

The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

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In brief

Senate votes to abolish runoff elections

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Senate passed its first bill of the year Wednesday, approving a measure that would eliminate runoff elections in future governor's races.

Currently, a runoff election to determine the Republican or Democratic gubernatorial nominee is triggered if a single candidate in either field doesn't reach 40-percent of the vote in the regular primary.

Last May's crowded field in both major parties nearly led to a runoff election. But Governor Steve Beshear and former Governor Ernie Fletcher both passed the required threshold.

Republican Senator Damon Thayer of Georgetown says he sponsored the legislation to save taxpayers' money.

The measure cleared the Senate on a 37-0 vote and heads to the House for consideration.

Magistrates point fingers at Southern Water; treasurer blames historic runaway spending

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

County lays off four more employees

PRESTONSBURG — The Floyd County Fiscal Court is pointing at debts owed by Southern Water and Sewage as a significant factor for recent layoffs during their regular meeting on Friday.

According to court members,

Southern owes the county in excess of \$200,000.

"How can Southern Water, keep our money, pay their employees, give them bonuses, and we have to lay people off?" asked Magistrate Donnie Daniels, of District 3.

According to County Attorney Keith Bartley, the problem began when the county attached their garbage bills to the water bills sent out by Southern Water and Sewage. Upon collection, the money is supposed to be split, with the revenue generated by garbage pick-

up going back to the county.

"They are supposed to pay our garbage money," Bartley said. "They have no right to it, or to delay the payment of it."

Bartley indicated after the meeting that he hoped Southern Water would pay the balance of their debt by March.

(See COUNTY, page three)

MARCH WITH A MESSAGE



photo by Ralph B. Davis

Students and staff of Big Sandy Community and Technical College organized a march through Prestonsburg Friday to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King. Bernadette Tiapo, Director of Cultural Diversity at BSCTC said, "Dr. King had a message for all people. He truly believed in and gave his life for the cause of human rights."

3 area businesses among 'best places to work'

Times Staff Report

FRANKFORT — A Floyd County hospital and two Pike County businesses have been recognized as being among the best places to work in the state.

Our Lady of the Way Hospital, in Martin, was named one of the top 25 small-to-medium companies in Kentucky, while Pikeville Medical Center and Southeast Telephone received similar honors in the large company category.

The awards were announced Friday by the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management State Council, in conjunction with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, as part of the fourth annual Best Places to Work in Kentucky competition.

Winners from across the state have been selected in two categories: small/medi-

um-sized (companies of 25 to 249 employees) and large-sized (companies of 250 employees or greater).

The selection process, managed by Best Companies Group, is based on an assessment of the company's employee policies and procedures and the results of an internal employee survey. The survey feedback that all participating companies receive will enable them to develop the plans and implement the steps necessary to create a great workplace and continue to improve the performance of their business.

The actual rankings will be announced at an awards dinner April 17, at the Lexington Convention Center in downtown Lexington.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Kentucky has more than 14,000 privately-owned establishments with 20 or more employees.

OLW, six others former new health system

Times Staff Report

LEXINGTON - Our Lady of the Way Hospital, of Martin, announced Friday that it is joining six other Kentucky health care organizations to come together as one.

The new group began

operations this month as Saint Joseph Health System. In addition to OLW, members include Flaget Memorial Hospital in Bardstown, Marymount Medical Center in London and Saint Joseph

(See SYSTEM, page three)

Lawmakers: Cigarette tax increase is on the table

by JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Given Kentucky's lean budget situation, some lawmakers around the Capitol are considering a plan to raise the cigarette tax rather than face deep slashes in state spending.

Kentucky has one of the lowest cigarette taxes in the nation. So, rather than face the

prospect of drastic cuts in government services, some say it may be time to boost the tax on smokers.

"There probably are no sacred cows," Rep. Charlie Hoffman, D-Georgetown, said.

Kentucky is facing a budget shortfall in the current fiscal year that ends June 30 of more than \$430 million. Revenue projections for the coming two years also forecast a drop of

\$580 million for fiscal 2009 and \$300 million in 2010.

Gov. Steve Beshear has ordered 3 percent cuts in state agencies and public universities in an effort to balance state government's books this year. Beshear, who makes his budget pitch to the General Assembly on Jan. 29, has said deeper cuts are expected over the next two

(See TAX, page three)

Lawmakers react to gambling projection

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — A projection claiming casino gambling will bring Kentucky much less than the advertised \$500 million may be dampening some lawmakers' interest in the plan.

Gov. Steve Beshear says Kentucky could boost its annual revenue by more than \$500 million per year if it legalizes casino gambling. But a Legislative Research Commission forecast predicts the fig-

ures will be about \$314 million per year.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Dan Kelly says lawmakers should focus their energy elsewhere. The Springfield Republican says the lower forecast won't add much money in the state's bottom line.

Kentucky is facing a \$434 million budget shortfall this fiscal year and economists say there could be an \$880 million shortfall in the coming two years.



A Prestonsburg building that once hosted the Alano club could be seen fully engulfed in flame by commuters on Route 114 on Tuesday. Because the building was abandoned and posed no threat to other structures, Prestonsburg Fire Department did not battle the blaze, but kept it in check.

photo by Jack Latta

3 DAY FORECAST

Today
Partly cloudy
High: 25 • Low: 13

Tomorrow
Sunny
High: 39 • Low: 27

Tuesday
Rain and snow
High: 43 • Low: 26

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

■ Judith Lynn Collins, 54, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, January 13, in King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, January 15, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Sharon Kay Risner Damron, 63, of Ivel, died Monday, December 31, at Salyersville Health Care. Funeral services were held Thursday, January 3, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Sylvania Johnson Hall, 95, of Brodhead, a native of Weeksbury, died Friday, December 21, at the Rockcastle Health and Rehabilitation Facility. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 23, at the Rebecca Old Regular Baptist Church.

■ Elder Ellis Holbrook, 78, of Betsy Layne, formerly of Melvin, died Sunday, January 13, at St. Joseph Hospital, in Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Ormagene

(Tiny) Hall Holbrook. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 16, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Alan Leslie Little, 51, of Charlotte, North Carolina, a native of McDowell, died Wednesday, January 9, in the Carolina Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Memorial services were held Saturday, January 12, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Norris Hampton Salisbury, 68, of Indiana, formerly of Floyd County, died Tuesday, January 1, at The Kosciusko Community Hospital in Warsaw, Indiana. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 5, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ William Shepherd, 81, of Battle Creek, Michigan, a native of Pyramid, died Wednesday, December 19, at Battle Creek Health System. He is survived by his wife, Hellen O. Chiz Shepherd. Funeral services were held Thursday, under the direction of Bachman Hebble Funeral Services.

■ Lillian Moore Sizemore, 76, of Minnie, died Wednesday, January 16, at King's Daughters Medical Center, Ashland. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 19, under direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Alex Stone, 83, of Sharpsburg, formerly of Floyd County, died Saturday, January 12, at St. Claire Regional Medical Center, in Morehead. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 15, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

JOHNSON COUNTY

■ Shirrell Edward Morris, 75, of East Point, a Floyd County native, died Friday, January 11, at Woodlawn Health Care Facilities, in Ashland. Funeral services were held Monday, January 14, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Lowell Webb, 78, of Lexington, a Johnson County native, died Tuesday, January 8, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Boyd Webb. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 12, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

PIKE COUNTY

■ Jerry Dale Centers, 63, of Slaters Branch, Belfry, died Sunday, January 13, in the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital emergency room. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Lawanda James Centers. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 16, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Darlene Blackburn Crigger, 89, of Sidney, died Friday, January 11, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 15, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Henry Daniels, 75, of Lynn, W.Va., a native of Majestic, died Friday, January 11, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional

Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Mabel Daniels. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 16, under the direction of Chambers Funeral Services Inc. of Matewan.

■ Leslie Darrell Elswick, 69, of Virgie, died on Friday, January 11, at his residence. He is survived by his wife Iley Imal Elswick. Funeral services were held Sunday, January 13, under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home.

■ Agnes H. Francis, 65, of Pinsonfork, died Sunday, January 13, at Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington. She is survived by her husband, Roy Francis. Funeral services were held Thursday, January 17, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Ernestine Gillispie, 61, of Pikeville, died Saturday, January 12, at Pikeville Health Care Center. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 15, under direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ William "Bill" Hamilton, 75, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, January 15, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday, January 18, under direction of Lucas and Son Funeral Home.

■ Ted Hopkins, 88, of Pikeville, died Monday, January 14, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Mabel Compton Hopkins. Funeral services were held Thursday, January 17, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Edith Faith Hunt, 61, of Kimper, died Saturday, January 12, at Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Troy Hunt. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 15, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

■ Hansel Hunt, 80, of Feds Creek, died Saturday, January 12, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Myrtle Rowe Hunt. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 15, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Mary Caroline Reynolds Hunt, 77, of Phyllis, died Wednesday, January 16, at her home. Funeral services will be held Sunday, January 20, at 2 p.m., under the direction of J.W. Call and Son Funeral Home.

■ William "Bill" C. Hurt, 86, of Pikeville, died Monday, January 14, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Gladys Burke Hurt. Funeral services were held Friday, January 18, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

■ Brenda Kay Jones, 56, of McComb, Miss., formerly of Stone, died Monday, January 14, 2008, at Southwest Regional Medical Center, McComb. Funeral services were held Friday, January 18, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Phillip John Kendrick, 56, of Pikeville, died Sunday, January 13, at his residence. Arrangements, under the direction of Community Funeral Home of Zebulon.

■ Frances May, 79, of Turkey Creek, formerly of Stone, died Wednesday, January 16, at Williamson Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 19, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Lois Josephine Pinson, 86, of Whitley City, a native of Pike County, died Thursday, January

17, at Lake Cumberland Hospital. Funeral services will be held Sunday, January 20, at 11 a.m., under the direction of Lucas and Son Funeral Home.

■ Dorothy Louise Price, 84, of Pikeville, formerly of Coal Grove, Ohio, and Grand Rapids, Ohio, died Monday, January 14, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services will be held Thursday, January 17, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home of Pikeville.

■ Clifton Jentrus Ratliff, 80, of Haverhill, Ohio, a native of Pike County, died Tuesday, January 15, at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital in Russell. He is survived by his wife, Nella A. Tackett Ratliff. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 19, under the direction of Tracy Brammer Funeral Home of Ironton, Ohio.

■ Sylvia Mae Rose, 67, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, January 15, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday, January 18, under direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Ruby Belle Small, 86, a resident of Madison Manor in Richmond, a native of Pike County, died Sunday, January 13, in Pike County. Funeral services were held Thursday, January 17, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Lawrence Adam Smith, 41, of Phelps, died Sunday, Jan. 13, at St. Mary's Medical Center, Huntington, W.Va. Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 17, under the direction of R.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home.

■ Dan Junior Thacker, 70, of Marion, Ohio, formerly of Canada, died Friday, January 11, at the residence of his daughter, Debra Wallace. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 16, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home of Belfry.

■ Billy Vance, 88, of Turkey Pen Road, died Tuesday, Jan. 15,

at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 18, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

■ Ralph Ward, 68, of Kimper, died Tuesday, January 15, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Ward. Funeral services were held Friday, January 18, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

KNOTT COUNTY

■ Timmy Collins, 43, of Topmost, died at his residence. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 29, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Alan Wade Crum, 42, of Martin, died Monday, December 31, at his residence. Funeral services were held Thursday, January 3, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Chalmer Dobson, 77, of Hobart, Indiana, formerly of Vest, died Saturday, December 29, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Eva Dobson. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 1, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Stella Gayheart, 81, of Hindman, died Sunday, January 6, at the UK Medical Center at Lexington. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 9, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Sylvania Johnson Hall, 95, of Brodhead, a native of Weeksbury, died Friday, December 21, at the Rockcastle Health and Rehabilitation Facility in Brodhead. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 23, at the Rebecca Old Regular Baptist Church.

■ Vernon King Sr., 70, of Kite, died Tuesday, January 1, at Hazard ARH. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 5, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Hindman.

■ Juanita J. Owens, 69, of LaGrange, Indiana, formerly of Knott County, died Sunday, December 30, at Parkview LaGrange Hospital. Funeral services were held Thursday, January 3, under the direction of Young Family Funeral Home.

■ Herman C. Porter, 102, of

(See OBITUARIES, page three)

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Paintsville.....297-5888
Pikeville.....437-9234
Lexington.....866-461-KIRK
Inez.....298-3575
Ashland.....739-8000

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Obituaries

Lillian Moore Sizemore

Lillian Moore Sizemore, age 76, of Minnie, departed this life on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, in King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland.

She was born in Minnie, on August 12, 1931, the daughter of the late Marion and Girlie Hall Moore.

She was a homemaker, and a member of the Rock Fork United Christian Baptist Church in Garrett.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Wise Sizemore; and a son, Ellis Sizemore.

She is survived by four sons: Hurley Sizemore of Chicago, Illinois; Harvey Sizemore of Minnie, and Eugene Sizemore and Darrell Sizemore, both of Prestonsburg; four daughters: Darla Click of Martin, Linda Lafferty and Theresa Hyden, both of Minnie; and Dorothy Banks of Cincinnati, Ohio; a brother, Foster Stumbo of McDowell; two sisters: Brooksie Gearheart of Minnie, and Alice Arnold of Kendallville, Indiana; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 19, at 1:00 p.m., in the Rock Fork United Christian Baptist Church in Garrett, with Bethel Bolen, Mark Hunt, Virgil Hunt, and Nathan Lafferty officiating.

Burial was in the Lucy Hall Cemetery in McDowell, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home of Martin. (Paid obituary)

In Memory of Linnie Margaret Mulkey



Linnie Margaret Mulkey was born on December 23, 1934, at the family homeplace at Banner, Ky., where she continued to reside her entire life.

She was the youngest daughter of the late Ernest and Victoria Smith Mulkey.

She was preceded in death by the following siblings: Kenas Mulkey, or Keen as most knew him as; Charley Mulkey, Ike Mulkey, Delzie Mulkey, Greenberry Mulkey, Augusta Hurd, or Gusty as most knew her as; Leon

Mulkey and Esta Mulkey.

She has two surviving sisters: Atchie Spears and Lizzie Spears, both of Banner, Ky.

Linnie passed away on Saturday, January 5, 2008, at approximately 4:07 a.m. Linnie moved in with her sister, Atchie, after she became ill. She was at Atchie's home when she passed away. Linnie also leaves behind to mourn her an abundance of nieces, nephews, great-nieces/nephews, cousins and friends. Linnie never married or had any biological children.

She did however, have a hand in raising her nieces/nephews, great-nieces/nephews, cousins, and so on. She was like a second mom for most of us in our family. She claimed Chad, Lana, Douglas, James, and myself as her children. She didn't love us more than the rest of her family. We just always had a different and special bond with her. I, like most everyone who knew her, am so eternally grateful to have had her in our lives. She has taught us all so much. Any problem, no matter how big or small, Linnie always knew what to say to make it better. She always listened to us about our problems. She has counseled many generations of her family. She taught us all the true meaning of unconditional love.

She loved with her whole heart, without judgment or condemnation. Linnie instilled morals, values, and faith in the Lord in all of us. This is something we will carry with us throughout our lives. She has helped shape us into the people we are today. Linnie was baptized into the Little Salem Old Regular Baptist Church, in the summer of 1984. She lived her life in the light doing God's will. She had an unshakable faith in the Lord. It is very difficult for us to attempt putting our love for Linnie in words. We are so grateful that God gave us the wonderful gift of having Linnie in our lives. She loved and touched so many people. She never saw a stranger. There's not many people like Linnie left in our world. Everyone touched by her is lucky to have known her. This world we live in is a better world because she was in it. She led us by example. And although we will greatly miss Linnie, we can take comfort in the knowledge that we will meet her again in Heaven.

Written by her great-niece, Samantha Cooley
on behalf of all her family and friends.

FCT ONLINE POLL

RESULTS FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 13 - JANUARY 20, 2008

Who do you favor for the Democratic nomination for president?

Hillary Clinton	(116 Votes, 34%)
John Edwards	(63 Votes, 19%)
Barack Obama	(26 Votes, 8%)
Other	(7 Votes, 2%)
Don't Know	(2 Votes, 1%)
Doesn't matter; I'm voting Republican	(123 Votes, 36%)

Go online today and answer this week's question!

Who or what do you blame for Floyd County's current budget problems and layoffs?

- The current fiscal court
- The economy/outside factors
- The previous fiscal court
- Don't know
- State and/or national leaders

FCT ONLINE POLL

We Need Stories

Heartland Publications and the Floyd County Times have launched a new project called Faith and Family, a faith-based Christian magazine to be distributed throughout Floyd County.

If you have a testimonial story, life-changing event about yourself or even a poem that you would like to share in this magazine, please email it to: web@floydcountytimes.com. Limit your story to 500-750 words. It must be received by January 30 to be eligible.

Please include a phone number in your email. We will notify you if your story has been chosen to be in this edition

County

Continued from p1

as well as establish a regular payment schedule. The fiscal court indicated that noncompliance by Southern Water would compel the county to explore "any and all steps," including litigation or criminal charges.

The County Attorney's Office suggested that the charges could fall under theft by failure to make required disposition of property. The excessive amount of money would make this charge a class D Felony.

"Southern Water has drained us to death," said Magistrate Jackie Edford Owens, of District 2, during a special session on Thursday. "It's no good we have to lay off county workers because of this."

Four more workers were laid off Friday, bringing the total from 28 to 32, which according to fiscal court members constitutes a 60 percent

workforce reduction.

Attempts to obtain comment from representatives of Southern Water were not successful prior to press time.

Fiscal court members also point a finger at the administration of former Gov. Ernie Fletcher, which in its last year awarded no money for Floyd County roads. Judge Marshall said that the county had received \$460,000 the year before, and that the county budgets under the assumption that state road money is forthcoming. Money had to be taken from the general fund to cover road expenses.

Five major floods in the last five years have cost the county over \$1 million; and a history of loans being taken out to cover costs has caused "the debt hole to get deeper and deeper," said Marshall.

East Kentucky Utilities bonds, Waste Connections and jail bonds were listed among other financial burdens that haunt the county.

Owens said that the county is owed \$1.1 million from the proposed sale of East Kentucky Utilities and, "If they can't get it together, we need to rebid it out." The sale of the East Kentucky Utilities, to Kentucky Frontier, a Colorado-based company, has been pending for almost two years.

Marshall said, "Floyd County solid waste and the Garth landfill continue to drain much needed money from the budget," and that, "the jail is creating a great hardship on this county."

According to Marshall the annual costs of the jail have risen to \$1.4 million in 2007, adding that those jail

costs had been almost half as much in 2002.

A motion was made by Donnie Daniels to table the December treasury report until the treasurer could be present. Owens said he had only received a copy of the December report the day before. "We should have known about this earlier," he said.

In an interview, Floyd County treasurer David Layne said, "Those reports were in their mailbox by 3 p.m. on Tuesday," adding that he "told the magistrates and the judge executive in January that the county historically spent more than it brought in, and unless they changed those habits by cutting spending or increasing revenue, they would run out of money."

Layne said the county went

against his advice; and spent more in 2007 than it had in 2006.

In a prepared statement, Marshall said, "Our county has obligations that, if not addressed, will break our county government and end our ability to meet even the most basic of needs for the people."

In addition to the cuts in county labor, Marshall said he would ask Gov. Steve Beshear to "restore a fair level of discretionary spending in Floyd County for roads."

"I also am asking the governor to find a way for the costs of jails to be lifted from county government," Marshall said.

Marshall hopes that after July 1, the county will have "more employees and an intelligent budget that will do the best we can for our citizens with the money we have."

Tax

Continued from p1

years. Additional cuts could be in store for Kentucky's public universities, and they could extend into elementary and secondary education. Previously, Beshear had asked education leaders across the state to report back on how cuts of as much as 12 percent next year would affect them.

Instead, House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, said he'd rather lawmakers look at raising the cigarette tax — currently 30-cents-per-pack — than cut funding for education. Richards said he knows there's support for a hike. He's just not sure how much.

"Rather than cut education,

I would rather be for a cigarette tax increase," Richards said.

Hoffman said House lawmakers haven't yet settled on how much the cigarette tax should be raised. But, Hoffman said, interest in raising the cigarette tax has "picked up steam" over the past week.

"We're in a situation where we're feverishly looking for much needed revenue," he said.

Sen. Ed Worley, the Democratic floor leader in the Senate, said he would consider increasing cigarette taxes, too.

"If the only option around here is to raise a tax or to cut education, I'm for an increase

in the cigarette tax," Worley said.

Rep. David Watkins, D-Henderson, said he might propose a bill that would increase the cigarette tax. Watkins, who is a physician, said there's other benefits to raising the tax than solving the state's budget trouble.

Kentucky has high rates of smoking related cancer and other health problems attributed to tobacco, Watkins said. A tax increase could curb smokers' appetite for cigarettes, Watkins said.

"I know there's a lot of people that for a variety of reasons hate to see any kind of additional tax on tobacco products," Watkins said. "But I

don't think they're really looking at what our state needs in the overall health of our state."

Still, any tax increase this year faces an uphill climb.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Dan Kelly, R-Springfield said there's little support for raising any taxes in the Republican-led chamber.

"We'd evaluate what was sent over here, but there's not any feeling in the Senate for raising taxes at this time," Kelly said.

Beshear, a Democrat, said in his State of the Commonwealth address earlier this week that he would only consider raising taxes as a last resort.

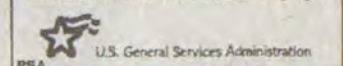
House lawmakers may not

support raising the cigarette tax if the proposal would only stall in the Senate, Richards said.

"There's a hesitation about whether the other end will vote for it or not," Richards said, referring to the Senate which

is located opposite the House in the state Capitol.

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Confederate Forces are Converging on Prestonsburg

On January 10th 1862, Confederate forces withdrew from Prestonsburg, following the Battle of Middle Creek. One hundred thirty-six years later they have returned in the form of a re-enacting company. The 5th Kentucky Vol. Infantry has authorized the creation of a new re-enacting company in Prestonsburg, that will serve Floyd, Johnson, Pike, Magoffin and Martin counties.

The 5th Kentucky Vol. Infantry is a family-based organization, rooted in Christian values, and dedicated to the preservation of Civil War history. We encourage the participation of all family members who are interested in living history.

If you are interested in preserving history, or are curious about re-enacting, come join us at the Samuel May House in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, Saturday, January 26th, at 3:00 p.m., for our monthly meeting.

For more information, please feel free to contact Patrick Davis at fpdavi01@moreheadstate.edu or Floyd Davis at (606) 886-6323.

System

Continued from p1

HealthCare facilities in Lexington, Berea and Mount Sterling.

According to a statement released by the hospital, the goals for the new organization are to:

- Grow health ministries and partner with physicians and others to create healthier communities, locally and across Kentucky

- Deliver a consistent experience of high quality care at all facilities

- Provide safe, preferred work environments of choice
- Take an active role to advocate for health-related needs and issues, locally and statewide

One of the stated goals in joining together is to build the presence of the new system across the Commonwealth. In commenting about the system name, Gene Woods, the CEO of Saint Joseph Health System, said the name "is a way to instantly communicate our affiliation, core values and national reputation for quality, as well as the strength and size of our system, throughout Kentucky."

As part of creating a common identity, the names of some member organizations of

the new system will change. Saint Joseph Health System is the name of the new organization. Most of the hospitals will adopt the Saint Joseph name with their location, such as Saint Joseph London, Saint Joseph Martin, Saint Joseph Berea and Saint Joseph Mount Sterling. The system's two hospitals in Lexington will continue to be known as Saint Joseph Hospital and Saint Joseph East. Flaget Memorial Hospital will be identified as a member of Saint Joseph Health System.

Woods pointed out that the formation of the system is a growth strategy, not a takeover by Saint Joseph. "We are all joining together to grow and to build something new that has not existed before. Ultimately, this new system will bring more services to each of our facilities and broaden the scope of services across our system so that patients should seldom need to go elsewhere for care," Woods noted.

Under the Saint Joseph Health System structure, a new board of directors was formed in December, replacing the local hospital boards. Each hospital organization is forming a hospital council

made up of local community leaders. The councils will help to ensure that the local community has a voice and a role in identifying community needs and provide input into the strategic planning process.

Woods said that short-term plans of the system include launching a telemedicine network and a yet-to-be-announced robotics program. He noted that both initiatives will help create greater connectivity and improve access to specialty care, especially in rural areas.

"By honoring the heritage, people and accomplishments of the past, we will build an even stronger ministry that continues the legacy the Sisters passed on to us," Woods stressed. "Our founding congregations and Sisters were shining examples of what this new organization stands for—we can do more for our patients and our communities together than any one hospital can do alone."

Woods cited a quote from the late Maryanna Coyle, a Sister of Charity and one of the foundresses of Catholic Health Initiatives who was the first chair of CHI's governing board, "Our faith-filled open-

ness to the Spirit continually calls us to move beyond our own securities so that a new creation will arise through the healing ministry."

Obituaries

Continued from p2

Allen, died Wednesday, January 3, at his residence. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 5, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Dalma Sturdivant, 80, of Hindman, died Thursday, January 3, at the Frankfort Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, January 6, under the direction of Phelp and Son Funeral Services.

MARTIN COUNTY

■ John C. Chapman, 56, of Adams, formerly of Martin County, died Thursday, January 10, at Louisa. He is survived by his wife, Joann Howell Chapman. Funeral services were held Sunday, January 13, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Herman Douglas James, 66, of North Branch, Minnesota, a

native of Inez, died Saturday, January 5. Memorial services were held Wednesday, January 9, under the direction of The Grandstrand Funeral Home, Lindstrom Minnesota.

■ Nannie Pauley James, 77, of Lovely, died Monday, January 14, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 16, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ William Carl Maynard, 72, of Beauty, formerly of Louisa, died Monday, January 7. He is survived by his wife, Pat Maynard. Funeral services were held Friday, January 11, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Franklyn Jesse Raines, 68, of Warfield, died Sunday, January 13, at his residence. He is sur-

vived by his wife, Flossie Smith Raines. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 16, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home, Inez.

■ Christine Waugh, 59, of Inez, died Wednesday, January 9, at her residence. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 12, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

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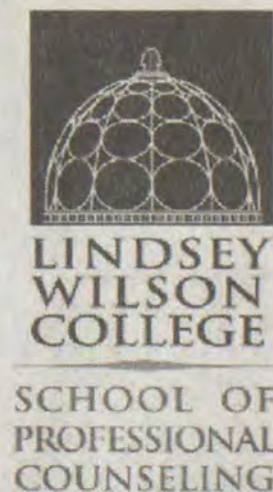


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Freedom of the press is not an end in itself but a means to the end of [achieving] a free society.

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

Difficult, But worth it

Ethical government. That doesn't have to be an oxymoron. At least Gov. Steve Beshear has taken the initial steps to make sure that ethical government in Kentucky doesn't remain a self-contradicting phrase.

This week, the new governor made good on one of his most important campaign promises, setting into motion a sweeping reform effort to open the executive operations of state government to more public scrutiny while tightening ethics standards for all those in his administration and adding tougher enforcement and penalties.

Unfortunately, the new governor's near-panic to straighten out the cooked books left behind by his predecessor, Ernie Fletcher, has captured most of the attention in Frankfort, threatening to delay if not jeopardize much-needed steps to restore, if possible, public confidence in state government.

Beshear's promise of an "open and transparent" government, made in comments to representatives of news media from across the state, was a breath of fresh air, in sharp contrast with the snarling relationship Fletcher cultivated with reporters and editors. Beshear even pledged never to use the door Fletcher installed as an escape hatch to avoid facing reporters and having to answer their pesky questions.

"It's a symbol of secretiveness," Beshear said.

Of course, Beshear one day could regret some of the commitments he made in a brief appearance during a legislative workshop sponsored by the Kentucky Press Association, The Associated Press and the National Conference of Editorial Writers.

Adding a touch of reality, Beshear conceded there will be some things he won't talk about in public. But state officials owe it to the public to be square with them, he said, to be up front and tell them what the administration is up to and planning to do. "I believe in the First Amendment," he said.

Beshear follows two governors, a Democrat and a Republican, whose reputations and places in the indexes of future history books forever will be found under the letter "S" — for scandals.

Both Beshear and Fletcher owe their elections in large part to the indiscretions of their predecessors. Fletcher was indicted on misdemeanor charges in an investigation of his administration's hiring practices, and in an attempt to frustrate the investigation pardoned everyone in his administration except himself. Paul Patton, the Democrat, pardoned some of his cronies as he left office discredited by an extramarital affair.

Beshear pledged he will not use his powers to interfere with the legal process. He proposed to limit a governor's powers by prohibiting pardons before cases have completed the legal process. He would make the Executive Branch Ethics Commission more independent by sharing appointment powers with other state officeholders. He would provide more protection for whistleblowers who reveal wrongdoing in state agencies. And he would increase the penalties for ethics violations.

The governor's proposal can affect only the executive agencies of state government. Despite the sticky financial quagmire he faces, Beshear followed up on the campaign commitment where Fletcher, who promised to clean up Frankfort, failed. He also issued a challenge to legislative leaders to open their infamous budget conference committees where late-night spending deals are made.

As if a prelude to the difficult road the governor faces to secure legislative help in ethics reforms, his suggestion was greeted by a mean-spirited response from Senate President David Williams, R-Burkesville, who snapped that he would open legislative conference committees if the governor would open budget sessions with his cabinet. Another legislative leader said the budget negotiators need to work behind closed doors so they can have frank and honest discussions.

No one explained why elected state lawmakers can't have frank and honest discussions in public.

— The News-Enterprise, Elizabethtown



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— Rich Lowry Column

A Colombia comeback

MEDELLIN, Colombia — In what was once the most dangerous neighborhood of this, the world's most notorious city, a Sunday afternoon is a bustling, joyful affair. The scampering children and people sitting at tiny sidewalk cafes on the narrow streets would be fit subjects for a Colombian Norman Rockwell.

"Look," says New York Democratic Rep. Gregory Meeks, part of a congressional delegation visiting from the United States, "they're cooking pizzas, they're eating ice cream, boyfriends and girlfriends are holding hands — this is amazing, this Medellin! We're supposed to be dodging bullets."

The late drug lord Pablo Escobar made this city into one of the most violent on Earth. Men like Sergio Fajardo — the outgoing mayor, a mathematician who is a leader in a citizens' movement that arose in opposition to the violence — made it into a city that belies its reputation. In 1991, 6,500 people were murdered here; in 2006, 700 were. Medellin's murder rate is now lower than Baltimore's.

Medellin is a microcosm of Colombia. President Alvaro Uribe has forged extraordinary security gains by taking the fight to the country's hellish brew of left-wing guer-

illas, their paramilitary opponents and narco-traffickers. The strength of the main guerrilla group, FARC, is down an estimated 40 percent from its peak, and more than 30,000 paramilitary fighters have been demobilized. Murders have dropped 40 percent from 2002 to 2006, and kidnappings almost 80 percent from 2000 to 2006.

But security is not enough. Colombia is awash in displaced people, chased from their homes by dueling guerrilla armies, and young men who have to be resocialized after lives of violence. They need jobs. That's why the Colombia-U.S. Free Trade Agreement is so important. It is pending in Congress, where Democratic leaders might let it die in the gravest act of strategic short-sightedness since their attempted rebuke of Turkey.

Uribe is an ally of the United States and a wildly popular democratic leader who saved his country when it tottered on the brink of collapse. That Congress would kick him in the teeth strikes Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, the Bush administration's chief evangelist for the deal, as scandalously

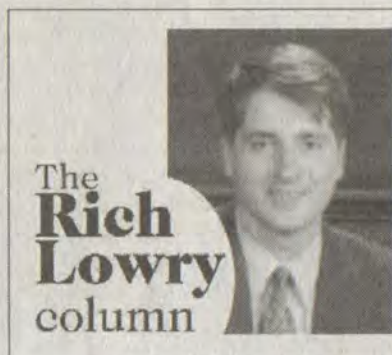
senseless. He escorts as many members of Congress as he can to Colombia, on the theory that when it comes to the greatest comeback story in the Americas, seeing is believing.

What holds Democrats back from supporting the trade agreement is union opposition back home. The unions hate the deal even though most Colombia exports to the U.S. already benefit from trade preferences, and the deal would remove duties on U.S. goods going to

Colombia. They complain about violence against Colombian union leaders, but attacks against unionists have tracked with general trends of violence — as killings have declined since 2002, so have murders of union leaders.

Rep. Meeks, an advocate for Afro-Colombians, supports the deal. He calls progress in the country "nothing short of a miracle," and blames the image of the "old Colombia" for limiting the deal's support. "If you come here," he says, strolling out into the streets of this revived neighborhood, "it's a no-brainer."

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



The Rich Lowry column

— beyond the beltway

Who is it that's supposed to win?

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

Once in every generation a politician appears who transcends politics; someone who inspires a nation with his grace and eloquence, speaking to the better angels of our nature. Abraham Lincoln was such a candidate, so was John F. Kennedy.

Barak Obama is another. His performance in the Iowa caucuses was a picture-perfect example of what can be done when a gifted politician hits his stride and becomes one with the spirit of the times. Obama reminds one of a surfer catching the perfect wave, dancing effortlessly in its heart as he hurtles toward shore.

He went into the caucuses with the odds heavily against him. He is black and Iowa is white. He is young and Iowa is old. His opponents were more experienced, many had been through these wars before and had finely tuned organizations working to oppose him.

But he won. He won by reigniting the American dream, by convincing young people, among others, that the future is worth fighting for. In doing so, he captured that strain of idealism that is the bedrock of the American society. With momentum on his side and the wind at his back, it is doubtful he can be headed off. I wouldn't be surprised if he ran the table from here on in.

(Excuse me, Mr. Columnist.)

I'm not ashamed to admit that I haven't been this giddy about a candidate since Adlai Stevenson. Call it premature if you will, but I'm booking airline tickets for the inauguration right now.

(Mr. Columnist, sir.)

"Will you please stop that? Can't you see I'm writing a political column? Where was I? Oh yes, I've even considered throwing objectivity to the wind and writing a campaign song for Barack. See what you think of it."

"Obama, I've just met a man named Obama"

"And suddenly I've found how wonderful a name can be."

"Obama. Say it loud and there's music playing."

"Say it soft and it's almost like..." ("SIR! HE LOST.") "What? Oh, it's you again. Will you stop? Who lost?" ("Your friend Obama. In New Hampshire, Hillary Clinton knocked his ears off.") "You're mad. Why, the day before the election the experts were predicting he'd win by 10 points, 12, even." (Yeah. Makes you wonder about the experts, doesn't it?)

"My good man you don't understand. She couldn't have won. She is cold and aloof. People don't like her. She cried while talking to a voter in a coffee shop. She was being overshadowed by her husband." ("All of that might be true, I suppose, but she won. Now the experts are saying the crying was a good move, made her seem human.")

"That's astonishing. I suppose this means Mitt Romney will be crying

like, a carwash from now on. By the way, how much did Gov. Romney win the New Hampshire primary by? ("He didn't win either.")

"Whaat? The unstoppable Mitt Romney? The Storrnin' Mormon?"

Who beat him, Mike Huckabee? I was afraid of that. You know Huckabee doesn't know a lot but he's a very charming guy. I'd vote for him myself if I didn't believe in evolution and indoor plumbing and the rest of it." ("It wasn't Huckabee. He came in third. John McCain won the New Hampshire primary.")

"Surely you jest. McCain is washed up, has been since last summer. Everybody says so. Besides, he's old and if it weren't for unpopular opinions, he wouldn't have any opinions at all. He's even in favor of President Bush's war, for crying out loud, and everybody knows the public is against it. Why, I'm told he often goes into meetings with voters and argues with them. What kind of campaigning is that? You can't win an election unless you suck up to voters." ("Apparently, Sen. McCain didn't get the memo.")

"What are the experts saying now?" ("Most say it's a wide-open race.") "Hmm, that's perceptive. I wish I'd thought of it." ("I wouldn't worry about it. You will.")

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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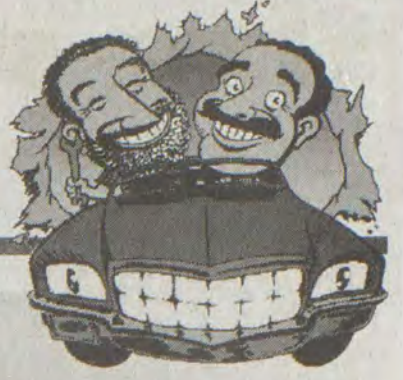
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CAR TALK:

Shop supplies are a legitimate charge

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.

Well, everything—not everything—looks dark from where I sit. It's still snowing.

A WELL-DONE

Floyd County's state highway workers have done a bangup job keeping the roads clear during the unusually heavy snows and freezes. I've been "riding shotgun" on trips to Winchester, where the paper is being printed—temporarily. I hope—and two weeks ago, when the snow was deepest, these boys had the Mountain Parkway cleared so well that we lit out, thinking all would be clear sailing. But as soon as Floyd County was left behind it was another story: snow and ice on almost every hill; even one toll station looked like Lower Slobbovia.

STILL MISSING

This might be called the Age of Discovery. Man has probed some far places, including the moon, and is now looking toward Mars. Homo sapiens is always searching and finding. But one thing he has never discovered, and it may evade him forever. That's a pleased taxpayer.

LAND 'O LAKES AND NO FISH!

Mrs. W. J. Lattery Jr., the former Peggy Reitz, writes from Minnesota.

"Have you ever done any fishing in Minnesota? If so, then you probably didn't have any luck here, either, as this state is known as the State of 10,000 Lakes and—as we residents here say—only 500 fish."

I would love Minnesota. Where else would a-body have an excuse for his fishing failures, all ready and waiting for him?

□□□

Last week, three mornings in a row, the thermometer at the dam gave a below-zero reading—4 below on the 21st, 11 below on the 22nd and 10 below on the 23rd.

Turning to a discussion of days when it was warmer, the tourist season of 1969, Murray said that the estimated 1,653,000 visitors to the Dewey Reservoir area, including Jenny Wiley State Park, in 1969 was a record—147,000 more than the preceding year. The peak day was May 29 when 32,800 persons visited the area.

EDITOR'S NOTICE: The Floyd County Times is happy to announce your engagement, new marriage, new baby, birthday or family reunion free of charge. However, space is limited and we can offer no guarantee of the exact day your announcement will run. Readers may opt to purchase ad space if these conditions are not satisfactory. With the purchase of a paid ad, run date, size and placement may be guaranteed.

'I was chosen'

by **TUCKER VICCELLIO**
as told to **Susan Alexander Yates**
and **Allison Yates Gaskins**
"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE EXPECTANT MOTHER'S SOUL"

It was time for bed, and I really didn't mind too much. It meant that Mommy would smooth my sheets and crawl into bed with me. I'd snuggle in her arms and she'd rub my hair and tell me how special I was and how much she loved me. If it wasn't too late and Mommy wasn't too tired, I might get to hear The Story before we said our prayers together.

**Finding success
Jacqueline King**

by **JOSHUA BEGLEY**
BSCTC FACULTY

In 1996, Jackie King found herself in a rough spot. She was 36 years old and her husband of 17 years left her with two children—a 13 year old daughter and an 11 year old son—and no way to support herself. She only had a high school education, little work experience other than being a mother, and practically no money.

Jackie stayed that way for almost ten months. The shock of her husband's departure coupled with the sudden onslaught of uncertainty about her future sent her into a deep depression. Then she made the decision that would change her life: she would go to school to gain a college education, eventually earning her a degree in Medical Transcription in 1998 with a 4.0 grade point average and the added distinction of being the first person in her family to earn a college degree.

It was not easy at first. Jackie was nervous about attending college after being out of school for so long. But despite this initial nervousness, Jackie was determined to succeed. She spent every free moment studying to the point where she would attend her kid's ballgames with an Anatomy book she could read in quick snippets during halftime and time outs.

She succeeded in more than just academics, though. Jackie quickly overcame her nervousness and made quick friends with many students and teachers, some of whom she stays in contact with to this day.

Jackie graduated in December, 1998, and landed her first job in January, 1999. During her final semester, one of her teachers had encouraged her to create her resume, and this bit of good advice and a bit of lucky timing got Jackie her first transcriptionist job in a local physician's office.

She had come to the office for a checkup for her son, but in the waiting room she saw a notice for a transcriptionist. After the doctor examined her son, Jackie mentioned the job opening. The doctor said he would consider her but that she would need to bring in a resume; thankfully, Jackie had one in her car.

Eight months later, Jackie was hired at Pikeville Medical Center as a second shift transcriptionist. She stayed in that position until April, 2001, when her department was outsourced to a transcription company in Atlanta, Georgia. Jackie was offered the Transcriptionist Coordinator position on a temporary



Jacqueline King

basis, and five months later she was hired for the job full time.

As wonderful as her new job was, Jackie was not content to stop there. She reenrolled at the Mayo campus of BSCTC in the summer of 2003 to earn her Associate in Applied Science. With her new degree, Jackie went back to school for a third time—this time online through Alfred State College in Alfred, New York—for her Health Information Technology Degree. In addition to her academic work, Jackie works for the same company, only now at home as a Quality Assurance Specialist.

Jackie has not only improved her own life with her decision to go to college, but the lives of the people around her. Her daughter recently graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater.

When asked if she had any advice for people thinking of entering college, Jackie had only this to say, "The college experience is one of the greatest things that has ever happened to me. You are never too young or old to learn. Age does not matter."

Returning to school Derek Keene

by **JOSHUA BEGLEY**
BSCTC FACULTY

It's hard to imagine that Derek Keene was ever nervous about the thought of entering college. He had already spent an extended tour of duty (nearly three and a half years) in the US Army. He served in Iraq, and worked as an LPN in the Burn ICU. When he returned home he was employed at a nursing home in Elkhorn City. However, Derek knew that in order to progress in his field he would have to go back to school and earn his degree. Although he had served his country in a dangerous area of the world and worked in literal life-and-death situations, he found himself nervous about going back to school after being away for so long.

He should not have been. Derek finished his first year at BSCTC's Pikeville Campus with a 4.0 grade point average and is currently a second year nursing student at Pikeville College with designs to complete his RN degree in May of



Derek Keene

2008.

Craighton Mauk, one of Derek's teachers, had this to say about him, "Derek is one of the most congenial students I have ever had the privilege of meeting. He goes out of his way to aid other students and tutor them whenever they seek his aid." Derek seems to naturally slide into

leadership positions wherever he goes and is counted a valuable member in both his work and school.

In fact, Derek still works at the nursing home in Elkhorn City while going to school, although he stressed to add that it was only for ten hours a week. In addition to his work and his classes, Derek plans on getting married in August to Bridgette Silcox, a first year nursing student.

For the long term, Derek desires to earn his Bachelors in nursing, and perhaps even become a Nurse Practitioner. For the short term, though, he wants to take some time off after finishing his second year so he and his fiancée can enjoy life a little and concentrate on the completion of her nursing degree.

Derek has excelled in arguably one of the most difficult fields of study and does so out of a genuine desire to help others. He serves as an example and an inspiration for his peers and should go as far as he wants to in this world.

**MOVIES FROM
THE BLACK LAGOON**

'The Children'

by **TOM DOTY**
TIMES COLUMNIST

I first caught this flick in the summer of 1980 and it was quite an experience. The movie in and of itself was an okay thriller but the best part about seeing it was the venue, which was a little piece of grindhouse heaven called Times Square. There one could plop down \$2.75 and see all manner of flicks in one of a dozen theaters which often featured three movies, a ton of coming attractions and the most bizarre and vocal audiences on the planet.

On this occasion I wound up giving my last five bucks to a homeless man in a nearby seat and then watched in amazement as he exchanged the money for marijuana from a dealer prowling the aisles. I was tapped out after that but it didn't stop the man from asking for more money when the effects of the drug brought on a case of the munchies. By the time our exchange was over, this film had begun and it would hold my attention for the next 70 minutes, except for a brief moment when I jumped two feet into the air upon feeling a furry critter brush past my ankles.



Tom Doty
Times Columnist

Turned out it wasn't a rat, but instead an oversized cat which had been brought into the theater (alongside several of its brethren) to live out the rest of its days on a strict diet of rats, popcorn and whatever else it could nab from the theater's floor, which included an ample bounty of spilled gummy bears, ju-ju-bees and assorted sticky patches whose origins I'd rather not explore.

The film opens with two inspectors at a nuclear plant knocking off for the day at the halfway point of their inspection of a power plant. Sure enough their departure is followed by a gas leak, with a cloud of yellow gunk freeing itself from the site and expanding into a full blown cloud. A school bus winds up driving straight through it and is preceded by a parent, Cathy Freemont, who passes the bus on a one-lane road, all the while honking and waving to her daughter who is on board.

Mom's a bit of a whacko when it comes to safety and is later observed smoking a butt while watching TV after tossing a halfhearted apology at her belly, which is swollen from being in the ninth month of her pregnancy.

Moments later Sheriff Billy arrives on the scene and is perplexed at the site of a school bus parked half off the road in front of the town cemetery. He observes that the vehicle is empty and wisely posts his deputy at a roadblock while searching the area for the children, who were last heard singing "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall" before passing through the toxic cloud.

The sheriff stops at the first student's house he comes upon and finds that the child's swinger/slacker parents are too busy smoking weed and

somehow been chosen. When I was about seven months pregnant with my own child, my mother came to visit. It was one of those really uncomfortable days, and the baby was kicking me nonstop. As I groaned and held my stomach, my mother said, "It must be amazing to feel her kick."

Suddenly, it dawned on me that my mother had never felt a baby inside her womb.

(See LAGOON, page six)



you got me."

"Well, Tucker," she would continue, "That was the most exciting day in my life! It began when the telephone rang, and a voice on the other end said, 'Mrs. Freeman, your beautiful baby girl has just been born. Would you like to come see her?'"

"I called your daddy at the office, and he raced home and picked me up, and we hurried to the hospital. At first we stood outside the window where all the new babies were and just looked at them, trying to figure out which one was you! When we got to the end of the row of babies, there you were, and you turned your head and looked at us and seemed to smile!"

"We couldn't wait to take you home and introduce you to our fami-

ly and friends. When we drove up in front of our house, there were lots of friends who had come to see you and to bring you presents. You have always been such a gift to us. Why, the smartest thing Daddy and I ever did in our lives was to adopt you."

Each time Mother told me The Story, she got excited. She never tired of telling it, and I never got tired of hearing her tell it. From the beginning, she made me feel that being adopted was tremendously special, that I had

When I was about seven months pregnant with my own child, my mother came to visit. It was one of those really uncomfortable days, and the baby was kicking me nonstop. As I groaned and held my stomach, my mother said, "It must be amazing to feel her kick."

Suddenly, it dawned on me that my mother had never felt a baby inside her womb.

(See SOUP, page six)

Shop supplies are a legitimate charge

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
What are shop supplies? I always thought it was old rags and sprays to clean or lube. My recent visit to a dealer's garage cost me \$22.56 for shop supplies. My total bill was \$297.81. If I take my car to the dealer for repairs three times in a month, that will cost me a lot for supplies. Do I have to pay it? Is it a tip? — Carol

TOM: It's not a tip, Carol. If you want a tip, try Frau Blucher in the eighth to show.

RAY: The term "shop supplies" generally refers to things like solvents, cleaners, small quantities of fluids, rags, the servicing of the parts-cleaning machine, and the disposal of waste oil and other environmentally toxic mat-

rials. And perhaps antacids for treating the occasional sausage bomb ingested by one of our guys during his lunch break.

TOM: It's all stuff that does have to be paid for. But shops have different ways of dealing with it.

RAY: In our shop, we actually track the shop supplies that were used for a particular job and itemize them on the customer's bill. So on the bill, you might see a charge for brake cleaner, or for topping off your power-steering fluid or antifreeze.

TOM: The problem is, we have a relatively small shop. And when you have a dealership, with 20 bays going and a hundred customers a day, it's very difficult to keep track of that stuff on a job-by-job basis. It becomes a bookkeeping nightmare. Then you'd

have to add a bookkeeping charge to every bill, which wouldn't make you very happy either, Carol.

RAY: So in many cases, a shop will simply bury that stuff in the labor rate, and charge \$90 an hour instead of \$85. And that's fair. They tell you up front that this is the cost of doing business with them.

TOM: But other shops choose not to do that, probably for competitive reasons: They don't want their labor rate to be higher than other shops in the area. So in those cases, they often charge a percentage of the repair cost for "shop supplies." That's what happened in your case.

RAY: We don't particularly care for that approach, because then you may come in for a job like a window regulator, which requires no shop supplies

— no rags, no cleaners, no solvents — and you still end up paying 7 percent or 8 percent of your bill for supplies.

TOM: And somebody who gets a brake job (which uses a lot of supplies) essentially gets his job subsidized by you.

RAY: But like I said, it's very hard for large shops to track this stuff individually. So I would prefer that it either be included in the hourly labor rate, or made clear at the outset that there is a certain percent surcharge on each bill to cover these costs. At least that way, you know what to expect upfront and can make your decisions accordingly.

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



CLICK & CLACK
Talk Cars

Lagoon

prancing about their pool in European swim wear to be concerned about their child.

After dumping their stash in the drink, Billy approaches the town doctor, a woman, who accompanies him back to the bus, where a search turns up nothing. The sheriff splits but the doctor enters the cemetery, where she finds one dead bus driver and several preadolescent who now sport black fingernails, vacant stares and the ability to incinerate an adult by touching them. The doctor doesn't live long

enough to warn anybody and it takes the sheriff a good 45 minutes to figure things out despite the added help of Cathy's husband, John.

John isn't much of a bargain and insists on keeping the news from Cathy, though he does take time to bark at her like a dog and order her to make coffee despite her delicate condition. The kids eventually come home to roost and run amok.

One talks itself into the bedroom of the Freemonts' son, who then learns the hard

way that nuked-out zombie kids take the game of "hide and seek" way too seriously. In fact their variation could be more aptly titled hide, seek and kill.

The death of her son finally convinces Cathy that the kids are not alright, but she gets the message way too long after crushing the sheriff's head with a potted plant after she spies him shooting at the children through her living room window.

Things look pretty bad for awhile, as the tots appear

impervious to bullets, but it turns out that they are quite susceptible to expiring after their hands are cut off. That's right, folks, this one ends with two adults chasing children around their backyard while trying to hack their hands off. Add to that one freaky birth scene and you have a very unhappy ending to a mostly mediocre horror fest.

Maybe this is best seen in a grindhouse theater, but you can still enjoy the experience if you purchase the "Grindhouse Experience" DVD set, which

includes 20 films that routinely played at Times Square theaters. It's a good sampler which includes horror flicks, soft core sex romps, kung-fu action fests and even spaghetti western and gangster films. The transfers aren't the best but that only adds to the experience, though they should

have included sticky stuff on the discs to give you a real taste of the 42nd Street culture. At least they don't include the giant cats and hungry derelicts which harassed yours truly.

Best line: "Bullseye, Billy, you just shot a dead dog." 1980, rated R.

Continued from p5

Soup

"Mother," I said, "come and put your hands on my stomach. I want you to feel your grandchild."

The look of awe on my

mother's face as she felt her granddaughter kicking inside my womb was so precious to me. I realized that I was able to give my mother a gift that

she had not been able to experience personally. She had given me so many gifts, and finally I was able to share a very personal one with her.

Continued from p5



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FLOYD COUNTY Sports

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Phillips to succeed Brooks at Kentucky

Current Wildcat head coach signs contract extension through 2011

by JEFFREY McMURRAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Kentucky offensive coordinator Joker Phillips will eventually become the Wildcats' head coach follow-

ing Rich Brooks' retirement. The school had an afternoon news conference Friday that included Brooks, Phillips, university president Lee Todd Jr. and athletic director Mitch Barnhart.

The 66-year-old Brooks has not set a timetable for his retirement. He signed a contract extension through 2011 on Friday that will pay him more than \$1.5 million a season.

Phillips, who just completed his third season with the Wildcats, helped engineer a potent offensive attack featuring quarterback

Andre Woodson. He was born in Franklin, played for Kentucky from 1981-84 and spent three seasons with the Washington Redskins.

Phillips had been considered one of the top candidates for head coaching positions elsewhere. Before last year's Music City Bowl, which Kentucky won for the second straight season, Phillips was asked whether he planned to return to the Wildcats.

"I'm here now," he said. Phillips and defensive coordinator Steve Brown are both black, the first time

a Southeastern Conference team has had two black coordinators at the same time.

Phillips and Brooks have worked together to revamp Kentucky's program. Led by Woodson, the Wildcats have posted consecutive 8-5 seasons that included victories in the Music City Bowl. It marked the first time since 1951-52 the Wildcats made back-to-back bowl appearances.

Brooks is 25-35 in five seasons with the Wildcats and 116-144-4 in 23 seasons overall at the college level.



photo courtesy of Dusty Layne Photography/East Kentucky Miners
PIKEVILLE was one of the many 15th Region cheerleading teams in competition Wednesday night at the East Kentucky Expo Center during the annual regional KAPOs event.

Float and fly method works during wintertime

by LEE McCLELLAN
KENTUCKY AFIELD

FRANKFORT — It is now mid-January and the excitement of the holidays is gone till next December. Credit cards bills arrive in the mailbox and it's a long slog before warm weather or any significant time off. The biggest bummer is the water temperature in most Kentucky lakes and rivers. It hovers in the mid-40s, which for most anglers means no fishing for at least the next six weeks.

Don't despair. The float and fly method — suspending a light fly underneath a bobber — lifts the wintertime, post-holiday doldrums with chunky, mean smallmouth bass, plus spotted and largemouth bass, bluegill and even the occasional walleye. The float and fly method utilizes a long spinning rod, 4- to 6-pound line and a tiny duck feather or craft hair jig to fool suspended fish in winter. The technique works best in the toughest lakes to fish such as Lake Cumberland, Dale Hollow Lake and Laurel River Lake. The float and fly will also work in the lower sections of Green River Lake, Paintsville Lake and Barren River Lake.

The float and fly technique works best when the water is coldest in Kentucky. Water temperatures plummeting into the mid- to low-40s stress baitfish such as threadfin shad or alewife. They swim in circles and twitch erratically as they fight off death. Nature programs predator fish, such as smallmouth bass, to take advantage of the situation by eating this easily captured prey.

The technique harkens back to your early fishing days of bluegill fishing with redworms suspended under a bobber. You'll need a rod at least 8 feet in length. Many manufacturers offer rods specifically designed for this technique that retail for under \$50. Six to 9-weight fly rods and the long, fiberglass crappie rods have guides too small for casting the extremely light fly and bobber much distance, but work in a pinch.

The fly of the float and fly is a small craft hair jig suspended under a 2- to 7/8-inch long, pear-shaped plastic bobber. Tackle shops around Lake Cumberland and Dale Hollow sell specially weighted Styrofoam bobbers designed for extra casting distance. They easily tip on their sides if a smallmouth bass takes the fly and

(See FLOAT, page two)



photo by Jamie Howell

THE FLOYD COUNTY GRADE SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT tipped off Friday night at Adams Middle School. More on the tournament will appear in Wednesday's edition.

Valley girls defeat Phelps for 15th Region All 'A' title

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PHELPS — Shelby Valley prevented first-year Phelps head coach J.R. VanHoose from guiding the Lady Hornets to a 15th Region All "A" Classic championship in his debut season. Valley upended host Phelps Thursday night, winning 44-36.

Kayla Cantrell scored 13 points and Laura Perkins pushed in 12 as the Lady Wildcats claimed the small-school regional championship.

Shelby Valley established a lead in the opening half, limiting Phelps to just 12 first half points. The Lady Wildcats owned a 25-12 lead when the game entered its

intermission. Kaitlin Riley led Phelps with 13 points. Kayla Johnson followed with 12 points for the Lady Hornets.

Jasmine Hall scored eight points and Taylor Keene collected three for host Phelps.

A scoreboard for the Girls' 15th Region All "A" Classic follows/Jan. 14—Allen Central 55, Pikeville 47 (Overtime); Phelps 68, South Floyd 51. Jan. 15—Shelby Valley 74, Piarist School 20; Paintsville 58, Betsy Layne 41. Jan. 16—Phelps 55, Allen Central 47; Shelby Valley 59, Paintsville 52. Shelby Valley 44, Phelps 36 (Championship Game).

BOYS' 15TH REGION ALL 'A' CLASSIC AT BETSY LAYNE

Wednesday, Jan. 23
Phelps-Pikeville, 6:30 p.m.
Shelby Valley-Betsy Layne, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 24
Allen Central-Paintsville, 6:30 p.m.
South Floyd-Piarist, 8:15 p.m.

ALL 'A' ONLINE:
www.allaclassic.org

57th District: Tigers topple Magoffin County

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

SALYERSVILLE — Senior guard Landon Slone scored a game-high 28 points and senior forward Shane Grimm added 25 Thursday night as 15th Region title contender Paintsville continued to dominate in the 57th District, defeating homes-tanding Magoffin County 94-72.

The Tigers outscored Magoffin County in each of the first three quarters en route to the convincing win.

Paintsville packed a 22-17 lead out of the opening period and owned a 44-31 lead at halftime.

The Tigers solidified their lead early on in the second half, outscoring

Magoffin County 27-15 in the third quarter.

Senior guards Blake Bundy and Justin Murray aided the Paintsville offensive effort, finishing with 16 and 13 points, respectively.

J.D. VanHoose added seven points as the Tigers defeated defending district champion Magoffin County.

The Hornets pulled off an upset win over Paintsville in last season's 57th District championship game. Paintsville, Magoffin County, Johnson Central, Sheldon Clark and Lawrence County make up a very competitive 57th District.

Earlier in the week, Paintsville defeated crosstown rival Johnson Central in another 57th District

matchup. Four different players reached double figures in the scoring column for host Magoffin County.

Nine different Hornets provided scoring in the district matchup.

PAINTSVILLE 94, MAGOFFIN COUNTY 72
PAINTSVILLE (14-2) — Slone 28, VanHoose 7, Bundy 16, Grimm 25, Murray 13, Pack 2, Vilaondo 2, Deaton 1.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY (3-14) — Hunley 2, Francis 16, Lemaster 11, Shepherd 13, Carty 2, Minix 6, Sparks 7, Marshall 12, Russell 3.
Paintsville.....22 27 23-94
MC.....17 14 15 26-72

Miners bring Honey Project to East Kentucky

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — In Eastern Kentucky, tomorrow's businesses are taking shape today. And the mold for many of the promising new business leaders is a sweet one. The East Kentucky Miners professional basketball team is bringing an international program called the "Honey Project" to the area.

In the program, high school students create their own company that imports and sells organic honey from Africa. The money raised is split between participating students from area schools and poverty stricken countries in Africa. Organizers say the idea is to teach students real-world business skills they can use later in life.

Many Eastern Kentucky cities, including Pikeville, continue to enjoy considerable economic growth. The emergence of young business leaders is vital throughout Eastern Kentucky.

Some business leaders in Eastern Kentucky believe The Honey Project can teach teenagers all they need to know about starting, funding and running their own businesses.

"They're competing in a global economy, so we want to expose them as much as possible to options and opportunities and business ownership is one of those options," said Honey Project Director Nathan Burrell. Last year, Florida students in the program earned more than \$6,000 dollars. Directors say most students in the program go on to own their own business after college.

"I've witnessed first hand how powerful this program is," Miners co-owner and president Demetrius Ford added. "I've watched it turn young, shy teenagers into confident and outspoken young professionals."

When asked why he wanted to bring the program to East Kentucky,

Ford said, "After spending a few months in Pike County, I quickly learned that this area was built on coal mining. Most of the kids here believe that their careers will be tied in one way or another to the coal industry, and little thought is put into working in other sectors or professions. There is also a trend whereby those students who are a bit more ambitious and go off to college, don't return to East Kentucky and apply what they've learned here in the region. Business leaders I've spoken with fear that if and when coal production slows, there may not be enough non-coal related industry to continue to grow the local economy. What we're trying to do is reach out to the kids who have been blessed with skills and aptitudes they don't yet know they have, and encourage them to become the business leaders of East Kentucky's future. I firmly believe that if you give kids an opportunity they

didn't know existed, and through training, help them unveil talents and strengths they didn't know they had all along, they will be excited and encouraged to excel. The hope is that most of these young, future leaders choose to stay in Eastern Kentucky, and take what they'll learn and pass it on to the generations that follow."

All area high schools will have an opportunity to take part in the Honey Project. The first class will commence on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at the Pike County Schools central office. For information about the Honey Project or how to help sponsor or support support the program, email Nathan Burrell at nburrell@honeyproject.com or Barb Johnson at bjohnson@ekminers.com.

ONLINE:
www.ekminers.com
www.honeyproject.com

20th-ranked Bears beat ALC, keep winning streak alive

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIPPA PASSES — No. 20 Pikeville College picked up its 12th straight win Thursday night, knocking off Alice Lloyd College 87-60.

The Bears rank as one of the NAIA's top teams. The team has enjoyed a considerable amount of success under second-year head coach Kelly Wells.

The Eagles kept it close early, with Pikeville leading by five, 39-34, at the half. That is in stark comparison to the first meeting between the teams, where the Bears came away with a 90-47 win.

The second half, however, was a little more to Wells' liking; the Bears outscored their hosts 48-26 to cruise to the win.

Senior Jeff Ferguson, limited to five minutes of time in the first half, led all scorers with 26 points. The Toronto product led five players in double figures. Ewan Linton followed with 14 points for the visiting team.

Junior William Harris followed with 11 points, 10 rebounds, four assists and two steals. Freshman Justin Hicks had 11 points to go with four assists and three steals, while Anthony Ighodaro came off the bench with 10 points.

Eric Mullins led Alice Lloyd with 13 points in off of the bench. Rodney Mitchell followed with 10 points for the Eagles.

Pikeville improved to 15-2 on the season and will return to action Jan. 26 versus West Virginia University Tech in the first Mid-South Conference opener.

Lady Bears outlast ALC

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIPPA PASSES — The Pikeville College Lady Bears won back to back games for the first time this season after an 82-72 win over Alice Lloyd on Thursday night.

Bill Watson-coached Pikeville (5-14) placed five players in double figures, led by freshman Whitney Compton. The Haysi, Va., product came off the bench for 17 points and four rebounds. Junior Whitney Hogg followed with 13 points, five rebounds and three steals. Junior Alice Daniel followed with 11 thanks to hitting 3-of-6 from the arc.

Senior Heather English had 10 points and five rebounds, while junior Kristal Daniels — who played her freshman season at Alice Lloyd — had a double-double with 10 points and 14 rebounds in only 19 minutes. Daniels is a Betsy Layne High School graduate.

Thanks to the efforts of Daniels, the Lady Bears won the rebounding battle 42-29.

Alice Lloyd was led by Kaylan Richardson's 22. The junior from Owenton hit 6-of-10 from the arc to go with seven rebounds.

Taran Cory had 14 points, while Whitney Frazier tossed in 13 and Nicole Lutes added 11.

The Lady Bears will be back in action on Saturday, Jan. 26, hosting West Virginia University Tech. The 2 p.m. tip will begin league play for the Lady Bears, who will play a grueling 10-game round-robin against Mid-South Conference foes to end the season.

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