

The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

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— page B1

One Voice for Eastern Kentucky

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Teachers deny responsibility for suicide

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Four former teachers of the Allen Central Middle School student who shot and killed himself in November 2007 and who were named in a lawsuit filed by the student's parents have filed answers in response.

Allen Central Middle School teach-

ers Greg Nichols, Angela Mullins, Lynn Handshoe and Jeremy Hall have said in their response that they hold no responsibility for 13-year-old Stephen Lawrence Patton's death.

Patton was a student at the middle school and shot himself on Nov. 28, 2007, an act his parents are saying was a result of hazing and bullying at the school that was left unchecked.

Patton's parents, Sheila and Floyd

Lawrence Patton, filed a lawsuit the following year first naming former Floyd County Schools Superintendent Paul Fanning, the school's principal Davida Bickford and then-interim Supt. Ronald "Sonny" Fentress and later naming his former teachers.

Those teachers have now answered the claim that Patton's death was the result of negligence on their part to do anything about the 13-year-old's prob-

lems at the school, saying much the same thing as administrators did in their answer last year.

The teachers are pointing the finger at the parents, saying, as did the others last year, that Patton's parents "should have known that their son ... was capable of taking his own life, was suffering from a condition or conditions which

(See LAWSUIT, page three)

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by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

SIDNEY — A Pike County woman was killed in a two-car collision Thursday after the vehicle she was a passenger in was struck while traveling U.S. 119.

Peggy Ratliff, 63, of Stone, was a passenger in a vehicle driven by Earl Ratliff when the two were struck from behind.

According to police Ratliff was driving "at a slow rate of speed" in the slow lane of southbound U.S. 119 at approximately 5:30 p.m. Thursday when a vehicle driven by Edward Scott Potter struck him from behind, sending his and Ratliff's vehicle into the concrete divider before both came to a rest.

Pike County Deputy Coroner Mike Hall pronounced Peggy Ratliff dead at the scene of the accident while rescue workers and others had to extract Earl Ratliff from the vehicle, according to reports. He was later transported to South Williamson ARH. His condition was known as of press time.

Police said Potter refuse medical treatment shortly after the accident and stayed at the scene, adding that alcohol was involved in the collision.

The accident remains under investigation by Kentucky State Police Trooper Brad Austin, who was assisted on the scene by KSP Trooper Jason McCellan, KSP Sgt. Anthony Taulbee, KSP Sgt. Randy Woods and CVE Officer Keith Justice.

Also assisting during the accident were members of the Big Creek Fire Department, the Pike County Sheriff's Department, Appalachian First Response Ambulance Service and officials from the Pike County Coroner's Office.

2 DAY FORECAST

Today

Showers
High: 59 • Low: 36

Tomorrow

Partly cloudy
High: 59 • Low: 37

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FIGHTING HEART DISEASE



photo by Jarrid Deaton

The Go Red for Women luncheon drew a large crowd on Friday at the Ramada Inn in Paintsville. The purpose of the event was to bring attention to heart disease in women and to encourage both preventative measures and treatment. (For further coverage, see Lifestyles, page A5.)

Red Cross gets needed boost from community

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — It was a switch in the way things are usually done, with emergency responders throwing up a red flag recently.

The Big Sandy Area Red Cross called out for help and the community it serves responded as the chapter saw more than \$25,000 sent its way during a radio telethon Wednesday night.

Chapter Director Robyn Tackett addressed the shortage of funds the day before the event, saying a busy fire sea-

son and other emergencies had depleted funds over the course of the last several months, adding that the struggling finances couldn't have come at a worse time, considering recent weather conditions and power outages.

"A lot of times it happens in weather just like this and they need a place to come in and have a warm cup of coffee," Tackett said Tuesday.

The Red Cross chapter was provided a trailer the day before the radio telethon, which saw over \$27,000 raised through donations during full day of programming on East Kentucky

Broadcasting in Pikeville.

The trailer was given by the Pikeville Rotary Club and will help volunteers better respond to disasters, Tackett said.

Most notably, the trailer will enable responders to take care of those in need at the actual scenes of disasters by setting up in the facility and seeing people on site.

The help came just in time, according to Tackett, who said the chapter can now run without worry until June. However, before the help arrived, the

(See RED CROSS, page three)

No charges to be filed in wreck

by JARRID DEATON
FEATURES WRITER

PIKEVILLE — There will be no charges filed in connection with an accident that killed a Pike County teacher and a child on Dec. 9.

Ernie Johnson, 47, and Christian Beau Caudill, 7, were killed when an SUV driven by Elizabeth G. Stacy, 34, of Vicco, crossed lanes and struck Johnson's vehicle. A passenger in Stacy's SUV, Andrew Smith, also died as a result of the injuries sustained in the accident.

According to a statement released by Pike County Commonwealth's Attorney Rick Bartley, it was determined that Elizabeth Stacy and her passenger had left a concert being held at the East Kentucky Expo Center shortly before the wreck. A blood sample was obtained from Stacy, and results revealed that she had no alcohol in her system at the time of the wreck.

It was also discovered that Stacy had a low level of hydrocodone in her system, and it was determined by investigators that she had a valid prescription for the drug, and that the level of the drug in her system would not have significantly impaired her ability to operate a motor vehicle.

Stacy reportedly received significant injuries in the accident and told investigators that she had no recollection of the crash.

The police investigation also also eliminated environmental factors, such as rain or mechanical failures, as causes of the wreck.

According to the release, "Although the investigation has failed to reveal a definitive cause of the wreck, the commonwealth's attorney has reviewed the evidence and does not find sufficient proof to warrant bringing criminal charges against Elizabeth Stacy at this time."

Senate approves drug diversion program, drugged driving plan

FRANKFORT — Arrested drug addicts could be treated for their problem before heading to trial — and potentially head off a lengthy prison sentence — under a plan passed Friday by the Senate.

Senate Bill 4, sponsored by Senate Majority Floor Leader Dan Kelly, R-Springfield, and Senate Minority Floor Leader Ed Worley, D-Richmond, would require local jails to screen felony offenders when they are first booked. Those with drug problems could be required by a judge to seek

outpatient addiction treatment and counseling as a condition for bail.

Kelly said that without treatment, many if not most offenders will be arrested again before their trial, leading to a lengthier sentence.

More serious addicts could voluntarily enter a secure facility, much like a minimum-security prison, for three months to a year to get the help they need. Follow-up supervision would be a crucial component of both programs, Kelly said. If the offenders stayed clean, they could have the felony

charge wiped from their record, allowing them to lead a normal life and hold a steady job.

"This provisions of Senate Bill 4 are a smart way to deal with this problem," Kelly said. He noted that of Kentucky's 22,000 prisoners, around 5,000 are in jail simply for drug possession, while 80 percent of all prisoners are in for some drug-related offense.

Worley said the program could make a difference in the lives of many Kentuckians, because drugs touch the lives of nearly every family in some

form. "I've seen what intensive drug treatment programs can do." He said. "It does work."

The bill passed 34-1. The Senate also passed SB 5, sponsored by Sen. Ray Jones, D-Pikeville, which would ban any amount of a controlled substance in the blood while driving. The proposal would make it easier for law enforcement to convict drivers who are under the influence of drugs. Taking a prescription medica-

(See BILL, page three)

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

■ Anna Beatrice Evans, 88, of Tipp City, Ohio, formerly of Greenup, a Floyd County native, died Friday, January 20, in Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. Funeral services were held Monday, February 1, under the direction of Reed Funeral Home in Greenup.

■ Audrey Gayheart, 60, of Beaver, died Thursday, January 22, in the Hazard ARH. Funeral services were held Sunday, January 25, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Robert "Bubby" Griffith, 69, of Martin, died Wednesday, January 21, at home. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 24, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Joe W. "Buddy" Harris, 78, of Dwale, died Saturday, January 31, at his residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 3, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Sarah Ophelia Helmantoler, 91, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, Jan. 24, at Riverview Health Care Center, Prestonsburg.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 27, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Tishie Johnson, 93, of Garrett, died Saturday, January 31, in St. Joseph Hospital in Martin. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 4, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Opal Salisbury Spurlock, 83, of Lexington, formerly of Hunter, died Thursday, January 15, at the Winchester Center for Health and Rehabilitation. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 17, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

PIKE COUNTY

■ Noah Franklin "Bud" Adams, 77, of Westwood, a Johnson County native, died Wednesday, January 28, in Kingsbrook Life Care Center. Funeral services were held Monday, February 2, under the direction of Preston Family Funeral Home, Ashland.

■ James E. Bentley, 83, of Rockhouse, died Sunday, Jan. 25, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 28, under the direction of Lucas &

Son Funeral Home.

■ Elma Mae Chaney Blankenship, 59, of Kimper, died Wednesday, Jan. 21, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, Jan. 25, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Charles R. Graves Jr., a native of Pike County, died Thursday, January 15, at the Select Specialty Hospital, Savannah Georgia. Burial was in the Martin Cemetery, at Wayland.

■ Harold James, 68, of Huddy, died Sunday, Jan. 25, in the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital emergency room. He is survived by his wife, Ruth James. Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 29, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Billy Grover Mitchell, 73, of Little Creek, died Saturday, Jan. 24, at his home. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 27, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Lonnie Henry Robertson, 83, of Pikeville, died Monday, Jan. 26, at his home. He is survived by his

wife, Norma Jean Cisco Robertson. Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 29, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

■ Peggy Lynn Salyer, 50, of Flatgap, died Thursday, January 29, in Community Hospice Care Center in Ashland. She is survived by her husband, Lonnie Salyer. Funeral services were held Sunday, February 1, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

■ Patsy Marie Scarberry, 78, of Turkey Creek, died Saturday, January 24, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 27, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Dorothy Faye Tackett, 67, a Pike County native, died Saturday, Jan. 24, at Parkview Manor Nursing Home, Robinson Creek. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 27, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ George Allen Wellman, 61, of Fort Gay, W.Va., a Louisa native, died Friday, January 30, at Baptist Hospital Northeast in LaGrange.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 3, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

■ Loretta Sue Darnell Whitaker, 71, of Stanford, formerly of Mouthcard, died Sunday, Jan. 25, at Morland. Funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 30, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Karen Williams, 50, of Ft. Pierce, Fla., a Pikeville native, died Saturday, Jan. 24, at her home. She is survived by her husband, Hal Williams. A memorial service was held Monday, Feb. 1, at Meta Baptist Church.

JOHNSON COUNTY

■ Kruger Daniel Jr., 50, of Paintsville, died Sunday, February 1, in Paul B. Hall Medical Center in Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Darlene Blair Daniel. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 5, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Dennis Edward Perkins, 35, of Paintsville, died Friday, Jan. 30 at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Dixie Michelle Ratliff. A graveside

service was held under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

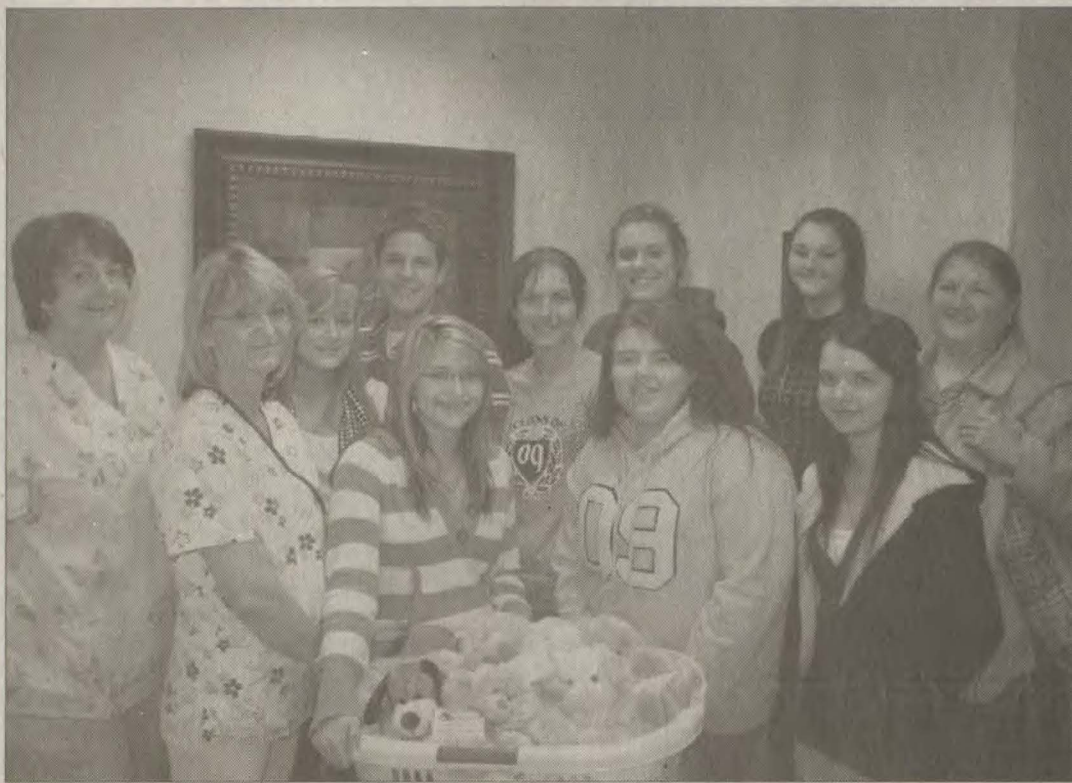
■ April Auxier, 36, of Salyersville, died Sunday, February 1. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 4, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

■ Michael David Caldwell, 57, of Salyersville, died Friday, January 30. Funeral services were held Monday, February 2, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

KNOTT COUNTY

■ Willie Sparkman, 77, of Pippa Passes, died Monday, January 26, at home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 28, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Hindman.

■ Patricia Ann "Patty" Sturgill, 69, of Hindman, died Saturday, January 24, in the home of her daughter in Clay City. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 28, under the direction of Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville, Indiana.



Sheldon Clark makes donation to Highlands

Sheldon Clark High School recently made a generous donation to the Highlands Regional Medical Center Pediatric Floor. On Wednesday, January 14, several Sheldon Clark High School students delivered teddy bears to the pediatric area of HRMC. "We are so pleased with all of the community organizations that support our pediatric patients. It is even more pleasing when young students reach out to do something nice for others. These gifts truly bring smiles to the faces of many children in our hospital," commented Robin Fitzpatrick, Clinical Manager. The pediatric team at Highlands Regional is made up of professionals that are specialized in the most up-to-date pediatric care available. As the area's premier provider of care for children, Highlands is always glad to work with the community to make things better for our pediatric patients.

Nominate a teacher who made a difference

LEXINGTON — Last year more than 100 teachers were recognized by the University of Kentucky College of Education's "Teachers Who Made a Difference" program. The UK College of Education and UK basketball great and his wife, Dan and Cheri Issel, are teaming up to offer the program again in 2009 and are currently accepting nominations.

"Great teachers can be found in the classroom, in the laboratory and in the gym. When I look back on my school days, I remember fondly the teachers who made a difference in my life," Dan Issel said.

"If you remember a special teacher, we encourage you to nominate them for the Teachers Who Made a Difference program. We are proud to support this program in honoring educators across the country," said Cheri Issel. The Teachers Who Made a

Difference program, now in its 11th year, gives individuals an opportunity to thank the teachers, principals, college professors or other educators who have inspired and motivated them to succeed.

The program does not select winners from a pool of nominees. Rather, the UK College of Education created the program to provide individuals a means to express thanks to educators who have impacted their lives. The number of honorees to be recognized is limited. Organizers ask that nominators limit recognitions to one teacher per

year. To honor a teacher, visit the UK College of Education's Web site and complete the online form. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 15, 2009.

More than 1,100 teachers have been honored since the program's inception. The Teachers Who Made a Difference program includes a special recognition event and reception attended by both the teachers and their nominators.

For more information, contact Bonnie Gay at bonnie.gay@uky.edu or by phone at (859) 257-2666.

Tips for finding financial aid

LEXINGTON — The headlines from newspapers, stories on Web sites, and interviews on television seem to paint a cloudy picture of the current U.S. economy. Financial aid officials at the University of Kentucky want those thinking about attending college in the coming year to know there are resources out there to help make the dream of earning a college degree become a reality.

"There is still significant funding available for students to attend college, and the best way to make that money available to them is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)," said Lynda George, director of Student Financial Aid at UK.

There are steps all students should take to ensure they receive full consideration for all of the funding available to them.

"The most important piece of advice I can give to an incoming freshman is to fill out a FAFSA by the priority deadline of February 15," said

George. "If they meet that deadline then they will receive consideration for all of the federal funding sources available to UK students, but if they miss the deadline, they will not receive full consideration."

George encourages students to complete this process online.

"Applying online is much easier and there are built in edits that will help students avoid making errors," said George. "In addition, it is faster. So, as long as they complete their applications online before midnight February 15, they will not miss the deadline. If they plan on sending a paper application, students must have their paperwork in to the central processor by Feb. 15."

It is also important for students and their families to have certain personal financial information readily available for completing the FAFSA.

"The FAFSA asks for 2008 federal income tax information, but students and parents should complete the FAFSA

even if they don't have their taxes complete," said George.

She suggests using the best estimates available from the 2007 tax return if little has changed from the previous year or using information from end-of-the-calendar-year pay stubs.

"It's better to use the estimated information and meet the deadline, but once students and parents receive their 2008 tax information, they are encouraged to go online and update their applications with the most updated tax information," George said.

Students should be leery of programs, Web sites, or people asking for money in return for assisting them with filling out the FAFSA.

"You should never pay someone to fill out your FAFSA," said George. "If you need help, just call the University of Kentucky Office of Student Financial Aid at 257-3172."

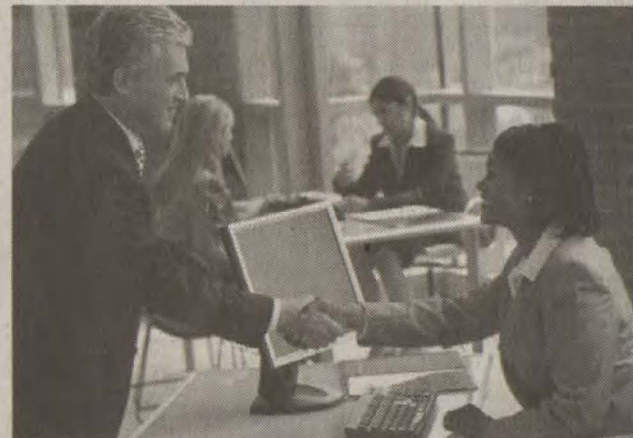
While George and other financial aid counselors will work with the three federal

funding sources available to them to make sure students receive the aid they need, she also suggests one other option for paying for college.

"There are many private scholarships available outside of the university, but they do require separate applications," said George. "Students must do a little research to find them, but they need to be looking for those opportunities immediately if they plan on starting at UK this fall."

George suggests www.fastweb.com because it is free and offers a wide variety of scholarships.

Returning and transfer students have a few more weeks than incoming freshmen to complete their financial aid requests. The priority deadline for returning and transfer students is April 1.



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Bad weather forces Lincoln celebration to web, video

As The Center for Rural Development attempted on Feb. 2 to launch an extensive effort to take educational programs on the Lincoln Bicentennial into schools in 42 Southern and Eastern Kentucky counties, "Mother Nature" clearly had other plans.

The season's latest round of snow and frigid temperatures canceled classes in schools throughout the region, and forced several rounds of The Center's Arts and Culture Outreach Program's Lincoln Bicentennial performances to be postponed to later dates.

In reaction to that obstacle, The Center is utilizing its cutting-edge, in-house video and Web-based technologies to make online presentations by key Lincoln Bicentennial exhibitors and performers available to schools awaiting their rescheduled events, and limitless others across Kentucky and the nation.

Using Mediasite—which records and synchronizes video and digital presentations for online distribution and viewing—The Center captured educational multimedia presentations by Steven Wilson,

assistant director and curator of the Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum at Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) in Harrogate, Tn., and Stephen Brown, education specialist with the National Park Service's Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in Hodgenville.

To view these presentations, visit www.centertech.com, and click the links in the special Lincoln Bicentennial story section near the top of the homepage.

The Center will e-mail links to the online presentations to teachers and school administrators across Kentucky, who can in turn show the presentations to students at their leisure on a computer through any Web browser, according to Lonnie Lawson, president and CEO of The Center.

"The Center is committed to rescheduling all of our in-school Lincoln Bicentennial performances and programs between February 2 and 6 that were postponed because of the weather," Lawson said. "Even as we await confirmation of these new dates, The Center's video studio and high-tech

Web-based tools will allow students to experience some of what they will see when we are able to get the programs into their schools."

Following presentations Thursday at The Center before more than 100 students from Hopkins Elementary School in Pulaski County, Wilson and Brown visited The Center's full-service digital studio to be filmed.

Mediasite then combined footage of their respective live presentations—Wilson's on The Center's exclusive "Abraham Lincoln: Icon and Enigma" visual arts exhibit, and Brown's on the effects of slavery on Lincoln during his formative years in Kentucky—with their digital presentations.

As students watch the men deliver their talks online, Mediasite automatically advances the digital presentation slides.

"This truly is the next best thing to them being there in person," Lawson said.

What's more, The Center's digital video studio and Mediasite are tools available for any public or private business or organization looking to cut costs and time wasted in

travel and repeat meetings. These tools can provide a platform to build, film, and create interactive, Web-based professional development and training curricula that can be viewed across the state, nation, and globe with the click of a button.

Weather permitting, The Center's Lincoln Bicentennial celebration will continue Monday, Feb. 9, with a week of in-school Arts and Culture Outreach Program performances throughout the region.

These performances will include Kentucky Humanities Council's Kentucky Chautauqua, which will take four historically accurate

impersonations—including Lawrenceburg's Jim Sayre as Abraham Lincoln—into area schools to illustrate the impact of Lincoln on Kentucky and the nation.

The Center will also host an evening of public events on Thursday, Feb. 12 beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Wilson's live pre-show presentation detailing LMU's "Abraham Lincoln: Icon and Enigma" exhibit at The Center. Sonny's Bar-B-Q will serve a catered meal during the pre-show event at a cost of \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children. A free performance of the Kentucky Repertory Theatre's "One Man's Lincoln" follows at 7

p.m. in The Center's theatre.

LMU's exhibit, featuring the eclectic works of famed artist Harry Wood and 19th-century steel engravings, woodcuts, and paintings, will remain on display at The Center throughout February.

The Center is located at 2292 South Highway 27 at traffic light No. 15 in Somerset.

To find out more about how Mediasite and The Center's digital studio can address your professional development needs, contact Larry Combs, director of business services, at 606-677-6000 or via e-mail at lcombs@centertech.com

Beware of dangers from kerosene heater use

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) is advising Kentuckians of the possible dangers from kerosene heater use as residents seek alternative heat sources to stay warm following last week's devastating winter ice storm.

"The improper use of kerosene heaters can become deadly if homeowners do not follow manufacturer's instructions for this alternative heat source," said William Hacker, M.D., DPH commissioner. "It is important to take precautionary safety measures such as allowing adequate ventilation to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and avoid fire hazards."

Officials from DPH advise residents to follow precautionary guidelines from the National Center for Environmental Health for safe kerosene heater use:

■ Be sure to properly follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully for your specific heater model, making sure that

the wick is set at the proper level as instructed by the manufacturer and is clean.

■ Ensure your kerosene heater is only operated in a well-vented area. Leave a door open to the rest of the house or keep an outside window open to ensure an adequate flow of fresh air.

■ Kerosene heaters require 1-K grade kerosene fuel. When colored or cloudy kerosene is burned, it will give off an odor, smoke and cause increased indoor pollution levels because of the fuel's higher sulfur content. Non-1-K grade kerosene can also gum up the wick.

■ Always store kerosene in a container intended for kerosene only, not in a gasoline can or a container that has contained gasoline. This helps to avoid using contaminated fuel or the wrong fuel by mistake. Kerosene containers are usually blue and gasoline containers are red.

■ Never refuel the heater inside the home. Fill the tank

outdoors, away from combustible materials and only after the heater has been turned off and allowed to cool. Do not fill the fuel tank above the "full" mark. This area is used to allow the fuel to expand without causing leakage when the heater is operated. Never attempt to move a lighted kerosene heater. Even a carrying handle could cause burns.

■ To avoid the risk of fire, even in normal operation you should place kerosene heaters several feet away from all furniture, curtains, paper, clothes, bedding and other combustible materials.

■ Infants, small children and pets should be kept away from heaters to avoid serious burns.

Seek immediate medical attention if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning and are experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. Early symptoms include headache, nausea, vomiting and fatigue. Carbon monoxide poisoning is treatable.

Lawsuit

required treatment and counseling from medical or mental health professionals."

Likewise, lawyers representing the four also echoed last year's response from school administrators in saying the parents were at fault for allowing the teen to own and use firearms, including the one that was used in his Nov. 28 suicide.

The basis of the suit is that both Bickford and Fanning, along with the four teachers, had prior knowledge that Stephen Patton was being subjected to bullying and harassment on a regular basis at his school, behavior his family believes led him to commit suicide, and did nothing to intervene on the boy's behalf.

Jasper Ward and Vanessa

Cantley, the attorneys representing the Pattons, allege that the problem of bullying within the school system was one that was "well known" and as such administrators and teachers acted in a negligent manner when they failed to exercise "an affirmative duty to Stephen to take all reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harm to him."

Continued from p1

Red Cross

Continued from p1

chapter was facing the possibility of closing its doors.

"We really need the funding and we're here to serve and we're standing ready," Tackett said, "but it's really hard to do that without donated dollars."

Tackett also said that lack of funds had kept the local Red Cross from opening a shelter for those who have been without power for the past two weeks due to the ice storm that started in the area Jan. 26. With funds in hand, a shelter could have been opened for the thousands of people in the region who went without power for days following the storm.

Bill

Continued from p1

tion as directed would be allowed under the bill.

SB 5 also lowers the blood alcohol content at which DUI penalties are doubled. While the bill would maintain the current DUI level at 0.08 BAC, the penalties would be doubled at a BAC of 0.15, down from the current 0.18.

Both bills now head to the House for its consideration.


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Valentine's Day Party

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2009
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Will You Marry Me?

Deadlines for messages are Wednesday February 11, at 12:00

Messages will be published in the Friday, February 13, edition.

Drop off or mail information to the Floyd County Times
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Prestonsburg, KY 41653
OR
P.O. Box 390
Prestonsburg, KY 41653

Pictures will be available for pickup, Friday, February 13.

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

Opposite of inaction

In eight years in office, President George W. Bush had to be dragged, kicking and screaming, to just about any initiative involving global warming, greenhouse gas emissions and higher fuel economy standards for vehicles. It took President Barack Obama six days to take two big steps on such issues. What a difference an election makes.

Obama recently directed the federal Environmental Protection Agency to re-examine whether California and other states should be allowed to have tougher emissions standards to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases being spewed by tailpipes. Obama also directed his administration to start working on fuel-efficiency guidelines for the auto industry in time to cover 2011 model-year cars.

Whether through state action on emissions or a tighter federal policy on fuel efficiency (which could take longer to bring about), the United States needs to reduce its impact on climate change as well as its reliance on unstable foreign sources of energy. Obama's directives are steps in the right direction.

California and at least a dozen other states have tried to come up with tougher emissions standards than those imposed by the federal government, but, Obama said, "Washington stood in their way." The Associated Press reported. He wants the EPA to take a second look at a decision denying California -- and the states that want to follow its model -- permission to set tougher standards.

California has long been a leader on reducing pollution and emissions from vehicles. But the Bush administration blocked California from setting tougher emissions standards, which would have required better fuel economy from Detroit automakers.

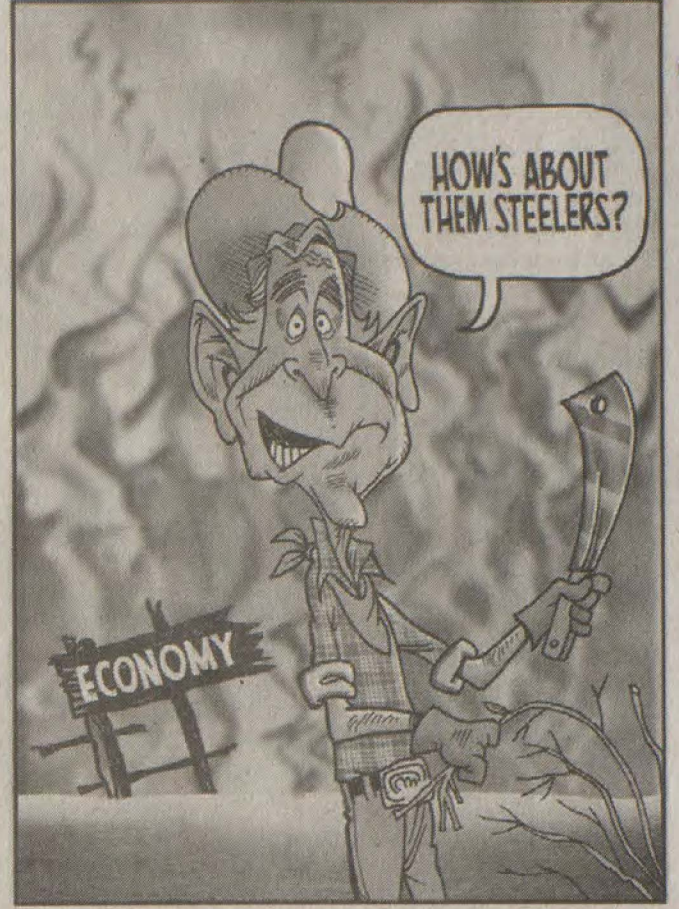
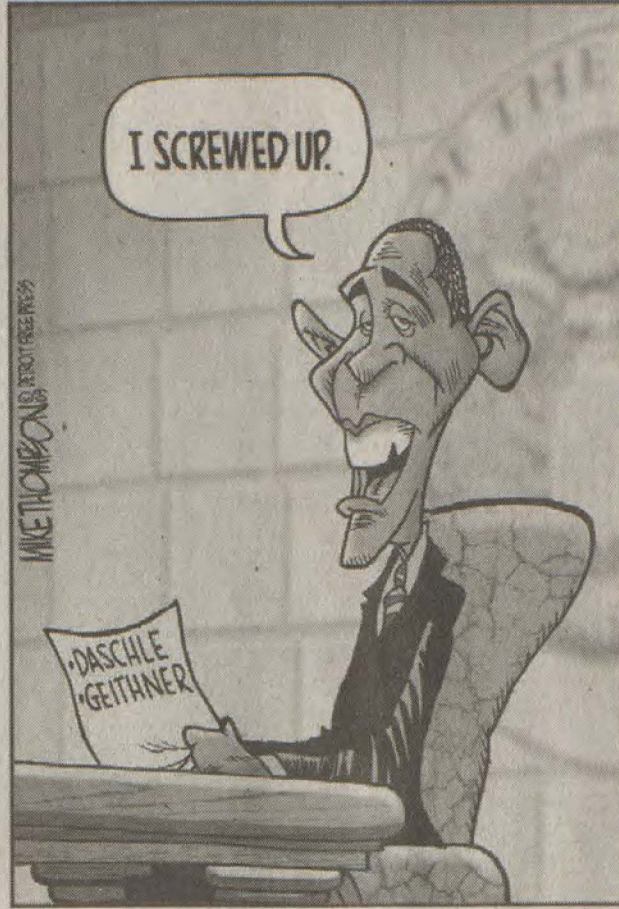
California's proposed restrictions would force automakers to cut greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent in new cars and light trucks by 2016. Automakers would need to boost fuel efficiency in new vehicles to about 36.8 miles per gallon in the states that choose to adopt the California standards.

Wisconsin was not one of the states seeking to follow California, but a spokesman for the Department of Natural Resources said officials would like to join if the EPA backed the tougher standards.

"Year after year, decade after decade, we've chosen delay over decisive action," Obama said in his first formal event in the East Room of the White House late last month.

It's long past time to change that.

— The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



— Chuck Norris

Top 10 reasons Gitmo should be on Alcatraz

by CHUCK NORRIS
CREATORS SYNDICATE

When I heard about the possibility that the terrorist detention camp at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base (Gitmo) will move to Alcatraz Island in the middle of the San Francisco Bay, I got excited. Ideas from economic stimuli to renewed patriotism started flooding my mind.

Here are the top 10 reasons I believe Gitmo should be moved to Alcatraz:

10. D-Block. Not the hip-hop group, but the row of solitary confinement cells at Alcatraz. Need I say more? (Of course, "Gitmo and the Golden Gates" might make a hit rap song, too.)

9. It is rumored that "Dirty Harry" (Clint Eastwood's notoriously tough San Francisco cop character) still roams the streets with his .44 Magnum. Would terrorists really try to escape if he were across the bay? Do they feel that lucky? Well, do they?

8. It would give Congress something better on which to spend those hundreds of billions of dollars in bailout money than the absolute waste of more Wall Street bonuses and partisan pork.

7. My buddy the Governor needs

a bailout, and the new "Hasta la Vista, Alcatraz" tour could be a gigantic boost for California tourism.

6. It's about time for a sequel to "Escape From Alcatraz," called "Bet Your A— That You Better Stay on 'The Rock.'"

5. Tony Bennett wants to produce his new smash single, "I Left My Terrorist in San Francisco."

4. The only text in the prison library and school would be my latest book, "Black Belt Patriotism — How to Reawaken America," with daily memory tests to see whether the detainees can recite the appendices containing the Declaration of Independence, our Constitution and the Ten Commandments.

3. Because House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., was a big advocate for Gitmo's closing and seeing as her district includes Alcatraz Island, let her deal with its aftermath. Pelosi even could help guard the captives with binoculars from her San Francisco high-rise.

2. Recently commuted border agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean need new jobs and are willing to train and head up Alcatraz's new team of correctional officers.

1. I'm volunteering to be the new warden, and I pledge to make "The Rock" a Chucktatorship.

Are you with me?

All joking aside, remember when America was known as being tough and compassionate? Will we now polarize from waterboarding to being pantywaists?

Do most really believe it makes sense to shut down Gitmo for world adulation, while we possibly put Americans at greater risk by relocating these jihadists within our borders?

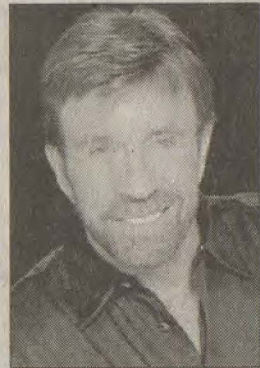
Is Time magazine serious when it suggests six possible domestic military facilities, from New York City to San Diego, as the new home for these enemies of the state?

Was Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., serious when he told Fox News last week that he'd offer his own district as a future dwelling place for the 245 Gitmo terrorist detainees? He said: "Sure, I'd take them. They're no more dangerous in my district than in Guantanamo. O There's no reason not to put them in prisons in the United States and handle them the way they would handle any other prisoners."

Do Americans really want terrorists — such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of 9/11 — on our soil?!

In Robert Spencer's excellent new book, "Stealth Jihad," he documents well how radical Islam is subverting

(See NORRIS, page six)



Chuck Norris

— beyond the beltway

Evaluating new cars is no picnic

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

You can take a kid out of Detroit but you can't take Detroit out of the kid. That's my excuse, anyway. I'm a car nut. I grew up in Detroit and I like cars the way Imelda Marcos liked shoes. I call it my auto-eroticism (and you'd be amazed at the looks I get when I call it that).

And what better place to indulge one's lust for the auto than the Detroit Auto Show? It was once the premier show in North America if not the world. It's not quite that now (hardly anything about Detroit is quite that now) but there's still enough there to stir the loins. And the girls are nice too.

Foam on the latte is the fact that I am in the market for a car right now. That gave focus to my auto show trip last month.

Where once I lingered over the Jaguars and Maseratis, drooling in front of the BMWs, Porches and Corvettes, I instead centered on practical cars — ones that gave good value for the money, were fuel efficient with good safety and reliability records, cars whose back seats would accommodate friends with creaky joints. (Note to my fellow car nuts: I know, that's pathetic, like going into a chocolate shop and asking for tofu ice cream. What can I say? The fires burn low.)

There were other questions to be answered as well. Should I go for

total fuel efficiency and buy a hybrid or, living in the upper Midwest as I now do, should I go for an all-wheel drive to better make it through the snows?

And if that wasn't complicating enough, I was looking to buy American, if possible. After expressing sympathy for the Washington bailout of American automakers, I felt it bordered on the unpatriotic to buy a foreign car.

The last time I'd owned an American car was about 25 years ago when I had the great misfortune to buy a "Pontiac X car." To say it was a piece of junk is to libel junk. It had a disturbing habit of grinding to a halt on the highway, leading to a tow and major surgery. In between, things would fall off — knobs, screws, nameplates, dials...things.

I finally got rid of the sled and vowed never again to put myself in the way of an American car which, in any case, tended to be sloppy handling, behind the curve in safety features and too, too big.

In the meantime I have owned Swedish cars, German cars and Japanese cars — all of them better than any American car I had owned previously (with the exception of a couple of great Checkers I had that were so funky as to not really count as American cars).

So what did I find at the Detroit show?

I found that they do not make cars the way they used to. They make them much, much better. They are better looking, more reliable, they get incredible mileage for their size, they're much safer and the creature comforts they offer beggar the imagination.

"Stick to the program," I kept telling myself. "You're here to pick out a real life car, not indulge in eye-candy."

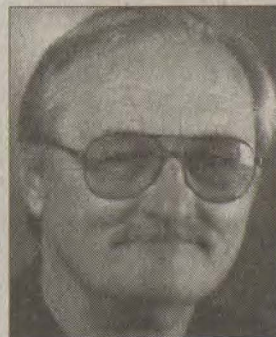
OK, I found a delightful, reasonably priced car made in Indiana. The manufacturer was Japanese and most of the parts were made in Canada. Then there was an American car I liked, but it was made in Mexico, with parts made in Canada. I also discovered a sensational Korean car, made in Korea parts and all. But I'm not sure you can trust a car whose parts aren't made in Canada.

So, is it more patriotic to buy a car that puts Americans to work or one that helps keep an American manufacturer out of bankruptcy? Aye, that is the question.

If any of you out there have suggestions for me I urge you to send them. I need help.

And is it better to buy or lease? Why is that?

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



Donald Kaul

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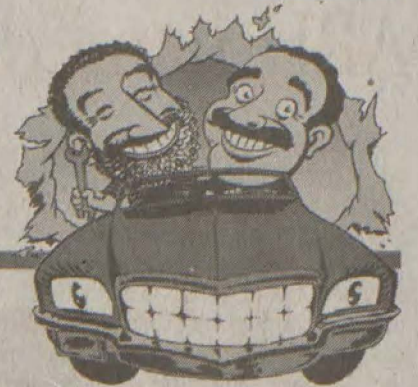
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CAR TALK:

How to safely turn a car-buying trip into an adventure

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.

NO SWEAT

Another threatened species is the lowly sweat bee. And we doubt if EPA or any other agency, public or private, can do much to save it. This creature, like others, is dependent upon the environment for its continued existence. You don't guard the sweat bee against hunters or trappers, or any predator. It will live only in its natural environment, where there is sweat. And, who's working up a good, honest sweat, these days! Just ask anybody, and they'll tell you, "No sweat."

HINT OF DANGER

On his most recent visit to this office, Lenna Moore was having trouble finding parking space. My overcoat was in the only chair available, and I suggested he dump it on my desk and be seated.

"You don't reckon there's any danger of losing it there, do you?" he guilelessly inquired.

THE ANSWER

Paul Harvey in his radio news-cast occasionally digresses from straight news to provoke thought with a story. One such occasion was last Wednesday what he told of the man who was in trouble and expressed the thought that perhaps God had deserted him.

"You promised me, Lord, you would never forsake me," he said. And there were our tracks, side by side. But now, Lord, I am in deep trouble, and I see only one set of tracks. Why have you left me?"

To which came the reply:

"I have never promised you escape from trouble, but I did promise never to forsake you, to walk with you, side by side. And now you see only the tracks of one, and you wonder. My child, I have not left you—I have taken you in my arms."

HELPFUL SNAKES?

This column is a hodgepodge, verily. Now we turn to what Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine has to say for snakes. "Friends of man," the magazine says, pointing out that these crawly critters are not only helpful in reducing the evident population of other pests but also lends their venom to science in creating possibilities and lending the enzymes in the venom to a treatment for hemophilia on the one hand, and for dissolving blood clots on the other.

Then (it says here) poisonous snakes fight crime. For example:

A gas station owner in Virginia employs a six-foot boa constrictor to patrol his place of business, after hours. No trouble with prowlers, whatsoever. And in a jewel exhibit in Stockholm, three of the world's deadliest snakes were put inside

(See ALLEN, page six)



Women representing multiple organizations, both local and state, attended the Go Red for Women event held at the Ramada Inn in Paintsville on Friday.

photo by Jarrid Deaton

GO RED FOR WOMEN

Hospital rings together women to fight heart disease

by JARRID DEATON
FEATURES WRITER

The Ramada Inn in Paintsville was filled with ladies in red on Friday for the third-annual Go Red for Women Luncheon sponsored by Highlands Regional Medical Center.

According to the Go Red for Women website, the organization "celebrates the energy, passion, and power that women have to band together to wipe out heart disease."

Jean Dorton, with Big Sandy Community and Technical College, served as host for the event.

"We want to spread the word to be heart healthy," Dorton told the crowd.

Three doctors from Highlands Regional Medical Center spoke at the event, with each doctor talking about stories relating to cases dealing with heart disease.

Aysha Sikder, M.D., Ghassan Dalati, M.D., and Vaughn Payne, M.D., F.A.C.C., also utilized a projector to show images of damaged hearts and suggestions for being heart healthy.

"Heart disease is what I like to call a real stinker," said Dr. Sikder. "It doesn't discriminate based on age, gender, race, or anything. I want to encourage all women, regardless of age, to get out there and be a little active."

The promotion of regular exercise was a point made by all of the doctors, as well as getting checked if you think you have symptoms of



heart disease.

"Do not take any chances with your health," said Dr. Dalati.

Dr. Payne displayed multiple images of damaged and post-mortem hearts to help get the healthy heart message across.

"We've already had lunch, so I think it's okay to look at these," Payne joked.

Regina Hall, with the Big Sandy Area Development District, spoke as a survivor of heart disease, having been diagnosed with heart problems when she was an infant.

"My parents had just adopted me and taken me to see the doctor," Hall said. "He told my dad that they

should give me back, that I was very sick and had a hole in my heart."

Throughout her adulthood, Hall considered her heart-related issues to be nothing more than stress and anxiety until last year when she woke up unable to breathe.

"I had open heart surgery in March and I have made a full recovery," Hall said. "Unlike a lot of women, I don't care if people know my age. I am 38. That means I survived heart disease and I have a chance to see 39."

For more information on Go Red for Women, visit <http://www.goredforwomen.org>.

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'Pieces'

by TOM DOTY
TIMES COLUMNIST

A chainsaw-wielding psycho killer upsets a quiet Boston campus in this 1980's chiller that boasts gory effects, horrible dubbing, gratuitous aerobics and a seasoned cast of B-movie thespians phoning in their performances.

The story begins with a prologue, circa 1942, that sets up the action. A young boy is glimpsed putting together a jigsaw puzzle while reciting the tale of "Humpty Dumpty" in a flat monotone. His mom storms in and freaks out when she sees his puzzle is that of a nude pin-up girl. She proceeds to wreck the room while searching for a porn stash and orders the lad to fetch a trash bag.



Tom Doty
Times Columnist

Unfortunately there's a communication problem here as he returns with an ax instead and proceeds to split open mom's melon. Having dealt with this distraction, the boy finishes his puzzle but must think fast when a nosy neighbor calls the cops and they begin hammering on the door. He opts to stash himself in a closet and is discovered by the law men, who automatically assume he is a victim too.

Cut to 40 years later. A college campus is stunned by a series of chainsaw murders and the police are having a hard time with the investigation. One problem is too many suspects, though the campus appears to be almost deserted (maybe they couldn't afford extras).

The other problem is that the student body appears to consist of two guys and a gaggle of leotard sporting aerobics students. They aren't an impressive lot and come off as sex-obsessed dope fiends who giggle over nonsense and are just looking to party. Actually this was probably a realistic interpretation of campus life in the 1980s, if memory serves.

Still there are a few dubious characters which include a hulking gardener, a fey anatomy teacher and a dean of students with sensitivity issues.

Inspector Bracken gets the case and spends most of his time arriving at murder scenes and chomping on a cigar. He embeds a female cop on the campus, posing as a tennis instructor, but doesn't provide her any security though he does enlist an annoying student, named Kendall, to keep an eye on her. Kendall should be a suspect—he's had relations with most of the victims—but Bracken treats him like a golden boy and even allows him to assist in the investigation.

It's all just an excuse for gory murders which pop up every seven minutes and keep the film on life support. The proceedings are also livened up by bizarre choices which include shots of gloved hands putting together the puzzle glimpsed in the opening. These scenes correspond with the killings as the murderer takes a body part from

(See LAGOON, page six)

My very own dog

by KATHLEEN BRACHER

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE CHILD'S SOUL"

My very own dog. I can have my very own dog? These were the thoughts swirling in my head as I stared at the black and white print of the newspaper ad:

- DOG TO GIVE AWAY.
- LAB AND COLLIE MIX.
- GOOD WITH KIDS.

I had begged and begged my parents for a dog.

"Come on, Dad! Our yard is huge. I'll take care of it," I pleaded. "I

will!"

Up until then, his only response was, "We'll see."

My hopes had always hung on the edge of a cliff, ready to go crashing down. But this was the day that my hopes soared to the sun. My dad had pointed out the ad to me; he made the phone call; he drove the van across town to pick up the dog. All the while, I was thinking: My very own dog, my very own dog. Visions of a peaceful dog sleeping next to me danced in my mind.

"Her name is Grace," the owner

told us. "She's good, but she barks at the traffic," she sighed.

I nodded, barely hiding my excitement. When I grasped Grace's leash, it tingled in my fingers. Her pink tongue lolled out as she panted heavily. "It's OK, girl," I soothed her. I rubbed her golden fur and traced the thick black stripe down her back with my fingers.

"It's OK. We'll be home soon." Grace looked at me with untrusting brown eyes.

Dad pulled into our driveway. I swung the side door open, and Grace took off like a rocket. I had a firm grip on the leash ... I thought. It snapped, letting Grace free. My very own dog raced down our sloping backyard, under the white picket

fence, and into our neighbor's yard. She circled that yard once and slipped back to ours.

"Grace! Grace!" I yelled. "Come back here!"

I screamed her name repeatedly. Dad called her. Mom joined in the chorus. We begged. We pleaded. But our voices meant nothing to "my very own dog."

Dad looked at me: "She's your dog. She's your responsibility. You'll need to figure out how to get her back."

"I don't want her back!" I yelled in

frustration. "How can I have a dog if she won't listen? I can't do it!" A big tear rolled down my cheek.

"Try some food," Dad suggested.

I set out a pan of cool water and some fresh dog food. "Grace ... Grace!" I kept yelling, even as my voice went hoarse. Grace paced along our side of the picket fence. Finally, she slinked up to lap up the water. The moment I stepped toward her, leash in hand, she

(See SOUP, page six)



ARH named one of nation's Top integrated health care systems

The full-range of services provided by Appalachian Regional Healthcare system have been recognized as among the best in the nation.

The ARH system has been named to the 2009 SDI IHN 100 listing of the most highly integrated healthcare networks in the nation. Published in the January 26 issue of "Modern Healthcare," the ranking, formerly known as the Verispan IHN 100, was conducted by SDI Health LLC, a nationally recognized healthcare data and consulting firm. The designation

recognizes the 100 most integrated networks out of hundreds of health systems graded annually on the network's ability to operate as a unified organization in eight categories: integration, integrated technology, contractual capabilities, outpatient utilization, financial stability, services and access, hospital utilization, and physicians.

As a complete integrated healthcare delivery system, the ARH system offers patients in Kentucky and West Virginia services through its hospitals,

clinics, home health agencies, pharmacies and the home delivery of medical equipment and supplies. By bringing advanced services to these locations, patients have the opportunity to receive the majority of their healthcare services close to home.

This is the fourth time in the past six years that the ARH system has made the list. ARH was one of only two Kentucky integrated health systems to make the list and the only integrated health system in West Virginia to be named.

"While ARH has been providing integrated healthcare services to our communities for more than 50 years, we continue to improve our operations by putting better systems and technology in place to provide the level of care the people of Central Appalachia deserve to have available locally. We are pleased that our efforts have been recognized and the ARH system has been named as one of the 100 most highly integrated healthcare networks in the country," said ARH President and CEO Jerry

W. Haynes.

"Furthermore, our employees, medical staffs and all of those involved in the daily operation of all aspects of our health system should be very proud of this accomplishment," Haynes added. "This recognition is a direct reflection of our their dedication and commitment to providing caring, compassionate and quality patient care as a unified team and bringing that medical excellence to each of the communities we serve."

SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

Give a valuable Valentine to someone you love

by PAUL D. BARNES
SOCIAL SECURITY REGIONAL
COMMISSIONER IN ATLANTA

You've bought flowers for your sweetheart, a box of chocolates for your mom, a red tie for dad. It isn't until you find out that Grandma and Grandpa are coming over for dinner that you realize it: you've forgotten to get them

something for Valentine's Day. Don't worry. Social Security has just the thing for the older Valentines on your list. Tell them about the Medicare prescription drug plan - and about the extra help they may be able to get through Social Security.

These days, when every dollar counts, it may not be easy for people like your

grandparents to buy prescription drugs on limited income. But you can help make it easier by showing them how to get extra help with their Medicare prescription drug costs.

This extra help can pay part of their monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. And the extra help is worth more than a box of candy or bouquet

of flowers. It's worth an average of \$3,900 each per year.

Social Security will need to know a few things to see if they qualify, and you can help them submit the information online. We need to know their income and the value of their savings, investments and real estate (other than the home they live in). To qualify for the extra help, they have to be receiving Medicare and must have:

- Support other family members who live with them;
 - Have earnings from work; or
 - Live in Alaska or Hawaii; and
- Resources limited to \$12,510 for an individual or \$25,010 for a married couple living together. Resources are things they own, such as bank accounts, stocks and bonds. Note that we do not count their house or car as resources.
- You can help them complete our quick and easy online application for the extra help online at www.socialsecurity.gov. To apply by phone or get an application, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the

Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs (SSA-1020). Or visit the nearest Social Security office.

To learn more about the Medicare prescription drug plans and special enrollment periods, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

This Valentine's Day can be picture-perfect. Your sweetheart will enjoy the flowers, mom will share her candy, dad will sport his new tie with the hearts on it - and your grandparents will save \$3,900 each on their prescription drugs with the extra help available through Social Security. That's a valuable Valentine.

Lagoon

each victim according to where he is on the puzzle.

There's also plenty of aerobics to pad the running time and the young cast practices good hygiene by taking on camera showers whenever possible.

Eventually the police figure out who the chainsaw killer is but they'll have to hurry up if they are going to save their undercover officer after she's been slipped a mickey and lies helpless in the killer's lair.

This is grade A cheese and it benefits from a deluxe two disc set from Grindhouse Releasing, run by Sage (son of Sylvester) Stallone. The extras include bits by Eli Roth ("Hostel"), who cribbed a few moments from this gore clas-

sic for use in his films, and a prolonged interview with Paul Smith (brilliant as the sadistic prison guard in "Midnight Express") who appears as the gruesome gardener. Smith relates tales about making a host of genre films and comes off as big kitten despite his brutish looks.

The film itself looks great but suffers from some sorry acting. The main culprits are Christopher and Lynda Day-George as the cops. Christopher barely hits his marks as Bracken, mumbling most of his lines, while Lynda speaks more clearly but is way out of her depth and emotes as if she was in a silent movie, bulging her eyes and occasionally shrieking her lines.

Edmund Purdom fares much better as the tightly wound dean and manages a few moments.

The worst performance honors are snared by newcomer Ian Serra (who?) as Kendall. It's impossible to fathom his charms, though he does rock a stylish perm. His final fate is worth waiting for and closes the film with a "What were they thinking moment?" as a stitched together corpse reaches between his legs and proceeds to change his singing pitch without benefit of anesthetic.

Best line: "Apparently his mother was chopped up when he was a kid. It must have effected his mind."
1982, unrated.

Norris

America via intentional and pervasive subtleties throughout our culture. Rather than crashing into our buildings with planes, they're breaking down every stratum of society using our tolerance and passivity. Rather than overpowering America through combat, they are influencing Americans of all ages by saturating the soils of our minds that there is nothing to fear from extreme

Islam's theology or presence. We've shifted from protecting Americans to defending the terrorists. Our universally accommodative spirit literally is opening the doors for those who seek to destroy us, and Gitmo is just more proof of that.

While we worry about the way the rest of the world sees us, we are stomping upon the souls of Americans. Have we

forgotten so quickly? Can our politicians not see? Have we lost our 9/11 minds? Gitmo's closing and future relocation reflects upon the families and friends of those precious souls who sacrificed everything on the battlefields of the Middle East, in the Twin Towers, on Flight 93 and at the Pentagon. We've memorialized their sacrifices; let's not bury their memory.

Allen

the display-case holding the "Star of Lanka," a gem valued at \$429,000. No burglar alarms needed.

Another reason I have to be thankful, I own neither gas station nor gems.

zen, came to this office with a similar notice to the effect that he had been nominated as a Man of Distinction, or something. "What is this?" he inquired, handing me this letter.

PUTTING THE EGO TO WORK

A year or so ago, one of these Who's Who publications gave me the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of getting my name listed therein, in "imperishable type," for all to know that I was a member of that elite group selected by "our Selection Committee" as one who had achieved something or other.

I dutifully returned the biographical information requested and sat back to await the next move.

It came, a couple of weeks later. I was offered the beautifully printed volume in which would appear my biographical sketch (it was necessarily brief) for a consideration—as I recall, it was around \$30.

I dropped the letter into the nearest wastebasket. And so went my opportunity to be immortalized. I heard no more from these folks who only a few weeks earlier were so interested in me; heard no more that year, or any succeeding year.

It wasn't long afterward when a friend whose education perhaps doesn't extend beyond the third grade, but who is a hard-working, respected citi-

I explained that he and I had got into this publication's mailing list via the telephone directory, or otherwise, and what he could expect. His letter also hit File X.

I record these facts, not to warn the public against any "con game"—these people don't con you. They do exactly what they say they will do. But if you aren't careful they'll let the ego in most of us do the work for them.

This is not to say that any individual so honored doesn't deserve it. But it is to say that they shouldn't have to pay for it.

WARNING

My comments on the dearth of birds around the place this winter have brought from as far away as Greenup County, a report from Grace Hall Floyd, telling of the cardinals, jays and others, that grace her premises.

Then Ann Latta, here in Prestonsburg, called the other day to tell of the convention the cedar waxwings had called at her house. But she laid me low with the prediction that followed, to-wit:

The evening grosbeaks arrive, about two weeks after the cedar waxwings.

Continued from p1

Continued from p4

Continued from p5

Continued from p5

Soup

bounded away.

"Grace!" I stomped my foot.

My very own dog ... my dreams of petting her ... of feeding her ... of playing with her ... were running away. I finally sat on the grass and watched her pace. What if I never caught her? What if she bolted into the road and a truck ran over her? My tears of anger became tears of concern.

Just then, Grace bounded past me, across our driveway and into our other neighbor's yard — the one with the cat.

"Oh, no," I groaned. I followed her as fast as I could. I noticed Mary-Jo standing in front of her house. I waved half-heartedly.

"Is that your dog?" Mary-Jo asked.

I could feel red creeping into my face. My very own dog.

"Yes."

"I think she likes Peter," she replied.

I turned to see Mary-Jo's husband sitting on the grass with his hand extended toward Grace. He had a rope in his other hand. His voice was soothing — like hot chocolate. "Come here, girl ... come

here." Grace hesitated before creeping closer, her head tucked to the ground. She nudged his hand. He rubbed her behind her ears. Unnoticed by my very own dog, Peter slipped the rope around her head.

"Amazing," I said.

Peter smiled. "Just use a little gentleness and a quiet voice." He handed me the rope.

"Thanks," I said. "Sorry for your trouble."

"No problem," Mary-Jo said. "Enjoy your new dog."

As I tied Grace to the tree in front of our house, she looked

at me with sad brown eyes. She seemed to be apologizing. I crept closer to her, my fingers snuggling into her fur. She nudged me.

I sat down next to her to enjoy her company. It was just like my dream. Nothing was in our way now. I could handle Grace — no problem.

"Promise you won't run away again?" I whispered.

She blinked.

"I guess if you do, we'll have Peter to help," I said.

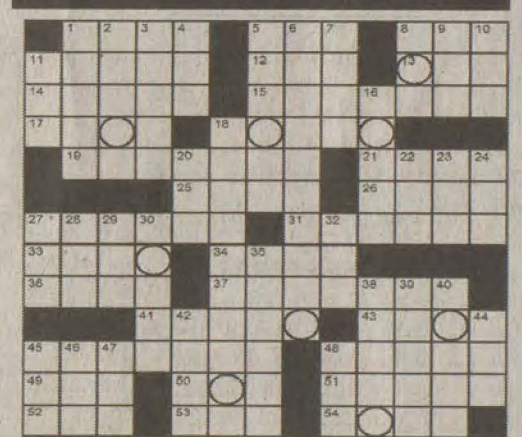
I wasn't sure, but I think she nodded her head in agreement. So I hugged my very own dog for the very first time.

ThemeCross by Kelly Ann Buchanan

ACROSS

- 1 "I ... in love ...with romantic comedies!" ...exclaimed the fan of the genre
- 5 Prime meridian std.
- 8 Clandestine maritime org.
- 11 Works, as a field
- 12 "won't" (Firm refusal)
- 13 "My ... Fat Greek Wedding" (2002)
- 14 "Dadget ... The Edge of Reason" (2004)
- 15 "Romantic comedy of 1988 starring Eddie Murphy. 'Coming to ..."
- 17 "Smooth Operator" singer
- 18 Stockholm denizen
- 19 Jennifer Aniston's new romantic comedy, "He's Just into You" (2009)
- 21 " ... in Manhattan" (2002) starring Jennifer Lopez and Ralph Fiennes
- 25 Rocker David Lee
- 26 Tolstoy's ... Karenina
- 27 "Kevin Costner/ Rene Russo flick of 1996 with a sporty flair"
- 31 "Molly Ringwald's 'Pretty ...' (1986)
- 33 Mideast ruler (var. sp.)
- 34 Clearasil target
- 36 "Romantic comedy spoof starring Alyson Hannigan, 'Movie' (2006)
- 37 "Character in the romantic musical 'My Fair Lady' (1964), Professor Henry
- 41 Subatomic particles
- 43 Sailors' realms
- 45 "City for a 'Sleepless' Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan
- 48 Best. (Most excellent)
- 49 "Shallow" (2001)
- 50 Tiny ... Ben Stiller romantic comedy, 'Along Came ...' (2004)
- 52 "Uh-huh."
- 53 Wood sorrel
- 54 Deuce topper

ROMANTIC COMEDIES



TUMBLE-THEME-a!

After completing the ThemeCross, untumble the 9 circled letters to spell out THE NEW ONE WITH KATE HUDSON AND ANNE HATHAWAY; (2 Wds.)

- 4 Old spy org. follower, as per States
- 5 Gradually corrode
- 6 " ... Gotta Give" (2003) starring Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton
- 7 Even
- 8 Kinono closer * Ms. Kidman, to palls
- 9 "Star of 2005's 'Bewitched'"
- 10 Lettered supermarket chain
- 11 Jammies
- 12 Chart anew
- 13 Based on the books of Sophie Kinsella, Isla Fisher stars in "Confessions of a ... (2009)
- 14 February 13th
- 15 Writer Mr. Capote, to palls
- 16 Cuckoo bird
- 17 Holiday
- 24 S. or N.
- 25 per States
- 27 Small amount
- 28 " ... little teapot..."
- 29 Tiny criticism to 'pick'
- 30 Went slowly
- 32 Positive opp. theater
- 35 "Movie 'Mat ...'"
- 38 " ... 'Valentine' (Special someone to take to a romantic comedy!)"
- 39 Writer Zora Hurston
- 40 "When Harry Met ..." (1989)
- 42 "Suffice ... say..."
- 44 Canny
- 45 Unassuming
- 46 Lac contents
- 47 Swiss peak
- 48 Select, with For

Asterisked * clues relate to theme of the puzzle
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

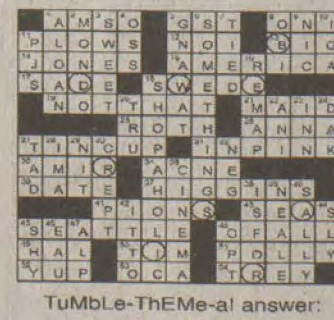
		7	9	5		1			
	4	6				8			3
5			7				6	2	
8	3					4		1	
			2		3		6		9
6			1			7			3
	5			8	9	4			
	8	9		6			7		
2			4			5			8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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TUMBLE-THEME-a! answer:

"BRIDE WARS"

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

3	2	7	9	5	6	1	8	4	
9	4	6	2	1	8	7	5	3	
5	1	8	7	4	3	9	6	2	
8	3	5	6	9	4	2	1	7	
1	7	2	8	3	5	6	4	9	
6	9	4	1	2	7	8	3	5	
7	5	1	3	8	9	4	2	6	
4	8	9	5	6	2	9	7	1	
2	6	3	4	7	1	5	9	8	

FLOYD COUNTY Sports

B1

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Cumberlands sweeps doubleheader versus visiting Pikeville men, women

Hinton scores game-high 21 for Lady Bears in loss

TIMES STAFF REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG – Luke Fitzgerald turned in a double-double of 21 points and 11 rebounds Thursday night as host Cumberlands defeated

Pikeville 74-58 in a Mid-South Conference men's basketball matchup played as part of a doubleheader.

Cumberlands was able to pull away for good late in the game. The Patriots took a 34-26 lead into halftime.

Fitzgerald was one of three Cumberlands players to score 20 or more points. Josh Phillips and Chad Byron had 20 points apiece for victorious Cumberlands.

Reigning Mid-South Conference Player of the

Week Josh Samarco led Pikeville with 14 points. Pikeville struggled offensively at various times during the Mid-South Conference contest, shooting 2-of-8 from behind the three-point line.

J.B. Smiley added 12 points for the Bears. Ewan Linton also reached double figures for Pikeville, chipping in 10 points.

In the women's game of the Mod-South Conference doubleheader, Cumberlands defeated Pikeville 87-60.

Five players reached double figures as the Lady Patriots won. Lauren Martin scored 20 points and Lauren Wombles added 17 for Cumberlands.

The Lady Patriots were able to establish a double-digit lead in the first half. Cumberlands carried a 39-27 lead into halftime.

Natiera Hinton led Pikeville with a game-high 21 points. Lauren Potts pushed in 11 points for the Lady Bears.



ALLEN CENTRAL COACH MARK MARTIN eyed the action Thursday night as his Runnin' Rebels battled district rival Prestonsburg.

UK basketball featured in Ripley's comic

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON – The University of Kentucky's 129-game home winning streak has been featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not comic strip.

The Wildcats' winning streak, which ran from Jan. 4, 1943 to Jan. 8, 1955, still stands as an NCAA record.

On Wednesday, Feb. 4, the cartoon, which was submitted by John Carpenter of Firebrick, ran in newspapers throughout the United States and abroad, as well as the website www.comics.com.

Ripley's Believe It or Not, a gallery of strange and unusual facts and events, has run in newspapers worldwide every day since 1921.

Wilkerson to miss remainder of season: Marshall University Men's Basketball Coach Donnie Jones announced Thursday that junior Tyler Wilkerson suffered a fractured jaw bone in the Thundering Herd's 73-57 loss to Tulsa Wednesday night. Wilkerson is expected to miss the remainder of the season.

Wilkerson, a junior forward from Lexington, leads the Thundering Herd in scoring (10.4 points per game), rebounding (6.2 rebounds per game) and blocks (16) this season.

Lady Eagles picked to finish seventh in preseason poll

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE – In softball, Indiana University Southeast edged out Mountain State University in preseason KMAC (Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) voting. The poll was recently released. IU Southeast secured five first place votes, while Mountain State University and Midway College both secured a first place vote. Midway finished fourth in the voting, just behind Brescia University. Rounding out the pack included Asbury College, Berea College, and Alice Lloyd College.

Head coach David Adams guides the Alice Lloyd College softball program.

Lewis signs with Morehead State

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MANCHESTER – Record-setting Clay County High School quarterback Zach Lewis made his college choice on Thursday, signing with Morehead State University. Lewis picked Morehead State over Kent State, Ohio University, Marshall, Georgetown College, Union College and Lindsey Wilson.

Lewis ranks as one of the state's top all-time high school football players. He set a state record with 13,642 passing yards. Lewis broke the state record Tim Couch held during the 2008 season.



Alex Stumbo (4) and his Prestonsburg teammates got past host Allen Central Thursday night in a 58th District boys' basketball matchup. Prestonsburg won its 12th game under the guidance of head coach Jackson Pack.

Burchett leads P'burg over AC

**by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR**

EASTERN – In a makeup game of a 58th District matchup scheduled for earlier in the season played Thursday night at J.E. Campbell Arena, visiting Prestonsburg defeated Allen Central 72-50. The Blackcats claimed their 12th win of the season after prevailing in the makeup contest.

Junior guard Michael Burchett led Prestonsburg past Allen Central. Burchett paced Prestonsburg with a game-high 21 points. Senior guard Jody Tackett joined Burchett in double figures for Prestonsburg, adding 18 points in the district victory.

Prestonsburg doubled up Allen Central in each of the first two quarters, leading throughout the game on its way to the convincing district win.

The Blackcats scored early and often, doubling up long-time rival Allen Central 20-10 in the opening quarter. Prestonsburg turned in a similar effort in the second quarter, outscoring Allen Central 18-9 en route to a 38-19 halftime advantage.

Alex Stumbo aided the Prestonsburg offensive effort, scoring nine points. Seth Setser added eight points for the Blackcats. Cameron Tincer was another key contributor for the Blackcats, scoring seven points.

Prestonsburg, which improved to 12-8 after claiming the win, prevailed for the third time in as many outings.

The Blackcats continued to control the game in the second half, outscoring Allen Central 18-12 in the third quarter.

Justin Jackson led Allen Central with a team-high 20 points. Jackson was the only Allen Central scorer to reach double figures. Blake Salisbury narrowly missed netting double figures for Allen Central. Salisbury scored nine points while Seth Jarrell added six for the Rebels. Chris Stumbo scored five points for visiting Allen Central.

Allen Central dropped to 1-12 following the loss.

**Prestonsburg 72,
Allen Central 50**

Prestonsburg (12-8) – Stumbo 9, Patrick 2, Burchett 21, Tackett 18, Setser 8, Hall 2, Tincer 7, Gearheart 5.

Allen Central (1-12) – Jarrell 6, Jackson 20, Salisbury 9, Stumbo 5, Woods 2, Harlow 2, Cole 2, Tackett 4.

P'burg.....20 18 18 16-72
AC.....10 9 12 19-50



Above: Prestonsburg junior guard Michael Burchett (3) blocked out and gained position for a possible rebound. Below: Prestonsburg junior Cameron Tincer lofted a shot.



Patriots outlast Letcher Central

**by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR**

HINDMAN – Knott County Central won its third straight game Thursday night, defeating 14th Region rival Letcher County Central 63-60 in a heated home matchup. The non-district game yielded numerous highlights for both 14th Region boys' high school basketball teams.

Tate Cox scorched the nets for a game-high 29

points as Knott County Central remained in the win column and improved to 17-6. Stuart Stamper scored 14 points as two different players accounted for well over half of the Knott County Central scoring.

The Patriots remained out in front of Letcher County Central at the end of each quarter. Knott County Central owned a slim 12-11 lead at the conclusion of the opening period. The Patriots pushed

into halftime out in front 24-21.

Knott County Central outscored Letcher County Central in each of the first three quarters. The Patriots led 41-36 when the third quarter closed.

Logan Bartrum added eight points for Knott County Central. Braxton Ratliff and Richard Caudill netted four points apiece for the Patriots.

Letcher County Central played its best in the final quarter, outscoring the

Patriots 24-22 before ultimately falling short.

Recent Eastern Kentucky University football signee Charlie Banks led Letcher County Central with a team-high 21 points. Devin Blair scored 14 points and Josh Proffitt provided 11 for the Cougars.

Letcher County Central, under the guidance of former Pikeville College assistant coach Raymond Justice, slipped to 16-5 following the loss.

Tigers shake Sheldon Clark

**by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR**

PAINTSVILLE – Host Paintsville won its second straight game Friday night, defeating 57th District rival Sheldon Clark 61-56. The Tigers used a terrific fourth quarter performance. Paintsville outscored Sheldon Clark 28-19 in the final period, pushing past the Cards 61-55.

Eighth-grader Trevor Tiller, a Martin County native, tossed in a game-high 21 points for the Tigers. Paintsville improved to 5-13 after capturing the district win.

Balanced scoring proved to be key offensively for the Tigers. Sophomore forward Josh Green scored 14 points and sophomore guard Dustin Caldwell added 12 for the Tigers.

Neither team could pull away until Paintsville did so late in the fourth quarter.

Paintsville, under the tutelage of first-year head coach Matt Ratliff, eased out of the first quarter ahead 8-7. Sheldon Clark owned a slight 21-20 lead at the intermission.

The Cardinals added some padding to their cushion in the third quarter, outscoring Paintsville 15-13 to lead 36-33 when play started in the final period.

B.J. Moore paced Sheldon Clark with a team-high 18 points. Justin Porter chipped in 16 points and Tyler Lafferty added 10 for the Roger Harless-coached Cards.

Sheldon Clark slipped to 7-11 after suffering the setback.

Floyd spring soccer signups scheduled

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PRESTONSBURG – Floyd County Youth Soccer Association recently announced that registration for the 2009 spring season will be held on Saturday, Feb. 14 and Saturday, Feb. 21 at McDonald's located in the Prestonsburg Village Shopping Center. Volunteers will be present at McDonald's to accept registrations between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The registration fee remains \$40 per child.

Parents may also register their children by accessing the league website at www.ekysoccer.org. The registration form posted online should be printed, completed by the parent, and mailed to Robin Simpson Smith, Registrar, P.O. Box 176, Prestonsburg, Ky., 41653. Check or money order in the amount of \$40 for registration fees should be included with the registration form. Floyd County Youth Soccer is not responsible for mail delivery, and registrations are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

All children at least four years of age, but no less than 19 years of age on August 1, 2008 are eligible to participate in the youth soccer league. Players in the Under6 and Under8 divisions play against other Floyd County teams only. Teams in the Under10 division and older also play teams from surrounding counties. For more information, call Robin Smith at 886-9562.

Eagles fall to Jacksonville State

TIMES STAFF REPORT

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. — Jacksonville State scored the last nine points of the game in a 57-52 upset win over Morehead State in an Ohio Valley Conference game Thursday evening in Jacksonville.

UT Martin's win over Austin Peay left the Eagles in first place in the current league standings. MSU, at 9-3, is now a half game ahead of UTM.

JSU (10-11, 4-8 OVC) was led by DeAndre Bray who scored a career-high 18 points. Jonathan Toles and Jeremy Bynum scored 13 points each.

Morehead State (13-11, 9-3 OVC) got 17 points from Leon Buchanan. Kenneth Faried had his 14th double-double of the season, scoring 14 points and grabbing 20 rebounds. Faried also had three blocked shots and four steals.

"Both teams played extremely hard," said MSU Coach Donnie Tyndall. "We both got after it on the defensive end. We didn't shoot the ball very well, but it's hard to get in rhythm when you have so many players in foul trouble. It was a tough loss."

Neither team shot well. JSU hit 16-of-49 (32.7 percent), MSU hit 18-of-57 (31.6 percent). The Gamecocks hit eight-of-19 three-pointers, the Eagles only one-of-eight.

Morehead State won the rebounding battle, 44-39, and had 16 turnovers to 15 for JSU.

MSU women rally from 20 down, defeat JSU in overtime

TIMES STAFF REPORT

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. — The Morehead State University women's basketball team rallied from as many as 20 points behind Thursday night at Jacksonville State to defeat the host Gamecocks 87-77 in overtime. The Eagles trailed by 12 at the half and by 20 with 10:58 to go in regulation, but MSU outscored the Gamecocks 46-34 in the second half and won the overtime scoring battle 15-5 to improve to 14-10 and 8-4 in the OVC. JSU fell to 4-18 and 1-11 in the league.

At the 10:42 mark of the second half, MSU's Chynna Bozeman hit a three-pointer to cut JSU's lead to 17, and Tiffany Hamilton hit a troy 30 seconds later to bring MSU to within 14 (53-39). The Eagles trailed by 19 (60-41) but went on a 11-0 run to start their comeback. Tiffanic Stephens, who scored all 15 of her points in the second half and overtime, hit two free throws at the 4:43 mark to make it a 60-52 game.

The Eagles were still behind by double digits (67-56) with 2:56 left, but MSU went on a 14-2 run, and Brittany Pittman's layup with 43 ticks left gave MSU its first lead since the first half (70-69). Pittman put another one in with 28 seconds left for a three-point (72-69) MSU lead. JSU's Eren McMichael, however, drilled a long three-pointer with 22 seconds that ultimately sent the game into overtime.

In the overtime period, Stephens scored six of her 15 points, and it was her pair of free throws with 3:44 left that gave her team a 76-74 lead it never relinquished. The Eagles went on to lead by as much as 10 in the period and held JSU to an 0-for-6 field goal effort.

Bozeman led the Eagles with 26 points and also had six rebounds. She also set a school record by going a perfect 14-of-14 at the free throw line. Courtney Lumpkin had 14, Hamilton netted 13, and Pittman scored 10 for the Eagles. Ashley Martin had a team high 10 rebounds and scored seven points.

The Gamecocks got a team-high 19 points from Jolie Etezokbae and 14 from Brittany Wiley. The Eagles outrebounded JSU 40-38.

After hitting just 28 percent of its shots in the first half, MSU shot 47 percent in the final half and 67 percent in overtime. MSU was also a season best 32-of-37 at the free throw line.

Reds sign Jones, Ward

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati Reds President of Baseball Operations and General Manager Walt Jocketty today announced the signing of free agents OF Jacque Jones and 1B/OF Daryle Ward to minor league contracts with invitations to Major League spring training camp.

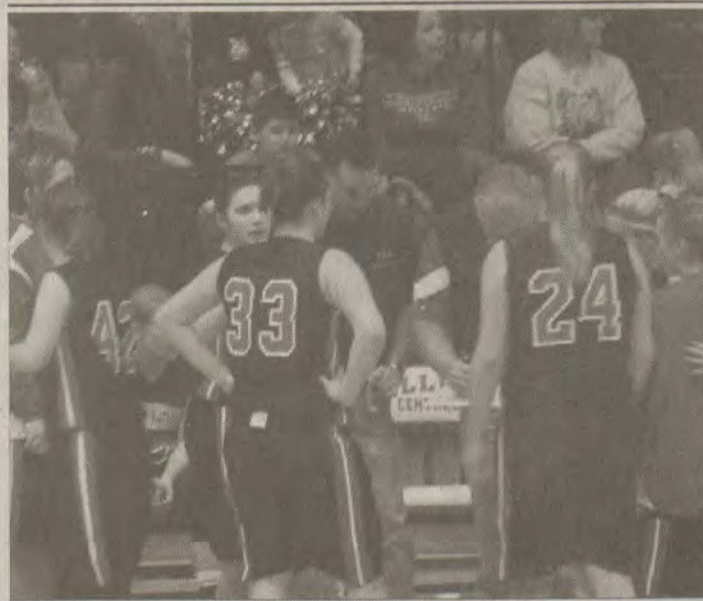
Jones, 33, last season appeared in 42 games with Detroit and Florida.

In his career, Jones has played in 21 playoff games, including both Division Series (2002-04,

2007) and the 2002 American League Championship Series. He has a 20 career leadoff homers and a .287 lifetime average with runners in scoring position.

Ward, 33, made 89 appearances last season for the Cubs.

His 11 pinch-hit homers ties him with Tony Clark for fourth-most among active Major Leaguers. Ward has made 11 career post-season appearances, all in the National League Division Series (1999, 2001, 2007, 2008). He is the son of 2-time AL All-Star Gary Ward.



photos by Jamie Howell
SECOND HALF OF REGULAR-SEASON: The Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats will look to continue to improve throughout the second half of the regular-season.



Colonels complete sweep over TTU

EKU wins third straight

TIMES STAFF REPORT

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. — Four Eastern Kentucky University men's basketball players finished in double figures as the Colonels held off host Tennessee Tech Thursday night in the Eblen Center, 80-73. EKU (14-9, 7-5 OVC) has now won three straight games and completed the season sweep over the Golden Eagles (11-11, 5-7).

TIMES STAFF REPORT

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. — Eastern Kentucky took a 13-point lead midway through the first half, but Tennessee Tech controlled the remainder of the game and won 82-64 on Saturday. The Golden Eagles (5-18, 3-9 OVC) used a 16-2 run early in the second half to take the lead for good. Freshman Kayla Drake led the Lady Colonels (6-15, 3-9 OVC) with 23 points.

Blair Bowens scored a game-best 27 points for TTU. Meagan Lyons added 15 points. Nadia Mossong contributed 18 points and nine rebounds for Eastern.

EKU outrebounded Tech by 10, but committed 22 turnovers while forcing only

Senior Mike Rose paced Eastern with 27 points, marking the fourth straight game he has reached the 20-point plateau. The guard climbed up to fourth on the EKU all-time scoring list with 1,619 points, passing Arlando Johnson (1991-95). Rose netted 6-of-8 (75 percent) three-point attempts and moved up to eighth spot on the OVC top-10 career three-pointers list with 248 trifectas.

Freshman Jorge Camacho came off the bench to equal a personal high with 15 points and led the Colonels with seven boards. Meanwhile, junior Josh Taylor and freshman Joshua Jones each tallied 12 points.

Tennessee Tech's Kevin Murphy finished with a team-high 21 points thanks to draining 6-of-9 (66.7 percent) three-pointers.

The Golden Eagles quickly jumped out to an early 14-8 lead, but the Colonels responded with a 21-5 run and would never trail the rest of the game. Rose hit three long-range shots during the run, including the capper to give Eastern Kentucky a 29-19 advantage.

EKU made nine three-pointers in the opening half and took a 43-32 lead into intermission.

Tennessee Tech cut the deficit to six points early in

the second stanza before back-to-back three-pointers from Rose and Taylor pushed the lead back up to double figures. A Jones lay-up with 12:14 remaining then gave Eastern Kentucky its largest lead of the game, 55-40.

Eastern missed 11 free throws in the second half, allowing Tennessee Tech to creep back to within three points in the final minute, but four straight free throws from Camacho and Rose sealed the victory.

The Colonels made 12-of-24 (50 percent) three-pointers on the evening, equaling their best three-point shooting effort of the season.

Tennessee Tech turns back EKU women

TIMES STAFF REPORT

14. The Golden Eagles scored 28 points at the free throw line on 31 attempts. Eastern went 12-for-18 from the line.

The two teams began the game hot from three-point range, combining for eight three-pointers in the first 5:23 of the game. The first three field goals were from three-point land. Drake and Mossong connected on a pair of treys for a 6-0 Lady Colonel lead. Tacarra Hayes cut the deficit in half for the Golden Eagles with a triple at the 17:42 mark of the first half.

After a bucket by Tech, Drake knocked down two more three's and Mossong added another to give EKU five straight three-pointers to start the game. A pair of free throws by Drake with 14:02

remaining in the opening half snapped the Lady Colonel three-point scoring streak and put the visitors in front 17-8.

Three of Tennessee Tech's first four baskets were from three-point range. Following Hayes' second trey, Eastern Kentucky rolled off seven unanswered to go on top by 13, 24-11.

The Lady Colonels suffered through a scoring drought that lasted more than four minutes, allowing six straight points by Vivian Nwosu to cut the lead to seven, 24-17, with 7:43 to play before intermission. Including Nwosu's six points, TTU ended the half on a 21-7 run.

Five straight points by Bowens, including a three-pointer with 1:16 left in the

first half, completed the Golden Eagle comeback, giving the home team its first lead, 30-29. Tech maintained a one-point margin at the break.

Eastern opened the second half with a three-pointer by Mossong to take a two-point lead, 34-32, but Tennessee Tech went on a 16-2 run to build a 12-point lead, 50-38, with 14:39 left in the game.

The Lady Colonels scored six straight points midway through the second half to close the gap to six, 53-47. However, TTU answered with another run, this time scoring eight unanswered, to go in front by 14, 61-47, with 7:44 remaining. EKU never got closer than 10 points the rest of the game.

Franklin named Middle Tennessee offensive coordinator

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Middle Tennessee State University Head Coach Rick Stockstill announced the hiring of Tony Franklin as the Blue Raiders' new offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach on Thursday. Franklin takes over for G.A. Mangus who served in the same capacity the past three years.

"We are excited to have Tony joining our staff," said Stockstill. "I know he can help us expand our offensive philosophy while bringing a lot of energy and enthusiasm to that side of the ball."

"He will also be a very valuable asset in recruiting because of his many contacts throughout the country."

Franklin comes to Middle Tennessee after a brief stint as the offensive coordinator at Auburn in 2008 and the previous two seasons in the same capacity at Troy. Franklin uses a wide open offensive attack that spreads the ball to players in an unusually fast paced, no huddle scheme.

In two seasons at Troy, the Trojans went 16-9 overall and 12-2 in the Sun Belt Conference while collecting two conference championships. During that span his offense scored 30 or more points 11 times, including games against Florida, Georgia, and Oklahoma State.

"I am glad to be coming to Middle Tennessee and working with Coach Stockstill, his staff,

and meeting the players," said Franklin. "I am very familiar with Middle Tennessee because of our conference affiliation when I was at Troy and I can't wait to get started. The one thing I am excited about is getting to know all the people and becoming part of the Blue Raider family."

In his first season at Troy, in addition to helping the Trojans to their first Sun Belt Conference title and a victory in the New Orleans Bowl, Franklin also helped engineer the second ranked offensive unit in the Sun Belt just one year after the team ranked last in the league in total offense. The Trojans ranked first in the league in passing offense, again one year after ranking last, despite having faced three of the top 20 ranked passing defense teams in the country during the season, and improved in conference scoring from 12 points to 25 points per game.

Franklin also recruited 2006 Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year Omar Haugabook who swept the top conference honors at seasons end. Haugabook also led the league in passing yards per game, completions and passing efficiency.

In 2007, the Trojans ranked 16th nationally in total offense and 25th in scoring offense.

Franklin joined the University of Kentucky football staff in 1997 following 16 years as a high school football coach. During his four year

tenure at UK, the Wildcats enjoyed unprecedented success on the offensive side of the ball, including setting several NCAA, SEC and school records.

After coaching running backs for three seasons, Franklin was named offensive coordinator for the 2000 season and led the Wildcats to the nation's second best passing offense, as well as the nation's 11th best team in total offense.

Franklin's two back combinations at Kentucky out gained any two back combinations in the SEC in total yards from scrimmage for three straight seasons. Quarterbacks Tim Couch, Dusty Bonner, and Jared Lorenzen each led the SEC in passing during their tenure as UK's quarterback and Couch was the first player selected in the 1999 NFL draft. Several other UK players reached their goals in making NFL teams after their experience in the high powered offense.

Franklin was also named one of the top 10 recruiters in the South during his four years at Kentucky as he helped lead the Wildcats to their first back-to-back bowl appearances in 15 years and their first New Year's Bowl game appearance in 50 seasons.

In 2001, Franklin authored a nationally acclaimed book, Fourth Down and Life To Go, which chronicled the good, bad and ugly experiences of his college football journey.

In 2003, Franklin was cho-

sen to lead the expansion franchise Lexington Horsemen football team in their inaugural season in the NFL. The Horsemen exceeded expectations for an expansion franchise and earned a birth in the playoffs with a 9-5 record, while setting records for attendance and leading the Atlantic Division in scoring at more than 50 points per game.

USA Today took notice of Franklin's football coaching and teaching abilities in a feature story in 2005 which detailed his consulting successes as a nationally sought after offensive football coach.

Franklin also received rave reviews for his second book, Victor's Victory, which chronicled the tragic death and spectacular life of 15 year old Hoover High football player, Victor Dionte Hill. Hill died from sudden cardiac arrest on the football practice field during one of Franklin's consulting sessions. The book has helped to continue the mission of Cheryl Hill, Victor's mother, to make teachers, coaches, and parents aware of the need for automatic external defibrillators (AED's) in every school and youth organization in Alabama.

Franklin earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education from Murray State University where he was a two year starter as a running back. He is married to Laura Franklin and they have three daughters: Chelsea (24), Caroline (21), and Caitlin (19).

Morehead State places 47 players on PFL Academic Honor Roll

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — A league record 398 student-athletes from nine member institutions were named to the Pioneer Football League Academic Honor Roll for the Fall 2008 semester.

Six member schools boasted 40 or more student-athletes on the honor roll this season. Dayton led the way with 69 football student-athletes on the honor roll. Butler (56), Davidson (50), Drake (47), Morehead State (47) and Valparaiso (46) each also had 40-plus student-athletes on the honor roll during the fall semester. Pioneer Football League athletic directors and coaches established the honor roll as a way to recognize the league's outstanding student-athletes. The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in foot-

ball at member institutions during the fall semester and posted a 3.0 grade-point average or higher while enrolled full-time in accordance with NCAA rules.

Morehead State's 47 honor roll student-athletes beat last season's total of 46. MSU honorees include: Greg A. Taphouse (Fr.), Exercise Science/Kinesiology; Nicholas W. Feldman (Sr.), HPS/Sport MA; Philip E. Dettwiler (Sr.), LBD Mat/Education; Ryan J. Williams-Dancy (So.), ET; Timothy E. Baker (Fr.), Biology; Brennan Sargent (So.), Pre-Radiology; Jon Yates (Fr.), Management; James Tanner (Fr.), Social Studies; Patrick C. Wall (So.), Health/PE; Michael J. Kearns (So.), Health/PE; William Alliston (Fr.), Undecided; Brandon T. James (Jr.), Biology; Joshua M. Lay (Fr.),

Pre-Radiology; Lance R. Murphy (Fr.), Biology; Ronald McDermott (Fr.), Accounting; Bradley C. Lewis (Fr.), LBD 5-9/Education; Collin B. Jones (Fr.), Sport Management; Derrick A. Burks (Sr.), Sport Management; Kyle Douglass (Fr.), Communication/Advertising/P R; Christopher L. Collins (Jr.), Pre-Engineering; Joseph Clegg (Fr.), Health/PE; Charles Dillion (Fr.), Math; Brendan K. McLaughlin (So.), Exercise Science/Kinesiology; Spencer G. Vanover (Fr.), Sport Management; Eugene Walter (Fr.), English; Aaron Wies (Jr.), Secondary Education; Davud Witkiewicz (Fr.), Pharmacy; Brandon Wubs (Sr.), Management; Will Yocius (Sr.), Actuarial Science & Finance; Pawel Zurkowski (Fr.), Marketing;

Francis (Fr.), Management; Mark R. Meenach (Sr.), 5-9/Education; Christopher Setters (Sr.), Exercise Science/Kinesiology; Jason A. Menendez (Fr.), Sport Management; Joshua M. Harris (Sr.), Management; Brian Sauerbeck (Fr.), English; Maxwell L. Hammond (Sr.), Geology; Andrew T. Doan (Jr.), Psychology; Steven C. Walls (Fr.), Exercise Science/Corp; Bradley J. Seger (Fr.), Exercise Science/Kinesiology; Spencer G. Vanover (Fr.), Sport Management; Eugene Walter (Fr.), English; Aaron Wies (Jr.), Secondary Education; Davud Witkiewicz (Fr.), Pharmacy; Brandon Wubs (Sr.), Management; Will Yocius (Sr.), Actuarial Science & Finance; Pawel Zurkowski (Fr.), Marketing;

Hunting, fishing license dollars put to work

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

FRANKFORT — Kentucky's current hunting and fishing licenses expire February 28. If you plan to fish the spring runs for white bass or turkey hunt this spring season, you'll need to purchase a new license and permits.

The current tough economic times have folks thinking about saving money. For outdoors enthusiasts who love to fish and hunt, purchasing a Resident Sportsman's License saves \$50 over buying all of the licenses and permits it covers separately.

This license includes the combination hunting and fishing license, spring and fall turkey permits, statewide deer permit, state waterfowl permit and trout permit. Waterfowl hunters still need to purchase their federal duck stamp, however. The Resident Sportsman's License does not cover user permits for Peabody Wildlife Management Area or the Land Between the Lakes, or any application fee or permit for elk hunting.

The resident combination hunting and fishing license is also a good deal. Both of these licenses cost \$40 if bought

separately. The resident combination license is only \$30.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources depends on license sales to fund its operations. The department does not receive any General Fund state tax dollars.

These funds manage roughly 1 million acres of public land and waters for the benefit of all Kentuckians and the fish and wildlife that live on these lands or swim in those waters. It provides needed money to acquire more public lands for hunting, bird watching, fishing or hiking.

Your license dollars provide

technical assistance to approximately 2,000

Kentucky landowners each year for wildlife habitat improvement projects and advice.

The fisheries division of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife stocks more than 4 million fish annually in our state's waters with these funds. When you buy a license, you are funding the management of our state's fish populations that provide good fishing for all to enjoy. You also pay to restore species such as lake sturgeon to the upper regions of Lake Cumberland.

You provide concrete,

bulldozers, gravel and manpower to build new boat ramps, bank fishing areas, fishing piers and canoe access sites. License dollars help repair boat ramps impacted by flooding or renovate aging ones.

When you put down your hard-earned money for a new license, you fund education and outreach programs that reach 400,000 children and adults each year to help ensure our hunting and fishing heritage continues.

There is a lot more than meets the eye when you plunk down the money for your Resident Sportsman's

License, combination hunting and fishing license, annual hunting and fishing license, trout permit or spring turkey permit. You fund a broad spectrum of activities that improve the quality of life for all Kentuckians.

To purchase your license and permits on-line, go to fw.ky.gov. You may also purchase them over the phone by calling toll-free 1-877-598-2401. Licenses are also available at many tackle shops, sporting good stores, gun stores and in the sporting goods section of department stores.

Legendary racers to compete in Saturday Night Special

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Race fans who thought they had seen the last race of Darrell Waltrip, Harry Gant or David Pearson, even the legendary Junior Johnson, are in for a big surprise.

Those champion drivers and more are scheduled to be a part of the first Saturday Night Special at Bristol Motor Speedway Saturday, March 21.

Paired with celebrity partners, these legendary racers will run 35 circuits of a 50-lap event to benefit charity and send race fans on a trip down memory lane.

"We made a decision over the winter to take what we believe is the best fan experience in racing and make it even

better," said Jeff Byrd, president and general manager of Bristol Motor Speedway. "When we started talking about this, we wanted to take the Food City 500 weekend to another level. We believe having these celebrated drivers back on a track where they all have won in a stock car does that. These guys helped make Bristol.

"Now, on top of the Scotts Turf Builder 300 Nationwide race and a 100-lap late model race we have added to the day, fans will get this to top off their evening for absolutely no added cost. Added value, but no added cost."

Assigned teammates will start the race and run 15 laps. At the end of that segment, some of Bristol's best will start

the second portion of the race in the order of finish of the first.

Drivers will be competing in late model stock cars and \$25,000 will be donated to the charity of choice of the winning team. The second-place

team will have \$10,000 given to the charity of its choice and \$5,000 will go to the designated charity of the other entrants.

But ... that big Bristol trophy they get to keep for themselves. "It's been a while," said

Johnson, who has one win as a driver, but 20 at BMS as a car owner. "But I think I can still turn some laps around this place. Darrell better buckle up."

Terry Labonte, Sterling

Marlin, Jimmy Spencer and Phil Parsons also are expected to compete.

Dale Jarrett, Richard Petty, Rusty Wallace and Cale Yarborough were extended invitations.

Crawford named NBDL Player of the Week

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

LEXINGTON — Former Kentucky men's basketball player Joe Crawford of the Los Angeles D-Fenders has been named NBA D-League Performer of the Week for games played during the week of Jan. 27, 2009. Crawford is the first Los Angeles player to earn the honor this season.

The former Wildcat averaged 26.3 points and 4.3 rebounds in three games for the D-Fenders. He led Los Angeles to a 2-1 record, including two wins over the first-place Idaho Stampede.

Crawford was a 2008 second-team All-SEC selection leading the team and ranking fourth in the conference in scoring, averaging 17.9 ppg. He also hit a team high 63 three-pointers. He finished his career ranked 19th on Kentucky's all-time scoring list with 1,438 points.

The 6-5 rookie guard was the 58th overall pick by the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2008 NBA Draft. He ranks fourth in the NBA D-League with 21.3 points per game. Other top performers last week included Pops Mensah-Bonsu, who averaged 24.0 points and 10.0 rebounds in his first two games for Austin; Josh Davis, who averaged 27.0 points and 12.5 rebounds in two games for the 14ers; former Wildcat Erik Daniels, who averaged 25.0 points and 11.5 rebounds in four games for the BayHawks; Othys Jeffers, who led Iowa to a 2-1 record, averaging 24.0 points and 9.3 rebounds; Dontell Jefferson, who averaged 25.3 points and 6.6 assists in three games for Utah.

The NBA Development League, founded in 2001, is the NBA's official minor league and features 16 teams with direct affiliations to NBA teams. The league has produced 15 percent of the players on 2007-08 end-of-season NBA rosters and continues to develop current NBA coaches and referees. In fostering the league's connection to the community, its teams, players and staff promote youth basketball, support local needs and interests, and assist in educational development through NBA D-League Cares programs. The NBA D-League also advances the game of basketball as the research and development arm of the NBA. Throughout this season fans can watch all NBA D-League games on NBA Futurecast, the free live Web-streaming initiative found at nba.com/futurecast.

Cheer Stars win at Winterfest

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PRESTONSBURG — The Cheer Stars All-Star Cheerleaders placed first in the Pee-Wee Simple Cheer Division of Winterfest held at the Mountain Arts Center in January. The Stars are an all-star squad made up of 4-6 year-old girls from three dif-

ferent counties and three different elementary schools.

Five-year-old squad member Meghan Ratliff also competed as an individual during Winterfest, placing third in K-3 Best All Around Cheerleader and sixth in K-3 Best All Around Dancer. Amanda Ratliff coaches the Cheer Stars.

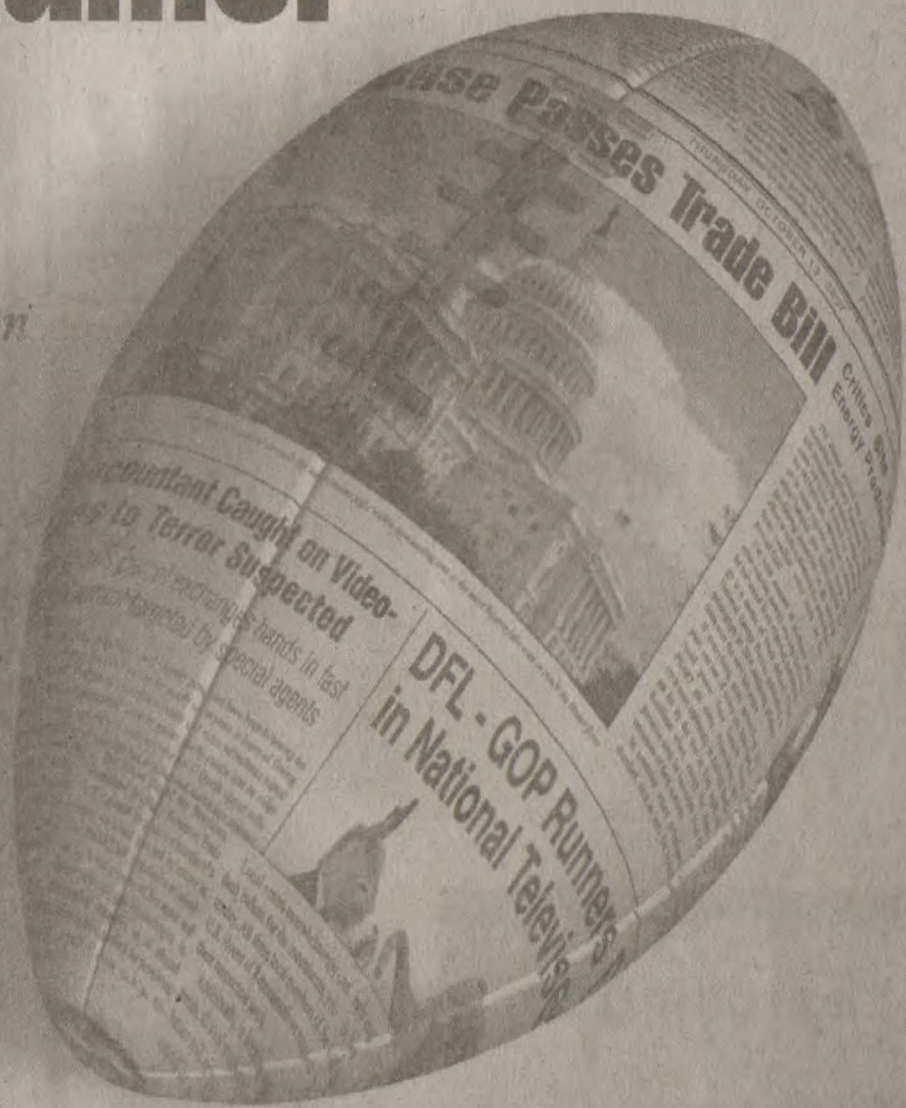


The Cheer Stars all-star squad is pictured. Bottom row, left to right: Emily Cole, Jadrien Morrow and Lindsay Butcher. Top row, left to right: Rebecca Blair, Hannah Ratliff, Meghan Ratliff and Eve Lewandoski.

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AUTOMOTIVE

2003 Toyota Camry for sale. White, 4 door, good condition runs great. Approximately 100,000 miles. \$5,750 OBO. Call 889-0334.

1996 Dodge Neon for sale. 4- door, interior in good shape. Does need some transmission work. Reverse is out. \$500. Call 358-0286 or 226-5316.

Employment

Experienced ONLY Tower Climber needed for local work. Job also includes two way radios and car kit installs. Must have valid driver's license and pass drug screening. Must have references! Excellent benefits Package available. Please send resume to PO Box 873, Prestonsburg, Ky 41653. Call 886-3181.

Kentucky Oil at Betsy Layne is hiring for the following: Night shift mechanic, "CDL" Preferred, pay negotiable. We offer 401K along with vacation if interested call 606-478-9501 Mon-Fri

8:00am to 5:00pm or go online www.teamkore.com to fill out online application.

German Bridge Camp Grounds needs someone to oversee maintenance and operations of camp grounds. Send resume and references to PO Box 522 Prestonsburg, Ky 41653. Call for more information 606-886-3314 or 606-226-2468.

Appalachian Transportation in Martin Ky is hiring full and part time drivers positions. Driving history, back ground check and drug test required. Call 285-3140 or toll free 1-866-366-3140.

Dietary Aides: Mtn Manor of Paintsville has Dietary Aide positions available. Comparable wages and benefits. Apply in person at 1025 Euclid Avenue, Paintsville, Ky from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday -

Friday.
Sandy Valley Cleaners LLC. Is looking for part time workers. Cleaning offices in Prestonsburg area. Experience preferred but not required. Will train. Good source of extra income. Call Raffy at 606-226-9543 or 606-886-6465 leave message.

We currently have an opening for a full time RN and PRN RN at Prestonsburg health care center. For more information please call 606-886-2378.

Drivers needed. Potential income of up to \$300- \$500 Apply in person at Papa Johns of Prestonsburg. Call 606-886-2800.

Community Connections is hiring for a case manager, SCL experience preferred, also seeking a LPN or RN. Salaries are to be negotiated. A criminal back-

ground check is required for positions. Apply in person at Community Connections 4663 US 23 South Lvel, Ky 41602. Phone Number 606-874-1900.

Experienced parts specialist needed. Apply in person only Napa at 810 South Lake Drive in Prestonsburg. Full benefits package. Pay commensurates with experience. Ask for Phillip.

Mystery shoppers! Earn up to \$150 per day. Undercover shoppers needed to judge retail & dining establishments. Experience not required. Call 877-341-3504.

Prestonsburg Health Care Center has openings for full time C.N.A.'s. 6a / 6pm. We offer competitive wages and benefits. If interesed call Lynn Fletcher 886-2378.

We currently have

an opening for a full time RN 6:00pm to 6:00am at Prestonsburg health care center and a registered nurse PRN position. We offer competitive pay and benefits. For more information please call 606-886-2378.

Post Office Now Hiring Nationally!! Avg. pay \$20/hr. \$57K/yr, incl Fed ben, OT optional fee-based test prep materials, not affiliated with the US Postal service. 866-668-5257.

Miller Bros. Coal, LLC is seeking qualified applicants

for the position of Surface Mine Planning Engineer. Mining Engineering degree and experience required. Competitive salary and benefits package. Interested applicants should send their resume in confidence to 1801 Watergap Rd Prestonsburg ky 41653. Phone inquiries not accepted.

Services

If you need wills, deeds, power of attorney or other legal documents drawn up or need

a notary. Call 791-1202

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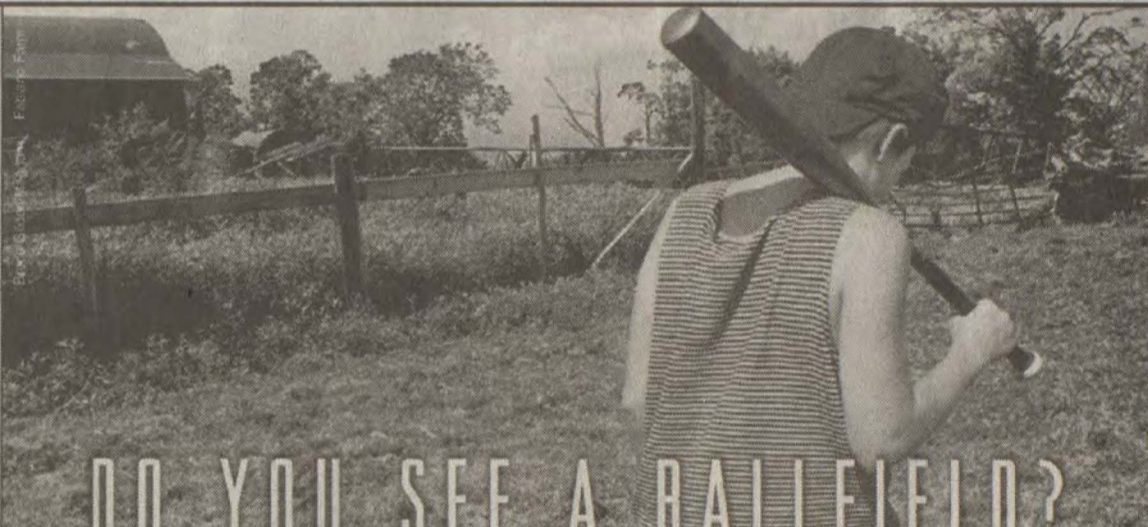
free to call Tonya at 606-230-0235 or email me at tonya1@hotmail.com.

Misc.

AUCTION Sale by D&G. Sat Feb 21, 10am. Court order liquidation sale! From Prestonsburg, take Rt 114 West, go 5 miles to Mill Branch Rd. Signs will be posted. Sell snap on tools, harley davidson 95th anniversary box, 730 imgersoll rand air compressor, welders and much more tools hand

and power. Equipment - Bobcat 443A, John Deer 2030 A, Massy Ferguson sickle bar mover, McCormick hay baler, gravely tractors and attachments, 14 ft Pace American trailer, EZ dump Cart and much more! To much to list. For pictures and more info to to auctionzip.com. Call 606-483-2232 or 606-673-1164. David Branham, Auctioneer. #P 2769.

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The United State of America, acting by and through the Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), pursuant to Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, 30 U.S.C. 1231, et seq. proposes to undertake the necessary work to protect the public health, and safety from the adverse effects of abandoned coal mining activities in the vicinity of McDowell, Floyd County, Kentucky. The purported owners of that certain property, where entry must be made, cannot be located and Section 410, U.S.C. 1240, provides for the entry by the United States of America, its agents, employees and contractors, notice is hereby given to those persons having a surface or mineral interest in the following described property:

The subject property is purported to be located on Tax Map 68, within the area described as Parcel 59, as displayed in the Floyd County public records.

Such entry will begin immediately. The OSM's written findings and supporting reasons regarding its determination to enter the above-described property may be inspected or obtained by contacting the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Appalachian Region, Three Parkway Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220, Attention: Vaughn P. Girol, Telephone: (412) 937-2819.



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have a valid drivers license, clean MVR, good references and be caring. Room and board provided plus weekly wages. Previous nanny experience preferred. Please call 606-479-6355.

For sale: Eight pair of American Eagle jeans & 3 pair of Levis Jeans. All jeans worn approximately 2-3 times only. They were purchased a few months ago. Size 34 x 30. \$10 each or all of them for \$100. If interested call 226-5345. Leave message if no answer

more information. Call 606-434-1281 or 606-454-3646.

3 br, 1 1/2 bath house for sale at Langley, Ky. 1 Mile off of Ky Rt 80. Inground pool with pool house, new hot springs hot tub and 1 car garage with carport. Asking \$135,000. Call 285-1000 for appointment. Serious inquires only.

Brick house for sale. 3 br, 2 baths with barn and 20 ares. \$160,000. Call 606-946-2785 after 5 pm.

Sale or lease

Notice of property for sale. Eight acres more or less property for sale at the mouth of Bull Creek and Meadows Branch. Located near the Prestonsburg job core, near city water

and sewage. Approximately 1/2 acreage is level and out of the flood plane. Suitable for residential or commercial use. If interested contact 606-874-2330. Serious inquires only.

4 Br, 3 ba home for sale. Newly renovated, located within walking distance of new Prestonsburg elementary school. \$165,000. Call 886-3437 for appointment.

Office space for rent. 3,000 sq ft, 2 bath. 10 individual rooms suitable for professional office. Call 794-6204 for more information. Located on 1320 North Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Ky. Downtown from Jerrys

RENTALS

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Attention transit workers! We have a 1 br apartment perfect for you. Small 1 br, 1 ba. Washer / dryer really nice \$465 plus utilities. No pets. Call 606-226-1925 or 606-285-9639.

1 br upstairs apartment for rent. Living, kitchen and bath near college. Utilities furnished. \$405 month plus \$200 deposit. Call 606-889-0208. Please leave message.

Newly remodeled 2 br town house for rent. Located in Prestonsburg. Washer and dryer hook-up. \$550 month plus utilities. References and deposit required. Call 263-4370.

APT FOR RENT Branham height Apt Wheelright KY, is now accepting applications for one bedroom Handicap accessible Apt. rent is based on income. Contact Ashely. 452-4777

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Reader wonders how to get into stunt driving

by TOM and RAY
MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

I want to know how to get a job, a very specific job. It seems like every car commercial on the networks now shows the vehicle soaring through sand dunes or simply down a quiet road, yet they always show a disclaimer: "Professional Driver on Closed Course." Those guys and gals are never on camera, except for their helmets, but they get all the giggles of getting paid to have a LOT of fun driving! Because we see so many of these commercials, it would seem that there is a huge demand for these "professional drivers," yet I have never seen a want ad anywhere for one. There are ads for big-rig drivers, but not for these commercials. It looks like fun, and there ought to be good money to be earned. How do I find a job like that? I know you guys know the market and must surely understand its ins and outs — right? I know how to drive, and I know how to wear a safety helmet — surely I qualify! Thank you for publicizing my job search — I'll be waiting by the phone for the job offers to come flooding in!
— Di

RAY: So you want to get paid to be a driver, Di? Have you considered Domino's Pizza?

TOM: Actually, those "professional drivers on closed courses" are all stunt performers, and members of the Screen Actors Guild, which is the actors' union. So, the first thing you have to do is join SAG. And even THAT'S not easy.

RAY: You have to have a certain number of film or commercial appearances before they'll even let you in.

TOM: Then you need to learn the art of stunt driving. The best known training ground is Bobby Ore's Motion Picture Stunt Driving School in Los Angeles and Florida. You can reach them at 818-880-5678, or on the Web at www.bobbyoresports.com.

RAY: But you're not going to take a two-day Bobby Ore course and come out of there ready to drive in commercials. You'll need a lot of practice to get good at it, and you generally have to pay to practice on courses. And that assumes you have some talent for stunt driving in the first place.

TOM: If you get that far, then you'll need to beg, cajole and harass commercial coordinators to hire you. This involves, among other things, hiding in people's bushes and jumping out with fresh cappuccino.

RAY: Of course, you may also luck out. Sometimes TV shows or movies will hire a stunt driver based solely on looks. So, for instance, if you happen to look like Tom Cruise from behind, you might get a driving job for that reason alone.

TOM: Unfortunately, if, like my brother, you look like Tom Cruise's behind, that's not going to help you. Good luck, Di.

the ground where the truck is parked and there is no oil. Additionally, there is no oil, smell or smoke from the exhaust pipe. Where is the oil going, and what should I do?
— Sherd

TOM: It's going out the tailpipe, Sherd. What should you do? See if you can get the Exxon Valdez to follow you around.

RAY: Your engine's worn out, Sherd. If there's no oil under the truck, then you're burning it. If you stand near

the tailpipe when your wife starts it up in the morning, you'll almost certainly see a puff of bluish smoke. It may be harder to see once you actually start driving, but it's there. Trust us.

TOM: So, you have a couple of choices. One is to install a rebuilt or used engine. If the truck otherwise is in extraordinarily good shape, and you want to keep it for another 50,000 miles, that may be a good option.

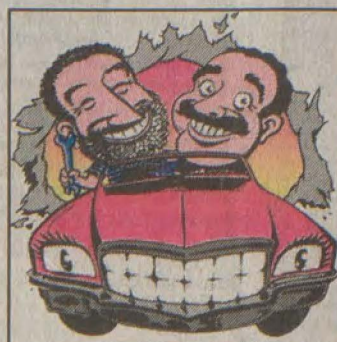
RAY: But before you do

that, be sure to have your mechanic check it out from stem to stern, as if you were buying it as a used car today. You don't want to spend \$3,000 on a rebuilt engine and then have the transmission fall out the next day. And with 150K on the odometer, that's a distinct possibility.

TOM: The other option is to just trade it in. With gas prices certain to trend upward as soon as the economy gets out of the pits, this may be a good time to reconsider

whether your wife really needs a car as big as a cabin cruiser for her everyday needs. If not, this might be a golden opportunity to downsize. Good luck, Sherd.

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