Earnhardt lost a total of 104 positions in the last 10 percent of the 2007 races — proving it's not how you start, it's how you finish.

The "Movin' On Up" Award: This one goes to the driver who improved the most from last year in Driver Rating. The first-ever recipient is Martin Truex Jr. In a breakout season that saw his first career Cup win and a berth in the Chase for the Nextel Cup, Truex earned a Driver Rating of 90.3. Last season, as a rookie, he earned a Driver Rating of 71.3 (an improvement of 19.0 points).

The "Oh, So Close" Award: The motto of every fan whose driver has come oh so close. This award goes to Ryan Newman, who is this close to returning to his Rocket Man form of 2003. He flirted with victory a few times this season and finished 13th in the series standings. Most telling, he dramatically improved in Driver Rating by 10.2 points, the largest of those drivers who did not make the Chase. In

2006, Newman had a Driver Rating of 76.3; this season, he earned an 86.5.

The "Penthouse to the Outhouse" Award: This award goes to Kasey Kahne, who didn't visit Victory Lane after a series-high six appearances last season. Highlighting the fall is the dramatic decrease in Kahne's Fastest Laps Run. In 2006, Kahne's 706 Fastest Laps Run led the series. This season, he was 16th-best in the category with 183 Fastest Laps Run, a drop of 523 laps...OR...

The "How the Mighty Have Fallen" Award: This goes to the driver with the biggest drop-off in Driver Rating, and it's an award you obviously don't want to win. Sorry (again), Kahne. Kahne — who likely will boycott next year's Loopies ceremony — plummeted 22.8 Driver Rating points this season. Last season, Kahne earned a Driver Rating of 94.3. In 2007, he had a 71.5.

The "Family Bragging Rights" Award: This goes to the Busch brother who edged the other in the most

Loop Data stats. There are 17 Loop Data stat categories. Kurt Busch led nine (including key categories Average Running Position, Driver Rating and Fastest Laps Run), narrowly edging little brother Kyle and thus owning bragging rights at the Busch family holiday dinner.

The "It's About Quality and Quantity" Award: This also goes to Kurt Busch, for leading the Quality Pass category. Busch had 1,854 Quality Passes (passes of cars in the top 15 under green), 50 more (there's the quantity) than second-place driver Denny Hamlin.

The "Buffalo Bills of the '90s" Award: This goes to Jeff Gordon, who suffered a Buffalo Bills-esque season. The Bills came up second-best with four consecutive Super Bowl losses in the early '90s. Gordon knows the feeling — he was the runner-up in seven different Loop Data categories. And of course, he was runner-up to teammate Jimmie Johnson in the final Nextel Cup Series standings.

## Miners edge Minot on McLeish reverse layup

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MINOT, ND — Jason McLeish hit a reverse layup with 6.3 seconds remaining in regulation Thursday night to give the East Kentucky Miners a thrilling 103-102 win over the host Minot Skyrockets at the storied Minot Municipal Auditorium. East Kentucky's Thursday night triumph over the Skyrockets gave the CBA expansion team its first road win ever.

After posting the win, East Kentucky improved to 6-7 and moved into third-place in the CBA's American Conference standings.

East Kentucky won the quarter points 6-1. Following the loss, Chris Daleo-coached Minot slipped to 7-3. The Skyrockets, however, remain out in front in the American Conference standings.

Josh Pace led East Kentucky with a team-high 21 points. Pace was one of six East Kentucky players to reach double figures in the scoring column. Boo Jackson added 20

points and Lawrence Barnes tossed in 13 for the Miners. Reo Logan and Mike Crain each had 10 points as part of a balanced East Kentucky offensive effort.

"We're pleased with the road win over a very good basketball team," said East Kentucky Coach Kevin Keathley. "Coach (Chris) Daleo always has his team prepared and ready to play."

East Kentucky shot a blistering 61-percent from the field in the second half. The Miners hit 59-percent of their shots in the first half.

The Skyrockets put together a 17-8 run in the second half and led 95-87 with just over six minutes remaining in the game before East Kentucky battled back and eventually went out in front

for good.

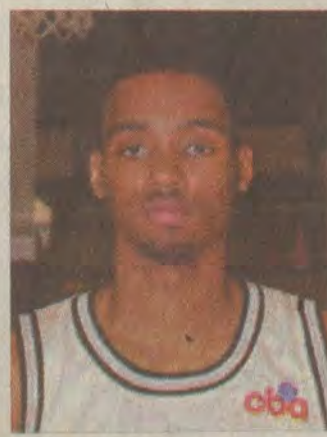
"We're the youngest team in the CBA, and as a result, we're learning as we go," Keathley added.

Prep basketball legend Ronnie Fields was the catalyst for Minot, scoring a game-high 29 points. Fields also dished out six assists in the American Conference matchup.

Marshall Fields scored 22 points and pulled down six rebounds for the Skyrockets. Kevin Rice netted 13 points and Kellen Miliner added 12 for host Minot.

East Kentucky held Minot to just 45-percent shooting in the second half.

The Miners will visit Minot Friday night for the second of two 7:05 p.m. road games.



JOSH PACE

# End-of-season muzzleloader cleaning proves to be essential

by HAYLEY LYNCH  
KENTUCKY AFIELD

FRANKFORT — I've heard the story many times: So-and-so had a great muzzleloader once upon a time, but lent it to somebody who didn't clean it. Now the barrel is pitted, the firing mechanism jammed and the nipple rusted shut. So-and-so is mad and minus one fine muzzleloader.

As late muzzleloader deer season winds down this week-end, don't let your gun become the subject of one of those stories. Clean and store your muzzleloader properly and it will serve you next season and for many seasons after. Cut corners and you may end up with a firearm that doesn't fire at all.

There are several ways to do the job right. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' longest-serving Hunter Training Officer and 30-year employe George Mountjoy teaches gun safety to thousands of new hunters every year. For a thor-

ough muzzleloader cleaning, he still prefers good old-fashioned soap and water.

"Like most things, there are about four or five ways to go about it," says Mountjoy. "But I'm still shooting muzzleloaders I was issued 20 years ago, so this method works pretty well."

The soap and water method requires that you remove your gun's barrel from the stock — an easy task on some muzzleloaders, but more complicated on newer inline models. For a thorough once-a-year cleaning, however, the hassle is worth it.

To get started, you'll need a pot and stove to boil water, Bore Butter, gun oil if desired, gun cleaning patches cut to fit your gun's barrel, a cleaning jag that fits on the end of your ramrod or cleaning rod, and whichever tools you need to disassemble and reassemble your particular firearm. A patch-puller is useful for fishing stuck patches out of the gun barrel easily. You should have the owner's manual for

your gun handy in case you need it for reference.

Before you start, use your ramrod to make absolutely sure your gun is unloaded. Now remove the barrel from the gunstock. Fill a pot with hot tap water and put the barrel in breech-first. Take a wet patch with dishwashing soap on it and run it up and down the barrel with a jag — either attached to your gun's ramrod or to a separate cleaning rod. Running the patch up and down will form a seal and pump water into the nipple hole and up through the barrel.

"Keep pumping until the water is relatively clear," says Mountjoy. "Then pull the rod with the patch out and upend your barrel to drain it."

Next, fill the pot about 7/8 full with water and put it on the stove to boil. Mountjoy uses an old coffee pot with a spout for convenience. While the water is heating up, remove the muzzleloader's nipple. On most side hammer guns, the lock can be removed with a screwdriver,

while on some inline models, the breech plug can be removed fairly easily with a fitted wrench. If the owner's manual says you can remove a part, consider doing so to get the most thorough cleaning. Clean the fouling off these removed parts with soap and water or a commercial gun cleaner. You can put a little Bore Butter or grease on the threads of the nipple and breech plug to lubricate them.

When the water on the stove comes to a boil, get ready to pour the water down your gun barrel. Wrap a towel or cloth around the gun's barrel and wear gloves to protect your hands. Take the water and barrel outside or put a container under the barrel to catch the water. Now carefully pour the boiling water down the barrel. Upend the barrel again to drain the water. Run dry patches through the barrel until they come out relatively clean. Follow those with a patch with Bore Butter on it. Be careful when handling the gun, as the

barrel will still be very hot.

"The heat will quickly melt the Bore Butter," says Mountjoy. "It'll melt down into all the grooves and condition the inside of the barrel."

You can then use that same Bore Butter patch to go over the outside of the barrel. Next, use a little gun oil on the internal moving parts of the gun's lock if desired. Just be sure to keep petroleum-based lubricant clear of any parts that come into contact with propellant: the bore of the barrel, the nipple, and the pan and surface of the frizzen (striker) if you have a flintlock rifle. Reassemble your firearm and it's ready to store.

Clean your muzzleloader thoroughly at the end of the season, no matter what type of propellant you use. Even black powder substitutes like Pyrodex and Triple 7 can foul up your gun. Finally, it's a good idea not to store your muzzleloader muzzle-up, particularly if you've used petroleum-based gun

oil. Either lay the gun flat or point the muzzle downward. This will prevent the lubricant from gravitating down to those parts that could jam up.

Take your muzzleloader out of storage in the spring or summer to check it for rust. Better yet, shoot it during the off-season to make sure the gun is still in working order.

Attention to detail now will pay dividends in the long-run. "If you cut corners, the gun can fail to work or you'll have to spend 15 minutes gunsmithing it before it will fire," says Mountjoy. "But I've almost never had a properly maintained gun not fire the first time."

*Hayley Lynch is an award-winning writer for Kentucky Afield magazine, the official publication of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. She is an avid hunter and shotgun shooter.*

# New options in elk, turkey hunting explored on Kentucky Afield TV

TIMES STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT — Kentucky Afield Television will feature a new wrinkle on fall turkey hunting and tell you what's in store for elk hunting next season on this weekend's

show, airing today.

Tina Brunjes, big game program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, will explain changes proposed by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission for

the 2008 elk hunting season, including an increase in the number of quota elk permits to 400. Also, Brunjes will outline restructuring the 16-county elk restoration zone into six Elk Hunting Units, replacing the previous at-

large, limited-entry area and out-of-zone system. And while on the subject of elk, viewers will get an update on a cow elk hunt from Knott County.

In Mercer County, show host Tim Farmer will join

Eddie Williams to try their hands at turkey hunting with dogs. The idea is to use dogs to disperse the flock, in the hopes of harvesting a turkey as the birds regroup.

Kentucky Afield is a production of the Kentucky

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The longest continuously-running outdoor television show in the nation, Kentucky Afield will air today at 4 p.m. Eastern/3 p.m. Central on KET 1.

## Barnhart

what we're doing. I think we've shown we want to be loyal to the university."

Todd and Barnhart said they had been working on the deal five months. Barnhart's name has surfaced recently for some AD vacancies, including the University of Washington's job, but he said he never gave serious thought to leaving Kentucky.

"If you're in this industry long enough, your name is going to pop up lots of places," he said.

Barnhart's salary calls for a modest raise but rolls into his annual base pay several incentives that encouraged him to raise the level of some of the non-revenue sports. Todd said

he has done that consistently and deserves the guaranteed money.

"He has been exactly what I was wanting," Todd said. "He's done what he has done in an extremely professional, right way."

The 20-page contract does provide Barnhart certain performance incentives based on the success of teams, such as a Final Four trip for the basketball team or bowl appearance for the football team. At Barnhart's request, the coaches are guaranteed at least as much money as Barnhart for those achievements.

"To be honest with you, it became a little bit of a distraction publicly," he said. "Every

time one of our teams did well, they would say, 'Well, the only reason why he cares whether they do well or not is because he's rewarded.' That got to be a little bit burdensome, and a little bit of a pain to listen to."

Barnhart, a native of Kansas City, Kan., became Kentucky's AD in 2002 after serving four years in the same job at Oregon State.

Since 2005, men's basketball, women's tennis, men's golf and baseball have won at least one Southeastern Conference championship — the first ever for the baseball team. The football team has reached the Music City Bowl for two straight years.

Continued from p1

# Jasper suffers setback in practice

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Kentucky point guard Derrick Jasper left practice with sharp pain in his surgically repaired left knee Thursday.

The 6-foot-6 sophomore had micro-fracture surgery in June and hasn't played a game this season for the Wildcats (4-3), who will try to snap a two-game losing streak when they play UAB (7-4) Saturday. Jasper began practicing at full-speed with

the team this week.

UK head coach Billy Gillispie said it was the first time Jasper had to leave practice early. "They say he's doing fine in his rehab, but it's not good when you have to see him leave early," Gillispie said. "Hopefully he'll be ready to roll tomorrow. We're a totally different group when he's out there."

Jasper averaged 3.9 points per game and 3.6 rebounds while starting 27 of 34 games as a freshman, earning him a spot on Southeastern

Conference's all-freshman team.

Gillispie was hopeful before the season started that Jasper would be able to play this season, but there is no timetable for his immediate return.

"He's been practicing, going as hard as he can, but this is a really big injury that he's trying to come back from," UK senior guard Ramel Bradley said. "He's shown a lot of courage trying to come back and going full speed in practice already."

# Record-setting running back released from Louisville

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Louisville running back Anthony Allen has been granted a release from the program and will transfer.

Allen set the school's single-game rushing record with 275 yards against Middle Tennessee on Sept. 6.

Louisville spokesman Rocco Gasparro says Big East Conference rules prohibit Allen from transferring to another school in the conference. Gasparro also says Louisville will not release him to any school on its schedule in the next three years or to Arkansas.

Former Louisville coach

Bobby Petrino is now the head coach at Arkansas.

Allen, who played for Jesuit High School in Tampa, Fla., led the Cardinals in rushing this past season with 696 yards.

Gasparro says Cardinals coach Steve Kragthorpe has no comment about Allen's departure.

# Urrutia declares for NFL Draft

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE — Junior wide receiver Mario Urrutia (Louisville) of the University of Louisville has decided to forgo his senior season and will declare for the National Football League Draft.

Urrutia, a 6-6 wideout from Fern Creek High School, finished his junior season third on the team with 35 receptions for 501 yards and three touchdowns despite missing two games due to injury. His best game in 2007 was a seven catch, 142-yard performance against Middle Tennessee.

"It's by far the toughest deci-

sion I've ever made," said Urrutia. "Unfortunately, with missing time this season and playing injured I got to see football from a different perspective. You only have so much time to play this sport, and the 2008 draft is my opportunity. I will always be a Cardinal. Regardless which NFL city I have a chance to play in, I will always remain a Cardinal. Hopefully, I can bring some of these great fans over with me to my new team. I truly appreciate everything the coaches, administration and fans have done for me."

Urrutia, a red-shirt junior, played in 34 career games for

the Cardinals, recording 130 receptions for 2,271 yards and 16 touchdowns in his three seasons at U of L. Urrutia recorded eight 100-yard contests in his career, including a career-high 175 yards against Oregon State in 2005. His best season came in 2006 when he caught 58 passes for 973 yards and six scores.

"I'm disappointed in Mario's decision to turn pro," said head coach Steve Kragthorpe. "I felt like he needed another year to work on his game. However, I wish Mario the best as he works toward his dream of playing in the National Football League."



THE PIARIST SCHOOL LADY KNIGHTS hosted Riverside Christian during a recent game. Pictured below for the Piarist team are Robyn Warrix (No. 20, wearing shooting shirt); Coach Greg Hall; Charla Hamilton (11); Rebekah Prater (13); Lindsey Combs (25); Chelsea Newsome (42); Megan Spradlin (40); Katie Gibson (35); Rachel Prater (44); Whitney Hall (34) and Coach Kevin Tackett. Combs is pictured below bounding a pass to Hall.



# UK soccer programs announce winter training camp

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — The University of Kentucky men's and women's soccer programs will hold its annual Winter Soccer Training Camp, during January and February, Kentucky soccer head coaches Ian Collins and Warren Lipka announced.

The Winter Soccer Training Camp is designed for boys and girls ages 6-18, and gives participants an excellent opportunity for technical and tactical development under the watchful eyes of UK's entire soccer coaching

staff. Among the focuses of the camp include, fitness training, game competition, and specialized goalkeeper training. All 12 sessions of the camp will be held in the comfortable confines of UK's state-of-the-art Nutcracker Fieldhouse, located next to Commonwealth Stadium on the UK campus.

Dates and times of the training sessions are listed below, with a total cost for all 12 sessions of \$200. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information, con-

tact UK assistant coach Jeff Chaney (859-257-4059; jeff.chaney@uky.edu) or visit [www.UKathletics.com/soccer-camp](http://www.UKathletics.com/soccer-camp).

Ages 6-11: Sundays (Jan 13, 20, 27, Feb. 10) from 6-7 p.m.; Mondays (Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb. 11) from 6-7 p.m.; Wednesdays (Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb. 13) from 6-7 p.m.

Ages 12-18: Sundays (Jan 13, 20, 27, Feb. 10) from 7-8 p.m.; Mondays (Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb. 11) from 7-8 p.m.; Wednesdays (Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb. 13) from 7-8 p.m.

# Ashland Kitten Shootout schedule set

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ASHLAND — Defending 15th Region champion Pike County Central will be one of the 14 girls' high school basketball teams in action at Ashland High School on Saturday, Jan. 5 as part of the Ashland Kitten Shootout. The schedule for Ashland Kitten Shootout has been finalized and released. In addition to Pike County Central and host Ashland, other teams in the one-day prep basketball

showcase are East Carter, Magoffin County, Fleming County, Moore, West Carter, Russell, Knott County Central, Elliott County, Franklin County, Raceland, Pikeville and Mason County.

Pike County Central is pitted against West Carter in one of the seven Ashland Kitten Shootout matchups.

Pike County Central is the early favorite for the 2008 15th Region girls' basketball championship.

Ashland Kitten Shootout games will get underway at

11 a.m. A full schedule for the Ashland Kitten Shootout follows.

Ashland Kitten Shootout at Ashland High School, Jan. 5: 11 a.m. — East Carter vs. Magoffin Co.; 12:30 p.m. — Fleming Co. vs. Louisville Moore; 2:15 p.m. — West Carter vs. Pike Co. Central; 4 p.m. — Russell vs. Knott Co. Central; 5:30 p.m. — Elliott Co. vs. Franklin Co.; 7:15 p.m. — Raceland vs. Pikeville; 8:45 p.m. — Ashland vs. Mason Co.

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# Mitchell Report spurs outrage, sadness and calls for reform

by PAUL NEWBERRY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wov.  
That's what New York Giants defensive end Michael Strahan had to say after seeing the names in the Mitchell Report on doping in baseball. The ramifications stretched far beyond baseball Thursday, sending reverberations through the other leagues and all the way to the White House, where President Bush's spokeswoman expressed hope this "marks the beginning of the end of steroid abuse."  
Even an obscure middle reliever found himself on the defensive after being linked to a case that tarnished two of the game's greatest players, Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens.  
"I'm not worried," said St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Ryan Franklin, among the 85 current and former players implicated in a report nearly two years in the making.  
But others did have concerns about the fallout from what might be the sports most scandalous day since the 1919 Black Sox scandal.  
What about the Milwaukee Brewers, who just finalized a \$10 million deal with new closer Eric Gagne — then read the embarrassing allegations that he received two shipments of human growth hormone and once questioned the supplier

about how to get air out of a syringe?  
"Our goal is to field the best team possible based on information we have in hand," general manager Doug Melvin said in a statement. "While we were disappointed to see information from 2004 related to Eric in the report, we still firmly believe that his addition to the club makes us a much stronger team as we head into the 2008 campaign."  
Gagne finished up this season with the World Series champion Red Sox. Always outspoken, Boston pitcher Curt Schilling weighed in on the report.  
"There will be no shortage of media opinions, castigating, berating and blaming all the names involved. Just remember that this will be coming from the very same people who, like many, turned a blind eye to what many of us believed when we were smack dab in the middle of all the things the Mitchell Report will say," Schilling wrote on his blog, 38pitches.com.  
"I certainly am not blameless. I had opinions like many other people, but I also had a closer view of what was happening. I can say with a very clear conscience, to this day I still have never seen anyone inject or ingest HGH, or steroids. Do I think I know former teammates that may have

been? Sure I do. Can I tell you with no uncertainty who that was? No," he wrote.  
Other sports certainly took note of baseball's dirty laundry.  
"Is it a dark day? I think there's been a lot of dark days. You go back to the Black Sox scandal. There's always been those moments. You go back to the early '50s when college basketball was absolutely rife with point-shaving guys," Miami Heat coach Pat Riley said. "There's always something. Drugs, steroids."  
Tony Dungy, coach of the Super Bowl champion Indianapolis Colts, said everyone has been tainted by performance-enhancing drugs.  
"There's always a push in sports, and probably in life, to get ahead," he said. "We're all naive if we think that things haven't happened and guys haven't tried to get ahead in other ways in all sports. I think that's just human nature."  
"I'll be interested to see (the report) and see some of the recommendations for what we can do to make sure it doesn't happen in baseball again," he added, "and to make sure it doesn't happen in our sport."  
Said New York Giants linebacker Antonio Pierce: "I think it is a disgrace for the sport, baseball, whatever sport, if you have to use some kind of enhancement or some kind of performance to get ahead."

"We all put in the same amount of hours of work throughout the year and for you to go and get something like that, especially if you are a guy with a big name, it makes no sense to me. It is something I would never hope to see in the National Football League and I hope baseball can deal with it and recover from it," he said.  
Campaigning in Iowa, Republican presidential candidate John McCain put most of the blame on the players' union for blocking meaningful steps to clean up the sport, which has seen some of its biggest stars tainted by the stain of illegal substances.  
"It's time now for the players union to step forward and say 'OK, we'll save the game and the reputation of the game and cooperate with meaningful, tough punishments, and testing procedures so that we can prevent this from ever happening again,'" he said.  
George Mitchell, the former U.S. senator who led the investigation, encouraged commissioner Bud Selig to resist the urge to punish current players named in the report.  
In return, McCain said, the players' union should be more willing to accept stiffer sanctions for drug scofflaws in the future.  
Hardly any team was spared from having at least one current or former player named in the

report, which also documented the open discussions among team officials about suspected drug users when pondering trades or free agent signings.  
The Detroit Tigers, whose roster includes one of the biggest names in the report, Gary Sheffield, released a statement saying "the eradication of performance-enhancing substances in baseball and protecting the integrity of the game are the ultimate goals of the industry." They didn't mention Sheffield.  
Franklin, the Cardinals pitcher, was suspended for 10 games in 2005 after a positive test for anabolic steroids. He denied any wrongdoing at the time, saying "there has to be a flaw in the system. I have no clue."  
He wasn't so talkative after his name came up again Thursday.  
"No thoughts and no comment," Franklin said. "I can't say anything."  
Bush's spokeswoman said he doesn't remember any players using steroids during his tenure as managing partner of the Rangers. He left the post in 1994 to run for governor of Texas.  
"The president hopes that this report marks the beginning of the end of steroid abuse," press secretary Dana Perino said.  
Among those attending

Mitchell's news conference was Don Hooton, whose 17-year-old son, Taylor, committed suicide in 2003.  
Doctors believe Taylor Hooton became depressed after he stopped using steroids. Since Taylor's death, Hooton has been traveling the country raising awareness about the perils of steroids.  
"The main message that I take away is that Sen. Mitchell got it," Hooton said. "Yes, it's important for the public to know the integrity of the players — or lack thereof. But the bigger issue, as he acknowledged, is the impact that these role models are having on kids."  
"From my perspective, this issue is so much bigger than about asterisks on records and penalties. This is about guys that have broken the law, and as a result we've got hundreds of thousands of kids that are following their lead."  
AP Sports Writers Janie McCauley in San Francisco, Eddie Pells in Denver, Mike Marot in Indianapolis, Tom Canavan in East Rutherford, N.J., Rachel Cohen in New York and Associated Press Writers Amy Lorentzen in Davenport, Iowa, and Ben Feller in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.  
See complete Mitchell Report online at [www.floydcountytimes.com](http://www.floydcountytimes.com).

# Johnson to drive in three Nationwide races in 2008

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

MOORESVILLE, N.C. — Lowe's and Hendrick Motorsports have announced that two-time Cup champion Jimmie Johnson will drive the No. 5 Lowe's Chevrolet in three Nationwide Series races in 2008.  
Jimmie Johnson is in search of an agency to help him market his on-track success.  
Johnson will one again race at both Lowe's Motor Speedway events, on May 24 and Oct. 10, plus at California

Speedway on Aug. 30. He has driven in these three races in 2006 and 2007.  
Johnson said the Nationwide races are part work and part play.  
"I always love running the Nationwide car," said Johnson, whose No. 5 Chevrolet will be fielded by JR Motorsports in partnership with Hendrick Motorsports.  
"We have raced in this series a few times over the last few years and performed pretty well. It's a fun series to drive in. I want to have fun, but I

would like to get a few more victories there. I have one from 2001, but I would like a lot more."  
Johnson has made 87 starts in NASCAR's junior series winning the Chicagoland Speedway race in 2001.  
Lowe's officials said sponsorship of Johnson's Nationwide Series effort is a way for Lowe's to give back to Johnson's fans and its employees.  
"We are very pleased to sponsor Jimmie in this series again in 2008," said Bob

Gfeller, Lowe's senior vice president of marketing and advertising. "Our customers, employees and race fans love to see the two-time NASCAR champion on the track on Saturday as well as Sunday."  
**Pemberton leaves No. 8, Richert named crew chief**  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. —

Crew chief Ryan Pemberton has left Dale Earnhardt Inc., and Doug Richert has been named to lead the No. 8 Chevrolet team.  
Pemberton was scheduled to lead the team that will be co-driven next season by Mark Martin and Aric Almirola.  
"Ryan is immensely talented and has always been sought-after," DEI general manager John Story said. "He's now chosen to pursue some of those opportunities and we wish him nothing but the best."

Pemberton spent eight seasons with MB2 Motorsports, which was bought by Bobby Ginn before last season. Ginn then sold the team to DEI, and Pemberton continued with the organization after the acquisition.  
Richert became the youngest crew chief to win a Cup championship when he did so as a 20-year-old with the late Dale Earnhardt in 1980. He spent most of last season with Brian Vickers at startup Red Bull Racing, but was let go late in the year.

# Thomas to be Falcons interim coach

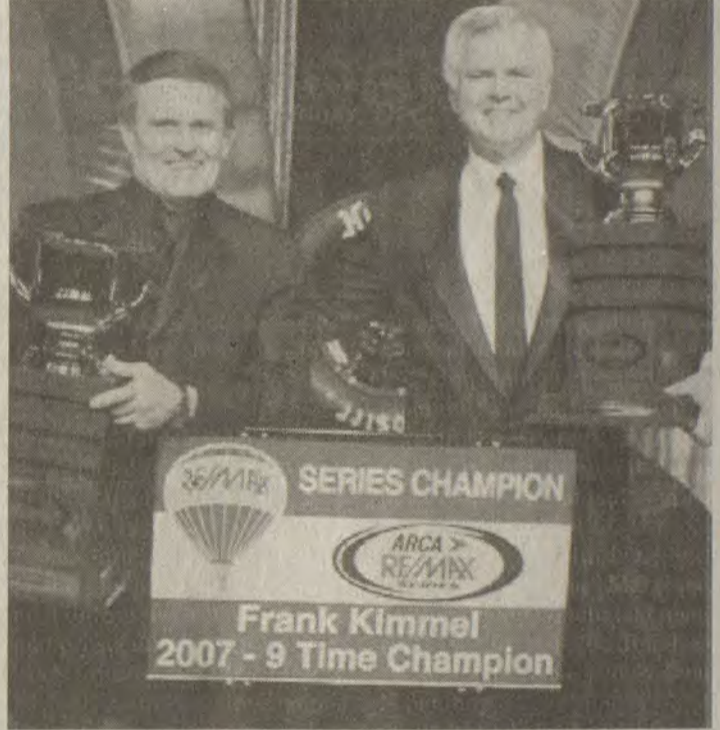
by CHARLES ODUM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Emmitt Thomas waited a long time to serve as head coach of an NFL team.  
He never could have imagined his opportunity would come this way.  
One day after Bobby Petrino's unexpected resignation, Thomas inherited an Atlanta Falcons team eager for new leadership.  
Thomas, 64, was promoted Wednesday to interim head coach for the final three games of the season. Petrino resigned to become coach at Arkansas — and left behind Atlanta players who feel betrayed that he quit after 13 games, and furious he left word in a brief note placed at the players' lockers.  
The Falcons were 3-10 under Petrino, and players who had nothing good to say about the departed coach were eager to embrace Thomas, who has worked with the team's defensive backs for three head coaches since 2002.  
"I respect Emmitt the utmost," said center Todd McClure. "He's been a player. He has a ton of experience. I know he's going to lead us in the right direction. I think everybody in this locker room is looking forward to playing for him."  
Thomas said he challenged the players who offered congratulations.  
"Like I told them, play well and then I'll really know how you feel about the situation."

Thomas said.  
The Falcons visit Tampa Bay today.  
"I'm honored and excited and nervous and happy to have the opportunity," Thomas said. "It's an opportunity for myself and the other coaches and coordinators to try to rally these guys and get them going to play competitive football the rest of the season."  
Thomas is the first black head coach in the team's history.  
The only assistant coach who was not with the team Wednesday was Petrino's brother, wide receivers coach Paul Petrino, who also resigned.  
Falcons general manager Rich McKay said he had not started to compile a list of candidates to replace Petrino on a full-time basis. He can't talk to candidates now coaching in the NFL until their seasons end.  
Thomas did not lobby to be considered for the full-time position.  
"Let's don't take this any further than this day and this game-to-game situation," he said. "I'll be 65 in June and all the years I've been here have been good to me, and I'm just happy I can give some back."  
Petrino didn't last one year, and his first news conference late Tuesday night at Arkansas caused a stir among Falcons players watching on TV.  
"When we saw him doing his press conference at Arkansas, that's what I think brought up the anger to have him talk about family, about

team and about commitment, and then to come in here and have a form letter at your locker," said quarterback Joey Harrington. "That's not how a man acts. That's how a coward acts."  
Harrington twice lost his starting job to Byron Leftwich and then Chris Redman started Petrino's last game, a 34-14 home loss to New Orleans on Monday night.  
Thomas said Redman will start against Tampa Bay. After a visit to Arizona on Dec. 23, the Falcons close the season in Atlanta against Seattle on Dec. 30.  
Thomas has no previous experience as a head coach, but has 28 years in coaching. Thomas has worked under head coaches Dan Reeves, Jim Mora and Petrino in Atlanta. He has coached for six NFL teams and served as defensive coordinator for Philadelphia, Green Bay and Minnesota.  
He said he had "about four interviews" for head coaching jobs, including openings with the Giants and Rams when he worked in Philadelphia and was regarded as one of the top minority candidates in the league.  
"It didn't pan out," Thomas said.  
Thomas' loyalty and tenure with the Falcons could easily be contrasted with Petrino's 13-game term, but Thomas wouldn't join the long list of critics of the former Falcons coach.  
"We've got to take the high road," Thomas said. "We don't

know what made him choose to go to Arkansas. He's got to do the best for his situation."  
"We talk about finishing and talk about commitment, but something went wrong and he didn't feel right and I'm going to take the high road on that. He couldn't come back, probably, and meet with everybody personal and he chose to do it that way."  
"I wish him good luck."  
Thomas was selected to the Kansas City Chiefs Hall of Fame in 1986 after a 13-year career that included a team-record 58 interceptions. In August, the seniors committee added Thomas to the list of semifinalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's class of 2008. The inductees will be decided the day before the Super Bowl on Feb. 2, 2008.  
He began his coaching career in 1979 as defensive coordinator at Central Missouri State. His first job as an NFL assistant came in 1981 with the St. Louis Cardinals. He was an assistant with the Redskins from 1986-94, where he coached wide receivers and then defensive backs for teams that won two Super Bowls.  
Thomas also won a Super Bowl ring as a player with Kansas City.  
He played quarterback at Bishop College before joining the Chiefs as an undrafted player. He led the league in interceptions twice.  
Thomas' son, Derek Thomas, is in his fifth year as the basketball coach at Western Illinois.



FRANK KIMMEL was honored for winning his ninth ARCA RE/MAX Series championship during a banquet held recently.

# Kimmel takes top honors at ARCA RE/MAX Series awards banquet

**TIMES STAFF REPORT**  
COVINGTON — ARCA RE/MAX Series veteran Frank Kimmel joined his crew chief/brother Bill Kimmel, car owner Larry Clement and the Tri-State Motorsports team on stage at the ARCA RE/MAX Series Championship Awards Banquet this weekend to celebrate a record ninth championship. Rookie of the Year Michael McDowell, Hoosier Tire Superspeedway Challenge Champion Erin Crocker and a video tribute to two-time ARCA champion-turned NASCAR legend Benny Parsons were among the headlines at this year's banquet, which was held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.  
Kimmel, who remains the series' all-time active race winner, all-time active lap leader and all-time money winner, is the only driver in series history to acquire nine championships. En route to the 2007 title, Kimmel posted three wins, 11 top-5 and 17 top-10 finishes. On Saturday night,

Kimmel received checks and products from RE/MAX, Sunoco Race Fuels, Ford Motor Company, Hoosier Racing Tires, Casite and Lincoln Electric. ARCA President Ron Drager presented Kimmel with a traditional championship ring, while RE/MAX, Int'l Vice President Randy Morse presented the Kimmel brothers and Clement with championship jackets.  
In addition to the championship accolades, Kimmel was formally honored on Saturday night for winning the 2007 edition of the Bill France Triple Crown, which is designed to measure a driver's performance on a diverse array of tracks. This year's Bill France Triple Crown included a mile-dirt track (The DuQuoin State Fairgrounds, Sept. 3), a short track (Salem Speedway, Sept. 15) and a speedway (Talladega Superspeedway, Oct. 5).  
Crew chief Bill Kimmel was awarded the Cometic Engine Mechanic of the Year Award.

# Hightower signs with Lexington Horsemen

**TIMES STAFF REPORT**

LEXINGTON — After winning a conference championship and going to the playoffs, University of the Cumberlands senior defensive lineman, Derrick Hightower (Dothan, Ala.)

added another accomplishment to his wall by signing with the Lexington Horsemen. The Lexington Horsemen are a professional indoor football team with players hailing from several in-state colleges, including Georgetown, Campbellsville,

Louisville and Kentucky.  
Hightower recorded 47 tackles, including eight tackles for lost yards and two and a half sacks. He also broke up four passes, tipping one pass to his defensive teammate for an interception, and filled many holes in the

opposing team's playbook. Hightower is a 6-7, 277 pound defensive lineman who has been a great presence for the Patriots up front. His skills aided the Cumberlands in giving up only 121.2 rushing yards per game.

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Sealed Bids will be accepted by the Floyd County Fiscal Court, at the Office of the Floyd County Judge/Executive, located on the second floor of the old Floyd County Courthouse, 149 South Central Avenue, Suite 9, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653, until Thursday, December 27, 2007, at the hour of 9:30 a.m., for the following:

Twenty (20) 2005 Gas-operated Club Car brand golf carts for use at the Paul Hunt Thompson Golf Course in Allen, Floyd County, Kentucky

Any specifications for the above-listed item may be obtained at the Office of the Floyd County Judge/Executive on the second floor of the old Floyd County Courthouse, 149 South Central Avenue Suite 9, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653, [Telephone: (606) 886-9193], during regular business hours. The specifications are as follows:

Twenty (20) 2005 Gas-operated Club Car brand golf carts, with standard equipment, to include:

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- (c.) four (4) cup holders
- (d.) premium tread tires
- (e.) windshields
- (f.) info holders

The bid will be awarded to the lowest and/or best bidder at the Special Meeting of the Floyd County Fiscal Court, to be held on Thursday, December 27, 2007, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., in the Floyd County Fiscal Courtroom, on the second floor of the old Floyd County Courthouse, 149 South Central Avenue, Prestonsburg, Kentucky.

The Floyd County Fiscal court reserves the right to accept and/or reject any or all bids.

ROBERT D. MARSHALL, Floyd County/Judge Executive



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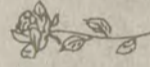
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