

The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

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MAKING HIS CASE

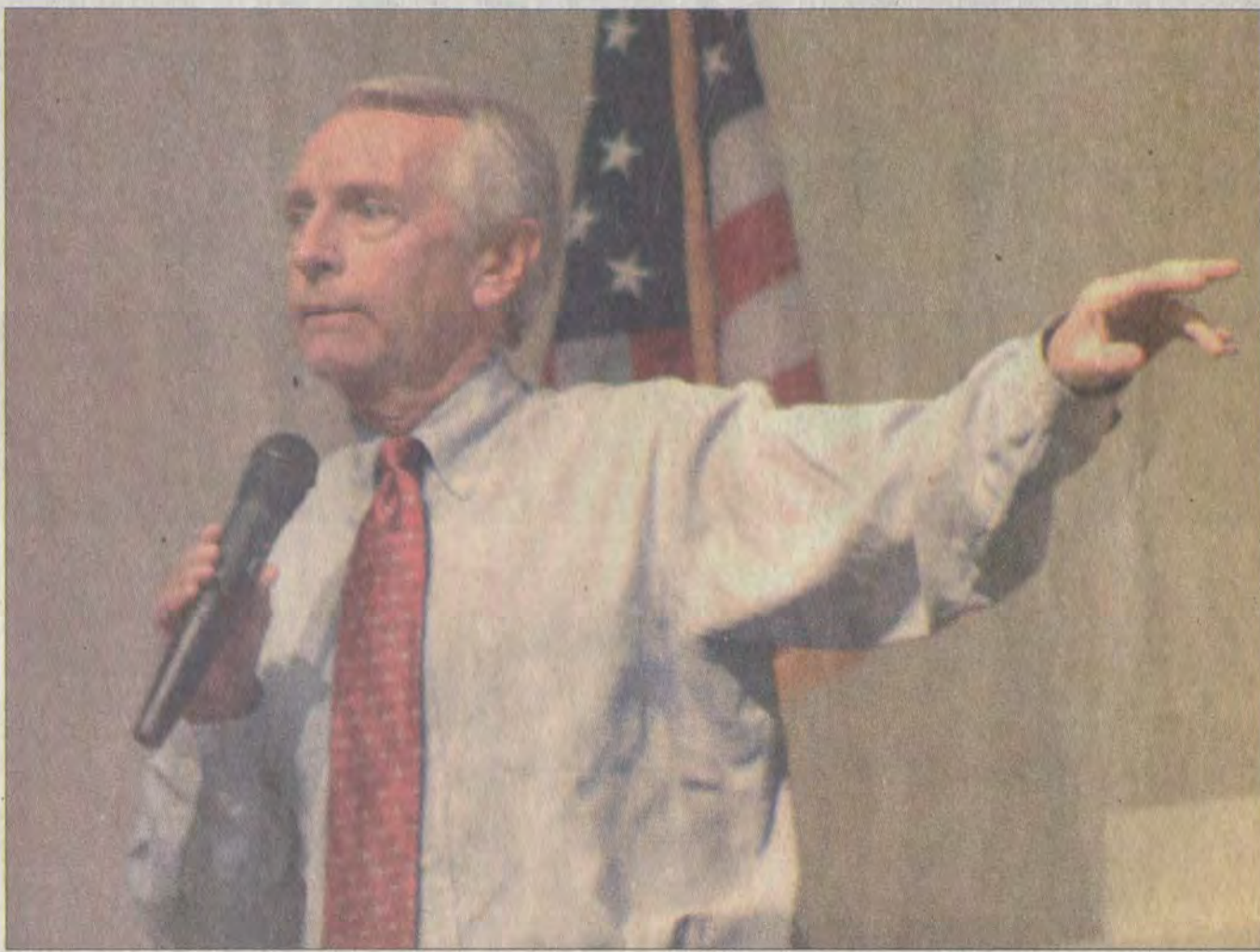


photo by Cris Ritchie

Gov. Steve Beshear was in Hazard Wednesday night to state his case for balancing the state budget and to take feedback from those in attendance.

Beshear defends plan to shore up budget

by CRIS RITCHIE
HAZARD HERALD

HAZARD — Outlining his plan to shore up the state's \$456 million budget deficit and seeking public input, Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear participated in a town hall meeting at the Hal Rogers Forum in Hazard Wednesday evening, one of four similar meetings to be held across the state.

First on the governor's agenda was his economic proposal, first made public last week, to cut government spending, create new revenue and use restricted funds to cut the deficit and balance the state's budget. His plan has met with opposition from some legislators, most notably from state Sen. Brandon Smith, R-Hazard, who said in a statement last

week that he was "disappointed" that Beshear didn't consult legislators about using \$17 million in excess coal severance dollars to help close the shortfall.

In total, about \$40 million of the governor's plan takes into account the use of restricted funds such as the \$17 million in coal severance money, which could be used to help fill the rest of the gap.

Coal severance funds, which are taxes collected for every ton of coal mined in Kentucky, are by law supposed to go back to coal producing counties to help fund infrastructure and other projects. According to Beshear, due to the high price of coal the state collected in excess of \$17 million of coal severance receipts than what lawmakers and himself had expected when

they approved the current budget. Under his plan, the state would divert those funds from coal counties, but all other coal severance taxes budgeted to counties under the current plan would be left intact to fund projects already approved by local officials.

"This money doesn't touch any of those projects," Beshear said. "This is money in excess of anything we expected."

Although coal severance was designed to go back to the coal counties, Beshear said there is a precedent for diverting restricted funds such as these. He pointed to the last session of the legislature where about \$17 million of tobacco settlement money was diverted

(See GOVERNOR, page three)

Drift bridge reopens

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

DRIFT — A bridge deemed unsafe for even bicycles or pedestrians in August of 2007 and now reopened at Drift.

Officials opened the bridge back up to traffic Friday following an announcement from Chuck Childers, acting Whiteburg engineer for Highway District 12.

The old bridge was closed on Aug. 23, 2007, following an inspection by Sam Hale, District 12 bridge engineer.

Hale noted at the time that one of the beams that served as part of the riding surface on the two-span bridge had broken. It was Hale who then determined the bridge wasn't safe for any type of travel and had it closed.

The contract for the new bridge, awarded to Bush & Burchett of Allen in Floyd County, amounted to \$949,980.62. This included tearing down the old bridge, building the detour bridge and construction of the new bridge.

Since that time until the reopening Friday, motorists have used a temporary detour bridge located beside the site of the old bridge during the construction process.

Considering the length of time travelers have been using this detour, Childers stressed Friday the need for local citizens to familiarize themselves with the new bridge and the other details that brings along.

"People need to be alert to this change," Childers said. "It may take awhile to get used to the new traffic flow pattern."

Part of this new flow pattern will be replacing the stop sign that has been in place in the past along the county road making way for through traffic of Route 1101.

Court takes care of financial tasks

by JARRID DEATON
FEATURES WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Floyd County Fiscal Court spent the majority of Friday's meeting passing resolutions to pay various bills before the end of the year.

The first bill voted on by the court was reimbursement to the office of Floyd County Clerk Chris Waugh for the 2008 election expenses in the amount of \$48,478.12. The court voted to issue a check for \$18,681.23 for election officers, \$1,550 for polling places, and \$28,246.89 for printing and related expenses.

In compliance with state law, the court voted to set the maximum amount that the Floyd County Clerk may expend from fees for 2009 at \$675,000.

The court also voted to set the

maximum that the Floyd County Sheriff's Department may expend from fees during the 2009 calendar year at \$675,000, and then approved an advancement of funds to the sheriff's department in the amount of \$132,000. The 2008 budget for the sheriff's office was amended to \$1,273,607.

Along with paying the bills, the court also voted to advertise and accept sealed bids for a small wastewater plant currently stored in Prestonsburg.

"It's a small sewage system that can serve around 10 homes," said Judge-Executive R.D. "Doc" Marshall. "When the city told us that they would like to have it removed, I told them I would like to sell it."

Marshall also received a check

(See COURT, page three)



photo by Jarrid Deaton

The Floyd County Fiscal Court voted to pay a long list of bills in its final regular meeting of 2008 on Friday.

In brief
Robb
suspect
arrested

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

REGINA — Authorities have in custody a man they say is the suspect sought following the robbery of a variety store in Regina.

Jody Dotson, 26, of Millers Fork Road in Steele was arrested the day following the robbery at approximately 7 p.m. near Feds Creek in Pike County.

The arrest came after warrants obtained by Kentucky State Police Detectives Kevin Newsome and Gary Sykes. Dotson was charged with first-degree robbery.

The day prior to Dotson's arrest, clerk's informed police that a man wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans had entered the store at about 4:30 p.m. and selected several random items and brought them to the counter.

According to those initial reports, the man now believed by police to be Dotson, then placed the items along the checkout counter and produced a knife, demanding the clerk to give him all the money in the register.

Clerks reported the man then left the store on foot with an undetermined amount of money.

At the time of Dotson's arrest, police said they found four pocket knives on the 26-year-old, adding that they also recovered property at the man's home that had been reported from an unrelated, residential burglary.

Dotson was lodged at the Pike County Detention Center and is being held on a \$30,000 full cash bond.

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 37 • Low: 12

Tomorrow



High: 25 • Low: 19

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inside

- Regional Obituaries.....A2
- Opinion.....A4
- Lifestyles.....A5
- Sports.....B1
- Classifieds.....B4



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Regional Obituaries

PIKE COUNTY

■ John Anderson, 87, of Regina, died Monday, Dec. 15. Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 18, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Alpha Elswick, 81, of Virgie, died Monday, Dec. 15, at Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Willie Elswick. Funeral services were held Friday, Dec. 19, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

■ Roy Lee Green, 70, of Bent Branch Road, died Saturday, Dec. 13, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Marcella Ray Green. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Sarah Martin Hubbard, 63, of Virgie, died Saturday, Dec. 13, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 16, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

■ Louise Deskin Jackson, 74, of Naugatuck, W.Va., died Sunday, Dec. 14, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 17, under the direction of Chambers Funeral Services.

■ Roger Dale Kendrick, 60, of Pikeville, died Sunday, Dec. 14, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Lois Kendrick. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 17, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

■ Richard Dwayne Kiser, 41, of Cancy Highway, died Friday, Dec. 12, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, Dec. 14, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Lilly Mae West, 84, of Pikeville, died Saturday, Dec. 13, at her home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 17, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ Genevieve "Jiggs" Keel Wright, 93, of Pikeville, died Saturday, Dec. 13, at her home. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 16, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

Thursday, December 11, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Kerri Meade Conley. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 14, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Chester Hinkle, 72, of Adrian, Michigan, formerly of Johnson County, died Sunday, December 7, in Adrian. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 13, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

■ Mary Jane Murry, 75, of Meally, died Saturday, December 13, at the Pikeville Hospital. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 17, under the direc-

tion of Preston Funeral Home. ■ Patsy Carol (Tootie) Montgomery, 70, of West Van Lear, died Friday, December 12, at her residence. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 14, under the direction of Phelps & Son Funeral Home.

■ John W. Picklesimer Sr., 91, of Raceland, died Thursday, December 11, at King's Daughters Medical Center, in Ashland. He is survived by his wife, Florence Amelia Mason Picklesimer. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements, under the direction of the Preston Family Funeral Home.

■ Thomas Eugene Tackett,

73, of Paintsville, died Thursday, December 11, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Alice Tackett. Arrangements, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

■ Jeanetta Gertrude VanHoose Williams, 90, of River, died Saturday, December 13, at Three Rivers Medical Center, in Louisa. Funeral services were held Monday, December 15, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

FLOYD COUNTY

■ Amanda Ellen Miller, 80, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, December 14, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in

Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Gloria Gaye Porter, 67, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, December 16, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Clyde Porter. Funeral services were held Friday, December 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Joe Innis, 66, of Honaker, died Tuesday, December 16, at St. Joseph Martin. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Stella O. Smith, 98, of Martin, died Tuesday, December 16, at St. Joseph-Martin. Funeral services were held Friday, December 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Ersha Deskins Layne, 95, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, Dec. 16, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Friday, Dec. 19, under direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Jody Newsome, 30, of Beaver, died Saturday, December 13, at Grethel. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 16, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

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Obituaries

Jesse R. Bryant

Jesse R. Bryant, 60, of Homer, Michigan, passed away Wednesday, December 17, 2008, at Oaklawn Hospital in Marshall, Michigan.

He was born February 29, 1948, in Floyd County, the son of the late Oliver and Saide Bryant.

On June 19, 1976, he married Cibble J. Garrett who survives.

He worked at Sharps Evergreen Nursery for more than 20 years, and had previously drilled water wells in Ohio. He enjoyed gambling, fishing, yard work, and all kinds of sports. Most of all, he loved and enjoyed his grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, survivors include two daughters: Jennifer and Jake Blatter of Homer; and Angie and Jason Scott of Ohio; a son, J.R. and Angie Bryant of Homer; six sisters: Patty Lonsbury, Debbie Lawley, Charlotte McConnell, Carolyn Johnson, and Linda Fay Naugle, all of Ohio; and Brenda Collins of Kentucky; three brothers: Ricky Bryant of Albion, Donald Bryant of Homer, and Danny Bryant of Kentucky; and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, December 20, at J. Kevin Tidd Funeral Home, 811 Finley Drive, Albion, Michigan, with Reverend Tom Fox officiating.

A gathering of family and friends will be from 12 p.m., until time of service.

Memorials are suggested to his grandchildren.

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(Paid obituary)

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Governor

away from its original intent to diversify the state's agricultural economy in order to balance the state's budget earlier this year.

"That's not what it was supposed to be used for, but we were in extraordinary times, so these things do happen from time to time," he said. "You may not like taking coal severance money, and that's okay. I understand that, and that may not be what we end up doing."

Beshear's plan includes spending cuts on top of those already approved by the legislature in the 2008 session of the General Assembly. It also includes the use of restricted funds and a limited amount of new revenue, such as a proposed 70 cent increase of the cigarette tax. But he also laid out what he called priorities, such as the state Medicaid program and a portion of the state's education funding, that would be spared cuts under his plan. Also spared are cuts to the teachers' retirement system, student financial aid, insurance for school districts and juvenile justice among others.

"We tried to carefully craft that plan to preserve certain priorities that I think as governor are important, and I really think those priorities that I think are important are shared with most Kentuckians," he

said, adding that the healthcare for the state's most vulnerable and the education of the youth are his top priorities.

But speeding cuts alone won't generate the \$456 million needed. Beshear said he proposed the increased cigarette tax to help preserve those services he labeled as priorities that otherwise would have to be drastically scaled back.

"We've got to raise some revenue from some place," he said. "I decided the most acceptable place in my mind, and I think in many Kentuckians' minds, was to raise the tobacco tax."

Raising the state's cigarette tax from 30 cents to \$1 per pack and a significant increase on smokeless tobacco won't put the state up the national average, Beshear said, but it could raise approximately \$145 million in a full fiscal year.

"It doesn't fill the hole, but it helps," he said. "It helps by reducing what we would otherwise have to reduce."

If the legislature approves the tax hike, it will leave about three months on the current fiscal year that the state will be able to collect those taxes, meaning the state will get an initial \$81 million to help balance the budget. Using that \$81 million and the state's Rainy Day Fund will help to

reduce the deficit, and a full year's collection in the next fiscal year could replenish that fund.

While new revenue will account for a good portion of the budget plan, spending cuts will also be necessary. Beshear noted that while he would not cut the K-12 SEEK funding, a formula used to fund about 87 percent of the school districts' budgets, education will take a hit under his plan. He proposed 2 percent cuts to all other K-12 services and to postsecondary education institutions. He is also proposing a 2 percent cut to the Kentucky State Police as well. All other areas of state government will face a 4 percent cut.

An additional component of the Beshear plan is a system of furloughs where each state worker will have three unpaid leave days between now and the end of the current fiscal year on June 30. Beshear said the state could save about \$8 million utilizing this system, and while it's a sacrifice for state employees he argued that the alternative is more damaging to the state's ability to provide services.

"We're asking state workers to sacrifice there and I know that, but ... the only

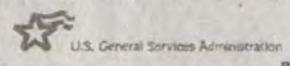
other option we had is mass layoffs, and to me that's much worse," he said.

Beshear said although he thinks his plan will close the deficit and balance the budget while preserving certain priorities, he views his initial proposal as the first piece of dialogue in a discussion that will include the legislature to ultimately find a solution to the current economic downturn.

"This is a start, because from here we've got to sit down with the legislature and we've got to start talking with our legislators about a solution, and some of them may have different priorities than I do, and I understand that," he said. "But one thing we've got to do is be flexible, and we've got to be open to new ideas, we've got to be open to new approaches, because in the end we've got to come together and agree upon the solutions."

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Court

Continued from p1

from the court for completing two training units from the Office of the Governor Department for Local Government. The court voted to cut a check in the amount of \$1,762.36 to Marshall for completion of the training.

The Left Beaver Rescue

Squad will also receive some money from the fiscal court, as the court voted to issue a check totaling \$15,000 to the squad from Local Government Economic Development Fund.

The next meeting of the Floyd County Fiscal Court is scheduled for Jan. 19.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Floyd County Housing Authority will meet in a special meeting on Monday, December 22, 2008, at 11:30 a.m., at the Warco site to address the investment of Housing Authority Assets, Operating Subsidy, and Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2009.

The agenda is:

1. Minutes of November 12, 2008 meeting.
2. Pest Addendum to the Public Housing Lease
3. Housing Authority Financials (Subsidy & Budget for 2009, Investments of Housing Authority Reserves.)
4. Other Business

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The Cotton Club. He ruffed powerfully on the piano, but it was the full orchestra that he considered his most compelling instrument. He introduced improvisation to his compositions — a process unheard of using a 15-piece orchestra. The result was a different approach to jazz that sparked a revolution and an evolution.



Royal dukes are squaresville. They have no rhythm. And they wear crowns.

His music spread across the world

with songs like "Sophisticated Lady," "In a



A piano player. A composer. An orchestra leader. Duke Ellington reigned over a land called Jazz.

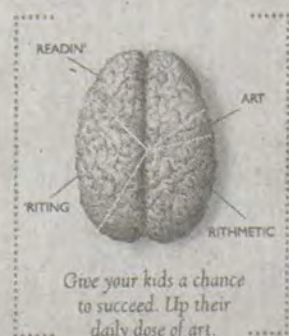
Sentimental Mood," and "Take the 'A' Train." His historical concert in 1953 at the Newport Jazz Festival has entered the lexicon of legendary live performances. There is no doubt about it, Ellington's brand of jazz has contributed significantly to the American songbook and to the lives of anyone who has ever tapped their

foot to a beat.

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expression

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

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

FDA passes the buck

If it wasn't clear before Monday's disappointing letter from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, it should be clear now:

The FDA is punting. The agency sees no reason to ban, or even restrict, the use of the chemical bisphenol A.

In the letter to its advisory board, the FDA said it would review more studies and do more research on BPA. Until then, the chemical should be considered safe for anyone to use, even babies.

Is this the FDA or the CYA?

The FDA has dithered for years, embracing studies that found the ubiquitous chemical to be harmless — nearly all of which were paid for by the chemical industry — while ignoring a much larger body of independent research that linked BPA to an array of health problems, including diabetes and cancer.

BPA has been studied to death. There is no need for further research to reach the conclusion that it shouldn't be in kids' products.

BPA is found in thousands of consumer products, including hardened plastics such as water bottles, dental sealants and the epoxy liners used to protect canned food from bacteria. The chemical, which mimics the hormone estrogen, poses a risk of disrupting the human endocrine system, a risk that increases in young children, who do not excrete the chemical as rapidly as adults.

That's why we favor a ban of the chemical in products intended for children. A bill that Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., plans to introduce would do that. Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., plans to introduce separate legislation that would ban BPA from food and drink containers. While we're sympathetic to Markey's concerns, at the moment, there is no good alternative to BPA in food can liners, so it might be difficult to do what he intends to ask.

But BPA in baby bottles? No. There is no reason to allow it. Yet this is what the FDA under the no-regulation-is-good-regulation Bush administration chooses to do.

President-elect Barack Obama should appoint an FDA commissioner who believes in the agency's mission. And Congress, led by Schumer and Markey, should move quickly to ban BPA from kids' products.

"BPA is a toxic chemical and should not be present in products that children and adults are exposed to on a daily basis — especially children," Jovana Ruzicic, spokeswoman with Environmental Working Group, a health advocacy group, told Journal Sentinel reporters. "There is enough evidence out there already to take immediate action."

Unless, of course, you like to punt.

— The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



Chuck Norris

Atheists' national holiday?

Atheists from England to the West Coast of America are stepping up their efforts this year to make a bigger antagonistic splash on the Christmas scene. From London and Washington, D.C., buses to Colorado billboards, skeptics are skewering religions with little respect to the adherents of the religions.

At the forefront is a group's government-sanctioned posting of a sign by a Nativity scene in the Capitol of Washington state (and now also in Wisconsin and Illinois): "At this season of THE WINTER SOLSTICE may reason prevail. There are no gods, no devils, no angels, no heaven or hell. There is only our natural world. Religion is but myth and superstition that hardens hearts and enslaves minds."

I am a patriot, and I believe that atheists are free to believe, speak and post whatever they want. This is America, and that's their First Amendment right. But to do so with harassment and hatred under the guise of free speech is despicable. An anti-religious poster filled with spite is in no way equal to a religious symbol, such as a Nativity scene. Where are the political correctness police when religious followers are the victims?

If such words were written against any social minority group, protests would be ubiquitous. But anti-religious bigotry is in vogue these days.

Still, there is absolutely no justification for these atheists' written revile. And if they want to keep using hate-filled language against theists — particularly Christians — then they shouldn't be surprised when they meet up with a yuletide (written) roundhouse kick.

Anyone can spew disdain for religion, but is that what America's Founders created our rights for? Just because they post such verbal vomit, does that demonstrate intellectual superiority or the type of moral decency our Founders hoped we would perpetuate?

What profit would there be if I posted a taunt that atheists had no vital part in the founding of our country? As Benjamin Franklin noted in his 1787 pamphlet for those in Europe thinking of relocating to America: "To this may be truly added, that serious religion, under its various denominations, is not only tolerated but respected and practiced. Atheism is unknown there."

What profit would there be if I posted a claim that atheists are un-American because they try to suppress theists' freedom of religion by the false notion of separation of church and state?

What profit would there be if I posted the accusation that atheists are imprudent because they exhaust too much time trying to convince every-

one else of the absence of a being who doesn't exist?

What profit would there be if I posted a retort that atheists are igmos because they try to replace Christmas with winter solstice celebrations, which are ancient pagan festivals entrenched in polytheistic religions?

What profit would there be if I posted that atheism hides behind a false pretense that it is scientific when eminent scientist Paul Davies — the renowned British-born physicist, agnostic and professor of cosmology, quantum field theory and astrobiology — once spoke against the certainty of atheism to Time magazine (in the column "Science, God, and Man"):

"Agnosticism — reserving judgment about divine purpose — remains as defensible as ever, but atheism — the confident denial of divine purpose — becomes trickier. If you admit that we can't peer behind a curtain, how can you be sure there's nothing there?"

What profit would there be if I posted that atheists are totally blind to the pristine beauty and ordered complexity of creation, so they cannot see the hand of a Creator? As the Bible pointed out 2,000 years ago, "For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have

(See NORRIS, page six)



Chuck Norris

beyond the beltway

The Republican Party is still dumb

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, my column pointing out that the Republican Party has become the Party of Dumb seems to have struck a nerve. Ever since it appeared, I have been getting abusive mail from outraged Republicans. Here are just a few examples:

■ "What a stupid jackass you are," says Kurt B.

■ "It is this same ignorant liberal rant that will keep myself and millions of others like me, fighting you liberal buffoons and your corrosive rhetoric ... why don't you go and crawl back into the liberal cave from which you came and let America remain free and the human race not tarnished by the likes of you and your ignorant cronies," Dr. Galen from Arizona.

■ Mark B. weighed in with "What an oxymoron that you wrote an article claiming your apparent enemies are 'stupid' yet your column was void of any intelligent thoughts — surely not any synergized ideas."

■ And, finally, the classic irate reader response was delivered by Jerry L. of North Carolina — "Don Kaul's article calling all Republicans 'dumb' in Friday's paper was the LAST straw. We have decided not to renew our subscription to your newspaper when the time comes."

There were others, some obscene, some merely vulgar. Don't feel sorry for me; I can take it. (In my defense, I wanted to provide some synergized

ideas, but my synergizer was at the cleaners.) Besides, not all of the mail was abusive. Some of it was intelligent. One gentleman, a William M., wrote: "Your ... article was spot-on and brutally honest!!! I have thought and felt the same as your own musings for some time, but Sarah pushed the dumbing down of the party over the top!"

And Lee S., who confesses to being a college professor, provided me this quotation from the great 19th Century English philosopher John Stuart Mill: "Although it is not true that all conservatives are stupid people ... it is true that most stupid people are conservative." Mill, by the way, is considered the last man to know everything.

The responses do, however, demonstrate two traits common to hard-core Republicans: 1) Their inability to accept constructive criticism and 2) their reluctance to look in the mirror and see themselves as others do. The Republican Party, after all, is the party of vituperation. It is the safe harbor of Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly and Ann Coulter (The Ugh Girl). And they call my rhetoric corrosive? Compared to the venom spewed by that trio of rancid right-wingers, my "attack" on the GOP is a love poem.

And these Republicans take no responsibility for George Bush, who has made incompetence into an art form. He leaves office with the economy in a nose-dive, our international reputation in ruins and virtually nothing done about the problems we face in education, energy independence,

the environment or the onrushing crisis in unfunded obligations, of which Medicare is merely the most critical.

They hardly mention Mr. Bush, their gift to us. They prefer to rail against Barack Obama and the dark pit of socialism into which he'll throw us. They ignore the fact that Bush is still the president and it is he who is bringing the bounties of socialism to us in a desperate attempt to rescue an economy, which has foundered on his watch.

Already you can see signs that the Republican Party is getting ready to blame Obama for the economic

hell that it left for him to conquer. You want to talk dumb? When Obama named Hillary Clinton his Secretary of State-designate, the Republican National Committee put out a list of campaign statements Senator Clinton made during her primary fight with Obama. It asked whether the senator "still carries those same, real concerns about President-elect Obama and his stances on critical issues confronting the nation."

The country is coming apart at the seams and the Republican Party is still trying to undermine public confidence in the man charged with saving us.

Now that's what I call dumb. I rest my case.

Don Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. Email him at dkaul2@earthlink.net.



Donald Kaul

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PUBLISHER

Joshua Byers
jbyers@heartlandpublications.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Ralph B. Davis
web@floydcountytimes.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Jamie VanHoose
advertising@floydcountytimes.com



INSIDESTUFF

- Sports.....page B1
- Classifieds.....page B4

CAR TALK:

Inactive car still good to go

see pg. B6

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This Town, That World

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

ONCE AGAIN...

This is the time of year when in my case, sentiment becomes threatened by sentimentality. I would shun the maudlin of course, but memories of Christmases past—of those who have passed with them, loved ones, dear friends, the old, simple customs, the delights of the Great Morning; sights and sounds around the hearth and its open fireplace—these are recollections which make even these lines of cold type warmer.

□□□

OPEN HOUSE

Lest we get mired in nostalgia, let me recall the yarn this guy told. Big and loud, he was; there seems to be one in every crowd. I think he was lying, but he swore he hoped to drop it if it wasn't the truth. Said he:

"You fellows think you didn't have much for Christmas, back then. Let me tell you about the first Christmas tree we ever put up at our house. We set it up and strung some popcorn balls on it, but I can't remember a thing under it. We had a log house and the chinkin' had dropped out in spots. It was so open that when Old Lead woke me up, next mornin' I went in, and I hope I may never, if he hadn't treed a possum right in the top of that tree."

□□□

By way of Christmas greetings, James Morrell has sent me two clippings within the week which extol the fishing in Texas waters. Could he be trying to tell me something?

□□□

Two newspaper friends have died this month: Mary Sparks, onetime editor of The Big Sandy News at Louisa, and John Paul Compton, the old pro at The Pike County News. Mary Sparks, who never presumed to be a newspaperwoman, is remembered for her goodness: John Paul, for his ability and his dedication to the job.

□□□

Marilyn, wife of Bernard Burchett, wrote a note from Lebanon, Tenn., the other day. I just naturally appreciated it because it was a note of appreciation, and she closed with "...and thanks for taking my husband home once a week."

□□□

This being our last paper of the year, I have until January 1, 1979, to get together something for this column. But I guarantee one and all; that I'll have as little as usual.

A VISIT FROM ST. NICK



photos by Jarrid Deaton

Children from John M. Stumbo Head Start came to see Santa at Gearheart Communications on Wednesday as part of the businesses Angel Tree program. Each child received a wrapped gift and a stocking filled with goodies.

ANGELS IN OUR MIDST

Gearheart employees give back with Angel Tree program

by JARRID DEATON
FEATURES WRITER

HAROLD — It didn't take long for the group of children gathered at Gearheart Communications to get excited on Wednesday as the familiar friendly bellow of Santa Claus echoed down the hallway as he approached the room filled with gifts.

The children were there for Gearheart Communication's third Angel Tree program, which is entirely sponsored by Gearheart employees. The Gearheart family also provided stockings filled with smaller gifts and various treats for the children.

Each child received multiple gifts, including the stockings, along with the chance to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas.

Thirteen students from John M. Stumbo Head Start and 16 students from Martin County's head start programs happily sat in Santa's lap as his helpers reached under the Christmas tree to get the presents with the names of each child on them.

"This is what it's all about," said Teresa Arnett, an employee of Gearheart Communications.

Arnett's eyes brimmed with tears as she watched the children open their gifts.

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, the employees who were



Kelsey Slone calmly told Santa what she wanted for Christmas during the Angel Tree event at Gearheart Communications on Wednesday.

helping to hand out the gifts wore Santa hats, with one person going so far as to dress up in full elf regalia to entertain the children.

The parents of some of most of the children also attended the event and watched with smiles as each child ripped the wrapping paper from their gifts with looks of wonder and delight on their faces, encouraging them to approach Santa and tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

Along with the gifts, the children were able to enjoy a variety of cookies as they waited for the arrival of Santa.

The stated mission of Gearheart Communications is to promote, educate, and advocate to the public, rural telecommunications issues in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life within communities throughout eastern Kentucky.

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'2019: After the Fall of New York'

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST

Three excellent sci-fi epics are salvaged here, and stripped clean of all quality, as Director Sergio Martino mixes elements of "Mad Max," "Planet of the Apes" and "Escape from New York."

Despite the quality of his inspirations, this flick is rarely exciting, though it is fun if you like your cheesy movies a bit underdone.



Tom Doty
Times Columnist

It all starts with a shot of New York at dawn. A narrator (absolutely necessary as there's so much exposition here that you expect a test to follow) states that it has been 20 years since the bombs were dropped when America went to war with Eurac (an alliance consisting of Asia, Africa and Europe). The camera pulls back to show that most of the "Big Apple" has been baked and is now a cesspool for mutants and street gangs.

Eurac is still on hand and we are treated to scenes of mercenaries hunting down the citizenry with flamethrowers, guns and a variety of bladed weapons. The New Yorkers fare poorly as they are merely armed with festering boils.

The narrator notes that a rebellion (calling itself the Pan American Confederacy, or PAC) is actively seeking a woman who can still have children, as there hasn't been a birth in 15 years. At this point the narrator abruptly disappears and we're on our own to follow the story.

To add to the confusion, we are then treated to a scene that appears to be a sporting event as two cars sporting all manner of armor attack each other while overpaid extras cheer and jump around waving their fists. Each vehicle rocks a mounted gun as well as four passengers who shoot at the opposing car.

Our hero, Parsifal, turns out to be the driver of the car, which goes off a cliff before bursting into less than enthusiastic flames. The other vehicle stops and everyone pours out to gloat over their win, which turns out to be premature, as Parsifal has jumped from his vehicle (technically impossible but this is science fiction) and proceeds to kill them all with some fancy kicks and grunts.

His prize for winning the contest is a personal slave (a rather butch brunette) and five tokens which represent a license to kill (you'd of thought that licenses for anything wouldn't be mandatory without a federal government to collect the booty).

Parsifal frees his slave and even gives her two free kill tokens from his winnings before being hijacked by two astronauts that work for PAC.

They spirit him to the moon, where

(See LAGOON, page six)

Not like in the movies

by LYNN GRASBERG

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL: TEENS TALK HIGH SCHOOL"

He was so cute, standing on my front doorstep in his suit and his grin — the boy taking me to my first formal dinner dance.

For months, I knew I had to bring someone to this special party for the Confirmation class graduates of our Reform Jewish synagogue. But I felt like an old maid at age 14 — no date and no prospects. I was doomed to die of humiliation, sitting by myself at a

table of matched couples.

I called a girlfriend who had a boyfriend to help me out. He called one of his friends, and hallelujah! Here he stood. From our phone call a few days earlier, I knew that his name was Bart, and he was not Jewish.

I was not about to be picky. "Shut up!" I yelled at one of my younger sisters who immediately dubbed my fantasy date "Bart the Fart."

I answered the door with my family gathered behind me. My sister snickered. "Bart the Fart!" one more time and ran out of the room. Bart and

I pretended to ignore her, while my mother got her keys to drop us off at the dance.

At the banquet, Bart and I exuded "sophistication" as we maneuvered around the fancy food and made small talk. Bart mostly talked about baseball, and I mostly nodded and listened since I didn't know anything about sports.

After much bragging and head nodding, the band started playing and everyone was invited to the dance floor. I looked hopefully at Bart.

"I don't dance," he said.

"Oh," I countered, trying not to look entirely devastated.

"Let's go for a walk," he said.

"OK," I replied. At least we wouldn't be sitting alone at the table.

It was a beautiful, balmy spring night. Bart took my hand as we walked, and then put his arm around my shoulders.

It was so romantic, I could hardly breathe. We stopped beneath a beautiful flowering tree and Bart stopped talking about baseball (finally!) as he turned to pull me toward him.

Yikes! What do I do? I closed my eyes and felt his face approach mine. As our lips met, suddenly there was this absolutely horrible noise! Was it supposed to

sound like that? Didn't he know what to do? I giggled. He pulled back, offended. "What's the matter?"

"Nothing."

He leaned in to kiss me again and our mouths made the same horrible noise ... again. In the movies, two people kissing evoked the sounds of violins, not flatulence! In my mind,

my sister's cruel but prophetic words played over and over again. Bart the Fart, Bart the Fart, Bart the ...

I hate it when she's right.



SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

Social Security to be first government agency to use Nationwide Health Information Network

The Social Security Administration announced today that it will be the first government agency to utilize the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN). Beginning in early 2009, Social Security will receive medical records for some disability applicants electronically through the NHIN gateway.

"Social Security is proud to be a

leader in the use of health information technology," said Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security. "This safe and secure method for receiving electronic medical records will allow us to improve our service to the public by cutting days, if not weeks, off the time it takes to make a disability decision."

Through the NHIN, Social Security will have instantaneous

access to medical records. This will significantly shorten the time it takes to make a disability decision and make the process more efficient. Social Security uses individual medical records when making a decision for more than 2.6 million people who apply for disability each year. To make those decisions, Social Security relies on doctors, hospitals, and others in the healthcare field to provide

medical records in a timely fashion. The NHIN will help ensure records are received timely by making it easier and less labor-intensive for medical professionals to submit records.

Social Security is working with MedVirginia, the North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, and Kaiser Permanente to implement the NHIN. In early 2009, the first real-

world use of the system will begin between Social Security and MedVirginia.

The NHIN is an initiative of the Department of Health and Human Services and is supported by multiple government agencies and private sector entities. Please go to www.hhs.gov/healthit/healthnetwork/background/ for more information.

Eat, drink and be merry! Lagoon

by SANDY MILLER HAYS
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
SERVICE

Now that we're in the thick of the holiday season, you're probably being deluged from all sides (and even from inside your own head) with choruses of "Don't eat that! You don't need that! Put that down!"

For a change, today I'm going to tell you about some items you not only can have, but probably should have, based on the findings of the scientists of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

■ Say hello to hibiscus. Do you worry about hypertension? I do; it's rampant in my family. In case you're not familiar with the term "hypertension," that's a condition in which blood pressure is chronically high. If you do have hypertension, you're a member of a very big club; it affects one-third of all U.S. adults.

The good news: In an ARS-funded study, drinking hibiscus tea lowered blood pressure in a group of pre-hypertensive and mildly hypertensive adults.

The study involved 65 volunteers, aged 30 to 70 years, whose systolic blood pressure (the top number on your blood pressure reading) was 120 to 150 mm Hg, and whose diastolic blood pressure (the bottom number on your reading) was 95 mm Hg or less at the start of the study. Blood pressure readings of 120/80 or greater are considered a risk factor for heart disease, stroke and kidney disease.

For six weeks, half the group was randomly selected to drink three cups of hibiscus tea daily. The others drank a placebo beverage. The results? The volunteers who drank the hibiscus tea had a 7.2 point drop in their systolic blood pressure, compared to a 1.3 point drop in the volunteers who drank the placebo beverage.

The scientists also looked at a subgroup of 30 volunteers who had the highest systolic blood pressure readings at the start of the study—129 or higher.

They had an even greater response to the hibiscus tea; their systolic blood pressure went down by 13.2 points and their diastolic blood pressure went down by 6.4 points.

■ Oh, say can you C? We've all heard that vitamin C is supposed to help ward off colds. But a new ARS-supported study shows that it's also good at protecting older men's bones.

Osteoporosis affects about 10 million people in the United States, and low bone mass is a public health concern among another 44 million people aged 50 or older. The researchers wanted to find out whether fruit- and vegetable-specific antioxidants such as vitamin C could decrease the oxidative stress linked to accelerated bone loss.

In the Framingham Osteoporosis Study, bone mineral density at the hip, spine and forearm was measured in 344 men and 540 women with an average age of 75. The researchers took into account the potential effects of vitamin C intake from diet, supplements, and both diet and supplements.

Regarding bone mineral density, the researchers observed significant positive associations for total vitamin C intake—both dietary and supplemental—among men who never smoked. And among a subset of the participants, whose bone mineral density was again measured after four years, total vitamin C appeared to be protective against losses in bone mineral density in two areas of the hip among men with low calcium or vitamin E intakes. Break out the orange juice!

■ Super-charged mushrooms. ARS scientists teamed up with Monterey Mushrooms of Watsonville, Calif., to boost the vitamin D content of white, brown and portabella mushrooms. Thanks to UV-B light-like that in sunshine—the company's new Sun Bella line of fresh mushrooms offers at least 100 percent of the recommended intake of vitamin D in each

3-ounce serving.

Vitamin D is essential for strong bones, properly functioning liver and kidneys, and a robust immune system. Some research suggests that vitamin D may reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, and Alzheimer's disease. Yet an estimated 40 percent of Americans don't get enough vitamin D.

The idea of using UV-B light to enhance mushrooms' vitamin D levels isn't new, but the ARS scientists and their collaborators were likely the first to determine exactly how to best use UV-B rays for commercial scale production of vitamin D-rich mushrooms.

Mushroom omelette, anyone?

the president tells him that he must go to New York and bring back the only fertile woman on the planet. His only other option is death so he takes the job and is issued two sidekicks named Bronx and Ratchet. Their qualifications are questionable as Bronx claims to know the city like the back of his hand (though he is missing his own which has been replaced with a hook) and Ratchet is supposed to be a tough guy but obviously lost a fight with his barber.

The three amigos head into the city, where they tussle with gangs, rat eaters and mutants. They are befriended by a dwarf named Shorty (I guess the nukes also wiped out original sounding nicknames) and

eventually team up with ape people to rescue the last fertile woman (who has been kept on ice by her scientist dad, who turns out to be dead by the time they find him so there are no explanations as to how this woman stayed healthy-how convenient).

The group now has only five minutes until the film's over, so a quick escape is obtained via a fully stocked station wagon left next to the young lady's cryo-chamber.

That's pretty much it for story but the film does deliver on the action front and boasts several fights and horrific deaths which include multiple decapitations, plenty of flamethrowing and even one case of dwarf tossing.

■ Continued from p5
If you like this kind of thing then you have plenty to cheer about as this comes in a three-pack with two other films from this genre. The set is called "Post Apocalyptic Triple Feature" and also includes "1998: Bronx Warriors" (featuring Vic Morrow and Fred "The Hammer" Williamson) and "The New Barbarians" (which also takes place in 2019 and again features Fred Williamson). You can find it for pretty cheap and it should please that oddball uncle who is hard to shop for come the Yuletide season.

Best line: "I'm one of the Needle people. You're Big Ape, right? I've heard a lot about you in the sewers." 1984, unrated.

Norris

■ Continued from p4

been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

What profit would there be if I posted the fact that atheists denigrate every religion and prayer that ever has been offered? To say God doesn't exist is to say every religious leader in every age was delusional at best. And it also is to say that not one prayer on any continent in any era of human history has been answered. That premise alone rules atheism preposterous and foolish.

Finally, what profit would there be if I posted that I agree with my friend Mike Huckabee, who said on his book tour via Fox News that atheists shouldn't be fighting for a holiday in December when they already have a holiday: April Fools' Day (a holiday also grounded in sacred Scripture, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no god'")?

We all know I would be labeled as an extremist, irrational and a bigot if I posted any of the preceding ideas. Yet atheists do and get away with First Amendment murder.

I'd like to remind our nation that it was only a short time ago when Ronald Reagan freely spoke for the majority by explicitly and passionately conveying belief in Jesus Christ during his presidential Christmas addresses. Compare the message in his Dec. 23, 1981, speech (www.youtube.com/watch?v=UU0tuah-x7M) with that of

the present day, when the very term "Christmas" is being erased from every corner of culture.

As long as different displays line the corridors of Washington state's Capitol like Christmas potpourri, let me posit this last idea as a final pre-Christmas posting. At the base of the bust of George Washington (which stands between the atheists' winter solstice sign and the Nativity scene in the Washington state Capitol), I suggest the posting of one more sign, which would contain the wisdom from George Washington's farewell address: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens."

(Note: In the spirit of Christmas, Chuck is giving away a free chapter of his current New York Times best-seller, "Black Belt Patriotism." To obtain yours, go to www.ChuckNorrisNewBook.com.)

□□□

To find out more about Chuck Norris and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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UPCOMING BOWL GAMES

- Sunday, Dec. 21**
New Orleans Bowl
Payout: \$325,000
Troy (8-4) vs. Southern Mississippi (6-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN2)
- Tuesday, Dec. 23**
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: \$750,000
Boise State (12-0) vs. TCU (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Wednesday, Dec. 24**
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: \$750,000
Hawaii (7-6) vs. Notre Dame (6-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Friday, Dec. 26**
Motor City Bowl
At Detroit
Payout: \$750,000
Florida Atlantic (6-6) vs. Central Michigan (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
- Saturday, Dec. 27**
Meineke Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Payout: \$1 million
North Carolina (8-4) vs. West Virginia (8-4), 1 p.m. (ESPN)
- Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$2.125 million
Florida State (8-4) vs. Wisconsin (7-5), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Emerald Bowl
At San Francisco
Payout: ACC: \$750,000; Pac-10: \$850,000
California (8-4) vs. Miami (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Sunday, Dec. 28**
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payout: \$1.1 million
Louisiana Tech (7-5) vs. Northern Illinois (6-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Monday, Dec. 29**
PapaJohns.com Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Payout: \$300,000
Rutgers (7-5) vs. North Carolina State (6-6), 3 p.m. (ESPN)
- Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: \$2.25 million
Northwestern (9-3) vs. Missouri (9-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Tuesday, Dec. 30**
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: \$750,000
- Nevada (7-5) vs. Maryland (7-5), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: \$2.3 million
Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Oregon (9-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
- Texas Bowl
At Houston
Payout: \$750,000
Rice (9-3) vs. Western Michigan (9-3), 8 p.m. (NFLN)
- Wednesday, Dec. 31**
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
Payout: \$750,000
Houston (7-5) vs. Air Force (8-4), Noon (ESPN)
- Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: \$1.9 million
Oregon State (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (9-3), 2 p.m. (CBS)
- Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: \$1.7 million
Vanderbilt (6-6) vs. Boston College (9-4), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Insight Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payout: \$1.2 million
Kansas (7-5) vs. Minnesota (7-5), 5:30 p.m. (NFLN)
- Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: \$3 million
LSU (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (9-3), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Thursday, Jan. 1**
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: \$3.2 million
Iowa (8-4) vs. South Carolina (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
- Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$4.25 million
Georgia (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)
- Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: \$2.5 million
Nebraska (8-4) vs. Clemson (7-5), 1 p.m. (CBS)

South Floyd to face Powell County in Raceland Derby Classic

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HI HAT – South Floyd is looking to get back on track this weekend in Raceland at the Derby Classic. For South Floyd basketball fans, the opposing coach in today's game is a familiar one. Former Betsy Layne coach Brian Hall will guide his new team – Powell County – into a matchup against the Raiders today. Hall, a Floyd County native who played his high school basketball in McDowell for the Daredevils. He spent

one season at Betsy Layne before moving on to Powell County. Powell County was 1-2 through its first three games under the guidance of the first-year coach. The Pirates defeated Jackson City 80-74, in a season-opener. Wolfe County and Whitley County have dealt the Pirates losses. In a high-scoring affair, Wolfe County defeated the Pirates 99-88. Estill County beat Powell County 76-50. Under the tutelage of head coach Kyle Lively, Powell County finished last season 15-15. Lively stepped away from

the program after two seasons as its head coach. Hall inherited a team that lost five starters from the 2007-08 season. Senior guard David Crowe (6-0), junior center Will Arvin (6-5), senior forward Billy Rice (6-4), and senior forward David Hawkins (6-1) are among the top players for the Pirates. South Floyd has showcased a versatile group of players early on in the 2008-09 season. Shannon Turner and Brandon Marson continue to lead the promising South Floyd boys' basketball team. Other teams playing in the

Raceland Derby Classic include the host Raceland Rams, Boyd County, Greenup County, West Carter and Lewis County. Tip-off for the South Floyd-Raceland game is set for 6:15 p.m. The Raiders were up against host Raceland Friday in an opening round matchup. The South Floyd-Raceland game ended too late to make this edition. South Floyd is scheduled to face Boyd County Monday. The Raceland Derby Classic is scheduled to run through Tuesday.

Site of new Little League Southeast Headquarters announced

TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Little League International Board of Directors has unanimously resolved to select Warner Robins, Ga., as the site of the new Southeast Region Headquarters, it was announced by Stephen D. Keener, President and Chief Executive Officer of Little League International. "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, Mayor Donald S. Walker, and the leaders and citizens of Warner Robins, for their part in helping to bring the new home for the eight-state Little League Southeast Region to Central Georgia," Mr. Keener said. "We trust our relationship will continue to grow, and that the people of the Warner Robins area will enjoy having this important center of Little League activity in their community. And we know that our

volunteers in the Southeast Region will find that the new site will be convenient because of its more central location, and the facilities will be first-rate." The original field of 18 cities in six states was narrowed to Morganton, N.C., and Warner Robins in November. Both cities were represented by teams in the Little League Baseball World Series in recent years. "We are grateful as well to Morganton, and in particular, Mayor Mel Cohen," Mr. Keener said. "This was an extremely difficult decision, which was undertaken with a great deal of deliberation. Our Board of Directors was very impressed by both of the proposals." Little League teams from Georgia won the Little League Baseball World Series in 2006 and again in 2007. The 2007 winner was Warner Robins American Little League.

"With back-to-back world champions and a strong passion for Little League, I cannot imagine a better place than Georgia for the Southeast Region Headquarters," Gov. Perdue said. "Little League is a great program that I was proud to be a part of during my youth, and we will be honored to host the regional playoffs each year as the Southeast representative to the Little League World Series is determined. Little League is a world-class organization and I am proud to welcome them to Georgia." The next phase in the process will be to reach a contractual agreement with Warner Robins. Upon completion of that agreement, operations at the current Southeast Region Headquarters in Gulfport, Fla., a suburb of St. Petersburg, will begin transferring to Warner Robins. The Southeast Region Headquarters serves as the administrative center for Little

League Baseball and Softball activities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The annual Southeast Region Championship game (formerly the Southern Region Championship game) has been televised nationally on ESPN or ESPN2 every year since 1997. As the site for the new Regional Headquarters is developed in Warner Robins, it will be necessary to play the 2009 Little League Baseball and Softball Regional Tournaments at an alternate location. That location, Ceredo-Kenova, W.Va., to be used only for one year, was announced on Monday. Little League Baseball and Softball is the world's largest organized youth sports program, with more than 2.6 million players and 1 million volunteers in every U.S. state and 75 other countries.

EKU kicker named Second Team AP All-American

TIMES STAFF REPORT

RICHMOND – Senior football player Taylor Long was named second team All-American by the Associated Press on Wednesday. Long, Eastern Kentucky University's place kicker the last four years, concluded his Colonel career as the program's all-time leader in kicking points (285). The Hopkinsville native made 20 field goals this year which ranks second nationally at the NCAA Division I FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) level. During one stretch this fall, Long converted

13 straight field goals including the overtime game-winner against Austin Peay on Sept. 27. Long then booted a career-best 50-yard field goal in the win over Eastern Illinois on Oct. 25. Long, a first team All-OVC pick, converted 20-of-27 (74.1 percent) of his field goal attempts this year and finished second in the league in scoring at 7.3 points per game. Long shares the program record for field goals made (49) with Dale Dawson (1983-86) and owns the program record in PATs (138). Eastern Kentucky (8-4, 7-1

OVC) captured its 20th Ohio Valley Conference title in 2008 and advanced to the NCAA FCS playoffs for a record 19th time. **Anderson named Freshman All-American:** University of Louisville tailback Victor Anderson has added to his list of awards by being named the Sporting News BIG EAST Freshman of the Year and was also tabbed to the Freshmen All-American squad, the organization announced Tuesday. The honors arrive after last week he was tabbed the BIG EAST's Rookie of the Year

and second team All-BIG EAST. Anderson, a redshirt freshman from Louisville, was the first Louisville player to earn BIG EAST Rookie of the Year honors after he finished fifth in the conference in rushing (87.2 yards per game). Anderson ran for 1,047 yards and eight touchdowns in a freshman season in which he had five 100-yard games. He was the Cardinals' first 1,000-yard rusher since Michael Bush rushed for 1,143 yards in 2005. Anderson also earned second team All-BIG EAST honors.

Adams

Continued from p1

tossed in nine points as Adams claimed the win. Adams led 28-20 at the half and 42-28 at the conclusion of the third quarter. Tyler Keens tossed in eight points and pulled down 10 rebounds. Kody Davis came off of the Adams bench and added five points. Gary Arnett netted two points and Derek Newsome added one to round out the Blackcat scoring. Tyler Lewis and Kannon Newsome each finished with 12 points for Wesley Christian. Dylan Meade tossed in 10 points and Michael Henson rounded out the Wesley Christian scoring with eight points. Wesley Christian finished the game 13-of-23 from the charity stripe. Adams ended the game four-of-five from the foul line. The Blackcats improved to 10-3 overall and 6-0 in the Floyd County Conference.

NFL GLANCE

- Sunday's Games**
New Orleans at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Miami at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Arizona at New England, 1 p.m.
San Fran. at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Houston at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Atlanta at Minnesota, 4:15 p.m.
Phila. at Washington, 4:15 p.m.
Carolina at N.Y. Giants, 8:15 p.m.
- Monday's Game**
Green Bay at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

Four MSC football student-athletes earn AFCA honors

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE – Four Mid-South Conference football student-athletes were named to the 2008 American Football Coaches Association NAIA Coaches' All-American team, announced by the AFCA on Monday. Pikeville College junior placekicker Kyle Chilton, Lambuth University senior defensive lineman Cedric Fisher, Campbellsville University senior running back Greg Fountain and Bethel College senior offensive lineman Beau Weiss were selected

by the AFCA's NAIA All-American selection committee. Chilton, a Clearwater, Fla. native, hit 7-of-9 field goals and 18-of-19 on PATs for the season. He led the Bears with 39 points this season. Chilton was named to the MSC East Division team as placekicker and punter. He was named MSC Special Teams Player of the Week four times this season and was named NAIA Player of the Week once. Fisher, a Quincy, Fla., native, finished with 5-1/2 sacks on the season and averaged seven tackles per game. He was named to the MSC

West Division team and earned MSC Defensive Player of the Week once. Fountain, an Owensboro native, led the Mid-South Conference in rushing. He ran for an average of 156.9 yards per game and scored 21 touchdowns. Fountain was named to the MSC East Division team and earned MSC Offensive Player of the Week once. Weiss, a Chattanooga, Tenn., native, helped anchor an offensive line that produced 175.7 rushing yards – which ranks No. 21 in the NAIA – per game. Weiss was named to the MSC West Division team.



photo courtesy of Michael's Photography/Steve Blackburn Motorsports
VETERAN DRIVER STEVE BLACKBURN is scheduled to wrap up ARCA testing today at Daytona International Speedway.

Three-point shooting propels James Madison past host Morehead State

Eagles entertain Bulldogs in rare afternoon game

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD — Kyle Swanston hit five-of-seven three-pointers and scored 23 points to lead James Madison to a 74-62 win over Morehead State Thursday afternoon in Johnson Arena.

JMU, now 6-4, also got 14 points from Juwann James and 10 points from Andrey Semenov, both in reserve roles. The Dukes hit eight-of-10 from behind the arc in the first half as they were building a 34-22 intermission lead.

"James Madison is very good," said MSU Coach

Donnie Tyndall. "Their guards controlled the game. Pierre Curtis and Devon Moore each played 30-plus minutes and each had six assists and just two turnovers. We couldn't contain them. MSU is very perimeter oriented, and today, they shot it very well from the outside.

"Kenneth Faried played hard and with a swagger and confidence. He had a good stat line with another double-double and several steals."

Faried led the Eagles, who are now 3-8 on the season, with 21 points and 11 rebounds. He hit eight-of-11 from the field, including the first three-pointer of his college career, and had four steals in 29 minutes. Robert Murry had 11 points, and Leon Buchanan added 10 points and six rebounds.

For the game, JMU hit 54.2 percent (26-of-48) from the field, including 10-of-16 three-pointers. After a cold-shooting first half (33.3 percent), MSU warmed up in the second half and shot 42.6 percent (23-of-54) for the game.

The Eagles outrebounded the Dukes, 34-to-23, but had 18 turnovers to 14 for the winners.

JMU took the lead for good on a Julius Wells three-pointer that made the score 11-9 with 14:08 in the first half. After the Dukes had spurred out to a 22-point leads, 55-33 with 11:15 left in the game, MSU battled back to within 11 at the 7:23 mark but could get no closer.

MSU will play host to Kentucky Christian at 7 p.m. Monday.



SENIOR LINSEY FIELDS (33) is a veteran for the Prestonsburg High girls' basketball team. Fields ranks as one of the 15th Region's top players.

Morehead State women fall at Detroit-Mercy

TIMES STAFF REPORT

DETROIT, Mich. — The Morehead State University women's basketball team shot only 29 percent for the game and let as much as a 13-point lead go to waste Wednesday night as the host Titans outscored the Eagles 34-24 in the second half and rallied past MSU 60-54 at Calihan Hall. The Eagles had a four-game winning streak snapped and fell to 7-3 overall. Detroit moved to 3-6.

Morehead State had three players reach double figures with sophomore Chynna Bozeman's 15 leading the way. Junior Tiffanie Stephens came off the bench for 13, and Tiffany Hamilton totaled 11. But, Titan guard Brigid Mulroy erupted for a season-high 22 points, and UDM shot 42 percent in the final half. The Titans also got to the free throw line 21 more times than the Eagles and outscored them

there 12-6.

The Eagles did win the battle of the boards, 49-41. Junior Brittany Pittman had a game-high 13 rebounds. She was, however, held to just four points. MSU had 17 offensive rebounds.

MSU led 30-26 at the half and had led by 13 (18-5 and 25-12) twice, but the Titans effectively took MSU out of its offensive game and opened the second half on a 14-4 run. At the 10:48 mark, UDM led 40-34. The Eagles trailed for the final 12 minutes and got behind by as much as 10 (53-43) with 3:26 left. In the final three minutes, the Eagles were never to trim the UDM advantage to lower than six.

MSU did hit 10 three-pointers for its fifth consecutive game of 10 or more treys. The Eagles launched 33 three-balls. Freshman Courtney Lumpkin handed out a game-high six assists.

UK Gymnastics program set to host 24th Annual Excite Night Jan. 10

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — The University of Kentucky gymnastics team begins their countdown to the 24th Annual Excite Night versus Utah State on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009. The evening's festivities will kick off at 5:45 p.m. in Memorial Coliseum.

"Excite Night is so important because it is all the girls talk about is the first meet of the year," head coach Mo Mitchell said. "We love the fact that we have such a big crowd and it is so exciting for them because like any athlete you like to have people appreciate what you're doing. When they see six to seven thousand people in there and know these people are there to see them and appreciate what they're doing, it is just so huge for them because they can just feed off the crowd."

The 24th annual UK Gymnastics Excite Night brings in excellent gymnastics talent, an amazing atmosphere and thrilling moments for many fans in Central Kentucky. This year will be no different and will be presented in Hollywood Style versus the Utah State Aggies. Catch your favorite movie titles and well-known music and dance moves from Blues Brothers and High School Musical to the Pirates of the Caribbean.

For the fourth consecutive season, the Wildcats expect this year's Excite Night to be the biggest and best in the history of the event. Last season, the Wildcats performed in front of a season-record crowd of 5,448 Big Blue fans. More than 4,000 fans have attended each of the past four Excite Nights, while 6,000 or more have been in attendance at two of the last three meets. The Wildcats, who finished last season 21st nationally, ended the year No. 10 in the nation in attendance.

The doors to the event open at 4:45 p.m. with activities beginning at 5:45 p.m. A star studded night begins with pre-meet special guest performances. Kentucky and Utah State square off at 6 p.m. Numerous UK prizes will be given away throughout the evening and the entire time will sign autographs following the meet.

Reserved tickets for Gymnastics events are \$5.00 each, regardless of age. General Admission tickets are \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for Seniors and Youth. Tickets can be purchased by calling the ticket office at 1-800-928-2287. Tickets are also sold at the Joe Craft Center Ticket Office on the night of the event. Group tickets (20+ people) are available by calling the ticket office in advance of the event.

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NOTICE OF Legals

INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application No. 860-5310

In accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Consol of Kentucky Inc., P.O. Box 130, Mousie, Ky. 41839, has applied for a permit for an underground coal mining and reclamation operation affecting 7.00 acres, and will underlie an additional 1,059.99 acres, located 1.0 mile west of Raven

in Knott and Floyd Counties.

The proposed operation is approximately 0.3 mile east from Terry Branch Road junction with KY Route 899, and located in Caney Fork.

The proposed operation is located on the Wayland U.S.G.S. 7-1/2 minute quadrangle map. The operation will use the standard underground methods of mining. The surface area is owned by Knott Floyd Land Company Inc. The operation will underlie surface area owned by CONSOL of Kentucky Inc., Miller Bros. Coal LLC, Knott, Floyd Land Company Inc., Ruby Gibson, Alex and Helen Ritchie, Freddie Martin Cemetery, Gladys Totten, Thomas Kelly Ritchie, Vimus and Allie Gibson,

James and Elaine Sparkman, Larry Randall and Mary Jacqueline Slone.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. This is the final advertisement of this application; all comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be received within 30 days of this date.

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Inactive car still good to go

by TOM and RAY
MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

My rich old auntie recently shed this mortal coil and left a 1996 Toyota Camry Collector's Edition with 14,000 miles. Other than making only spotty trips to the liquor store, the car has not been used for the past two years. It is a luxurious car, for sure, but would I be asking for trouble because of its inactivity? — Annie

TOM: Gee, when my aunt died, all I got was a set of gas-station dinner plates. You, on the other hand, have struck pay dirt, Annie.

RAY: This is an excellent car, and we see many of them in the shop with 150,000 or more miles on them still going strong. So I think you'd do very well to weasel it away from any other covetous siblings who are eyeing it, and pounce.

TOM: If the car's been used occasionally during the past two years, that means it runs, which is great. So there's no concern about internal engine parts sticking or rusting together.

RAY: Unlike, say, your heart muscle, engines don't weaken when they sit around. In fact, the less they're used, the longer they last. My brother's got a bunch of old cars. The only reason they still run is that most of time he can't get them started.

TOM: The only parts that DO wear out over time, even if you don't use them, are rubber parts. Rubber is broken down by the ozone in the air. So, even though the tires have only 14,000 miles on them, they've been deteriorating for a dozen years now and should be replaced. The same is true for the belts and hoses, including the timing belt.

RAY: But for \$1,000 or so, you can get all new tires, belts and hoses, and have, essentially, a brand-new car that'll last you for many, many years. And for an extra \$50, we'll call your siblings and assure them that it's junk.

Plug-in hybrids explained

Dear Tom and Ray:

Guys, what's the big deal about plug-in hybrid cars? I've read that various automakers plan to come out with plug-in hybrids in the next two to five years. Isn't a plug-in hybrid just a current hybrid (like a Prius) with a battery charger? Is there some additional technology here that I'm missing? — Bob

RAY: Well, I guess you COULD put it that way, Bob.

TOM: But if I were to simplify it, I'd say that today's gasoline-electric hybrids use electricity to supplement a gasoline engine, whereas tomorrow's plug-in hybrids will use a gasoline engine to supplement electric power.

RAY: Cars like the Prius have enough battery power on board to power the cars up to 15 or 20 miles per hour and, after that, to assist the gasoline engine when necessary. That improves gas mileage significantly. You get twice as many miles per gallon as the average car, which is great.

TOM: But the Prius' batteries regularly need to be recharged by the engine (they never get plugged in), so the gasoline engine still has to run pretty frequently.

RAY: Plug-in hybrids alter the balance. They carry a lot more battery power, and use the batteries to do much more of the work of moving the car. And instead of constantly needing to be recharged by the engine, they get most of their recharging by being plugged in at night.

TOM: So, it's not just the recharge-ability; it's that plug-in hybrids will store a lot more

energy on board. That's also why they're not available yet. We're waiting for a new generation of batteries to be ready.

RAY: Current hybrids use nickel metal hydride batteries (NMh). That was an improvement over the first hybrids, which used a boatload of Eveready D-cells. But NMh batteries are still too big and heavy for practical plug-in hybrids.

TOM: Within the next few years, carmakers are anticipating the mass production of

lithium ion batteries (Li), which are far more dense. Sort of like my brother.

RAY: I'm a different kind of dense.

TOM: In the case of batteries, "more dense" means they store more energy in a smaller package. So, with lithium ion, instead of having to fill the entire back seat of a Prius with batteries, they can make a plug-in hybrid that maintains the interior room people expect in a family car without weighing the thing so far down

that it's too heavy to be moved by its own batteries!

RAY: Perhaps the greatest advantage of plug-in hybrids, however, is that they'll allow us to address our oil use and pollution by focusing on a relatively small number of power plants, rather than on 100 million individual cars.

TOM: Right. So, once cars run primarily off of the electrical grid, we could add wind power, solar power, nuclear power, cow flatulence or anything we want to our power

grid, while retiring dirtier, less-efficient plants. If we follow through with that, plug-in hybrids would be a great step toward energy independence and reducing pollution.

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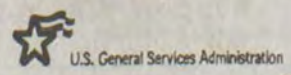
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