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Volume 82, Issue 20 • 75 Cents



PHELPS BEATS SOUTH FLOYD

— page B1

briefs

Protestors call for end of mountaintop removal

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — Hundreds of protesters are urging lawmakers to pass a bill that could curb what they say is a devastating form of coal mining that obliterates mountaintops.

People from across the state packed outside Capitol on Thursday, singing songs and making speeches against mountaintop removal coal mining. They called on Kentucky lawmakers to pass legislation that would significantly slow mountaintop mining by preventing coal companies from pushing dirt and rock into valleys below.

Mountaintop removal mining is a process in which peaks are leveled with explosives and heavy machinery to extract the coal.

Similar legislation has been proposed in the General Assembly before, but has not gained traction.

Detective defends cold case investigation

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A former detective expressed regret this week in an interview with Times staff saying that the Prestonsburg Police Department had done everything within the scope of their authority to solve the 1992 disappearance of Walter Cropper.

"Not a week goes by that I don't think about him," Ricky Conn said in a telephone interview on Thursday.

"That was the unsolved case that sticks with me the most."

Times staff had attempted to reach Conn for a story it published last Sunday after renewed interest in the 1992 case was spawned by a radio show featuring the victim's mother. Conn said the victim's mother, Kathy Cropper-Powe, of Florida, has in the last 10 years begun to blame him for not solving the case. Conn alleged that the victim's mother had attacked him in a letter to The Times sometime around 1998.

"I can't imagine what that feels like to lose a child," Conn said. "If using me for a punching bag can make her feel better, I can take that."

As was reported last week, Cropper-Powe was recently interviewed on Missing Pieces, a one-hour internet radio show that helps people both deal with their loss, as well as generate interest in their cause. The show deals specifically with cold cases and missing persons.

On the show, hosted by Todd Matthews, Cropper-Powe said that she

"had never dealt with anything like what I dealt with there (Prestonsburg)," adding that she felt the local police were less than enthusiastic about her son's case.

One specific charge she leveled on the force, and Conn in particular, was that they had not listed her son on a missing person's report for 48 hours after she notified them of the disappearance.

"That is kind of true," Conn

(See COLD CASE, page ten)

Bridges focus of Floyd road projects

by RALPH B. DAVIS
MANAGING EDITOR

FRANKFORT — The state Transportation Cabinet has released its proposed six-year road plan, and for Floyd County that mostly means bridge replacement.

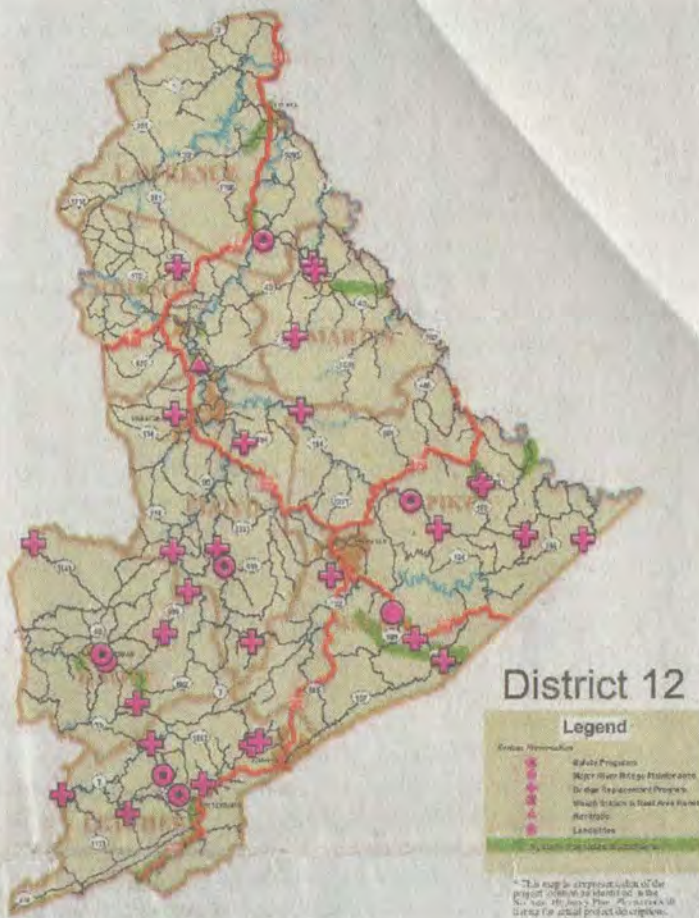
The \$5.3 billion plan was released Wednesday and presented to the General Assembly. The plan calls for \$14,150,000 in spending for Floyd County.

Eight projects are listed in the plan for Floyd County, seven of which call for the replacement of bridges on state and county roads. Those projects include:

■ Replacing a bridge over the Left Fork of Beaver Creek on Route 1101, near the Route 122 intersection. The plan calls for \$1.25 million for construction in 2008.

■ Replacing a bridge over Cow Creek on Route 1428, near the Route 194 intersection. The plan calls for \$320,000 for right-of-way acquisition in 2008, \$180,000 for utility relocation in 2008 and \$1.52 million for construction in 2010.

■ Replacing a bridge over the Right Fork of Beaver Creek



A map detailing the location of District 12 road projects in the proposed six-year plan released this week.

on County Road 1962, near the Route 7 intersection. The plan calls for \$180,000 for design in 2008, \$320,000 for right-of-way acquisition in 2009, \$160,000 for utility relocation in 2009 and \$900,000 for construction in 2012.

■ Replacing a bridge and approaches over Brushy Creek on Route 194 at the Floyd-Pike county line. The plan calls for \$70,000 for utility relocation in 2008 and \$730,000 for construction in 2009.

■ Replacing a bridge and approaches over the Left Fork of Beaver Creek on Route 466. The plan calls for \$280,000 in right-of-way acquisition in 2008, \$280,000 for utility relocation in 2008 and \$1.17 mil-

lion for construction in 2010.

■ Replacing a bridge and approaches over the Right Fork of Beaver Creek on Route 777. The plan calls for \$280,000 in right-of-way acquisition in 2009, \$320,000 for utility relocation in 2009 and \$1.29 million for construction in 2010.

■ Replacing a bridge and approaches over Abbott Creek on Meade Branch Road, near the Route 1427 intersection. The plan calls for \$225,000 for design in 2012, \$175,000 for right-of-way acquisition in 2014 and \$200,000 for utility relocation in 2014.

The final Floyd County project on the list is also the most

(See PLAN, page ten)

Fire department stunned by sudden death of member

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The sudden and unexpected death of a veteran of the Prestonsburg Fire Department Wednesday left firefighters dealing quietly with their grief as they prepared a memorial service to honor their fallen comrade.

"We lost a lot of experience that is going to be tough to replace," said Assistant Fire Chief Chester "Chuck" Davis.

Phillip "Rusty" Chaffins, 36, of Prestonsburg, passed away

Wednesday at his home after an illness. According to officials with the Prestonsburg Fire Department, Chaffins was an 18-year veteran with the department and had worked his way up from volunteer. He was an advanced fire inspector, emergency medical technician and a hazardous materials technician.

"He (Chaffins) was very dedicated," Davis said, adding that Chaffins spent a lot of his off time at the fire station, and was always the first to offer to cover a shift

(See FIREMAN, page ten)

Stumbo appointed to committees

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

FRANKFORT — Newly-elected 95th District Rep. Greg Stumbo was appointed vice chair of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives earlier this week.

"I am honored to share the duties of the important Judiciary Committee," Stumbo said. "I believe my experience as attorney general and in the legislature will be of great benefit to

this committee and I'm eager to get started."

The House Judiciary Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Kathy Stein, hears matters pertaining to civil procedures, such as the Supreme Court, correctional facilities, civil rights, probation and parole, and the uniform commercial code.

During Wednesday's meeting, House Bill 367, which deals with strength-

(See STUMBO, page ten)

Beshear proposes opening 12 casinos across state

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — After months of anticipation, Gov. Steve Beshear unveiled his proposal on Thursday to legalize casinos in Kentucky.

The newly elected Democrat called for 12 casinos in various parts of the state — seven of them at horse tracks and five in communities along the state's border with Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia.

"We've been wrestling with this issue for over a decade now," Beshear said. "It's been debated and discussed but it has never been finally decided, and I think it is time to finally let the people decide this issue."

Although Kentucky has a long tradition of wagering at horse tracks, state

Final sites not named, but Floyd County could be in running

law specifically forbids casinos. Beshear wants lawmakers to approve a measure that would allow Kentucky voters to change the constitution to allow them.

Beshear said his proposal could generate \$600 million a year in additional revenue for state government after all the casinos are fully operating. He said the proposal also would generate \$500 million in upfront application and licensing fees in 2009 and about \$330 million in 2010.

Casino opponents have been at work since Beshear won election last

November trying to derail the proposal, which would go first to state lawmakers. If they agree to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot, Kentucky voters would then ratify or reject the proposal.

"I think the people of this state want to put this to rest one way or the other," Beshear said. "It is time to let the people make this decision."

Beshear had made the casino proposal a centerpiece in his campaign last year against former Gov. Ernie Fletcher, saying such a move would generate needed revenue for state gov-

ernment.

Half of the revenue from state taxes on casinos would be used to fund education under Beshear's plan. In addition, 20 percent would go to health care initiatives, including care for the elderly and for poor children. The remainder would be used for a variety of state and local initiatives.

"This bill is a blatant attempt to seduce governmental officials by offering them a cut of the revenue that's generated by making losers of Kentucky citizens," said John Mark Hack, head of the antigambling group Say No To Casinos. "There are no surprises in what the governor has offered."

The proposal unveiled Thursday

(See CASINOS, page ten)

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



Cloudy

High: 47 • Low: 23

Tomorrow



Partly cloudy

High: 43 • Low: 31

For up-to-the-minute forecasts, see floydcountytimes.com

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Obituaries

Gradis C. Boyd

Gradis C. Boyd, age 80, of Betsy Layne, departed this life on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at his residence.

He was born in Betsy Layne, on June 16, 1927, the son of the late B. Palmer and Goldie Conn Boyd.

He was a retired mechanic with CSX Railroad; a veteran of the United States Marines, having served during WWII; and was a member of the Betsy Layne Freewill Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Golda Parsons Boyd; a son, Randall G. and (Donna) Boyd of Stanville; three brothers: Clifford Boyd of Prestonsburg; and Orbie Boyd and Archer D. Boyd, both of Betsy Layne; three grandchildren: Randy Boyd, Angela (Phillip) King, and Shonna Boyd; and a great-grandchild, Baylee Grace King.

Funeral services will be held Friday, February 15, at 1:00 p.m., in the Betsy Layne Freewill Baptist Church, with Tracy Patton officiating.

Burial will be in the Davidson Memorial Gardens in Ivel, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home, of Martin.

(Paid obituary)

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Talon Alexander Brown

Talon Alexander Brown, one year and 17 days old, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, February 10, 2008, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

Born January 24, 2007, in Prestonsburg, he was the son of Carl and Sarah E. Brown.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by an aunt and uncle: Constance and Shane Moore of Langley; his paternal grandparents and great-grandparents: Carl David Sr., and Linda Carol Hicks Brown of Langley; Gladys Hicks of Langley; Thelma Brown of Martin; and his maternal grandmother, Susie Robinson

Gray of East Point.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents and great-grandparents: Luther Hicks, and Thomas Brown; and his maternal great-grandfather, Calvin K. Gray.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 13, at 1 p.m., at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Tom Nelson officiating.

Burial was in Gethsemane Gardens, in Prestonsburg, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

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Phillip Russell "Rusty" Chaffins

Phillip Russell "Rusty" Chaffins, age 36, of Prestonsburg, passed away on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at his residence.

He was born August 7, 1971, at McDowell, the son of Phillip Lowell and Alice Delena Perry Chaffins of Prestonsburg.

He was a fireman at the Prestonsburg Fire Department.

Survivors, other than his parents, are two sons, Jacob Russell Chaffins and Jordan Christopher Chaffins, both of Prestonsburg; a daughter, Kimberly Dawn Chaffins of Prestonsburg; two brothers: Shawn Chaffins of Banner; and Norman Chaffins of Pikeville.

He was preceded in death by a son, Phillip Gene Chaffins.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, February 16, at 11:00 a.m., in the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg, with Bobby Carpenter, Tommy Reed, and Larry Adams officiating.

Burial will be in the Setser Cemetery in Prestonsburg, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home in Martin.

Visitation was held 6-10 p.m., Thursday, and will be held, 11-10 p.m., Friday, at the Prestonsburg Fire Station No. 1.

(Paid obituary)



Brian Douglas George

Brian Douglas George, 34, of Houston, Texas, passed away suddenly, as a result of a traffic accident on February 10, 2008, in Montgomery, Texas.

He was born February 28, 1973, in Pikeville.

He was preceded in death by his father, Michael Douglas George of Kentucky.

Brian is survived by his wife, Mary Rebecca (Becky) Marks George; parents, Mary Lee and Fred Colston, III; step-mother, Linda George; brothers: Chris Colston, Josh George, and Ben George; grandparents: Peggy George, and the late Douglas George; the late Darwin and Christine Patton; and Joanna and Fred Colston, Jr.; parents-in-law, Linda Marks and the late Richard Marks Sr.; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Richard and Diane Marks Jr., and Dale and Pam Faltysck; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins in Kentucky, Wisconsin, Ohio, Virginia and Michigan.

Brian graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's Degree in chemical engineering and was employed as a chemical engineer with Baker Petrolite in Houston. He was an avid outdoorsman.

Funeral services are set for 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 15, at Forest Park The

Woodlands Funeral Chapel.

Interment will follow in Forest Park The Woodlands Cemetery. Visitation will be held Thursday, February 14, from 4 to 9 p.m., at the funeral home.

In memory of Brian, memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, 6350 North Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309-2130, or Susan G. Komen for the Cure, 5005 LBJ Fwy., Ste. 250, Dallas, TX 75244. To leave a tribute in memory of Brian, please visit www.mem.com.

(Paid obituary)

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Wade Ousley

Wade Ousley, age 68, of Martin, passed away Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at his residence.

He was born November 2, 1939, in Manton, the son of the late John Wesley Ousley and Audrey Howard Ousley.

Survivors include a brother, Jason (Loretta) Ousley of Martin; a sister-in-law, Mary Ousley of Prestonsburg; a sister, Lou Jean (Ernest R.) Gibson of Martin; 11 nieces and nephews; and several great-nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Beverley Clark Ousley of Prestonsburg.

Funeral services for Wade Ousley will be conducted Friday, February 15, at 11:00 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin, with Clergyman Gary Allen officiating.

Burial will follow in the John W. Ousley Family Cemetery, in Martin, with Hall Funeral Home, caring for those arrangements.

Visitation was at the funeral home, with church services held Thursday evening at 7:00.

Pallbearers: Eddie Hartgrove, Jay Alex Hartgrove, Kenny Ray Scarberry, Jonathan Scarberry, Matthew Neil Hicks, Wade Alan

Damron, Christopher Damron, John Patrick Ousley, Sean Michael Ousley, and Solomon Kilburn.

Honorary: Ernest R. Gibson, Ken Scarberry, Craig Hicks, Rodney Damron, Chase Ousley, Kane Andrew Scarberry, Luke Adam Scarberry, Kari Gill, Bethany Scarberry, Allana Grace Damron, Sara Rose Damron, Allison Elaine Hicks, Makayla Grace Ousley and Matthew Gill.

(Paid obituary)

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Debra Mae Elkins Rainey

Debra Mae Elkins Rainey, 43, of Lawrenceburg, died Sunday, February 10, 2008, at the Frankfort Regional Medical Center in Frankfort.

She is the daughter of Blanche C. and Vernon Patton of Lawrenceburg, and Silas Woodrow Elkins of London.

She was born April 1, 1964, in Detroit, Michigan. She was an office manager at Cars-4-All in Lexington.

In addition to her parents, she is also survived by a son, John Morgan Rainey of Lawrenceburg; a sister, Wendy Lou Rainey of Tampa, Florida; three brothers: Ritchie Deal Elkins of Corbin, Kenneth Ray (Marie) Elkins of Melvin, and James Michael Elkins of Prestonsburg; four nieces: Mariah "Princess" Roberts, Shanna Hall, Cassie Dawn Elkins, Kimberly Ann Elkins; two nephews: Kyle Ray Elkins and James Dean Elkins.

Funeral services were held 2 p.m., Thursday, February 14th, at Ritchie & Peach Funeral Home in Lawrenceburg. Ms. Rainey was cremated following services. Visitation was 5-8 p.m., Wednesday.

Memorials are suggested to the Anderson County Humane Society, P.O. Box 494, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342.

(Paid obituary)

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Rubel G. Wright

Rubel G. Wright, age 96, of Hi Hat, widow of the late Martin J. Wright, passed away Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital.

She was born June 19, 1911, in Pound, Virginia, the daughter of the late Edgar A. Balthis and Gracie Stumbo Balthis. She was a homemaker; an employee of Jenny Wiley Lodge; and a member of the Prestonsburg Church of Christ.

Survivors include her step-mother, Julia Balthis of Pound, Virginia; five sons: Lindell D. (Jane), and Edgar C. Wright, both of Brownstown, Michigan; James C. (Eulene) Wright of Whittington, Illinois; Martin (Paulette) Wright Jr., of Dearborn Height, Michigan; and Benjamin F. (Lana) Wright of Hi Hat; two daughters: Shari D. Moran of Hi Hat; and Vickie (Birchell) Moore of Howe, Indiana; a stepdaughter, Marcell (Donald) Roys of Lakeland, Florida; seven brothers: Bobby D. Balthis of Cromona; Harold E. Balthis of Bean Station, Tennessee; Freddie G. Balthis of Wise, Virginia; Lewis D. Balthis of Wise, Virginia; and Henry Balthis, Gary Balthis, and Johnny Balthis, all of Pound, Virginia; two sisters: Betty M. McFarland and Sheila K. Seavers, both of Pound, Virginia; 18 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, a daughter, Cheryl J. Dye, and a grandson, David L. Wright.

Funeral services for Rubel G. Wright were conducted Friday, February 8, at 1:00 p.m., at the Hall Funeral Home, in Martin, with Clergyman Rick Kelley officiating.

Burial was in the Newman Cemetery, in Hi Hat.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Kentucky among states with highest ATV deaths

by JENNIFER C. KERR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — At least 555 people — including more than 100 children — died in all-terrain vehicle accidents in 2006. Government safety officials expect the number to go much higher as they receive information from coroners and hospitals nationwide.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that an additional 146,600 people were treated in emergency rooms for ATV-related injuries — more than a quarter of them children.

Consumer groups and parents who have lost children in crashes have complained for years about the safety of the popular off-road vehicles.

The industry contends it's not the ATV but the driver that's the problem.

"ATVs have never been shown to be an unsafe product, but there have been bad decisions made by people sitting on the seat," said Mike Mount, a spokesman for the California-based Specialty Vehicle Institute of America.

In its annual report released Thursday, the CPSC said Pennsylvania has had the highest number of reported ATV deaths since 1982, followed by California, West Virginia, Texas and Kentucky. Every state had at least one death attributed to ATVs.

"The signs are pointing to a very dangerous trend into more than 800 deaths per year," said CPSC spokesman Scott Wolfson. The agency is still gathering data as far back as 2003. The report updates CPSC data with numbers from 2006, the latest year that agency staff have analyzed.

Between 2002 and 2004, Kentucky had the highest number of ATV-related deaths nationwide, with 106, accord-

ing to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Kentucky State Police recorded 21 ATV-related fatalities in both 2005 and 2006 in a state that caters to riders by providing numerous public trails.

In 2005, there were 666 confirmed deaths related to ATVs nationwide, and the CPSC estimates the toll for that year could reach 870.

While overall injuries have risen steadily since 1997, injuries to children were down from 44,700 in 2004 to 39,300 in 2006.

"I don't know that you can find a trend from this data. The bottom line is that more people, and almost as many children, are getting injured seriously by ATVs," said Rachel Weintraub, director of product safety and senior counsel at the Consumer Federation of America. "This data further documents that we have a real problem."

Andrea Pollard of Woodbridge, Va., wants tighter

restrictions placed on the speed of ATVs being used by children. Pollard's eight-year-old son, Cody, died in 2004 when an ATV crashed into the four-wheeler Cody was riding with a friend. Both had helmets on, but Cody did not survive after being thrown from the vehicle.

"As a parent, you berate yourself no matter what. You question why you let him on it," said Pollard. "We should all look more closely at what we're allowing our children to do."

Also Thursday, the agency announced the recall of about 95,000 Polaris ATVs because they can have defective control panels that could catch fire. The Minnesota-based company has received 372 reports of smoking and or melting control panels since June 2005, when 45,000 of the ATVs were recalled. There have been another 20 reports of fires. No injuries have been reported.

Most of the deaths and injuries to children are the result of youngsters riding adult-size ATVs, and consumer groups say the agency needs to do more to keep kids off ATVs that are too big and too powerful for them.

Weintraub wants the CPSC to ban the sale of adult-size ATVs for use for children. The agency has declined to do that.

Under a voluntary agreement between the industry and the commission, major ATV distributors require dealers not to sell adult-size ATVs to people who might allow children to ride them. Consumer groups say few dealers abide by the rule.

For almost two years now, the commission has been considering regulations that would lift restrictions on the engine size of youth ATVs, allowing manufacturers to make bigger vehicles to accommodate larger youngsters. The aim, the CPSC says, is to keep teens off adult-size

ATVs. The commission also would require the installation of equipment to limit maximum speeds, based on the riders' age.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and consumer groups oppose the proposed rules.

A vote may still be a ways off. The staff plans to update the commission in June with additional research.

Agency staff last year completed a study of 85 ATV accidents in 2005 involving youngsters and fatalities. In most of the cases, adult-size ATVs were being driven.

In more than 75 percent of the incidents where speed could be determined, it appeared that ATVs were going too fast for conditions.

In nearly 60 percent of the fatalities, riders were not wearing helmets.

Sales of ATVs have declined, down from 912,000 in 2004 to an estimated 759,000 ATVs that were sold in the United States last year.

The industry recently decided to create a new transitional model for 14- and 15-year-olds that would be bigger than the current youth ATVs on the market, though not quite as large as adult-size ATVs. It says the goal is to keep bigger kids from riding adult-size vehicles. The new model would be able to reach speeds of up to 38 mph.

CPSC staff are concerned about the idea, saying the model would go much too fast for young teens.

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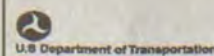
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For the Record

Marriage Licenses

Kimberly Knox, 20, to James Houston, 34, both of Prestonsburg.

Kim Elkins, 19, to Timothy Bryant, 20, both of Beaver.

Jessica Johnson, 32, Brian Johnson, 32, both of Wheelwright.

Jennifer Rogers, 25, of McDowell, to Thomas Ousley, 23, of Prestonsburg.

Ashley Moore, 17, of Martin, to Stephen Butcher, 26, of Flemingsburg.

Janice Ruby, 40, to Jeffrey Jacobs, 36, both of Hueysville.

Shirley Morgan, 53, of Garrett, to Raymond Collins, 52, of Raven.

Civil Suits Filed

Palisades Collection vs. Brenda F. Rice

Daimler Chrysler Financial vs. Kristy Swiger, et al

First Commonwealth Bank of Prestonsburg vs. Molly Hall, et al

Kelly Shortridge vs. Steve Shortridge

Unifund CCR Partners vs. Alvin Noble

Mary Stutes vs. Christopher Stutes

Jessie Hunter vs. Christy Hunter

Charles Elkins vs. Jessica Smith

Linda Coleman vs. Ralph Coleman

Timothy A. Smith vs. Robin K. Cox

Anthony Burchett vs. Crystal Burchett

Adam Hicks vs. Jennifer Hicks

Lakisha Hall vs. Kennel Dye

Dwayne Pack vs. Aggie Pack

Logan Corp. vs. Skyline Excavation, Inc., et al

G.M. Majmundar vs. Henry Music, et al

Community Trust Bank vs. Sam Stevens

Small Claims Filings

Pioneer Credit Co. vs. Nancy Breland Davis-Wiley

Charges Filed

Tammy K. Newsome, 27, of Warsaw, Indiana, fugitive from another state.

Shanna Dawn Boyd, 26, of Martin, public intoxication, controlled substance.

Doug Holbrook, 39, of Blue River, failure to send child to school.

Crystal M. Patmore, 28, of Wheelwright, promoting contraband.

Shane G. Allen, 22, of Prestonsburg, theft by unlawful taking.

Jessie K. Fannin, 44, of Meally, public intoxication, alcohol.

Shawn M. Henson, 27, of Hueysville, public intoxication, controlled substance; possession controlled substance, drug unspecified (two counts); controlled substance, prescription, not in original container.

Kevin Hall, 23, of Wecksbury, terroristic threatening.

Tommy Castle, 45, of Hi Hat, public intoxication, alcohol.

Amy Sue Shepherd, 25, of Prestonsburg, failure to send child to school.

Sam C. Goff, 19, of Harold, desertion from armed forces.

Linda C. Fletcher, 41, of Tomahawk, public intoxication, alcohol; criminal trespassing.

Chris Ann Hall, 27, of Wayland, criminal trespassing; theft by unlawful taking.

Chcena Ann Hall, 19, of McDowell, criminal possession of a forged instrument.

Billy R. Moore, 38, of Mousie, theft by unlawful taking.

Gary L. Wells, 43, of Meally, fleeing/evading police; operating motor vehicle under influence of alcohol/drugs; resisting arrest; terroristic threatening; reckless driving.

Robert D. Castle II, 36, of Auxier, operating motor vehicle under influence of alcohol/drugs; failure to produce insurance card; failure to wear seat belts; possession controlled substance/drug unspecified; possession marijuana; use/possess drug paraphernalia (five counts).

Gwendolyn B. Vance, 41, of McDowell, theft by unlawful taking.

Bobby Estep, 30, of Thelma, burglary.

Inspections

Meade's Stop N Go Inc.,

Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Food Comments: Cloths used for wiping spills on food contact surfaces being used for other purposes. Food contact surface of equipment and utensils not clean. Improper storage of single-service articles. Sanitary Towel or hand drying device not provided at lavatory or hand washing sink. Score: 94 Retail Comments: Light fixtures not shielded as required. Cleaning and maintenance equipment not properly stored. Score: 98

Subway, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: dish washing facility not properly maintained. Toilet room doors not self closing. Employees personal items not stored properly. Score: 95

Step Ahead, Bevinville, regular inspection. Violations noted: improper storage of single service articles. Sanitary towel or hand drying device not provided at the lavatory or hand washing sink. Score: 97

Wheelwright Senior, Wheelwright, regular inspection. Violations noted: Improper thawing methods being used for potentially hazardous foods. Food not protected during storage. Sanitary towel or hand drying device not provided at lavatory or hand washing sink. Floors not in good repair. Score: 93

Daniels Trailer Park, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Some walk ways, drive ways, in disrepair. Some mobile home lots not of compliance standards. Insufficient number of garbage cans. Score: 94

Yates Mobile Home Park, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Mobile home lots not properly numbered. Mobile home lot size not of compliance standards. Score: 96

Wal-Mart Stores East, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: lack of accurate thermometers in all refrigeration and freezing units storing potentially hazardous foods. Score: 99

Subway, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: lack of effective hair restraints. Improper storage of single-service articles. Sanitary towel or hand drying device not provided at lavatory or hand washing sink. Score: 96

Speedway 9566, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Food Comments: Where chemical sanitization methods are employed, operators not providing and using chemical test kits. Garbage and refuse containers not covered as required. Walls, ceiling, attached equipment not constructed properly. Walls, ceiling, attached equipment not in good repair. Employees personal items not stored properly. Score: 95 Retail comments: Garbage and refuse containers not covered as required. Score: 98

Cardinal Mart #9, Stanville, regular inspection. Violations noted: Food Comments: Lack of accurate thermometers in all refrigeration and freezing units storing potentially hazardous foods. Toilet room doors not self closing. Sanitary towel or hand drying device not provided at lavatory or hand washing sink. Garbage and refuse containers not covered as required. Walls, ceiling, attached equipment not in good repair. Score: 94. Retail Comments: Toilet room doors not self closing. Sanitary towel or hand drying device not provided at lavatory or hand washing sink. Garbage and refuse containers not covered as required. Score: 96

Wesley School, Allen, regular inspection. Score: 100

Allen Mobile Home Park, Allen, regular inspection. Violations noted: Not all lots are properly maintained. Moderate amounts of debris at one mobile home lot. Score: 96

Jan's Mobile Home Park, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Not all mobile home park spaces properly numbered. Driveways and walkway in moderate disrepair. Mobile home lot sizes not in compliance standards. Score: 94

Debs Mobile Home Park, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Lots not numbered properly, some mobile home lot sizes not in

compliance, park lacks sufficient garbage containers. Debris noted around several lots. Park not in compliance regarding proper lighting. Required Park Register not available, owner not present. Score: 89

Martin Senior Citizens, Martin, regular inspection. Violations noted: Lack of accurate thermometers in all refrigeration and freezing units storing potentially hazardous foods. Where chemical sanitization methods are employed, operators not providing and using chemical test kits. Floors not in good repair. Score: 97

Hometown IGA, Martin, regular inspection. Violations noted: Food Comments: lack of effective hair restraints, where chemical sanitization methods are employed, operators, not providing and using chemical test kits. Cloths used for food and non food contact surfaces not stored and rinsed frequently in water sanitizing solution. Toilet room doors not self closing, floors not in good repair, walls, ceiling, attached equipment not in good repair, cleaning and maintenance equipment not properly stored. Score: 92 Retail Comments: Improper storage of single service articles, toilet room doors not self closing, walls, ceiling, attached equipment not in good repair, light fixtures not shielded as required, employees personal items not stored properly. Score: 94

Adkins Quick Stop, Honaker, regular inspection. Violations noted: lack of accurate thermometers in all refrigeration and freezing units storing potentially hazardous foods, Food not protected during storage, Improper storage of single-service articles. Score: 96

Cardinal Mart #1, Stanville, regular inspection. Violations noted: Lack of accurate thermometers in all refrigeration and freezing units storing potentially hazardous foods, nonfood contact surfaces not properly maintained, cloths used for food and non food surfaces not stored and rinsed frequently in water sanitizing solution. Cleaning and maintenance equipment. Score: 96. Retail Comments: Lack of accurate thermometers in all refrigeration and freezing units storing potentially hazardous foods, food not protected during storage. Score: 97

Crider's Grocery, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: lack of accurate thermometers in all refrigeration and freezing units storing potentially hazardous foods, nonfood contact surfaces not properly maintained, floors not in good repair, walls, ceiling, attached equipment not in

good repair. Score: 96

Hillbilly Pizza, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: lack of accurate thermometers in all refrigeration and freezing units storing potentially hazardous foods, lack of effective hair restraints, cloths used for food and non food contact surfaces not stored and rinsed frequently in water sanitizing solution.

Improper storage of single service articles. Floors not in good repair. Light fixtures not shielded as required. Score: 94

Christ United Methodist Church, Allen, regular inspection. Violations noted: nonfood contact surfaces maintained. Score: 99

Pig in a Poke LLC, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: lack of

accurate thermometers in all refrigeration and freezing units storing potentially hazardous foods, lack of effective hair restraints, employees personal items not stored properly. Score: 97

Property Transfers

Leah Adams, Dinah Akers,

(See RECORD, page six)

A Message From John Kirk

We, at Kirk Law Firm, have undertaken to do what we can to see that justice is done regarding the Tragic Deaths of Joe Rigsby, Ronald Haney, Joey Kirk, and Stacy Triplett Quesenberry. Ronald, Joe and Stacy died in crashes involving large trucks. Joey was killed by a drunk driver. The purpose of this message is to seek information from all those who have knowledge of the facts surrounding the events set out below. We respectfully ask that if you were a witness to any of the events, or if you have talked with anyone who was, or if you have any useful or helpful knowledge, that you please contact KIRK LAW FIRM: at any of the following numbers: 297-5888; 886-9494; 377-7785; 298-3575; 437-9234; or 739-8000, or go to www.kirklawfirm.net.

We have filed Civil Actions for the children and wives of Joey, Ronald and Joe, and we will describe below the dates and events so that you can see if you were a witness to what we are talking about.

Joey Kirk was killed at Louisa on December 14, 2007

Joey and his wife, Sharon, lived near Inez. Joey died when the vehicle in which he was a back-seat passenger, was crashed into while it was stopped at a red light. The driver of the vehicle that crashed into the car Joey was in, has been charged with the crime of Second Degree Manslaughter. He was impaired by drugs or drink. He was not injured, but the other two people in the car Joey was in, Paul Justice and Mark Skaggs, were injured. The accident occurred on U.S. 23 at a red light at Louisa.



Joey Kirk

Ronald Haney was killed at Louisa on March 14, 2007

Ronald, age 34, and his wife, Wendy, were traveling south on US 23, when Ronald was killed in a crash with a loaded coal truck. Wendy was so seriously hurt that she spent months in a hospital and nursing home. The crash occurred at a red light, where you turn into the hospital. Wendy lives at Nippa with their infant children, Kirsten and Tony.



Ronald Haney

Joe and Stacy were killed on US 23 on February 5, 2007

Joe Rigsby and Stacy Triplett Quesenberry were killed where Dogwood Fork meets US 23 at Wittensville, when the vehicle driven by Joe was hit by a tractor-trailer which—according to a witness—was traveling 85 mph.

Joe left young sons, Seth and Aaron; and Stacy left young sons, Leslie and Jayden.

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Viewpoint

Worth Repeating ...

"Before God we are all equally wise — and equally foolish."

— Albert Einstein

Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Guest View

Editorial roundup

New York Post, on the Democrats and delegates:

No changing the rules in the middle of the game.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean must be prepared to deliver that message to Sen. Hillary Clinton and her allies.

With a razor-thin delegate margin separating them and ever-fewer states left on the campaign calendar, Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama are working all angles to get to 2,025 — the number needed to win their party's presidential nomination.

Which is why the Clinton forces are looking at Michigan and Florida.

Both the Dems and the GOP had declared that — as far as they were concerned — the only states permitted to hold a primary or caucus before Feb. 5 were Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. But Michigan went ahead with a Jan. 15 date and Florida with Jan. 29.

The Republican National Committee sanctioned the states by removing half of their delegates — while the DNC stripped both states of all their delegates. ...

But now that the race is so tight — it is mathematically close to impossible for either candidate to win a majority before the Democratic National Convention in August — a move is afoot to recognize those two delegations.

Obviously, if the results of the January "beauty" contests stood, it would be a great windfall for Sen. Clinton.

But at what cost to the Democratic Party's credibility — to say nothing of the democratic process? ...

The Cincinnati Enquirer, on the economic stimulus plan:

The check isn't in the mail yet, but it will be soon.

... Rebate checks to millions of Americans could start arriving in May.

The Senate did the right thing ... passing a bill that was close to the original House version — and resolving a partisan stalemate that threatened to delay the whole plan.

The \$168 billion package will mean rebates of \$600 to \$1,200 to most taxpayers, plus \$300 checks to disabled veterans, the elderly and low-income Americans who do not pay taxes. It also includes tax relief that aims to encourage businesses to buy equipment and hire workers. ...

The economy could use the boost, but the money isn't "free." It will be added to the already huge federal deficit the next two years.

The economy may not be able to flourish until Washington develops the spine to develop long-term solutions for the chronic imbalance between federal revenue and spending that keeps families, businesses and investors on edge with uncertainty. ...

The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn., on school security:

Hamilton High student Deangelo Key might have sealed the deal on a \$4.5 million screening process for Memphis City Schools when he allegedly shot a classmate ... during Algebra I class.

If not, at least the case for a security upgrade for the system's 29 high schools and 28 middle schools is getting stronger. A greater degree of safety might be well worth the \$80,000-per-school cost. ...

There are drawbacks, as well, to the security enhancement measure on the table — herding randomly selected students past X-ray machines and metal detectors on a daily basis at every school.

Students themselves have argued forcefully that daily checks will lengthen the school day and take time away from their studies.

It would create a particular kind of resentment in schools where the vast majority of students have no interest in gangs, fights or high-caliber "protection" from perceived enemies just a few lockers down the hall.

The issue should be approached cautiously, but if the safety of students would be truly enhanced, it's hard to justify making another choice.

TEXAS HOLD 'EM OR FOLD 'EM...

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Letters

Pharmacy went the extra mile

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Alicia and Steven Dawson of the McDowell Professional Pharmacy for their extraordinary customer service. They have provided a level of dedication and care to my family that is remarkable, especially in today's competitive healthcare market.

My step-father, Rainey "Dock"

Parham, was discharged from Good Samaritan Hospital in Lexington last Saturday after three weeks of inpatient care. By the time he and my mother, Judy, returned to their home in the head of Dry Creek, it was well past business hours. Because Dock was critically ill, my mother was quite anxious to have his new prescriptions filled and started. She made some calls, others made calls, and the Dawsons were reached, via cell phone, where they were dining in Lexington. They promised to open the pharmacy as soon as they could

get back. True to their word, they returned home that Saturday evening, and at 8:30 p.m., opened the pharmacy to supply the new medications my step-father needed.

Being accustomed to the impersonal business attitude of health care in a big city, I was amazed with the human touch and genuine care extended by McDowell Professional Pharmacy. Thank you so much to the Dawsons, for literally going the extra mile!

Gerri Mast
Atlanta, Ga.

Guest column

House week in review

by STATE REP. HUBERT COLLINS

More than 40 bills had passed the Kentucky House of Representatives this session by the end of last week, as legislation to increase long-term care funding for Kentuckians with special needs, provide a tax credit for live-organ donation, and limit double fines in highway work zones made their way through the chamber and were sent to the Senate for a vote.

Kentuckians with disabilities across the Commonwealth would benefit from the passage of House Bill 13, a measure which passed 91-0 on Monday. The bill would establish a Kentucky Family Needs Trust Program to supplement any public assistance provided for the long-term care of persons with disabilities, including those in the state's care. The program would be funded through contributions to a trust fund. Those contributions would come from the beneficiaries' families, friends and guardians—not the state, which would be prohibited from using the trust fund for other purposes—and be overseen by a board of trustees. HB 13 now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

Another human services bill that passed the House last week was HB 234, which would provide a tax credit of up to \$10,000 for those who donate live organs for transplant. It would also give full-time state employees who donate a live organ up to 30 days paid leave to recuperate. HB 234 passed by a vote of 94-0 and will join HB 13 for consideration by the Senate.

The highway bill that passed this week amends current state law requiring that fines for speeding in a highway work zone be doubled

whether highway workers are present or not. Under HB 325, which we passed 90-0 on Monday, those caught speeding in one of the work zones would not have their fine doubled if no highway workers were present at the time and no signs were posted warning drivers that they would face a double fine for speeding in a work zone while workers were on the job. HB 325 was also sent to the Senate for consideration.

Voter turnout and voting rights were on the minds of members of the House Elections, Constitutional Amendments and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee this week, as the committee passed two bills on Tuesday that could increase voter participation in state elections.

One of those bills was HB 138, which would create what is called "early voting" statewide for every registered voter, not just those who will be out of their county of residence on Election Day. Should it pass into law, registered voters could vote up to 12 days before an election without offering an excuse as to why they cannot vote on election day, as is now required for in-person absentee voters. The other bill, HB 70, would put a constitutional amendment on the next statewide general election ballot allowing voters to decide whether to restore the voting rights of non-violent felons. Both bills now go to the full House for its consideration.

The House has passed legislation in past sessions that proposes a constitutional amendment to restore non-violent felon voting rights, but that legislation stalled in the Senate. A bill to establish early voting failed in the House in 2007 due to time constraints during that year's short 30-day session.

Child safety was the focus of legislation passed by the House Transportation Committee last week. That legislation, HB 55, would require that children under 8 years old who are between 40 and 57 inch-

es tall be placed in booster seats when riding in a motor vehicle. The proposal is identical to booster-seat legislation passed by the House last year that died in the Senate.

Under the proposal, violators would face a \$50 prepayable fine but would not have to pay court costs or additional fees. Exemptions from additional costs are also included for those who fail to properly secure an infant in a child restraint seat or who violate the state's seatbelt law, which carries a prepayable fine of up to \$25 but no court costs. The bill now goes to the full House for a vote.

Children were also the focus of a bill passed by the House Health and Welfare Committee on Thursday which would require school-age girls to receive a vaccine against the virus that causes 70 percent of cervical cancer cases as part of their school immunization schedule. Parents or guardians would be able to refuse the vaccine under HB 396, but only if they sign a statement affirming that they understand a link exists between cervical cancer and the human papillomavirus (HPV), which the vaccine guards against. The measure would also require the state to provide educational resources about the vaccine to the public and schools. It is also now before the full House for consideration.

You can stay informed of legislative action on bills of interest to you this session by logging onto the Legislative Research Commission website at www.lrc.ky.gov or by calling the LRC toll-free Bill Status Line at 866-840-2835. To find out when a committee meeting is scheduled, you can call the LRC toll-free Meeting Information Line at 800-633-9650.

If you would like to share your comments or concerns with me or another legislator about a particular bill under consideration this session, you can call the toll-free Legislative Message Line at 800-372-7181.

The Times

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Letters to the Editor are welcomed by The Floyd County Times.

In accordance with our editorial page policy, all letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author.

The Times reserves the right to reject or edit any letter deemed slanderous, libelous or otherwise objectionable. Letters should be no longer than two type-written pages, and may be edited for length or clarity.

Opinions expressed in letters and other voices are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper. Send letters to: The Editor, The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 391, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653.

Rental Central

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST

Two solid films and one half-way good one made for a better than average week for renters.

■ **"Gone, Baby, Gone"** — Ben Affleck directed this kidnapping thriller which manages to obey genre conventions and still impart an important message about how far one should be able to go to protect a child. Affleck proves to be an effective filmmaker and avoids splashy camera work. He shows a fine eye for the Boston locations and dresses the film with extras who look right at home in the inner-city setting. He also rounds up a top-notch cast which includes his brother Casey as a private eye who takes his job home with him at the end of the

day. This doesn't deviate from the novel by Dennis Lehane ("Mystic River") and is chock full of conflicts as a pair of private eyes butt heads with cops and criminals while searching the underbelly of South Boston for a missing girl whose party girl mother appears to have placed the child in jeopardy. Ed Harris and Morgan Freeman anchor the action as seasoned cops with something to hide.

■ **"We Own the Night"** — This taut thriller mostly works as it explores the infiltration of the New York night club scene by the Russian Mafia. Joaquin Phoenix stars as a conflicted club manager who is torn between his Russian boss/mentor and his hellraising cop brother (Mark Wahlberg). Robert Duvall is good as their father, but Eva Mendes steals the film in the girlfriend

role and adds more meat to it than the script offers her.

■ **"Martian Child"** — This one didn't attract audiences who missed out on an entertaining and heartfelt story. A science fiction writer considers adopting an imaginative boy after his wife passes away. This is a simple and quiet story that has something to say about the power of faith when it is imparted to a child. John Cusack delivers the goods as the writer and grounds the story. Incidentally, this is based on the true life account of David Gerrold. You may not know the name but odds are you've seen his work, which includes the "Trouble with Tribbles" episode of the original "Star Trek" series.

■ **"No Reservations"** — This week's turkey is another remake that

manages to translate a film into English but misses out on the elements which made the original film (here "Mostly Martha," 2001, from Germany) worth remaking in the first place. Catherine Zeta-Jones stars as a chef in a trendy Lower Manhattan restaurant who must deal with raising her newly orphaned niece while contending with a recently hired chef who irks her in every way imaginable. What was an evenly paced and emotional packed drama becomes a light and entirely boring exercise in over-the-top tear jerking. Seek out the original which relies on strong film making and no star wattage to light up ninety minutes of your life.

Next week look for the early arrival of Ridley Scott's "American Gangster" and Reese Witherspoon in "Rendition."

Reality trumps fantasy in 'Spiderwick Chronicles'

by DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

"The Spiderwick Chronicles" may not be in the same fantasy league as the tales of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and J.K. Rowling. Yet the family flick based on the books of Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black is an all-around class act, even if its world of ogres and goblins is a bit stale in the wake of its more ambitious cousins in the over-the-rainbow genre.

The human characters are the main source of wonder here. Freddie Highmore, Sarah Bolger and Mary-Louise Parker authentically capture the fractured spirit of a family newly cast into single-parent mode, while David Strathairn adds a wistful streak as a naturalist so absent-minded he fails to notice how his devotion to a magical realm has cut him off from the marvels of everyday life.

Far more modest than films based on Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings," Lewis' "Chronicles of Narnia" and Rowling's "Harry Potter" books, "Spiderwick Chronicles" actually becomes



"The Spiderwick Chronicles," a Paramount release, is rated PG for scary creature action and violence, peril and some thematic elements. Running time: 96 minutes.

Two and a half stars out of four.

more pedestrian the further it wanders from reality.

Hollywood has become so adept at conjuring up computer-generated imps and elves and other beasts that the unremarkable creatures here seem commonplace, and occasionally annoying, by comparison.

The story is simple: newly divorced Helen Grace (Parker), twin sons Jared and Simon (both played by Highmore) and their older sister, Mallory (Bolger), move to the fanciful New England home given to Helen by her great-aunt.

Jared has serious anger issues over his parents' split, Simon's sweet and bookish and Mallory tries to keep the boys in line to help out her struggling mom.

Aunt Lucinda (Joan Plowright) is now in a rest home, having spent her life in fear of the evil creatures that live in the surrounding woods. Lucinda's dad, Arthur Spiderwick (Strathairn), documented the unseen world of fairies, sprites and monsters in a book before vanishing 80 years earlier.

Shape-shifting ogre Mulgarath (Nick Nolte) covets the book, whose secrets would allow him to take over the world. He sends his gang of goblins against the family after Jared finds the book, setting up some modest action sequences as the Graces duke it out with Mulgarath's minions.

Martin Short provides the voice of a tiny being known as a brownie who has been pro-

tecting the book for decades, while Seth Rogen adds vocals for an eager but cowardly hobgoblin seeking revenge against Mulgarath.

Director Mark Waters, graduating to a big action production after making the comedy hits "Mean Girls" and "Freaky Friday," crafts a surprisingly brisk adventure given the ponderous running times of recent fantasy films.

With a top-notch screenplay credited to Karey Kirkpatrick ("Chicken Run"), David Berenbaum ("El") and indie-film icon John Sayles, the movie is at its best in the human moments.

Though she's fighting otherworldly thugs, Parker's more grounded in real-world, domestic matters here than she is on television as the quirky pot-dealing mom in "Weeds." Bolger, memorable as the older sister in 2002's "In America," has blossomed into a lovely, fierce and funny young actress.

Highmore, Johnny Depp's co-star in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Finding Neverland," anchors

the movie with two fine performances, injecting Jared and Simon with distinct personalities and idiosyncrasies.

Strathairn does quiet melancholy better than just about anyone out there, dominating his own brief scenes as the man whose life's work has opened Pandora's Box.

Director Waters' production crew has done a marvelous job on the Spiderwick house, a creaky old place with plenty of strange nooks and crannies and a general Addams family ambience.

The creatures are far less imaginative, mostly squat, clumsy, jabbering little guys that look like delinquent Muppets. They're not terribly interesting or frightening. Neither are the various incarnations of Mulgarath, who appears as a black bird, a serpent, a scaly giant and most memorably, as Nolte in the flesh.

Grizzled, hoary, stooped and muttering menacingly, Nolte himself is far creepier and scarier than anything effects people could ever dream up.

Former Gov. Paul Patton, Tubby Smith may get honorary degrees

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON — Tubby Smith left the University of Kentucky in a hurry, but the former basketball coach hasn't been forgotten by the school's administration.

Smith and former Gov. Paul Patton are among four people who could receive honorary

degrees from the university this spring.

The voting faculty members of the school's Senate Council approved the recommendation of Smith, Patton, former India president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and retired communications professor Gifford Blyton on Monday.

Patton, who served as gov-

ernor from 1995-2003, and Smith would receive honorary degrees of doctor of humanities. Blyton would receive a doctor of letters and Kalam would receive a doctor of sciences.

The recommendations will go before the school's board of trustees on March 4.

Strike over, CBS and NBC set return dates for new episodes of scripted series

NEW YORK — CBS and NBC have announced the return of many of their scripted series as TV production resumed Wednesday following a three-month writers strike.

CBS' "How I Met Your Mother," "Two and a Half Men" and "The Big Bang Theory" will return with new episodes March 17. Producers will make nine new episodes of each before the season ends.

"CSI: Miami" and "Cold Case" will return in late March. Others are set for early April returns, including "CSI" on April 3.

NBC announced that original episodes of several of its series will return in April, beginning with "My Name is Earl" on April 3, and a week later, "30 Rock," "The Office," "Scrubs" and "ER."

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Transformers (The Movie)	No Reservations	1 Kiss who killed me
Spider Man 3	Artie Tale	The Fun, Die Hard

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Cinema 1—Starts Thursday, Feb. 14
SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG), Mon.-Sat. 7:00-9:00; Sun. (1:30) 7:00-9:00.

Cinema 2—Starts Thursday, Feb. 14
MEET THE SPARTANS (PG-13), Mon.-Sat. 7:00-9:00; Sun. (1:30) 7:00-9:00.

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2/15/08 - 2/21/08

Cinema 1—Held Over
THE EYE (PG-13), Mon.-Sun. 7:15-9:30; Fri. (4:30) 7:15-9:30; Sat.-Sun. (2:15-4:30) 7:15-9:30.

Cinema 2—Held Over
WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG-13), Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:15; Fri. (4:15) 7:00-9:15; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:15) 7:00-9:15.

Cinema 3—Starts Thursday, Feb. 14
SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG), Mon.-Sun. 7:05-9:20; Fri. (4:30) 7:05-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:05-4:30) 7:05-9:30.

Cinema 4—Held Over
MEET THE SPARTANS (PG-13), Mon.-Sun. 7:15-9:30; Fri. (4:30) 7:15-9:30; Sat.-Sun. 7:15-9:30.

Cinema 4—Starts Thursday, Feb. 14
THE PIRATES WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING: A VEGGIE TALE, Sat.-Sun. (2:15-4:30).

Cinema 5—Held Over
OVER HER DEAD BODY (PG-13), Mon.-Sun. 7:15; Fri. 7:15; Sat.-Sun. (2:15) 7:15.

RAMBO (R), Mon.-Sun. 9:30; Fri. (4:30) 9:30; Sat.-Sun. (4:30) 9:30.

Cinema 6—Starts Thursday, Feb. 14
STRANGE WILDERNESS (R), Mon.-Sun. 7:15-9:30; Fri. (4:30) 7:15-9:30; Sat.-Sun. (2:15-4:30) 7:15-9:30.

Cinema 7—Starts Thursday, Feb. 14
STEP UP 2 (PG-13), Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:20; Fri. (4:20) 7:00-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:20) 7:00-9:20.

Cinema 8—Starts Thursday, Feb. 14
JUMPER (PG-13), Mon.-Sun. 7:05-9:20; Fri. (4:30) 7:05-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:05-4:30) 7:05-9:30.

Cinema 9—Held Over
FOOL'S GOLD (PG-13), Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:15; Fri. (4:15) 7:00-9:15; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:15) 7:00-9:15.

Cinema 10—Held Over
UNTRACEABLE (R), Mon.-Sun. 7:05-9:25; ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG), Fri. (4:10); Sat.-Sun. (2:10-4:10).

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Record

Continued from p3

Samantha Clark, Charles George, John Harold, Kayla, and Randy Kidd, Carol Reynolds, Tammy Tackett to Leah Adams; Prichard Addition.

Amy and Joe Burchett to Bertha Dye; Setser Development of Roberts subdivision.

Billy Charles to Ralph Newsome; location undisclosed.

Bobby, Bobby Wayne, and Sherry Coleman to Tosha Mollette; River Plains Estate.

Edward and Ollie Collins to Cam-Kentucky Real Estate LLC.; location undisclosed.

Jeffrey and Sherry Collins to Shonda Collins and Grant Honeycutt; location undisclosed.

David, Gaye, Julian, and Vickie Cooley to Sara Butcher; location undisclosed.

Lisa Elliot and Mary L. Elliott Testament Trust to Lisa Elliott; Big Mud Creek.

Glenda Fraley to David and Mary Hall; Middle Creek.

Eugene Hale to Steve Case and Ed Cruy; Little Mud Creek.

Sadie Hamilton to Clifford Jr. and Donahue Hamilton; Big Mud Creek.

Ray Howard Furniture Stores Inc., to Kinhang Development Company LLC.; location undisclosed.

Charlie Howell to Howell of Penn Avenue LLC; location undisclosed.

Jennifer and John Howell to John Howell; location undisclosed.

Candra, Carada, and Norma Hunt to Donald Hunt; location undisclosed.

ICG Knott County LLC and ICG Natural Resources LLC to Buffalo Development Inc.; location undisclosed.

JPMorgan Chase Bank NA Trustee to Lisa Elliott; Big Mud Creek.

Andy Jr., and Margie Kiser to Daylio, Patricia, Zachary, Andy, Cathy Kiser, and Angela, and Jeffery Brown; Big Mud Creek.

Penny and Quillen Lawson to Avilene and Bobby Collins; location undisclosed.

Denzil Martin to Lillian Ramey; location undisclosed.

Frank Martin to Merlene Dingus; Near Printer.

Blanche McCown to David and Mary Hall; Middle Creek.

Norma to Donald Hunt; location undisclosed.

Deborah Ratliff to Terry Ratliff; location undisclosed.

Mildred Reffitt to Henrietta Reffitt; Maytown.

Hie and Juanita Sammons to Option One Mortgage Company; Martin.

Lisa Spradlin to Valerie and Wilburn Page; location undisclosed.

James and Melinda Stumbo to David and Shonna Moore; Turkey Creek Subdivision.

Carol and Larry Tackett to David and Mary Hall; Middle Creek.

Michael Vance to Michael and Sandra Vance; location undisclosed.

Leslie and Patrick Vandiver to Henry Jr., and Sharon Setser; location undisclosed.

Panel OKs bill to toughen laws against online child predators

by BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — McCracken County Sheriff Jon Hayden said his area found out the harsh reality that child predators can strike anywhere, showing that the state needs to toughen laws to prevent them from pursuing youngsters online.

Hayden joined Attorney General Jack Conway, prosecutors and other law enforcement officers Wednesday in promoting a bill to strengthen the fight against online predators. The measure later cleared its first hurdle by winning approval from the House Judiciary Committee.

The western Kentucky sheriff said some people think such crimes are limited to big cities, but one incident in his area showed it can happen anywhere. He said a teenage girl was raped last

year, allegedly by an adult man she met on the Internet.

"This is a terrible problem," Hayden said at a news conference before the committee vote. "It reaches all corners of the commonwealth."

Conway said that along with all its advantages, the Internet can also be "a tool for crime." He cited statistics showing that one in seven children report being solicited online for sex by adults.

"We recognize that the law lags technology," he said.

Louisville Metro Police Lt. Tom Dreher, commander of the department's Crimes Against Children Unit, said his unit has seen an increase in Internet crimes against children. He said some perpetrators told officials they chose Kentucky because its laws against online child predators aren't as strong as some other states.

Rep. Johnny Bell, D-Glasgow, the bill's lead sponsor, called the measure "a strong movement forward in protecting the youth of our commonwealth."

The bill would allow law enforcement to use specially trained decoys for online stings. It would make it a crime to solicit anyone who the person believes is a minor.

Another provision would prohibit registered sex offenders from using social-networking Web sites such as MySpace and Facebook. The bill also would require sex offenders to notify the sex offender registry whenever they change their e-mail addresses.

The bill also amends the state's stalking statute to include cyberstalking.

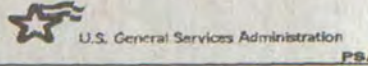
It also would allow police to seize personal property such as a computer or car that was used in committing

online sexual offenses against children.

During the committee hearing, Rep. Greg Stumbo — Conway's predecessor as attorney general — said the measure would strengthen the ability of law enforcement to crack down on Internet child predators. During Stumbo's tenure, the attorney general's office was involved in three Internet sting operations across the state.

"This is a wonderful step forward," Stumbo said of the bill.

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Lifestyles



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THROUGH MY EYES

Chocolate hangover

Now that it's the day after, I will say that it is my wish that each and every one of you, dear readers, had a gloriously happy Valentine's Day. I hope your chocolates were sweet, your roses were red and that on this day after,



Kathy Prater
Lifestyles editor

you are suffering from quite a terrible case of "bedhead."

Sounds like I've softened over the past few years, eh? Guess one mellow with age, just like a fine wine and the very best of aromatic

cheeses.

Or maybe I'm just playing a wily game and my old hardened self will be back next week to bash the dickens out of all you old softies. Most likely, though, I'm just feeling happy to be on the brink of taking a few days off from the old grind, as I won't be in my usual seat and facing this computer on the day you will be reading these silly pandering.

Perhaps, even, I may finally get

(See EYES, page nine)

DINNER DIVA

Try new fruits I - R

by LEANNE ELY

We've been looking at little known produce lately; the weirder the better and in alphabetical order, too! So far we've blown through the veggies and we've hit the ground running with some fun fruits from A through H. Whaddaya say we pick up a few more?



Leanne Ely

Starting with I for Idared apple. Idareds are bright red apples, with a tart flavor, that keep their shape when baked whole and are a great

stand-in for traditional Granny Smith apples for pies and apple-sauces.

J is for jelly melon, and K is for Kiwano—both are the same thing. This bizarre, almost alien looking fruit has spikes on its yellowish-orange skin with lime green jelly-fish flesh and great big seeds. Sounds delicious, doesn't it? The flavor is sort of a mix between bananas, cucumbers and lemons.

(See DIVA, page nine)



Consolidation Coal Company Mine No. 151's operating crew, photographed in 1922. Pictured, in no particular order, are brakemen Ervin Baldridge, Ray Lee, Ora Groves, Elbert Perry, Curtis Barber, Rufus Sparks, and Sheridan Dale; Superintendent Jim Cook; motormen Con Daniels, Bill Kretzer, Jack Adams, Emmett Groves, George W. Davis, Melvin Music, and Bill Dixon; and mine foreman Jim Bob Worley. (Courtesy of Van Lear Historical Society)

'Van Lear' New book commemorates fascinating past of local town

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

As a young boy growing up in Johnson County's Van Lear, Danny K. Blevins, author of "Van Lear," says that he was always "fascinated" with the area's history. "When I was a boy," he said, "I would see the ruins of buildings and mines that were long gone."

Curiosity born of that fascination led Blevins to research the history of his native homeplace, eventually bringing him to become president of the Van Lear Historical Society and the Coal Miners' Museum. Along the way, Blevins founded the society's newsletter, "The Bankmule," currently in its twenty-fifth year of publication. The Bankmule helps keep those whose lives and careers have carried them away from Van Lear connected.

Blevins himself, however, has chosen to remain in his hometown where he lives with his wife, Trudy, and their three children. "As I have chosen to remain in Van Lear and raise my children here, I dream of the improvements that could be made in our community," Blevins said. "I believe that any effort to re-establish our community to a degree of its one-time glory must begin with education. It is my hope that this book will prove to be a vehicle to motivate others to get involved with community development."

In "Van Lear," Blevins gathers together over 200 vintage photographs, providing a virtual guided tour into Van Lear's celebrated past, giving the author hopes, a glimmer of hope for generations to come. "I hope this book will inspire the young people of today to work to create a better community of Van Lear. I hope the pride in their community

will grow into their aspirations both for themselves and their hometown," Blevins said.

The treasure trove of photographs contained in "Van Lear" highlight many images that have never before been published. Thumbing through page after page, the reader soon comes to realize that over the years, Van Lear has come a long way from the time when coal was king and the tiny hillside community was one of the Commonwealth's leading producers of the valuable commodity.

Blevins says that the research for his book came from a wide variety of sources. "I drew upon my lifetime of living in Van Lear and the countless conversations I have had with my elders," he said. Blevins also said that he researched many books and publications dealing with the history of the coal industry, as well as gleaning through the archives of local newspaper publications held in microfilm collections of the Johnson County Public Library, located in Paintsville. "Other information came via correspondence with people in other locations who provided me with additional information and photos," he said.

Blevins says that he thinks readers will be "surprised at the number of specialized buildings and structures that used to be in Van Lear." Among those being schools, hotels, boarding houses, a theater, a community center, clubhouses, churches and, of course, coal mines. "The people of Van Lear seemed to have very active social lives," he said.

Blevins, a 1979 graduate of Johnson Central High School, is currently a teacher in the Johnson County school system. He holds degrees from Mayo State Vocational Technical School, Prestonsburg Community College, Morehead State

University, and a master's degree in Education and Rank 1 from Union College, in Barbourville, Kentucky.

He has received an award of distinction from the Kentucky Historical Society and the Leadership in Local History Award from the American Association for State and Local History.

Blevins' own roots run deep in the history of Johnson County, as some of his earliest ancestors actually entered the area in the late 1700s. Several of his forefathers settled there after serving in the American Revolution. He hopes that his book will provide a valuable resource for those who can trace their own roots back to this once "company-owned" town.

In addition to providing a wealth of information in regard to the Consolidation Coal Company, "Van Lear" also contains information on area notables such as John C.C. Mayo, the man behind Van Lear's development, and the singing Webb family, from which country music stars Loretta Lynn and Crystal Gayle belong.

"Van Lear" is a part of the "Images of America" series that has preserved and shared the history of hundreds of individual communities throughout the country. Each title in the series records a town's or city's unique story through historic images. Due to its popularity, it has expanded to include worthy local and regional historical topics including the examination and celebration of transportation, industry, architecture, ethnic groups and more.

"Van Lear" is available at area bookstores, independent retailers, online bookstores, or through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com or by calling (888) 313-2665; \$19.99.

FLY LADY

Be prepared for emergencies

by MARLA CILLEY

Here it is, that time of year again when we are faced with the threat of evacuation from our homes. We never know when this could happen because of fire, train wreck, floods or hurricanes. It is up to us to be prepared!

1. PEOPLE: Have a plan for getting out of the house and make sure everyone knows it. Have an emergency bag of food and water for your family. Include wholesome snacks and treats for the children: dried fruit, nuts, peanut

butter, crackers and granola bars.

2. PETS: Keep pet carriers and leashes readily available to lead pets to safety. Also take pet food with you.

3. PICTURES: Keep negatives or CDs of pictures in a lock box or at a family member's home. Have picture albums in one place ready to grab and go at a moments notice.

4. PAPERS: Have all your important papers in a lock box at a bank and only keep copies at the house. This keeps you from panicking. If you have them at home then put them in a folder that

you can easily grab if you have to move fast. Color code it so you can find it!

5. PRESCRIPTIONS: Take your medications with you. Don't forget the ones that have to be refrigerated like insulin. Have small ice chest and cold packs readily accessible to pack and go. If you have babies; remember their formula or medications.

6. PURSES and PETRO: This is where you keep your identification, credit cards and cash. Keep a stash of cash for emergencies and grab it. You may not be able to use an ATM in the

event of a power outage. Make sure your car always has a half a tank of gas.

7. PROPER CLOTHES and COMFORT ITEMS: According to the weather conditions; gather up a change of clothes along with outer clothing: coats, rain gear, boots, gloves and hats. If you have babies remember diapers. Remember to grab your children's favorite blanket, stuffed animal or toy. A game or a deck of cards could keep them occupied and calm too.

8. PLANNER/CALENDAR/CONTROL JOURNAL: These documents have all the information you will need from phone



(See FLY LADY, page nine)



Family Medicine

Martha A. Simpson, D.O., M.B.A.
Associate Professor
of Family Medicine

Respiratory syncytial virus a common childhood infection

Q I am expecting my second child soon. My first child, who is 4 now, was very ill as an infant with RSV and had to be hospitalized. Will I have to go through the same thing with this next baby? Can I do anything to prevent RSV? Is there a vaccine to prevent it?

A RSV stands for infection caused by the Respiratory Syncytial Virus. RSV is the primary cause of pneumonia and bronchiolitis in infants under 1 year of age. Over 125,000 babies and children are hospitalized annually with

this viral infection. It is estimated, however, that this is just the tip of the iceberg and represents only about 2 percent of the children who actually get RSV. Though very common in infants and children, RSV is, fortunately, usually relatively mild in nature.

This viral infection is spread from person to person through direct contact with respiratory secretions or from RSV contaminated surfaces and objects. RSV usually occurs in the winter and spreads rapidly among children. By age 2, most children will

show evidence of past RSV infections when given the appropriate blood test.

There are several risk factors for infants getting an RSV infection. Prematurity, low birth weight, congenital heart disease, chronic lung conditions, secondhand cigarette smoke exposure, older brothers and sisters in the home, day care and bottle feeding all increase the likelihood of a child developing a serious RSV infection.

RSV usually starts off like a typical cold. Fever, runny nose, cough and irritability may sometimes be followed by wheezing. In some cases the child may experience difficulty in breathing. Most children with RSV infections are better in about a week with supportive care such as acetaminophen for fever and fluids. Many doctors' offices can perform a rapid

RSV test, which can confirm the diagnosis and aid in the treatment of the RSV. The test is done by taking a swab of the child's nasal secretions.

As of yet there is no long-term vaccine to prevent this common, viral infection in all children. There are some short-acting vaccines that can be given to at-risk infants during outbreaks of RSV, but these shots need to be given monthly and are not recommended for all children.

Other preventive efforts such as routine hand washing are always good, but RSV can be spread for several days before a child has any symptoms and for a couple of weeks after the child has recovered. This makes it difficult to control this infection in the community setting.

So, will you have to experience an RSV infection with your soon-to-be-born child? Though my crystal ball is

a little hazy, I'd say that the odds are that your second child will come down with RSV at some point. However, it is somewhat unlikely that he or she will experience the severe form that required hospitalization of your first child.

Family Medicine® is a weekly column. To submit questions, write to Martha A. Simpson, D.O., M.B.A., Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, P.O. Box 110, Athens, Ohio 45701, or via e-mail to readerquestions@familymedicine-news.org. Medical information in this column is provided as an educational service only. It does not replace the judgment of your personal physician, who should be relied on to diagnose and recommend treatment for any medical conditions. Past columns are available online at familymedicine-news.org.

School Happenings

Adams Middle School Youth Services Center

*"Get Moving AMS" is a student exercise program coordinated by AMS Youth Service Center and the Floyd County Extension Office. Students will learn about benefits of exercise and good nutrition. Call the YSC for more information or to sign up.

*Lending Library available for student/parent use. Pamphlets, videos, books and more on a variety of topics available.

*Appointments now available with the Floyd County Health Dept. nurse. Nurse can do school physicals and immunizations on site. Please call 886-1297 to schedule an appointment.

*The Youth Services Center provides services to families regardless of income. Please contact the center for more information on center services and programs. Call the center at 886-1297. Coordinator is Michelle Keathley.

Allen Central High School

*Feb. 16 - Boys & Girls Basketball "Senior Night."

*Feb. 20 - Hazard Comm. & Tech. College reps will be at school to speak with seniors, 1 p.m.

*Feb. 25 - Floyd County Board of Education meeting, at Betsy Layne Elementary, 6:30 p.m.

*Feb. 25 thru 29 - District basketball tournament, at ACHS.

*Center hours: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Mon. thru Fri. Sharon Collins, coordinator. Telephone 358-3048. Center provides services for all families regardless of income.

Allen Central Middle School

*Please have your Food City Valu Card scanned for ACMS! Points help purchase school merchandise.

*Feb. 19 & 26 - Respect class, 7th grade girls.

*Feb. 20 - CPR training, 8th grade.

*Feb. 20 - Parent meeting, 1:30 p.m.

*Career Decisions and Job Development videos available in YSC lending library.

*The ACMS Youth Service Center offers services to all families, regardless of income. For more information, call Marilyn Bailey, center coordinator, at 358-0134.

Allen Elementary and Family Resource Youth Service Center.

* Call Allen Elementary Youth Service Center at 874-0621 to schedule your child's Hepatitis B vaccination, immunizations, and WIC appointments.

Betsy Layne Elementary

*Center hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mon. thru Fri. Center offers services to all families, regardless of income.

*The Betsy Layne Elementary Family Resource Youth Service Center is located in the 7th and 8th grade wing. The goal of the FRYSC is to meet the needs of all children and their families who reside in the community or neighborhood by the school in which the center is located. For further information, please

contact the center at 478-5550. *Brian H. Akers, Center Coordinator.

Duff Elementary

*Center is in need of gently used clothing, shoes, belts and backpacks. All donations greatly appreciated.

*Floyd County Health Dept. is on site three days per month. Services include 6th grade school entry physical; kindergarten, Head Start and well-child physicals (age birth to 18 years); T.B. skin test; T.D. boosters; and WIC services. Please call 358-9878 for appointment if you are in need of any of these services.

*The J.A. Duff Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the area where the old main office used to be. Contact persons are Judy Handshoe, coordinator.

May Valley Elementary

*May Valley is currently accepting applications for the May Valley Elementary Early Childhood Program (3-4 year olds). Fee for services is \$18/per day. Services available Mon. thru Fri. Contact school at 285-0883 for more information. Slots will be filled on first-come, first-serve basis. Remaining applicants will be placed on waiting list.

*Parent Lending Library is available to parents for video check-outs. A variety of topics are available.

*Floyd County Health Dept. nurse at school every Wednesday. Services include Head Start physicals, kindergarten physicals, 6th grade physicals, well-child physicals, immunizations, TB skin test, WIC program, blood pressure checks, and more. Must call the FRC at 285-0321 for an appointment.

McDowell Elementary and Family Resource Center.

*Feb. 18 - No school. President's Day.

*Feb. 19 - Lola Ratliff, Floyd County Schools, will conduct a Parent meeting on "Nutrition & Exercise," at 1 p.m., in the FRC. All parents/guardians urged to attend.

*Parents of 5th grade students are urged to call the FRC and make an appointment for their child's 6th grade physical exam!

*Floyd County Health Department Nurse Joy Moore, is at the center the first three Mondays each month to administer immunizations, T.B. skin tests, well-child exams, WIC, prenatal and post-partum services, and school physicals. Call 377-2678 for an appointment.

*Parent lending library available to all parents for video/book checkouts. A variety of topics are available.

*GED classes available at FRC each Monday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., in library.

*Family Resource Center is open weekdays, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Center is located upstairs in the old high school building, on the McDowell Elementary School campus. For further information, call Clara Johnson, director, at 377-2678. The McDowell FRC provides services to all

MES students and their families, regardless of income.

Mountain Christian Academy

*Tuition assistance and bus transportation is available. For more information or a tour of the school, call 285-5141 or 285-5142.

*Call 285-5141, Mon. thru Fri., from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*MCA is an accredited non-denominational Christian school.

Prestonsburg Elementary and Family Resource Center.

*Feb. 26 thru March 7 - Book Fair.

*Feb. 27 - Classroom group pictures.

*March 4 - Family Read Night, 6-7 p.m., in library.

*March 8 - "Fun Fair for Expectant and New Parents," 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the MAC. Floyd County expectant parents and parents of children up to one year old invited to attend.

*April 10 - "Give Yourself a Break Day," 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the MAC. Parents/guardians of students enrolled in Floyd County Schools invited.

*The Family Resource Center is open weekdays 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and later by appointment. Office provides services for all families, regardless of income.

*After-School Child Care: 3-6 p.m.

*School hours: 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.

* Call 886-7088 for information and referrals regarding GED classes, preschool child care, and other programs or services offered to the community. Reminder: The Floyd County Health Dept. offers services through the AMS Youth Services Center. Call the AMS Center at 886-1297 to schedule appointments for WIC, HeadStart, Kindergarten, 6th grade exams, and well-child exams from birth to 18 years.

South Floyd Youth Services Center

*Floyd County Substance Abuse Counselor will be on South Floyd campus on Mondays; Mt. Comp Care counselor will be on campus on Tuesdays. If you need to speak with either counselor, contact the SFYSC.

*SFHS and SFMS Parent Volunteer training held throughout the year. Watch for dates TBA.

*Juniors and Seniors will attend the pre-Prom program at the MAC in May.

*Parents needing assistance with daycare may contact Mable Hall for information, or the "A Step Ahead" daycare center, at 452-1100.

*Walking track open to public (track closed during special events).

*The center has a one-stop career station satellite that is available to the community as well as students.

*All new students and visitors, stop by the Center, located on the South Floyd campus, Room 232, and see Mable Hall. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

*For more information call 452-9600 or 452-9607, ext.

243 or 153.

Stumbo Elementary/Mud Creek Family Resource & Youth Service Center

*Yearbooks are \$22 and are on sale in school office.

*Lost & Found located in Family Resource Center.

*The Mud Creek FRYSC is located on the right, by the school gymnasium. Services are offered to all families, regardless of income. For more information, call Anita Tackett, center coordinator at 587-2233.

W.D. Osborne "Rainbow Junction" Family Resource Center

*Healthy Floyd County 2010 Oral Health/Dental Initiative Program: Hygienist scheduled to be at Osborne Elementary on Monday's and Friday's throughout Feb. and March to provide dental treatment for participating students.

*Feb. 19 - Parent meeting (KYPIRC), 10 a.m., in library. Please plan to attend!

*Feb. 14 - Happy Valentine's Day!

*Feb. 18 - No school!

*Feb. 19 - Head Start meeting, 9 a.m., in library.

*Feb. 19 - Parent meeting, 9:30 a.m., in library, with Lola

Ratliff.

*Feb. 20 - Paul O'Kelley; Positive Attitudes (school assembly program, 9:30 a.m., in gym).

*Lost and Found is located in the Family Resource Center. Items not claimed within three weeks become the property of the FRC.

*The FRC accepts donations of children's clothing, shoes, belts, book bags, etc. May be used but need to be in good condition. Donated items will be appreciated and utilized by OES students.

*The Family Resource Center is located in the central building of W.D. Osborne Elementary. Those wishing more information about the center are welcome to visit, or call. Ask for Cissy (center coordinator). Center telephone and fax: (606) 452-4553.

Wesley Christian School

*WCS Learning Center accepts toddlers, preschool age (2-4). Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

*For more information about Wesley Christian School, call 874-8328.

Big Sandy Community & Technical College Adult Education and GED

Monday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- McDowell FRC; Martin Comm. Ctr.; Auxier Learning Ctr.; BSCTC.

1-4:30 p.m. - BSCTC; Martin Comm. Ctr.

1:30 - 5 p.m. - Wheelwright Baptist Church.

Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- Mud Creek Clinic; BSCTC.

9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. - David Craft Center.

9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Dixie Apartments.

1-4:30 p.m. - BSCTC; Mud Creek Clinic; Floyd County Jail.

6-8 p.m. - Auxier Learning Ctr.; Martin Community Ctr.

Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Martin Comm. Ctr.; Auxier Learning Ctr.; BSCTC.

1-4:30 p.m. - Layne House; BSCTC; Floyd County Jail.

6-8 p.m. - BSCTC.

Thursday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - BSCTC.

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Weeksbury CC.

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Betsy Layne YSC.

1-4:30 p.m. - BSCTC.

Kay Halc Ross - Manager of Adult Education, 886-7334

Lisa Pelfrey - Assistant, 886-7397

Ron Johnson, Stephania Conn, Lynn Hall, Nancy Bormes, Cindy Justice and Wayne Combs - Adult Education teachers.

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



Happy 2nd Birthday, Brock!

Brock Grayson Horne will turn two years old on February 22, 2008. Brock is the son of Greg and Robin Horne, of Prestonsburg. He is the grandson of Roger and Brenda Horne, of Wayland, and the great-grandson of Bea Combs, also of Wayland, Woodrow and Clarice Horne, of Lackey. Brock will celebrate his special day with a "Mickey Mouse" theme party, his parents, family and friends.



New Arrival

Nicholas Grant Lyons was born December 20, 2007, at 9:08 p.m., at Highlands Regional Medical Center, to proud parents John and Rogetta Lyons. He weighed 5 lbs., 6 oz., and measured 18 and 3/4 inches in length. He is the grandson of Larry and Melinda Lyons, Joann Whitaker, of David, and the late Roger Whitaker. He is the great-grandson of Robie and Doris Slone, of David, and Alpha Bates, of Abbott. Nicholas has one big brother, Payton.

Eyes

that Christmas tree down and out of my living room...

Oh, okay, back to Valentine's Day - got a few trivia tidbits you might get a grin out of. Found them on www.brownie-locks.com, where a few other interesting bits of information can be found in regard to that most complex of emotions - Love.

1. The Hershey Bar was first made in 1900. Before the Hershey Bar, Milton Snavely Hershey was already famous for manufacturing caramels, a type of candy that he later discontinued because his chocolate bars became so popular.

2. "Nestle's makes the very best chocolate," so rings the jingle. So what did Nestle do in 1875 to make their chocolate so darned good? They added sweetened condensed milk to it.

3. True or false - M&M's were first created for the U.S. Military? True. And that's the reason why the chocolates were candy coated, so they wouldn't melt.

4. Which came first, the Mounds Bar or the Almond Joy Bar? Mounds Bar. Bet some of you "nuts" got that, while some of you other "nuts" didn't...

5. Napoleon is said to have carried

chocolate on him for quick nibbles and energy boosts. Is that what he has his hand on in his pocket in the famous portrait? Well, the first part is true, but who knows what he had his hand on in the painting.

6. When translated into Greek, "theobroma cacao," the scientific name for the cocoa tree means "Food of the Gods." (Women, unite!)

7. The first chocolate shop opened in 1657, in London, England.

8. In the 16th century, French physicians considered chocolate to be an aphrodisiac. (Again, women unite!)

9. The Baby Ruth candy bar was created in 1920 by the Curtiss Candy Co. It was named not after the famous baseball player, but President Cleveland's daughter.

10. The first Three Musketeers chocolate bar originally sold for a nickel.

11. A chocolate cake should be baked at a lower temperature than any other kind of cake because chocolate burns easily.

12. Africa is the continent which produces the most chocolate.

13. Chocolate is just as good for you as a glass of red wine - oh, so true, as long as

it's dark chocolate.

14. Early Mexican history states that the cocoa bean was once used as money.

15. You might guess it's the grand old U.S. of A. that consumes the most chocolate per person per year, but guess what? It's actually Switzerland.

16. In the chocolate making process, "nibs" are irregular raw bean fragments.

17. Which has more calories, a 1.5 oz. Hershey bar or 1 packet of peanut M&M's? Sorry, peanut lovers, it's the M&M's.

18. In the Alfred Hitchcock film "Psycho," they used chocolate syrup for blood in the famous 45-second shower scene. Well, after all, they were filming in black and white.

19. A 1.4 oz. piece of milk chocolate and 1 cup of decaffeinated coffee both contain 6 milligrams of caffeine.

And my favorite:

20. In Hershey, PA, the street lights on Main Street are all shaped like Hershey Kisses! How quaint! That alone is a good reason to visit!

See you guys next week! Have a handful of M&M's while you're waiting...lol!

Continued from p7

Diva

Makes you want to run out and buy some!

The L word fruit is loquat. Loquats have an orange or cream-colored skin. Lovely loquats look rather apricot-ish and have a large seed in the middle. Their flavor is again a mixture of pineapple, apricot and plum; both sweet and tart at the same time. Found in the summer, luscious loquats are bursting with vitamin A, some C and calcium, too.

M is for medlar, a small fruit that is kin to the rose and apple. A late bloomer (you can find medlars in the late fall), this fruit doesn't exactly win awards for its looks. The brown fruit with the almost open end bottom looks like an overgrown blueberry. The sweet, almost winelike taste has afforded the medlar quite a few fans. Next fall, see if you can see the mighty medlars taking up residence in your produce department!

Netted melons are better known as musk melons. It's the net pattern on its skin that gives this melon its name. Cantaloupes are a type of musk melon as

is the Tennessee musk melon, which looks very similar to the typical cantaloupe, however, the elongated shape makes it stand away from the crowd.

O'Henry peaches are freestone peaches; peaches with flesh that pulls easily away from the stone or pit. O'Henry are brightly colored (nearly red) with minimal fuzz and ripen late in the season. Not your typical peach, but firm and juicy at the same time.

P is for persimmon, an extremely sweet fruit that looks much like a tomato, only orange. A good source of fiber and potassium, persimmon pudding and persimmon preserves are commonly made from the persimmon.

Q is for quince, the fruit that looks like an apple and a pear had a baby together! Quince has been around for thousands of years; some have even postulated that Eve's forbidden fruit was actually quince! Quince is a fruit that needs cooking to bring out the best of its goodness. Quince jam, marmalades and poached quince are

essential for the adventurous palate!

R is red globe grapes, which look like mutant giant red seedless grapes. The difference of course is size and seeds. The clusters of red globes are big and boisterous and fun to eat. The grape itself will fully occupy your mouth making the one at a time rule a necessity. Like all grapes, red globes are chock full of antioxidants, especially resveratrol, the highly prized antioxidant that is known for its cancer fighting properties.

That leaves us with S through Z. Yikes, is there such a thing as a fruit starting with Z?? Well, tune in next week, and we'll find out!

For more help putting dinner on your table check out Leanne's website, www.SavingDinner.com, or her Saving Dinner Book series (Ballantine) and her New York Times Best Selling book Body Clutter (Fireside). Copyright 2008; Leanne Ely. Used by permission in this publication.

Continued from p7

Fly Lady

numbers, insurance numbers and important dates? They are small and filled with things you don't have to try to remember.

9. PERSONAL PROTECTION: Many of us still have that time of the month. Be sure and grab a box of your preferred protection. It may be hard to find if you have been evacuated. Stress can cause our bodies to do strange things too. So be prepared. Take medication for cramps too.

10. PHONES, RADIOS, FUEL FOR THE CAR: Many of us have cell phones now. Always keep them charged up and have a charger in the car or

an extra battery. They may not work in the event of power outages, but then they might. Know which local radio station has emergency bulletins. Keep your battery powered radio tuned to that local station and have plenty of batteries for it. Also keep an old type regular phone that does not operate with electricity. GAS PUMPS don't work without power, either. You can't leave if your car is on empty. So keep your car fuel tank topped off when it hits a half of tank. This way you will have gas to drive at least a couple of hours. Evacuation routes are usually bumper to bumper traffic.

Having a tank filled will keep you less stressed.

11. PATIENCE: This is one of the most important things to pack. Keep it inside of you so that you have a clear calm head. Having your P's to Preparedness list guiding you will keep you patient. In the event of an evacuation there will be lots of displaced people. Being patient will make things less stressful. Your children need to see you calm and collected. This will help keep them calm, too.

We can FLY in the face of danger and emergency if we are prepared. Don't wait till you are being asked to evacu-

ate. Everyone thinks that it could not happen to them. Well, it could and it is up to you to make sure you are prepared.

Don't wait! DO IT NOW!!

For more help getting rid of your CHAOS, check out FlyLady's website and join her free mentoring group at www.FlyLady.net or her book, Sink Reflections published by Bantam and her New York Times Best Selling book, Body Clutter published by Fireside. Copyright 2007 Maria Cilely. Used by permission in this publication.

Continued from p7

Wildfire

Beware & Prepare

Prepare your home, family & community for survival.

- Keep flammable vegetation and leaves at least 30 feet away from your house.
- Keep dry grass and brush cut short.
- Clean roof and gutters of flammable materials and leaves.
- Have an evacuation plan ready.
- Remember backfiring is illegal.

In a wildland fire emergency, call 9-1-1, your local Fire Department, or your local Division of Forestry district office.



Our Yesterdays

The Floyd County Times reported in its January 20, 1938, issue that the newly-completed Weeksbury school, consisting of 14 classrooms, study hall and an auditorium, and built at total cost of \$37,000, is now being attended by more than 400 students in the Weeksbury area.



Front Page of The First Issue of The Floyd County Times. Printed June 19th, 1927

You never know what you might be missing, if you are not reading "Our Yesterdays," printed each Wednesday in The Times.

Cold case

explained. "There was some detail, and I don't remember specifically what it was, some little protocol, on the missing person's report that was incorrect, which caused NCIC (the

National Crime Information Center) to kick the report back to us, so there was probably a 24-hour gap."

Had Cropper been stopped or detained for any reason by

authorities in the previous 24 hours, Conn said, Prestonsburg Police would have been notified.

Conn said the delay wasn't a factor but, "It was a mistake on our part, and I'll take credit for that." Conn said he apologized to the victim's mother for the error at the time.

During the interview, Cropper-Powe also said that when she had come to meet with Conn, that he refused to see her saying he had to move into his house.

"She was supposed to come up the week before. I had told her I would be busy the following week," Conn said, adding that when she insisted on coming up the week he had told her he would be busy, he arranged for her to meet with the FBI agent who was handling the case. He said she seemed happy with that arrangement, and made no complaint at the time.

"If she had insisted that she talk to me, I would have met with her."

Conn said that he put in probably a month of footwork on the case after the disappearance of Cropper, conducting over 90 interviews. "We talked

to everybody."

Conn said that his best lead had come in an interview with a local couple whom the victim was known to consort. One of them admitted pawing a .25 caliber pistol two or three days after Cropper's disappearance.

According to Conn, autopsy reports said that Cropper had died as a result of a gunshot wound to the head, and that the caliber had been the same.

"I went and picked up the handgun at the Hock Shop in Prestonsburg, and sent it off to GBI (the Georgia Bureau of Investigation) to try and match the ballistics," Conn said. "When I got the call from GBI, I really thought that was going to be it, but the bullet found at the crime scene didn't match with the gun." Conn said it was just a strange coincidence.

According to Conn, he exhausted every possible local lead and was forced to release the case to the FBI, saying, "The city wasn't going to pay me to investigate a crime that couldn't be placed in Floyd County."

Conn believes that Cropper "walked off" from the Carl D.

Perkins Job Corps Center and met with foul play elsewhere. Conn said the autopsy report confirmed that the victim died at the location where his body was found.

"We were getting an average of 10 calls a month for walk-offs from the Job Corps at that time," Conn said, adding that while there was no documented history of harassment, he had gleaned from the interviews that Cropper was bullied and picked on often.

"A lot of them didn't really have much to say. He didn't really have any friends; kind of a loner," Conn said.

The file, case information and evidence was turned over to the FBI after it was determined that no crime took place locally.

After leaving the PPD, Conn went to work as a Kentucky State Trooper. Conn said he continued to make inquiries into the case while he was with KSP.

Conn, now retired, was recognized for heroism relating to a 2004 incident in which, after an explosion occurred in his Ivel neighborhood, he rescued a mother and child from their burning home, despite suffer-

ing severe burns himself.

In 2005, then-Gov. Ernie Fletcher presented Conn with the Governor's Medal of Valor, which is reserved for troopers displaying conspicuous heroism in the line of duty under circumstances of extreme danger.

According to the Georgia Department of Investigation, police in Florida arrested a Floyd County man in February 1993, Harry Eugene Hale, 46, of Martin, for questioning in Georgia in connection with a missing Swiss exchange student, Chris Zahn, sexual assaults against young males, and possibly the slaying of Cropper. According to reports, Hale was a resident of Austell, Ga., at the time of Zahn's 1992 disappearance. He also owned homes in Kentucky and Florida.

Conn said that he had also investigated Hale at the time.

No evidence ever came forward linking Hale to Cropper's murder, though he was incarcerated for credit card fraud after being filmed using Zahn's cards. Hale is currently serving a prison sentence in Georgia and will not come up for parole until 2013.

Continued from p1

Fireman

for a fellow firefighter. "The fire station was his second home."

Chaffins was the son of Phillip and Alice Chaffins and a graduate of Prestonsburg High School. He leaves behind three children.

Visitation for Chaffins will be today in the Prestonsburg

Fire Station at City Hall from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The memorial service, in concordance with the full firefighter funeral rite, will be held tomorrow, 11 a.m. at the Mountain Arts Center, before Chaffins' coffin is transported to the grave site by Prestonsburg Fire Engine 1.

Continued from p1

Casinos

shows a marked increase in the amount of tax revenue casinos could generate for the state — \$100 million more than Beshear had previously projected.

Beshear has been warning that the state is facing a financial crisis, and the revenue is sorely needed to help offset a projected \$900 million shortfall over the next two fiscal

years.

Hack said the state needs to find another way to balance the budget rather than legalize casinos that could foster social ills.

"Hopefully, the people in this state will rise up to put an end to this issue so that the governor and legislature can focus their attention on issues of real importance," Hack said.

Continued from p1

Stumbo

ening the laws regarding internet child predators, was voted through the committee to the House floor.

"As former attorney general, I heard repeatedly the challenges of law enforcement to keep pace with the evolution of these crimes," said Stumbo. "This is a wonderful bill. We captured 29 in the three stings we conducted and all have been convicted. I am honored to have the privilege of voting for this legislation today."

Stumbo will also serve on the House Natural Resources, Environment, and Transportation committees.

"After serving in the House for 23 years and the last four as Attorney General, Greg knows Kentucky as well as anyone, and his time back in the House will certainly reflect that," said House Speaker Jody Richards. "His experience will be tremendous asset as the House works to move Kentucky forward."

Continued from p1

Plan

expensive and calls for curve revision on Route 122 at McDowell and the addition of a left-turn lane at the Route 680 intersection.

Projects in neighboring counties that will have an impact on Floyd County drivers include:

Widening a 1.1-mile stretch of the Mountain Parkway in Magoffin County, from the Licking River bridge at mile marker 74.5 to mile marker 75.6. The plan calls for \$560,000 in right-of-way acquisition in 2010, \$330,000 for utility relocation in 2010 and \$15.75 million for construction in 2012.

Correcting a rockfall hazard along 1.25 miles of Route 321 in Johnson County between Prestonsburg and Paintsville. The plan calls for \$210,000 in right-of-way acquisition in

2010, \$420,000 for utility relocation in 2010 and \$1.69 million for construction in 2012.

The total plan represents a \$1.03 billion reduction from the previous six-year plan, released in 2006. Officials explained the drop by noting that growth in the Kentucky Road Fund has not kept pace with a 40-percent rise in the cost of road-building materials since 2005.

"As we assess the Transportation Cabinet's ability to meet future highway needs, we must recognize that when projects cost more, careful choices must be made about the type and extent of road system improvements we pursue," Transportation Secretary Joe Prather said.

The full plan can be viewed at http://transportation.ky.gov/progmgmt/08_RHP/.

Continued from p1

House approves booster seat law

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — House lawmakers have approved legislation that would require children under 8 years old to ride in booster seats.

The 68-28 vote on the measure Thursday was largely along party lines with most Democrats favoring it. The measure now goes to the Senate for consideration. A

similar bill was quashed in the Senate last year.

Democratic State Rep. Tom Burch of Louisville is sponsoring the legislation. He said it will save the lives of children.

Kentucky is one of 12 states without a booster seat law.

Burch's bill would require booster seats for children under 8 who are between 40 and 57 inches tall.

Mine owner to be stripped of license under agreement

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — An Eastern Kentucky man will be banned from owning or operating coal mines in the state under a settlement agreement with a mine safety agency.

The agreement was announced Thursday between the Kentucky Mine Safety Review Commission and Gary Wayne Bentley, the co-owner of a Cumberland mine where a

worker was killed in December 2005.

Bentley was the on-shift emergency technician when David "Bud" Morris Jr. bled to death after a mine accident. Bentley had been accused of failing to provide proper care.

The commission acknowledged as part of the agreement that Bentley did not intentionally violate mine safety rules.

Bentley also will lose his underground miner certificate.



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FLOYD COUNTY Sports

Inside

Alice Lloyd • B2

College basketball • B3

Stepps catapult June Buchanan past Prestonsburg

by STEVE LeMASTER SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG - June Buchanan gradually pulled away from host Prestonsburg Tuesday night at The Fieldhouse...

The Stepps set the course for June Buchanan's win. Senior Clark Stepp paced June Buchanan with a double-double...

Trey Short and Brent Hall also reached double figures for the Crusaders. Short and Hall scored 10 points apiece for June Buchanan.

Brent Hall had eight points for the Crusaders.

Garrison Collins flipped in five points for the defending 14th Region champion.

June Buchanan led 30-25 at the break.

Nathaniel Stephens claimed the game-high scoring honor for Prestonsburg. Stephens, a senior bigman, scored a team-high 13 points.

Six different players accounted for all of the Prestonsburg scoring. Jody Tackett pushed in eight points and Austin Gearheart added two for the Blackcats.

The Crusaders claimed the win in the fourth quarter, outscoring Prestonsburg 21-14 in the final period.

June Buchanan improved to 18-6 after claiming the win.

Injuries had hit June Buchanan hard in recent weeks. The Crusaders are starting to recover and return to full strength.

Prestonsburg dropped to 9-12 after suffering the loss on its home gymfloor.

JUNE BUCHANAN 72, PRESTONSBURG 57

JUNE BUCHANAN (18-6) - Clark Stepp 20, Cox 10, Clint Stepp 18, Collins 5, Short 10, Hall 8, Davis 1.

PRESTONSBURG (9-12) - Stephens 13, Hall 11, Clark 12, Tackett 8, Burchett 11, Gearheart 2.

June Buchanan.....10 20 21 21-72

Prestonsburg.....8 17 18 14-57



photo by Greg Moore ALLEN CENTRAL outlasted South Floyd Friday night in a conference/district game at Raider Arena.

Today, we take the good with the bad and worse

by RICK BENTLEY TIMES COLUMNIST

Things I hope I haven't misremembered and others I only wish I could misremember:

- The hot topic this week was the Roger Clemens hearing before congress, after which we were left to debate who may have won and who may have lost the 4-1/2 hour debacle.

The remainder of this paragraph will list the winners:

Now that that's out of the way, the subject of discussion is whether Roger Clemens perjured himself before congress. In my estimation, and I'm shocked I haven't heard this everywhere, is that it's highly probable that both Clemens and Brian McNamee have perjured themselves.

Look, McNamee is no choir boy here. That is clear and something he has personally admitted. But he said he injected Andy Pettitte, who said it was true. He said he injected Chuck Knoblauch, who said it was true. He even said he injected Roger's own wife, who admitted in evidence presented by Clemens hisownself.

Yet we're supposed to believe the whole thing about Clemens is a lie just because he said so?

Sorry, I'm not that gullible.

Maybe, in the end, Clemens will have some way of proving his innocence, but what that method will be is beyond me at this point. We'll just wish him luck there and move on.

- But we did get a new word out of the hearing, so we've got that going for us.

- In the commonwealth, we only wish that was the worst news of the week. How in the world do you score only 11 points in an entire half of basketball in the shot-clock era?

As Charles Barkley would ask, "Anah-bodah?"

Amazing.

- And then, our beloved coach in whom we are well pleased tried to laugh it off in the press conference! Are you serious? At this point, the only laughing matter here is that Mitch Barnhart believed Billy Gillispie to be the right man for the job.

This season has been a fiasco from the beginning. Losses to Louisville-Indiana-Carolina were bad enough. Then a home loss to Gardner-Webb. Then a home loss to San Diego, who

(See TODAY, page two)



file photo by Steve LeMaster

JEFF GORDON is no stranger to the Daytona International Speedway Victory Lane. Several veteran drivers are looking to return to the Daytona 500 lineup.

Big names in danger of missing Daytona 500

by JENNA FRYER ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - Tucked away in the back corner of the garage, far from the overwhelming attention surrounding NASCAR's biggest stars, a world-class group of drivers went overlooked in their quest to make the Daytona 500.

It was a surreal scene: A former NASCAR champion, a two-time Daytona 500 winner and a Formula One star.

Dale Jarrett, Sterling Marlin and Jacques Villeneuve were fighting to make the 500 field. None were guaranteed a spot in the season-opening race, and all had to race their way into the 500 field in one of Thursday's two qualifying races.

Only four spots are available. And for all of them, it could be their last chance for the Daytona 500. Jarrett will retire next month, Marlin is running a partial schedule and Villeneuve needs sponsorship to run a full season.

"I haven't really allowed myself to think in the direction," Jarrett, a three-time Daytona 500 winner and former series champion, said Wednesday.

"We need to stay in a

positive frame of mind in that we are going to be able to race our way in. It would be disappointing to say the very least, because this is going to be my last opportunity at Daytona. So I want to be involved in it."

Only the two fastest drivers in last week's time trials - two-time defending champion Jimmie Johnson and two-time Daytona 500 winner Michael Waltrip - are locked into Sunday's race. Another 34 positions are decided by the top 35 in points from last season.

Four more drivers - two from each of the twin races on Thursday - race their way in. The final three spots go to the fastest drivers on speed who are not otherwise qualified and possibly a past champion.

It's a system that irritates Marlin, a two-time Daytona 500 winner who now finds himself on the verge of missing the biggest race of the year. Like Jarrett, Marlin did not finish in the top 35 in points last season.

Marlin said the system is unfair, pointing to former open-wheel drivers Dario Franchitti and Sam Hornish Jr., who will race Sunday in their first Daytona 500s after inheriting top 35 points from last season.

guys who got into cars that are locked into the top 35 in points and have never even started a Daytona 500," Marlin said. "That's how the rules are, and we knew that coming down there, I just think there's a better way to do it."

Marlin said he'd prefer a system that locked in the fastest 40 cars, with the final three spots reserved as provisionals.

"Give away the other three. I don't care to who, a past champion, somebody who had trouble qualifying, the guy who is eighth in points, whoever," Marlin said. "Cause the way they do it now is just aggravating, and a lot of big names are going to go home tomorrow."

Marlin is fighting an uphill battle.

He was 45th out of 47 cars on the speed chart following Wednesday's final practice, and needed an outstanding race Thursday to make the cut.

"It will be aggravating to miss the race," Marlin said. "We knew in testing we had a problem with the car, thought we had it fixed, then got down here and found out we didn't. All we can do is fix the car the best we can, hold it wide open for 150 miles and hope we're OK."

Adding to Marlin's

problems was the engine from Hendrick Motorsports that was powering his car. A problem with the lifters in the motors forced five of the nine cars who use Hendrick motors to change the engines. Although Marlin wasn't initially one of them, there's concern the engine could blow.

Villeneuve, meanwhile, had everything go wrong Wednesday. Battling a bout of laryngitis, the former F1 world champion scraped the wall during the first practice and missed considerable track time while his team assessed the damage.

Driving an unsponsored car, Villeneuve was hoping a strong showing at Daytona would land him the money he needs to run the entire season. Now he's in danger of missing the 500, a setback that could cripple this move to NASCAR.

Editor's note: The two Gatorade Duels ended too late to make this edition.

Phelps defeats South Floyd

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PHELPS - Host Phelps held South Floyd to 14 first half points Tuesday night, rolling to a 75-58 win over the Raiders.

Phelps set the tone early on in the non-district matchup, outscoring South Floyd 20-8 in the opening quarter.

Dillon Stiltner paced Phelps with a game-high 28 points. Charlie Hunt was Phelps' second-leading scorer, finishing with 21 points. Patrick Dotson also reached double figures for the Hornets. Dotson, who ranks as the most accurate shooter for the Hornets, added 12 points. Earlier in the season, Jan. 18, Dotson turned in a double-double effort of 37 points and 11 rebounds in a win over West Virginia foe Jaeger.

Phelps carried a commanding 35-14 lead into halftime.

Wes Akers, Tommy Joe Hall and Shannon Turner scored 10 points apiece for the Raiders.

Ten different South Floyd players broke into the scoring column.

South Floyd outscored Phelps in each of the last two quarters before suffering the setback.

PHELPS 75.

SOUTH FLOYD 58

SOUTH FLOYD (2-21) - Akers 10, Hall 10, Howell 8, Paige 6, Langdon 4, Mitchell 2, Hayes 3, Jones 1, Marson 4, Turner 10.

PHELPS (16-5) - Stiltner 28, Hager 1, Smith 5, Hunt 21, Dotson 12, Campbell 2, Blankenship 2, Maynard 4.

SF.....8 6 24 20-58 Phelps.....20 15 23 17-75

Adams leads Pikeville past Perry Central

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE - Floyd County native Deven Adams led Pikeville past perennial 14th Region title contender Perry County Central Tuesday night. Adams, a junior center for the Panthers, scored 14 points and pulled down 10 rebounds, registering a double-double for host Pikeville. The Panthers defeated Perry County Central 46-36.

It was a record-setting night for the talented Adams. One of the state's top juniors, Adams blocked seven shots, brining his career total to 105, establishing a new Pikeville school record.

Matt Clevenger and Tim Honaker, another Floyd County native, added 12 points apiece for the Panthers, joining Adams in double figures.

Pikeville won, despite being held to just 14 points in the first half. The Panthers limited Perry County Central to 19 points in the second half.

The Panthers managed to keep the visiting Commodores at a distance in the second half.

Perry County Central outscored Pikeville 11-6 in the first quarter and took a 17-14 lead into halftime.

John Amis led Perry County Central with 11 points. Chris Noble netted 10 points for the Commodores.

The Panthers went out in front in the third quarter, outscoring

(See ADAMS, page two)

CBA: East Kentucky KOs Pittsburgh

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PITTSBURGH - Visiting East Kentucky defeated rival Pittsburgh Monday night in a shootout at the Petersen Events Center. The Miners outscored Pittsburgh 44-27 in the fourth quarter en route to a hard-fought 131-117 American Conference win.

Forward Steve Thomas - the latest signee for the Miners - led East Kentucky with a double-double of 34 points and 17 rebounds. Thomas registered game-high totals in both categories.

East Kentucky dominated the quarter points battle, winning 6-1. The Miners improved to 19-19 overall, evening their record following a pair of losses to American Conference leader Minot.

East Kentucky - playing without injured guards Mike Crain and Bryant Northern - relied heavily on its starting five. The East Kentucky starting five accounted for all but two of the visiting team's points.

Point guard Jason McLeish scored 31 points for the Miners. Boo Jackson, one of the CBA's most productive players, registered a double-double of 27 points and 10 rebounds.

Josh Pace scored 22 points and Mike Dean added 15 for the Miners. Dean dished off seven assists and hauled in nine rebounds in East Kentucky's American Conference victory.

East Kentucky outscored host Pittsburgh 35-27 in the opening quarter. The Miners, despite the successful start, found themselves trailing at the break. Pittsburgh carried a 63-59

lead into halftime.

Tyrone Anderson paced Pittsburgh with a team-high 26 points. Six different Pittsburgh players reached double figures in the scoring column. John DeGroat dumped in 24 points and Darnell Miller added 21 for the Xplosion.

East Kentucky outscored Pittsburgh 28-27 in the third quarter, claiming the all-important quarter point and building momentum for the final frame.

The Miners dominated the boards, outrebounding Pittsburgh 49-35.

With the win, East Kentucky snapped a two-game losing streak and returned to the win column at the start of what promises to be a challenging road swing.

Pittsburgh dropped to 22-17 after losing to the Miners.



photo courtesy of Dusty Layne Photography/East Kentucky Miners

Jason McLeish scored 31 points Monday night in East Kentucky's win over American Conference rival Pittsburgh.

Auto racing glance

by BRIAN KACHARABA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP DAYTONA 500
Site: Daytona Beach, Fla.
Schedule: Thursday, Gatorade Duel 150-mile qualifying races (Speed Channel, 2 p.m.); Sunday, race (FOX, 2 p.m.).
Track: Daytona International Speedway (tri-oval, 2.5 miles, 31 degrees banking in turns).
Race distance: 500 miles, 200 laps.
Last race: Dale Earnhardt Jr. used a late pass to snatch the exhibition Budweiser Shootout away from the two-time champion Tony Stewart. The victory ended a nearly two-year winless streak and returned Junior to the forefront of NASCAR's best plate racers.
Last year: Kevin Harvick edged Mark Martin in a wild final lap, forcing the 48-year-old driver to settle for second place in the Daytona 500. Martin, looking to end 25 years of frustration in NASCAR's premier event, led with two laps to go and looked like he would hold off Kyle Busch. But Busch started a multicausal accident in the final turn that left Martin with no one to give him a push to the finish line. Harvick and Matt Kenseth teamed up on the outside, allowing Harvick to pull alongside Martin and edge him at the line by .020 seconds.
Fast facts: The event is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. ... Jimmie Johnson, who is trying to match Cale Yarborough's record three straight series championships, won his second Daytona 500 pole on Feb. 10, while Michael Waltrip claimed the outside pole. ... The winner of the Shootout has gone on to win the Daytona 500 five times: Bobby Allison (1982), Bill Elliott (1987), Dale Jarrett (1996, 2000) and Jeff Gordon (1997). ... Earnhardt Jr. won the 2004 event on the same track that claimed his father's life three years earlier. The win came six years to the day that Dale Earnhardt Sr. won his first — and only — Daytona 500 on his 20th try. ... Richard Petty (1973-74), Cale Yarborough (1983-84) and Sterling Marlin

(1994-95) are the only drivers to win this race in consecutive years. ... Jeff Gordon's win in 1997 made him the youngest driver to win the Daytona 500 at 25 years, 6 months, 12 days. ... NASCAR is placing drivers Kurt Busch and Tony Stewart on probation for six races, beginning with this race. The punishment follows a confrontation between the two former series champions, who wrecked in practice last week and then carried it into the NASCAR officials' trailer.
Next race: Auto Club 500, Feb. 24, Fontana, Calif.
On the Net: <http://www.nascar.com>

NASCAR NATIONWIDE Camping World 300
Site: Daytona Beach, Fla.
Schedule: Friday, qualifying (ESPN2, 3 p.m.); Saturday, race (ESPN2, Noon).

Track: Daytona International Speedway (tri-oval, 2.5 miles, 31 degrees banking in turns).
Race distance: 300 miles, 120 laps.
Last year: Kevin Harvick, who ran away with the 2006 title, started the 2007 season with his 27th career victory in the series. Starting 31st in the 43-car field at Daytona, Harvick crossed the finish line about three lengths ahead of runner-up Dave Blaney, who gave Toyota a solid finish in its series debut.
Fast facts: Nationwide Insurance takes over as the series' title sponsor from Anheuser-Busch, which held it since the series began in 1982. ... Dale Earnhardt Jr. has five career Nationwide wins at Daytona. ... Tony Stewart, a two-time Nationwide winner at Daytona, will be competing in his first points race in a Toyota. ... Clint Bowyer returns full-time to the series for the first time since finishing second to Martin Truex Jr. in 2006. Johnny Sauter is also back after spending all of last season with the Sprint Cup. ... Bryan Clauson, Dario Franchitti, Cale Gale and Brian Keselowski are the top contenders for this year's Rookie of the Year title.
Next event: Stater Bros. 300, Feb. 23, Fontana, Calif.

Eagles beat IU-East, fall to Berea

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIPPA PASSES — The Alice Lloyd College men's basketball team split two KIAC games last week. Berea defeated Alice Lloyd 69-60. The Eagles rolled past Indiana University-East in another conference game, winning 102-82. Alice Lloyd led Berea 30-29 at halftime. Poor shooting from the field (22-of-56, 39-percent) and free throw line (14-of-25, 56-percent) contributed to the loss for the Eagles.

Clay County native Rodney Mitchell led Alice Lloyd with 20 points and 3 rebounds. William Dillard was also in double figures for the Eagles, finishing with 13 points.

In the IU-East game, Alice Lloyd was on the losing end of a 47-44 half-time score. The Eagles, however, outscored the Pioneers 58-35 in the second half to secure the win. Joe Ramey, a 6-5 forward for IU-East, came into the game as the leading scorer in NATA Div. II, averaging over 30 points per game. He scored 22 in the conference contest.

Seven players were in double figures for the Eagles, led by Mitchell (13 pts., 5 rebs.) and Hairston (13 pts., 6 rebs.). Daniel Day (12 pts., 11 rebs.) and Corey Dixon (11 pts., 10 rebs.) each had a double-double. Eric Mullins (12 pts., 7 assists), Casey Dalton (12 pts., 9 assists) and Preston Simon (10 pts., 4 rebs.) also scored in double figures. Bobby Williams hit two three pointers and finished with 8 points. The Eagles had 51 rebounds and shot well (39-of-82, 48-percent) from the field in the game.

Lady Eagles drop two, outlast Spalding

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIPPA PASSES — The Alice Lloyd College Lady Eagles played three games last week. On Tuesday, Feb. 5, they lost at Berea, 95-79. Taran Cody had a double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Kaylan Richardson had another good game with 15 points and 5 rebounds. Sierra Wynn (14 pts., 9 rebs.) and Nicole Lutes (14 pts., 6 rebs.) were also in double figures. Poor shooting from the field (32-of-79, 40-percent), especially from behind the arc (5-of-24, 20-percent) contributed to the loss.

On Thursday night, Alice Lloyd hosted KIAC leader Midway. The Lady Eagles trailed at halftime, 41-31; however, they fought back and had a chance down the stretch, but fell 68-64. Wynn finished with 13 points and 5 rebounds. Whitney Frazier (10 pts., 2 assists) and Ashley Sexton (10 pts, 5 rebs) were also in double figures. Cody finished with 8 points and 9 rebounds.

The Lady Eagles came away with a hard fought 79-74 win over Spalding University on Saturday afternoon. They led 40-30 at halftime in route to the win. Wynn led the way with 26 points and 4 rebounds. Richardson (16 pts., 3 rebs.) and Lutes (11 pts., 4 rebs.) were also in double figures. Frazier had 9 assists to go along with 8 points. Cody (8 pts., 7 rebs.) and Sexton (7 pts., 2 assists) also had very productive games.



photo courtesy of Dusty Layne Photography/East Kentucky Miners
MIKE CRAIN continues to rank as of the CBA's most productive guards.

Lake Cumberland to host Wal-Mart BFL Mtn. Division tourney

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MONTICELLO — The Mountain Division of the \$8.8 million Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League will visit Lake Cumberland in Monticello, Ky., Feb. 23 for the first of five regular-season events. As many as 200 boaters and 200 co-anglers are expected to compete in the tournament, which will award as much as \$45,000 in cash, including a top award of \$6,000 in the Boater Division.

If the winner is a participant in the Ranger Cup incentive program, he will receive a \$1,000 bonus from Ranger Boats and \$500 from Yamaha if his boat is powered by Yamaha. Ranger will award \$500 to the highest-finishing Ranger Cup participant if not the winner, and Yamaha will kick in \$250 if the boat is powered by Yamaha. Bombardier will award \$1,000 to the winning boater if the winner's boat is equipped with a qualifying Evinrude E-TEC or Direct Injection outboard. That's a potential top award of \$8,000 for anglers who meet contingency guidelines.

The winning co-angler will earn as much as \$3,000 cash.

Snickers Big Bass awards of up to \$1,000 and \$500, respectively, will also be awarded in the Boater and Co-angler Divisions.

Anglers may register for the tournament online at FLWOutdoors.com or by calling (270) 252-1000. Onsite registration will be held Feb. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Wal-Mart store located at 1461 E. Hwy. 90 Bypass in Monticello. Entry fees are \$200 for boaters and \$100 for co-anglers.

Conley Bottom Resort in Monticello will host

the takeoff and weigh-in at 6:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., respectively.

The top 40 boaters and 40 co-anglers in each of the BFL's 28 divisions at the end of the season advance to a no-entry-fee Regional Championship where boaters fish for a new Ranger boat and a Chevy truck and co-anglers fish for a new Ranger boat. Seven regional championships will each send six boaters and six co-anglers to the no-entry-fee Wal-Mart BFL All-American presented by Chevy, which features a \$1 million purse and a top award of \$140,000 in the Boater Division and \$70,000 in the Co-angler Division. Anglers who compete in all five regular-season events within a division but do not advance to a Regional Championship are eligible to compete in the Chevy Wild Card, which will also send six boaters and six co-anglers to the All-American for a total of 48 boaters and 48 co-anglers advancing through BFL competition.

The winning boater and winning co-angler at the All-American advance to the no-entry-fee \$2 million Forrest Wood Cup. This event, featuring a top award of \$1 million, is the most lucrative tournament in all of competitive bass fishing. In all, the BFL offers weekend anglers the opportunity to qualify for three no-entry-fee championships with total cash awards exceeding \$3 million. Plus, the top 40 boaters and 40 co-anglers from each BFL division may move up to the Stren Series for 2009 while All-American champions have the option to advance directly to the Wal-Mart FLW Tour.

Adams

Continued from p1

Perry County Central 18-11. Pikeville finished particularly strong, outscoring the Commodores 15-8 in the final quarter.

TRAL (9-16) — Amis 11, Noble 10, Maggard 7, Kelly 8. PIKEVILLE (16-8) — Bell 2, Clevenger 12, Honaker 12, Adams 14, Baker 4, Branham 3.

PIKEVILLE 46, PERRY COUNTY CENTRAL 36. PERRY COUNTY CENTRAL 36

PCCI.....11 6 11 8-36
Pikeville....6 8 18 15-46

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Kaitlin Lawson, Betsy Layne
Girls' Basketball

Brennan Case, Betsy Layne
Boys' Basketball

Today

Continued from p1

Marshall destroyed a couple of nights later. And now, 11 points in a half at Vandy.

Don't get me wrong, the Doers are a good team. They're very good for a Vandy team. But anyone who believes Kevin Stallings will still be coaching on Elite Eight weekend please stand up.

Now that we're all still seated, we deserve a lot more from our new coach than an 11-point half and then a chuckle in the presser afterwards.

— And speaking of brilliant coaching moves, someone really needs to press Gillispie on what the heck he was thinking putting Jodie Meeks into a 35-point game with eight minutes to go. Of all that happened this week — Clemens expecting us to fall at his feet and Gillispie trying to laugh away an 11-point half — this is the most incomprehensible.

Meeks hadn't played in two weeks, not because he wasn't good enough or because he was suspended, but because he

was injured. And Gillispie thought this was the right time to use him?

And this guy is coaching the nation's winningest program?

— The remainder of this bullet-point will contain all the times Tubby Smith lost by 41 points while a head coach at Kentucky.

— Oh. All that stuff I wrote last week? Just never mind.

— There was a lot more baseball news this week, including the fact that pitchers and catchers reported to Sarasota for the beginning of spring training for the Reds. Considering they were 18 games under last year, one could argue that it wouldn't have hurt them to report the middle of January, but it's a new season, so we should skip that part.

— According to the Cincinnati Enquirer, the Reds are planning to kick off the season with Aaron Harang at the top of their rotation and Bronson Arroyo following.

Is it just me or has Arroyo really earned the spot of the No. 2 guy? I know they don't exactly light up the scoreboard for him, but still, he always seems more like a three-four guy to me.

Speaking of three-four guys, the Enquirer has the immortal Matt Belisle and newcomer Jeremy Affeldt in those spots. The logic is that Belisle needs a breakout year and the Reds didn't sign Affeldt to come out of the pen.

Not exactly glowing recommendations there.

— Andrew Joyce says that while Todd Coffey was at the affiliates luncheon recently, he didn't get anybody out there either so he's already in mid-season form.

— And finally ...

We say best wishes today to two of the luckiest people we work with, Whitney Broyles and Amber Thacker. We hope they're feeling better soon and can't wait to see them back on the hill.

Miners topple Explorers, 111-103

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CASCADE, MT. — The East Kentucky Miners defeated the Great Falls Explorers 111-103 Wednesday night in the first professional basketball game ever played at Cascade High School. Forward Boo Jackson carried the biggest load for East Kentucky, scoring a game-high 40 points for the Miners.

The Miners and Explorers played the first of two games at Cascade High School. CHS is located 25 miles from Great Falls. Both teams were forced to travel on snow-packed I-15

to get to the gymnasium, which served as an alternate home facility for the host squad.

East Kentucky won the quarter points 6-1. The Explorers were only able to win the fourth quarter.

The Miners took a 56-45 lead into halftime of the non-conference matchup.

Mike Dean added 28 points for the Miners. Josh Pace pushed in 14 as East Kentucky won its second straight game.

Swingman Marlyn Bryant led Great Falls with 22 points. Mike Peoples added 21 points and 6-9 forward Junior

Burroughs contributed a double-double of 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Explorers. Pele Paclay scored 17 points and Maurice Carter netted 11 for host Great Falls.

East Kentucky, which improved to 20-19 after posting the win, hit 48 field goals.

The Miners will take on Great Falls Thursday night in a rematch. Tip-off for Thursday's East Kentucky-Great Falls game is set for 7:35 p.m.

Great Falls, as a result of the loss, slipped to 10-22 overall.

Dairy Queen
of Prestonsburg

SPORTS FAN
OF THE WEEK

If you are the sports fan circled here...
it's your lucky day!

If you are the sports fan circled, you are entitled to a free 8-inch ice cream cake of your choice, redeemable at DAIRY QUEEN OF PRESTONSBURG. When claiming your ice cream cake, present this newspaper.

TURN TO THE TIMES ONLINE
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Team owners, feeling financial crunch as NASCAR season revs up

by CHRIS JENKINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — If you're looking for a sign that NASCAR's sustained surge of success is leveling off, just ask veteran driver Mark Martin if he'd ever be interested in owning a racing team.

"I'm just not going to do it," Martin said. "I've worked too hard too long, and I know all about this business. I owned a team, and I went broke in 1982. I know how this deal works, even when things look really good, like two years ago. Then you look at the climate of the sport today from an owner's standpoint or whatever, and the climate is not so good."

Sure, Fortune 500 companies will be splashed all over car hoods and fenders in Sunday's Daytona 500. But behind those flashy corporate logos, there are signs NASCAR's runaway prosperity and popularity are beginning to plateau.

Television ratings that leaped in recent years began to slip last season. And NASCAR officials are having second thoughts about a rash of recent major changes intended to make the sport more palatable to mainstream sports fans — moves that might have alienated the hard-core base.

Add in a U.S. economy that appears to be in a tailspin, and team owners are beginning to feel the pinch.

"You know, nobody's immune," team owner Rick Hendrick said. "That's what I tell our guys. When you see the economy starting to slip, everybody's going to get squeezed. You might not feel it now, but there's a trickle-down effect."

Even as Chevrolet drivers Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jimmie Johnson whooped it up in victory lane last weekend, Chevy's parent company, General Motors, was preparing to announce a record \$38.7 billion loss for 2007.

Chevy's racing budget is pocket change in GM's overall budget, and the company considers NASCAR an important advertising platform. But the bad news stoked an undercurrent of long-standing concerns about the automakers' ability to keep spending at the same pace team owners' costs are rising.

Even Hendrick, who should be riding high after Earnhardt won the Bud Shootout exhibition race in his debut with Hendrick Motorsports and two-time defending Cup series champion Johnson won the Daytona 500 pole position, is thinking about the government's economic stimulus package and how it might affect his empire of car dealerships.

Two top team owners, Jack Roush and Ray Evernham, sold significant stakes in their teams to investors last year. Another two major teams

merged. Everyone else is left looking for more money.

Evernham sold majority ownership of his team to Montreal Canadiens owner George Gillett partly because Evernham couldn't stomach the business end of the sport. Though Evernham says NASCAR remains a good investment for sponsors, he's worried that won't be the case if costs continue to skyrocket.

Evernham said it costs more than \$20 million to run one car for a full season.

"If it goes up to 40 and 50 million dollars, the spread between the haves and the have-nots is going to be bigger," he said. "And I don't care if you get 100 cars that show up. If you've only got five or six that can win, it's not going to be a very good show."

NASCAR officials acknowledge that there might be some potholes in the road, but believe they're already taking measures to help teams. NASCAR chief marketing officer Steve Phelps insists the sport's overall economics are in good shape.

"I'm not going to say we don't have a challenge or two, but that's OK," Phelps said. "It's an opportunity for us."

Last summer, NASCAR re-assigned a group of employees to focus on helping teams and racetracks find sponsors. An even bigger boost was NASCAR's "Car of Tomorrow,"

which is expected to reduce costs because teams won't have to build different cars to suit different tracks.

And Phelps said that although NASCAR wasn't happy with its TV ratings last year, commercial sales appear strong going into this season — an indication companies are still willing to spend on NASCAR in a struggling economy.

"I think the sport, personally, is in great shape," Hendrick said. "Because I know my sponsors are cutting other things, but they're not cutting the NASCAR stuff. That's a good sign."

Still, there are caution flags. Bobby Ginn, a multimillionaire real estate developer, bought a team midway through the 2006 season and nearly won the Daytona 500 with Martin last year.

Five months later, Ginn had tired of running the team out of his own pocket after struggling to find sponsorship and merged his team with Dale Earnhardt Inc.

"I feel bad for Bobby, for what he went through and the money that he lost," Martin said.

Others in the garage area consider Ginn's failed experiment a result of his racing inexperience. But nobody would make that case when it comes to Doug Yates, whose family team was competing for race wins and championships not so long ago.

Now it's struggling to get by.

"It's really tough to get sponsors, and I wouldn't want to be sitting where Doug Yates is sitting right now," Martin said. "And he might be fine. I mean, he may be fine and he might not be losing any sleep about it. I would be."

Phelps acknowledged the business model for team owners is changing, and said NASCAR will continue to work to make sure smaller teams survive.

"We certainly monitor that," Phelps said. "We need to have healthy teams; we need to have sponsored teams."

What can NASCAR do to make being a team owner a more attractive proposition?

Some want NASCAR to award franchises, as is done in other sports, so team owners have more to sell than used race cars, parts and a building when they get out of the business.

Evernham wants NASCAR to control costs.

"Now's the time to plan," Evernham said. "There's a lot of good, smart businesspeople in NASCAR. The first major step was Car of Tomorrow to help keep the costs down. And we've just got to now maybe look at some of the labor costs, engine costs. You're not ever going to stop it from growing, the costs, but we've got to continue to work on containing that growth."

Ten years ago, Dale Earnhardt finally changed his luck, won Daytona 500

by MIKE HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Larry McReynolds couldn't figure out where Dale Earnhardt had gone.

The day before the 1998 Daytona 500, a race Earnhardt was desperate to win in his 20th try, the unlucky driver had disappeared, leaving his crew chief alone to worry. Again.

"He had won the Daytona 498 or 499 so many times, you just wondered if he was ever going to win the 500," said car owner Richard Childress, for whom Earnhardt won six of his seven NASCAR championships.

In previous races, flat tires, last-lap passes, broken parts, running out of gas and even hitting a seagull on the backstretch had seemingly conspired to keep Earnhardt out of the Daytona 500 Victory Circle.

This time, last-minute engine problems threatened to ruin Earnhardt's chances.

"I asked his PR guy, 'Where's Dale?' the longtime crew chief turned TV analyst said Tuesday. "He said, 'Well,

he's out there with some fans."

"I'm thinking to myself 'He picked a hell of a time to rub elbows with these fans. We need him to get here and talk about this engine.'"

But Earnhardt had a bigger problem when he finally showed up.

Stalking past McReynolds without saying a word, Earnhardt rummaged through the drawers of the team's tool chests until he found some glue.

"He told me that when he had got out of the car on pit road there was a little girl there from the Make A Wish Foundation," McReynolds explained. "Her wish was to come to Daytona and meet Dale Earnhardt. He had spent this time with her, and she gave him this lucky penny."

With the penny set on the dashboard of the No. 3 car, the RCR braintrust moved on to the engine, deciding to roll the dice and change it.

"The thing I stressed to the guys was this engine change could be the most important engine change we ever make," McReynolds said. "Obviously, when they dropped the green flag, there was no question it

was ours to lose."

With about 25 laps to go, it was McReynolds who decided to change just two tires on the final pit stop.

Earnhardt led everybody out of the pits and led the rest of the way, assured of the biggest victory of his career when he beat Terry Labonte back to the flagstand after a caution flag came out two laps from the end.

"We knew sooner or later the odds had to get in our favor," Childress said this week. "With about two or three laps to go, Dale was leading, but there was some other guys close behind. I looked at McReynolds and I said, 'We've been here before.'"

Earnhardt's victory, without question the most popular win in the first 49 editions of "The Great American Race," has become part of Daytona legend.

After Earnhardt spun smoky doughnuts in front of the main grandstands, burning what looked like the number 3 in the grass, fans came out to roll in what he left, digging up pieces of the grass as souvenirs.

As Earnhardt drove slowly onto pit lane, every crewman from every team and just about every NASCAR official in the pits lined up to congratulate him in what TV announcer Mike Joy called "the world's longest receiving line."

Just three years later, Earnhardt was killed in a last-lap crash in the 2001 Daytona 500. That 1998 win was his only 500 triumph in 34 total victories at the famed track.

"He wanted that one real bad," Childress said. "And to see him finally get it was the most rewarding part of it."

That lucky penny remains forever affixed to Earnhardt's winning car in the Richard Childress Racing museum in Welcome, N.C.

"I think we had used every lucky charm we could," Childress said. "That one worked that day. To win the race, and to have the penny there and have the little girl involved was pretty special. It was emotional."

"A couple of years ago, we brought the little lady who gave Dale the penny to the museum. I took the wheel off and sat her down in the car. It was pretty amazing."



photo courtesy of Dusty Layne Photography/East Kentucky Miners
BRYANT NORTHERN is out of action for the East Kentucky Miners. Northern, who played at Louisville, suffered a broken hand during a recent Miners home game versus Minot.

Coleman's latest paint scheme has 181 co-passengers

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Nationwide Series driver Brad Coleman will have 181 co-passengers with him Saturday when he races in the series' season-opening Camping World 300 at Daytona.

Through a unique partnership between Coleman's primary sponsor, Kimberly-Clark, and retailer Kroger, the No. 27 Ford will sport a paint scheme that includes 181 Kroger employees from the southwest division that have been recognized for their service.

"I keep looking at the different faces on the car and wonder what each of them has

done to be recognized for their hard work," Coleman said. "I know that each of those special Kroger employees is counting on me to work equally hard to bring all 181 of them into Victory Lane."

The familiar No. 27 paint scheme has been replaced by the faces of the Kroger employees from various departments. The hood of the car garners the tag line that embodies the mission of all parties involved in the program: "Together, we're powered to win."

Follow NASCAR online at www.floydcountytimes.com.

NEW CAR: Ready or not, the Car of Tomorrow is now the car of today

by MIKE HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — It's time to find a new title for NASCAR's Car of Tomorrow.

After a 16-race preview last year, the bigger, bulkier and, hopefully, safer vehicle is now the car of today. It will be used for the entire 2008 Sprint Cup season, beginning with Sunday's Daytona 500.

"No use complaining or worrying about it," said Chad Knaus, the crew chief who has guided Jimmie Johnson to two straight Cup titles. "It's what we have to work with now. NASCAR isn't going to suddenly decide to go back to the old car."

NASCAR originally planned to blend the CoT into the Cup schedule over three years. But, with team owners unhappy about building two different cars to race during the 2007 season, NASCAR decided to go full time with the CoT this season.

"That makes all the sense in the world," said team owner Jack Roush. "It was just taking too many resources to build the old car and the CoT. What NASCAR did was good for everybody."

Last year, the new car raced only on tracks shorter than 1 1/2 miles, with the exception of the road races in Sonoma, Calif. and Watkins Glen, N.Y., and the fall event at the 2.66-mile Talladega track.

After a dull race there, the only track besides Daytona where mandatory carburetor restrictor plates slow the cars, everyone's hoping for a better show here Sunday, when the race will begin in daylight and end under the lights.

"I think they're going to be a handful in the daylight hours," said two-time Cup champion Tony Stewart, who finished second to Dale Earnhardt Jr. in last Saturday night's 70-lap exhibition, the first Daytona race for the new cars. "When it cools off, I think it's going to help everybody."

"Even though these cars get a bigger run, they don't drive as good as the cars we've had here in the past. But they're not supposed to; they weren't designed to drive as good as the ones we've had in the past."

The CoT is two inches taller, four inches wider, with a more upright windshield,

and the driver's seat was moved four inches to the right. NASCAR also added crumple zones on both sides, a splitter to front to produce downforce and a rear wing.

The result is a less aerodynamic car that forces drivers to work a little harder to keep them going in the right direction, particularly in the corners, and makes it harder to find an edge over the competition.

"These things can be a handful," said four-time Cup champion Jeff Gordon. "You move around a lot more than the old cars."

The car is one of several safety initiatives begun or put on the fast track after Dale Earnhardt died in a crash on the last lap of the 2001 Daytona 500.

The CoT, which went from the drawing board to the racetrack in seven years, is by far the biggest project turned out so far by NASCAR Research and Development Center in Concord, N.C.

But NASCAR has said safety was only one reason for introducing the new car. It's also intended to cut costs for the teams and to improve competition.

HAP Little League signups set

ALLEN — Harold-Allen-Prater Little League will host signups for the 2008 season on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 3:30-6 p.m. at the Stumbo Park Golf Shop. HAP Little League is open to youth baseball and softball players ages 5-14.

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*Heartland Publications
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Faith and Family,
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Prestonsburg
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 has an immediate opening for an experienced mining permit technician. The applicant

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Mountain Manor
 of Paintsville is seeking a motivated, team-oriented individual for the position of Social Services Assistant. The qualified individual will have a Bachelor's degree in social work or a closely related field and experience working with the elderly is preferable but not required. The successful candidate should also be able

to communicate both orally and in writing and possess the ability to organize and prioritize job demands. Interested parties should send their resume and a letter of interest to: Mountain Manor of Paintsville, Ky 41240. Attn: Robyn Akers, Assistant Administrator.

Wright Lumber
 company has a job opening for a cashier. Must be energetic, neat in appearance and willing to work. Apply in person at the Martin location. No phone calls please.

Wanted
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Wright Lumber
 Company is taking applications for the position of truck driver. Must be energetic, neat in appearance and willing to work. Apply in person at the Martin location. No phone calls please.

Benchmark
 Family Services is looking to hire a Treatment Director

for local office. Minimum requirements are a Master degree of Social Work degree, or closely related field, with five years clinical experience working with families and children. Please send resume' to Spencer Wahl, Benchmark Family Services, 199 North Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Ky 41653.

Mountain Manor
 of Paintsville is taking applications for C.N.A positions. Excellent wages

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Heartland Publications, a growing community newspaper group is accepting resúmes for all positions, from reporters to publishers. If you are a seasoned sales executive or reporter looking to advance your career, or an ad manager ready to run your own show, we would like to hear from you. All replies will be kept in strict confidence.

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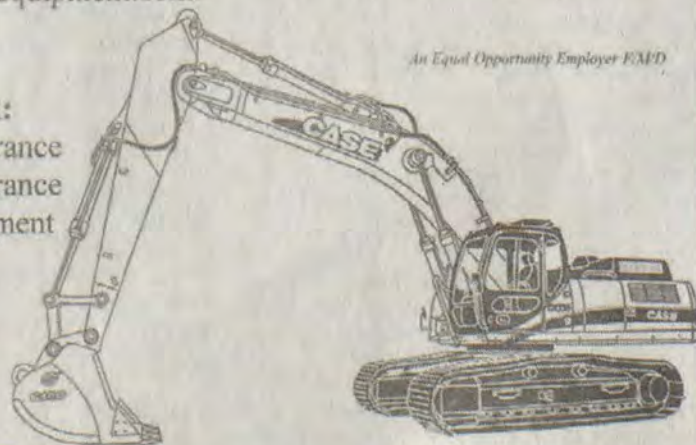
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EQUIPMENT SALES

Wilson Equipment Company has an immediate opening for an experienced and qualified salesperson for our Prestonsburg location. Candidate will be responsible for the sales of Case, Link-Belt, Kobelco, Bomag, Terex, Takeuchi and Kawasaki construction and forestry equipment. Pre-employment drug screen is required. Please mail resume to: Wilson Equipment Co., PO Box 11520, Lexington, KY, 40576 or email to: jobs@wilsonequipment.com.

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Heartland Publications, a leading community newspaper group, is looking for Project Managers to direct and sell niche publications in conjunction with a variety of our locations. Responsibilities will include personally leading the sales effort, and coordinating the project with local Publishers to insure that revenue and production goals are met. This job requires travel. Total travel is estimated to be thirty to thirty-six weeks a year. We are looking for a true sales professional with strong organizational skills and the drive to be successful in developing this rapidly growing sector of Heartland Publications. Candidate should have media sales and management experience and a proven track record in sales. Excellent salary and benefit package.

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junction with State Rt. 122 and located 0.1 miles West of the Spurlock Creek. The proposed operation is located on the McDowell and Harold U. S. G. S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The operation will use the area and auger methods of surface mining. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Clayborn Bailey Heirs, Ruby Halbert, Kermit &

Doreen Martin, Alma Land Company, Cas Spurlock Estate, Tommy & Sherry Shelton, The Elk Horn Coal Company, LLC., Phillip & Ida Ann Meade, and Denzil Yates Heirs. The operation will underlie land owned by Clayborn Bailey Heirs, Ruby Halbert, Kermit & Doreen Martin, Alma Land Company, Cas Spurlock Estate,

Tommy & Sherry Shelton, The Elk Horn Coal Company, LLC., Phillip & Ida Ann Meade, and Denzil Yates Heirs. The operation will affect an area within 100 feet of public road Stonecoal County Road. The operation will not involve relocation or closure of the public road. The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for

Natural Resources' Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director of Mine Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow Complex, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

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Slow Cooker
Savory Pot Roast

Comfort CLASSICS

Home-Style Staples That Never Go Out of Style

FAMILY FEATURES

No matter what the latest taste trend or hot new celebrity-endorsed recipe, you can always count on a few classic home-style standards to make a comeback around this time every year. Typically known as "comfort foods" for their ability to soothe and warm the soul, these familiar dishes not only taste delicious, but also make us feel warm and fuzzy all over — and are especially welcoming during the chill of the colder months.

Perhaps Grandma's famed chicken noodle soup comes to mind, or Dad's special meatballs with marinara. Maybe it's Mom's ultra-goopy, rich mac 'n' cheese, your own fork-tender pot roast or delicious turkey and stuffing holiday leftovers.

Whatever the dish, though, all comfort foods have one thing in common — we turn to them for relief when we're tired, stressed, under-the-weather or simply looking for a taste of home. They are typically simple, hearty, uncomplicated meals, informal and inexpensive to prepare, yet immensely satisfying to those lucky enough to be served them.

Three comfort classics that never seem to go out of style are pot roast, shepherd's pie and beef stroganoff. The recipes included here require no extensive prep or unusual ingredients, so they're easy to whip up, even on a weeknight.

The slow cooker pot roast offers a particularly convenient alternative to last-minute cooking, since the prep all occurs in the morning, leaving the roast to cook to tender perfection all day. By using some convenient comfort food shortcuts on your ingredient list, such as Heinz® HomeStyle Savory Beef Gravy and Wyler's® Beef Bouillon cubes, you can add an extra layer of flavor to the roast, without the fuss of making gravy from scratch. The pot roast also includes a healthy helping of veggies, so it could easily become a complete meal with fresh bread or a green salad.

If you're looking for a comfort food that doubles as a one-dish wonder — shepherd's pie has it all. It includes the roast, vegetables and starch most of us associate with a complete home-style meal. Plus, using prepared Ore-Ida® Mashed Potatoes to top the pie eliminates the laborious task of making mashed potatoes from scratch.

Also, if you're craving a comfort food with some added interest, try this creamy beef stroganoff. It's simple to make and serves up a delicious plate of savory chunks of beef tenderloin, sautéed mushrooms and steaming noodles. And, if you want to add a little extra flare, try pairing it with a glass of merlot. That's sure to offer some added warmth and a new level of sophistication.

So, with these simple, home-cooking classics in your culinary arsenal this season, there's no need to rush out and purchase the latest "cookbook du jour." Just stick to the basics this season and you'll be sure to find some classic convenience, comfort and good taste.



Shepherd's Pie

Beef Stroganoff

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 15 minutes
Serves 6 to 8

- 1 pound sirloin steak (cut into thin strips) or 1 pound lean ground beef
- 2 cups (8 ounces) sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1/4 cup margarine or butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon Wyler's Beef Flavored Granules or 3 bouillon cubes
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 8 ounces wide egg noodles, prepared according to package directions
- Chopped parsley, optional

In large skillet, over medium-high heat, cook and stir steak, mushrooms and onion in margarine until steak is browned and vegetables are tender. Reduce heat to medium. Add flour to thicken, if desired; cook and stir 1 minute. Add water and bouillon; cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Stir in sour cream; heat through. (Do not boil.) Serve with hot noodles. Garnish with parsley if desired.

Slow Cooker Savory Pot Roast

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 8 to 10 hours
Serves 6 to 8

- 3 pounds bottom round beef roast
- 1 Wyler's Mrs. Grass Reduced Sodium Onion Recipe, Soup and Dip Mix pouch
- 1 jar (12 ounces) Heinz HomeStyle Savory Beef Gravy
- 2 Wyler's Beef Bouillon Cubes or 2 teaspoons Wyler's Beef Granules
- 1 can (14 1/2-ounces) diced tomato with basil, garlic and oregano
- 2 cups water
- 3 cups mixed vegetables, such as sliced carrots, cut green beans, diced redskin potatoes, green peas, sliced celery

In large skillet sprayed with nonstick spray, brown beef over medium-high heat 8 to 10 minutes, turning occasionally.

Combine soup mix, 1 jar of gravy, bouillon and diced tomato in 5-quart slow cooker. Add water and stir well. Add beef and turn until well coated. Cover and cook on low heat setting 8 to 10 hours, turning occasionally.

Add mixed vegetables during last 2 hours, stirring occasionally. When vegetables are tender, remove beef from cooker. Slice or shred beef as desired, and serve with vegetables and sauce.

Shepherd's Pie

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 25 to 30 minutes
Serves 4 to 6

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 jar (12 ounces) Heinz HomeStyle Savory Beef Gravy
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cups prepared Ore-Ida Mashed Potatoes
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

In large skillet, cook ground beef over medium heat until browned and thoroughly cooked. Carefully drain liquids and return to stovetop. Stir in gravy and vegetables and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 8 minutes, or until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally. Add salt and pepper to taste.

While beef mixture is still in skillet, spoon mashed potatoes onto it, forming 8 mounds, and top with cheese. Continue to simmer until potatoes are hot and cheese is melted. Serve immediately.



Beef Stroganoff