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The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

One Voice for Eastern Kentucky

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Volume



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Inb

Prise

lock

after death

by JARRID DEATON
FEATURES WRITER

DEBORD — The United States Penitentiary Big Sandy in Martin County went into lockdown on Wednesday after the death of an inmate.

According to reports, Vincent Smith, 35, was involved in an altercation with another inmate on Wednesday afternoon. Smith was taken to the hospital, where he died.

An autopsy will be performed to determine the official cause of Smith's death.

Smith was serving a life sentence for a murder committed in Washington D.C.

A notice posted on the prison's website states that, "Due to an institution emergency, there will be no inmate visiting at USP Big Sandy from Jan. 30 through Feb. 1, 2009."

The name of the other inmate involved in the alleged incident has not been released.

USP Big Sandy guards recently staged an informational picket near the prison in protest of working conditions and what they claimed to be an increase in violence and assaults.

In school basketball

— page B1

COM

PICKING UP THE PIECES



Repair crews with electric, telephone and cable companies are working overtime to restore life in Eastern Kentucky to some semblance of what it was before last week's ice storm left thousands without basic services. Above, an AT&T crew works to replace a cracked utility pole along Route 1750, near the Floyd and Johnson county line.

photo by Ralph B. Davis

Recovery effort continues, with plenty of helping hands

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

As work continues to restore power to Floyd County and throughout much of Eastern Kentucky, there have been several other helping hands visit the area, especially those from neighboring counties.

Power company employees from places such as South Williamson, Pikeville, Ashland and even those from the far northern Johnson County have come into Floyd County to assist with the work. Floyd County Judge-Executive R.D. "Doc" Marshall said, "At this point some of these

outside groups are coming and we're making every effort to get back over into the lake area."

Marshall said Friday. "The main reason is because we've not been able to stay in close touch with these and there are people who still can't get out."

Marshall and others are spending time making rounds in the northern end of the county, but spend more time in areas such as Abboton while seeing outside help or continued efforts of Johnson County.

With so much to do, Marshall said Friday the help was greatly appreciated, adding that he knew other counties, such as

Johnson, which had sent help, were also in great need themselves.

"We appreciate to no end all the help that's been offered," Marshall continued. "I've had my good friend in Letcher County, the judge executive over there, on the phone and he's told me that if there is anything that we need or they can do to just let him know."

Marshall said Letcher Judge-Executive Jim Ward was among several who had extended such offers.

As for those working Big

(See STORM, page three)

Investigation leads to more drug arrests

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

EASTERN — Authorities have taken more suspects into custody following the arrest of 56-year-old Eastern resident Paul Morris, charging them with drug trafficking.

Charles R. Hicks, 51, also of Eastern, along with James Doug Patrick and Sharon K. Patrick, a couple from North Judson, Ind., were arrested after Morris was taken into custody Tuesday.

Morris was taken into custody Tuesday after Kentucky State Police officers conducted a search of his home and found 773 prescription tablets ranging from OxyContin and Xanax to Soma's and Naproxen in a brown paper bag in the closet of a camper sitting within 100 yards of Allen Central High School.

Morris was charged with first-, second- and third-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, trafficking in a controlled substance within 1,000 yards of a school and numerous other drug-related charges.

Later that same day, Hicks was arrested and charged with first-, second- and third-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, trafficking in marijuana and prescription in improper container.

(See DRUGS, page three)

Dozens brave bad weather to talk horses

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A public meeting to gain input from residents across the region about the expansion of horse trails in Floyd County was held in Prestonsburg Thursday evening.

The meeting was suggested during a recent gathering of the Floyd County Fiscal Court and, despite current weather conditions, there were still some 50 people who turned out to discuss the project.

"We had expected about 100 people to show up, but many of the counties were dealing with these storm-related problems," said Floyd Judge-Executive R.D. "Doc" Marshall. "A lot of people hung around after the meeting and were real upbeat about the project."

The signs that there may be interest gaining in the project pleases Marshall and others closely involved with the project such as Prestonsburg Mayor Jerry Fannin, Denzil Allen, Jimmy Goble and Prestonsburg Tourism Director Freddie James.

In the past there have been so-called "stumbling blocks" in negotiations with officials from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, but representatives on hand for Friday's public meeting were eager to see work begin.

"Fish and Wildlife didn't respond much during the

(See TRAILS, page three)

2 DAY FORECAST

Today

Mostly sunny

High: 53 • Low: 32

Tomorrow

Snow

High: 39 • Low: 20

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Bus service could return to mountains

by JARRID DEATON
FEATURES WRITER

Buses could soon return to the streets of Prestonsburg if the Miller Trailways company's application for funding to operate four routes to connect with a proposed Ashland to Evansville, Ind., service is accepted.

"We want to put some of these old Greyhound routes back in," said John Owen, with Trailways. "There is a tremendous need for this service. Rural

transit organizations are not filling the bill. They will get you there, but it will cost you an arm and a leg. It's just not affordable. We can get you from one side of the county to another by hooking up with Greyhound."

According to Owen, the Greyhound service pulled out of the area about 20 years ago.

"I think that we are really onto something good here," Owen said. "It doesn't hurt that Speaker of the House Greg Stumbo is from Prestonsburg and

state Rep. Hubert Collins is from Paintsville. They are going to listen to us because we want to provide a service to the rural area that they come from. The funding is for providing transportation from rural communities to Greyhound. We want to get the bus service up and running like it was 25 years ago."

The first route would start in Lexington and serve Winchester, Clay City, Stanton, Slade, Campton, Van Cleave, Jackson, Lost Creek and

Hazard. The second route would operate in Prestonsburg, Lexington, Winchester, Mt. Sterling, Frenchburg, Ezel, Grassier Creek, West Liberty, Salyersville, Falcon, Oil Springs, Paintsville, Van Lear and Pikeville.

The third route would operate in Pikeville, Paintsville, Louisa, Ashland and Huntington, W.Va.

The fourth route would travel

(See BUS ROUTE, page three)

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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

■ Lorett Estrella Ann Blanton, 73, of Dwaile, died Friday, January 23, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Dock Blanton. Funeral services were held Monday, January 26, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Delores Collett, 67, of Garrett, died Friday, January 23, at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Lucky Collett. Graveside services were held Sunday, January 25, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier 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.

■ Ruby Elizabeth Powers, 89, of Auxier, died Friday, January 23, at Highlands

Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 27, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Patricia Ann "Patty" Sturghill, 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.

■ Petty Leon Thompson, 80, of Richmond, a Pike County native, died Saturday, January 24, at the VA Hospital, in Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Alice Jane Thompson. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 27, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Howard Waddles, 73, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, January 23, at his residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 27, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier

FUNERAL HOME.

MARTIN COUNTY

■ Timothy Allen Sizemore, 48, of Tomahawk, a Johnson County native, died Saturday, January 24, at his residence. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 28, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

■ Johnson County

■ Manford Cline, 64, of Van Lear, died Tuesday, January 27, at Kings Daughters Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 31, under the direction of Phelps & Son Funeral Home.

■ Virgil Gobie Jr., 62, of River, died Sunday, January 25, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Linda Conley Gobie. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 31, under the direction of Phelps & Son Funeral Home.

■ Edgar N. "Dick" Vanhoose, 72, of Paintsville,

died Sunday, January 25, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Boyd Vanhoose. Funeral were held Thursday, January 29, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Pike County

■ James E. Bontley, 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.

■ 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.

■ Harold James, 68, of Huddy, a Pike County native, died Sunday, Jan. 25, in the South Williamson 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.

■ Patsy Marie Scarberry, 78, of Turkey Creek, died

Saturday, Jan. 24, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 27, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Dorothy Faye Tackett, 67, 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.

■ Loretta Sue Darnell Whitaker, 71, of Stanford, formerly of Mouthcard, died Sunday, Jan. 25, at Moreland. She is survived by her husband, James Whitaker. 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 will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, at Meta Baptist Church.

Obituaries

Barbara Wilson Anderson

Barbara Wilson Anderson, 56, of Lexington, died Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at her residence.

Born March 10, 1952, in Williamson, W.Va., she was the daughter of Lt. late Pete E. and Viola Mabel Shepherd Wilson. She was a home attendant, and a member of the Trum Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Anderson.

Survivors include a son, Craig Anderson; and her daughters: Lisa Anderson, and LaTonia Wilson, all of Lexington; her brothers: Pete Wilson and Mike Wilson, both of Trum; her sisters: Sheila Olinger, and Juanita Carter, both of Hazard; 11 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, David Wilson; and two sisters: Margaret Hall and Judy Ann Wilson.

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 31, at 1 p.m., at the Church of Christ in Trum, with Morris Adkins officiating.

Burial was in the Wilson Family Cemetery, in Trum, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin.

Visitation was at the church. (Paid obituary)

Jane Clark

Jane Clark, 84, of Betsy Layne, died Thursday, January 29, 2009, at the Pikeville Medical Center.

Born April 23, 1924, in Pike County, she was the daughter of the late Ervin Lee Scalf and

Violet Elizabeth Runyon Scalf. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary at Betsy Layne Freewill Baptist Church, and an Active Bowler for more than 40 years. She was a retired South Central Bell operator supervisor.

She had been a member of the Betsy Layne Freewill Baptist Church since 1977.

Survivors include two daughters: Diana Patton (Tracy) of Betsy Layne; and Sheila Ortega of Danville, formerly of Prestonsburg; two brothers: Bill Jack Scalf (Virgie) of Columbus, Ohio, and Dean Scalf (Donna) of Stanville; two sisters: Margaret Wright (Ernie) of Pikeville, and Juanita Collins of Stanville; four grandchildren: Missy Cook (Craig) of Nashville, Tennessee; Ryan Ortega (Cassie) of Mt. Washington, John Ortega III of Louisville, and Tara Jayne

Thompson (Jeremy) of Danville; five great-grandchildren: Patton Alexander Cook and Harrison Tate Cook, both of Nashville, Tennessee; Anna Rylee Ortega and Logan Reese Ortega, both of Mt. Washington, and Cathryn Jordan Thompson of Danville.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters: Rosalee Scalf and Josephine Collins; and three brothers: Joe Robert Scalf, William "Dooek" Scalf, and John B. Scalf.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, February 1, 2009, at 2 p.m., at the Betsy Layne Freewill Baptist Church, with Tracy Patton officiating.

Burial will be in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, in Ivel, under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home.

Visitation was in the chapel at 6 p.m., Friday evening.

Saturday services at 7 p.m.

Active pallbearers: Alex Meade, Ryan Ortega, John Ortega III, Jeremy Thompson, Ernie Lee Collins, Chad Collins, Ritchie Collins, Steven Scalf, Patton Cook, Alex Meade, Craig Cook, Brent Scalf, Tony Meade, and Kenny Bryant. (Paid obituary)

Stanley Johnson

Stanley Johnson, 82, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, January 28, 2009, at his residence.

Born April 3, 1926, in Floyd County, he was a son of the late Clyde W. Johnson and Ammie Stanley. He was a retired pressure operator for Ky. W.Va. Gas Company, a member of the Auxier DAV, and the VFW in Lancer.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Grace Arnett Johnson.

Other survivors include two sons: Clyde (Rose) Johnson of Stanville, and Robert (Dica Ann) Johnson of Paintsville; a daughter, Rhonda (Gayle) Burchett of Prestonsburg; two grandchildren: Robin and Jennifer Burchett of Lexington; and two special grandsons: Justin Moore of Prestonsburg, and Shawn Howard of Stanville.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters: Elizabeth, Anna, and Juanita Johnson.

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 31, at 11 a.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Bill Campbell and Tom Biddle officiating.

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

Visitation was at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

Kenneth "Buster" Spurlock

Kenneth "Buster" Spurlock, 81, of Printer, died Thursday, January 29, 2009.

Born February 17, 1927, in Printer, he was the son of the late Kenus and Sally Meade Spurlock. He was a retired coal miner; a member of United States Marine Corps; a veteran of World War II; and attended the Old Regular Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Alva Martin Spurlock.

Survivors include two sons: Earl and Danny Ray Spurlock, both of Printer; two daughters: Joyce (Kevin) Hinkle of Inez, and Terri Lynn (Richard) Love of Salsyerville; four grandchildren: Kevin, Kyle, Tiffany, and Andrew; and four great-grandchildren: Kennedy, Kalea Regan, and Kaden.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by a brother, Clinton Spurlock, and a sister, Kitty Swiger.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, February 1, at 1 p.m., at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with ministers of the Old Regular Baptist Church officiating.

A military funeral will be conducted by DAV Chapter 128, in Garrett.

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

Visitation is at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

State, local health departments assist in storm response

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) and local health departments across the state have been working with emergency management officials and other partners this week to aid response and recovery efforts related to the historic ice storm.

"Many people do not think of emergency preparedness and response when they think of public health," said William Hacker, M.D., commissioner of DPH. "Since 2001, however, there has been a concerted effort to build the capacity of public health to assist in responding to emergencies of all types, including the development of strong relationships with emergency management, hospitals, and other key partners. Those efforts have allowed public health at the state and local level to step up to the plate and provide a wide range of assistance to the primary response agencies during this event."

DPH began its efforts by opening its in-house departmental emergency operation center (EOC) on Tuesday morning, to field questions and

requests for help from state and local agencies, and by providing representatives to assist at the state emergency operations center (EOC) coordinated by the Division of Emergency Management. The DOC operates from 7 a.m.-11 p.m. daily, while the EOC is open 24/7.

Aid offered by the state health department this week has ranged over a variety of activities. Health officials have arranged for the loan of equipment, including a generator that is being used to power a Grayson County shelter serving 300 people and 14 mobile response trailers with 25 cots each to shelters across the state. Among other key activities are: facilitating the supply of fuel and other needed resources to health care facilities and shelters; working with the Kentucky Pharmacy Association to provide necessary prescription medications to individuals in shelters through local pharmacies; and giving emergency officials guidance related to food safety, other public health issues related to power outages, and medical advice about health

issues at shelters.

DPH continues to coordinate the deployment of so-called "strike," or assistance, teams of public health professionals from around Kentucky to areas hit harder by the storm. Shelters are also drawing on DPH's Kentucky Health Emergency Listing of Professionals for Surge (KHELPS) program, which includes a variety of health care professionals that sign up in advance to volunteer in emergencies and are then assigned to a local Medical Reserve Corps program. To contact KHELPS, call (888) 398 0013.

In addition, DPH has requested assistance from other southeastern states with providing special needs nurses to help in shelters and environmental specialists to assist in assessments related to food safety in shelters and restaurants. Two officials from the

federal Department of Health and Human Services will join the public health effort today, assisting at both the DOC and the state EOC. Those officials will help provide a close link between Kentucky and the federal government during recovery efforts.

Local health departments have provided key assistance at the community level, in some cases opening shelters at their locations, as well as assisting emergency management in other ways.

"A response of this magnitude requires that we make the best use possible of all the resources at our disposal across the state," said Dr. Hacker. "I want to commend the staff at our local health departments and at the state health department for their continued hard work to support the statewide response to this emergency."

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A3

State fire marshal urges safety when using alternative heating sources during extended power outages

FRANKFORT — Kentucky State Fire Marshal Bill Swope urged wholesalers and retailers Thursday to make an increased effort to remind customers about steps to take in preventing portable generator accidents.

Hundreds of thousands of people across Kentucky are without power and the ice and cold weather are likely to cause power company crews even more problems in getting power restored. In some cases, it is estimated it could be another two to three weeks before everyone has electricity again.

The lack of power has caused many to seek alternative ways to heat their homes and keep food refrigerated. State Fire Marshal Swope said everyone should be aware of safety issues when selling and using portable generators and other sources of heat and power.

"The wholesalers and retailers that sell gasoline and propane generators should make an increased effort to remind consumers about the

dangers of improperly using these generators," said Swope. "Since the ice and snow storms earlier this week, we have already seen a number of people overcome by carbon monoxide because they did not have adequate ventilation when operating their generator or alternative heat source."

Along with the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), Fire Marshal Swope offered these safety reminders when using alternative heating and power sources:

- Generators should be operated in well ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- The generator should be located so that exhaust fumes cannot enter the home through windows, doors or other building openings.
- Battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with a battery back-up should be installed in the home, according to the manufacturer's installation instructions. Should CO enter the home and pose a risk, an alarm will

sound.

- The generator must not be refueled while it is running. The generator should be turned off and allowed to cool down before refueling.
- Fuel for the generator should never be stored in the home. Gasoline and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled safety containers. They should be stored away from any fuel-burning appliance such as a gas hot water heater.
- Appliances should be plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cord should be checked for cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin. The house wiring should not be powered by plugging the generator into a wall outlet.
- If the generator must be connected to the house wiring to power appliances, a qualified electrician should install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

"Carbon monoxide is a silent, deadly killer," Swope said. "Because it is odorless it can go undetected until it is too late. Carbon monoxide will cause flu-like symptoms and should not be ignored. Symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, headache, dizziness, blurred vision or light headedness. If you think you are suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning you should get fresh air immediately. Open doors and windows, turn off combustion appliances and leave the house. Go to an emergency room and tell the physician you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning."

Other safety tips include:

Safety tips inside the home:

- Install carbon monoxide alarms listed by an independent testing laboratory. Alarms should be in a central location outside each sleeping area. If bedrooms are spaced apart, each area will need an alarm.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency

number to find out what number to call if the carbon monoxide alarm sounds. Post that number by your telephone(s). Make sure everyone in the household knows the difference between the fire emergency and carbon monoxide emergency numbers (if there is a difference).

- Test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month and replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference in sounds.
- Have fuel-burning heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood and coal stoves, space or portable heaters) and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation.

- Never use your oven to heat your home.

Safety tips outside the home:

- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle, generator or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Never use barbecue grills which can produce carbon monoxide in the home, garage or near building openings. Use them only outdoors.
- When camping, remember to use battery-powered lights in tents, trailers and motor homes.

Drugs

The beginning of what ended in four arrests, and at least one more as yet unspecified, started while Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer Tommy Gearheart said he was advised of a vehicle that could have controlled substances for sale to be transported to Hicks.

Gearheart said he was on patrol when told this, adding that specifically, Hicks was on patrol with two people from Indiana to purchase the drugs and take them back to Eastern.

The vehicle was described to Gearheart, who later stopped James Doug Patrick and Sharon K. Patrick at a checkpoint in Magoffin County.

Hicks, along Prater Fork. During this search, an additional 550 tablets were found, leading John Hicks to deny any knowledge of the evidence. Charles Hicks confessed to police that the pills were his and not his brothers and that he had purchased them from "Doug and Sharon" in the parking lot of Prestonsburg's Wal-Mart. He added that he did not know their last names.

The Patriots were later questioned and verified that they had met with Charles Hicks as the Prater Fork resi-

dent had said, according to police records.

After confirming this, the Patriots were charged in total with single counts of first-, second- and third-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, as well as trafficking in legend drug. Both were lodged at the Floyd County Detention Center under \$25,000 cash bonds.

Floyd County Assistant Attorney Jimmy "Blue" Marcum said Thursday there will most likely be further charges as the case continues.

Continued from p1

Storm

The couple was arrested and then officers continued to the next step of the upstart investigation by performing a "knock and talk" at the camper located near Allen Central High School when the 773 prescription tablets were discovered. On the heels of this, officers then visited Charles Hicks and his brother, John

meeting, but they said they were looking forward to the project after everything was in place," Marshall said. "They are very much wanting this project to happen and said they would do everything to see it happen."

The turnaround might be attributed to meetings county officials have had with Fish and Wildlife administrators, meetings Marshall said he felt had "cleared a lot of obstacles."

The general idea of the project will be to encircle the entire Dewey Lake area, allowing riders to start from German Bridge and go around

the mountain to the Equine Center at Stonecrest, and from there work their way back up.

During Thursday's public meeting, some members of the public expressed concerns about access to existing gas wells on property that would come into play with further plans for trail expansion. Marshall informed those concerned about such access, he said.

"They have gas wells and want to make sure they can do them," said Marshall. "I assured them they would always have first consideration."

Continued from p1

Bus service

through Evansville, Henderson, Morganfield, Marion, and Paducah.

Miller Trailways will be meeting with officials next week to determine whether or not they can apply for the funding. The application must be submitted by April, and the decision on whether or not to award Miller Trailways with the funding will take place in the fall.

For more information on the proposed bus routes, contact John Owen at (502) 368-5644, ext. 124.

Evansville, Henderson, Morganfield, Marion, and Paducah.

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

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

Democrats disagree on fighting global warming

President Barack Obama is moving swiftly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He cleared the way this week for California to set strict new carbon-dioxide standards for cars and trucks. A dozen other states are poised to adopt the standards once they are approved.

At the same time, Obama told federal regulators to push ahead with higher fuel-economy requirements. Congress approved new mileage standards in a 2007 energy bill. It mandates average fuel-economy rates of 35 miles per gallon by 2020, but rules to achieve it never were finalized.

Obama undoubtedly expected some opposition from Republicans. With Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, however, he would seem assured of accomplishing his larger goal of combating global warming.

But that's not the way things are working out. Midwestern Democrats are starting to push back. They fear overly aggressive action on climate change could cost badly needed manufacturing jobs when state economies are reeling.

Auto executives oppose both California's bid to set strict carbon-dioxide standards and federal efforts to increase fuel economy. With new-car sales plunging, automakers and industry groups say they cannot meet the proposed standards. Imposing them could seriously harm struggling U.S. manufacturers, they say.

That's not a threat to be taken lightly, especially now, as the cascade of bleak economic news continues. Boeing announced 5,500 more job cuts on Wednesday, and another 75,000 job cuts in several industries were announced Monday. That brings the number of jobs lost since the recession began in December 2007 to more than 2.6 million.

Automakers' claims probably are at least somewhat overstated. Japanese car companies make cars in a single plant for domestic, European and American markets with different emissions and safety standards. U.S. diesel engine manufacturers build power plants for on- and off-road equipment — each with its own emissions standards — in the same plants.

But the debate about auto-emissions rules foreshadows a larger struggle. Obama and Democratic legislative leaders are promising a bill to cap greenhouse gas emissions by year's end.

That probably will impose difficult challenges on Midwestern states, where heavy manufacturing still is a big part of the job base and where coal-fired power plants supply most of the electricity. Missouri, for example, gets more than 80 percent of its power from burning coal, which is a major source of heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions.

Obama favors a cap-and-trade system for reducing emissions. Such a plan would freeze the amount of permitted greenhouse gas discharges and establish a market for emissions credits. Companies that cut emissions would sell "credits" to companies whose emissions increased.

In the short term, we hope the economic impact of new emission requirements on Midwestern states can be mitigated. But long term, the nation cannot afford continued foot-dragging on climate change.

A study published this week shows that even if emissions were cut drastically, problems caused by global warming will continue imposing a whole different set of costs and problems, from rising sea levels to Dust Bowl-like droughts.

The trick is to balance the short-term costs of reducing emissions with the potentially disastrous long-term costs of global warming. And to understand that the less carbon dioxide put into the atmosphere now, the less our children must worry about it in decades to come.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The Times

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— Chuck Norris

The most underrated part of the inauguration

by CHUCK NORRIS
CREATORS SYNDICATE

I know inaugural news and commentary are already passé. But I could not find one report this past week that caught what I believe was the most subtle, strategic and possibly subversive moment of the inauguration ceremony. Did you catch it?

Like most news agencies, U.S. News & World Report reported that the Rev. Rick Warren's invocation "clearly opted for a conciliatory tone that eschewed any mention of culture-war issues." But Warren hardly was pacifying the elites or anyone else — if you truly understand what he prayed. The invocation seemed like a rather benign blessing that even his most ardent foes could have interpreted as inclusive. But the real portrait of his prayer was quite to the contrary.

First of all, Warren's prayer was nearly five minutes long — about 486 words. He certainly didn't cower to typical audience intolerance for long prayers and opt for a short grace before meals.

Second, Warren embarked on what theologians call a Mars Hill apologetic, which is a biblical approach and deductive line of reasoning that the apostle Paul used in teaching about his Creator God, with whom all can iden-

tify at first: "Almighty God, our Father, everything we see and everything we can't see exists because of you alone. It all comes from you. It all belongs to you. It all exists for your glory. History is your story."

Third, Warren then narrowed his focus by identifying the Creator as the one true Hebrew (or Jewish) God of the Old Testament — something that sounds inclusive of Judaism but also serves as the basis and narrowing of his Christian logic. At the same time, he was culturally relative and sensitive to (but not necessarily endorsing of) Islam by extolling God as "the compassionate and merciful one," a descriptive line that opens all but one chapter of the Quran. Warren prayed, "The Scripture tells us, 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one.' And you are the compassionate and merciful one. And you are loving to everyone you have made."

Fourth, Warren then covered the gamut in compassionate petitions — thanking God for racial freedom and equality, praying a blessing on Obama and his Cabinet, and asking God to help us all unite in freedom, forgive us of our presumption and pride, and share with and serve all humanity.

Fifth, Warren turned on a dime by calling on God to help us remember this universal religious truth (in all Middle Eastern religions, I might

add): God will judge all nations and all peoples. Then, for clarity's sake, the name of Warren's Supreme Judge was given. He referred to this transforming agent, who changed his own life, in four different languages: "I humbly ask this in the name of the one who changed my life — Yeshua (Hebrew), Isa (Arabic), Jesus (Spanish pronunciation), Jesus (English pronunciation)."

Sixth and last, just when you thought the "amen" was imminent, Warren gave a coup de grace to any political or earthly power — a possibly subversive chess move to subtly call Obama's regime into checkmate. He called upon the global Christian community to invoke God's power against any and all human strongholds by collectively praying the Lord's Prayer. Warren rallied all branches, traditions and denominations of the universal church by triggering a prayer response through his words "who taught us to pray, saying O' Proof came as cameras immediately panned across the people in the Washington crowd, many of whom found themselves suddenly reciting the prayer with Warren. (It was interesting to watch how Obama chose not to join in.)

What everyone needs to understand is that the Lord's Prayer is no

(See NORRIS, page six)

— beyond the beltway

Putting the inauguration into perspective

by DONALD KAUL
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

It was a day to relish, rejoice in and remember.

I've been to more than a few presidential inaugurations in my time but none like the one we witnessed last week. It seemed more the celebration of a national holiday than a changing of the guard.

All day, everywhere, you saw people walking around with silly grins on their faces, simply surging the wave of shared exuberance. And not just in Washington; it was truly a national celebration. During the ceremony itself groups of people throughout the country stood in front of television sets and wept tears of joy. It was remarkable and immensely satisfying.

(The stock market fell 4 percent, of course, but it does that every other day. You can't have everything.)

I suppose the closest any recent inauguration came to matching the celebratory atmosphere of last week was Ronald Reagan's first. Rather than an explosion of populist glee, however, that was a festival of the well-heeled and well-connected.

From better neighborhoods across the nation they came, wearing tuxedos, dripping in mink, to attend fat-cat parties hosted by lobbyists. Limousines from five states around were sucked into Washington by the demand of the privileged for privileged transportation. It was the ruling class reclaiming the throne and they

were delirious in their joy and extravagant in their expression of it.

Obama's installation wasn't anything like that. It was more of a BYOB affair, everybody welcome. People crammed the subway and walked miles to get to the National Mall, where they stood for hours.

People have compared it to the inaugural of Franklin D. Roosevelt and I suppose there are similarities, but I was struck by its echo of John F. Kennedy's inaugural. He, like Obama, was a young, bright, elegant politician of great charm who gave promise of the dawn of a new day. He too ignited hope.

For sheer drama, however, nothing can match Richard Nixon's second inaugural. He had been elected overwhelmingly but he was still a villain to many. When his presidential limousine cruised down Pennsylvania Avenue in the parade, crowds of angry protesters lined the sidewalks and chanted "Jail to the Thief."

Mr. Nixon responded by standing up through the open roof of the car, stabbing his arms into the air in a double-victory gesture and smiling malevolently. The mutual hostility virtually crackled. It was marvelous.

They don't make presidents like Dick Nixon anymore. Vice presidents, yes, but not presidents.

Not everybody buys all of the good feeling surrounding President Obama, of course. I got a note from a North Carolina man that had the flavor of "I told you so" about it. He said:

of Obama's supporters are becoming very pessimistic. Before the election they were saying that he was going to solve many of our problems. Now that he has been elected they, like you, are saying he might not be successful. What has changed...to make so many of his supporters become so negative about his future?"

Is that snarky or what? The man seems to be gleefully anticipating failure for our president, Sad.

In any case, I doubt that President Obama's people have deserted him. On the contrary, every day they become more convinced that they did indeed choose the right man for the job.

But what a job! You'd have to be a moron not to fear that he might fail. And if they were morons they'd be writing snarky letters to columnists instead of lending their support to our president.

In one of those "truth is stranger than fiction" moments, Vice President Dick Cheney, the very symbol of right-wing Republicanism, left office in a wheelchair (had back even as his ideology lay broken at the side of the road [had ideology]). So the man who years before had voted against making Martin Luther King's birthday a holiday was wheeled out of office as a black man took command. That is an irony to be savored.

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



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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 no 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 hedgepodge, 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 crawling 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)



Elizabeth Fees has been traveling throughout the Left Fork of Middle Creek basin in her position as OSM/Vista volunteer. Fees will be holding an open house to inform the public about the issues with acid mine drainage in the area's water on Feb. 14.

photo by Jarrid Deaton

HERE TO HELP

Ohio woman working on acid mine drainage

by JARRID DEATON FEATURES WRITER

Elizabeth Fees is concerned about the environment. This concern, coupled with the desire to volunteer, led Fees to the Left Fork of Middle Creek as part of AmeriCorp's OSM/VISTA group.

Fees, originally from Ohio, came to Floyd County on Dec. 12, and she is planning an open house to let the community know why she is there and the problems with the water in their area, including acid mine drainage. Fees will also be helping with remediation efforts in relation to the acid mine drainage issue.

"I'm just getting started right

now," Fees said. "I've been doing a lot of home visits and getting the word out. I've also visited with the Floyd County Fiscal Court to let them know who I am and what I am doing, and to make contacts in the county. One of the main things I am going to do is teach people what acid mine drainage is."

Acid mine drainage refers to the outflow of acidic water from abandoned metal mines or coal mines. "Acid mine drainage causes problems with drinking water and the environment," Fees said, "it is also very damaging to fish and wildlife."

Fees will also be focusing on creating and building partnerships with local businesses, nonprofit

organizations, and schools, along with starting a volunteer base for future projects.

"The plan is for it to become a community-led program in three years," Fees said. "I hope that members of the community come to the open house so we can discuss their environmental goals for the Left Fork area."

The open house will be held in Fees' office in the David Volunteer Fire Department on Feb. 14. It will last from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., and snacks and drinks will be provided.

For questions or concerns about the project, contact Elizabeth Fees at (606) 230-0101, or by e-mail at middlecreekwater@gmail.com.

Gov. Beshear visits areas hard hit by winter storm

FRANKFORT—As the number of Kentucky customers without power has climbed to more than 607,000, Gov. Steve Beshear today visited regions of the state hard hit by the icy winter storm that has pummeled much of the state this week.

Today Gov. Beshear made stops in Paducah and Henderson where he met with local officials and sur-

veyed area storm damages. The governor was scheduled to visit Bowling Green this afternoon as well, but was forced to cancel due to inclement weather. Yesterday, Gov. Beshear made similar stops in Lexington and Louisville.

"Western Kentucky has obviously been hit very badly by this storm," Gov. Beshear said today following his visit. "It's important

that we stay in close communication with local officials during this crisis and we will continue to update and expand our efforts as needed."

This week's storm marks the largest power outage in the state's history, exceeding the previous record outage that occurred just six

(See GOVERNOR, page six)

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'Rain of Fire'

by TOM DOTY Times Columnist

An industrialist is all that stands between the world and a nuclear holocaust in this "Spaghetti" take on the "Omen" films.

July's genre film market cashed in on every trend by emphasizing the exploitation elements, and they do a fine job with this material by focusing on end of days prophecy and, of course, a gory death every 10 minutes.

Kirk Douglas shuns, I mean stars, as the "Donald Trump"-like Robert Caine. We first glimpse him in Israel where he is seen praising the glory of nuclear power and promising to end hunger with his new plant, which is set to be constructed over some caves. After the demo he heads back to London, where his corporate offices (which are constantly being picketed by "save the earthers") are located.



Tom Doty Times Columnist

At a celebration of their project commencing, his wife and corporate bigwig reminds him that she owns more shares in the company and plans to sell off the project due to the bad press it has generated. Caine gets pretty angry but never gets a chance to argue the case, as a knife-wielding lunatic chooses that moment to attack him. This actually turns out to be a good thing as the psycho accidentally kills Mrs. Caine during a struggle over the blade.

That's just the first of many happy accidents which kill off supporting characters faster than you can remember who they are, though each dies in such a spectacular fashion that you hardly care. The highlights include a helicopter blade decapitation and a steel door which bisects a character just as he is about to reveal a major plot point.

Soon enough Caine becomes convinced that his reactor will destroy the world, but the worse news is that his own uniform child (now needed inside the spunky reporter) may be the spawn of Satan.

Caine's behavior becomes erratic and his board of directors ops to have him committed to an institution (alongside the United Hays' assassin who slew his wife) but that is just what his adult son, Axel, has wanted all along.

This one has a lot of fun with apocalyptic prophecies and manages to weld them to nuclear power in a make it the worst threat to mankind since mutants. Here, everything is a die and Caine gets plenty of help interpreting them from the theologians and science professors.

The only places they drop the ball here are in giving the character obvious names (Angel, Caine, and the same slacker) and a non-ending which sees Robert stand by and do nothing but cuddle his new child while Axel

(See LAGOON, page six)

Ave Maria

by JOHN J. LESJACK

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL: LIVING CATHOLIC FAITH"

My father's voice was clearly singing the lead that Sunday morning in the spring of 1948. I was an 11-year old altar boy in a white shirt and dark robe standing with the water cruet in my hand as Dad began. His high, sweet, clear tenor voice was captivating. He led the voices of the congregation to new heights, inspired them with joy to reach notes they didn't know they had within them. Nor

had they realized, when they first followed how high my dad could go. "Ave Maria."

St. Veronica Church in East Detroit, Michigan was special that day. The other altar boys, in their black and white outfits, looked at me and smiled. I averted my eyes, but I was secretly proud and pleased that my father was singing on the other side of the sacristy.

Dad had been singing in barber-shop quartets with friends, at company picnics, in beer gardens, and saloons. Never in church. People

turned in their seats to see the source of those glorious sounds. My father's voice had already been recognized by talent scouts who had invited him to sing in the huge cathedral in downtown Detroit. They'd tempted him with promises of heavenly acoustics and large crowds. Dad refused. He felt unworthy. He had been invited to compete on talent shows such as Ted Mack's "Amateur Hour" and locally produced radio shows during the 1930s and 1940s. Dad declined all invitations to showcase his talents. He feared that he would lose too many friends.

None of my five siblings sang with Dad, nor did our mother join in. Mom sat between her oldest daughter and Dad as he put enough energy into

his singing for all of us. Another parent might have said, "You should be singing, too. Everyone in church is singing."

Not Dad. He was singing for his life. "Ave Maria." Dad was lost in his own voice and in the beauty and feeling and release of the lyrics as he celebrated the rapture of his second year of sobriety. His singing came from a deep, loving, spiritual place in his soul. And music that comes from the soul is God-like. My siblings sat with their feet dan-

gling on the edge of the pew, on with their little legs and feet sticking out.

Late one night, I found Dad on his knees near a chair in the living room, intently squeezing his hands, beads desperately. "Hail Mary, full of grace." Dad changed a bead for each completed prayer. I believe now with all my heart that prayer was what gave Dad the strength he needed to avoid alcohol. He attended no meetings. He

(See SOUP, page six)



Social Security expands Fast-Track disability processes

Michael J. Astruc, Commissioner of Social Security, announced today that improvements to the agency's computer modeling system

have increased the number of claimants receiving expedited approvals for disability benefits. Social Security's two-track system -- the Quick

Disability Determination (QDD) process and Compassionate Allowances -- is now fast-tracking about 4 percent of all disability cases,

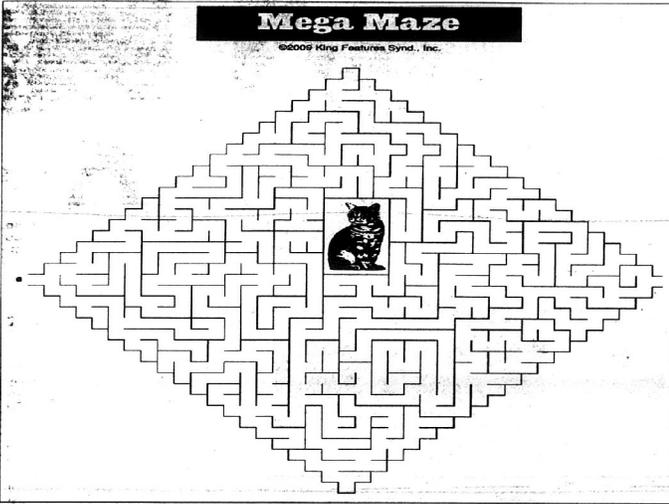
a sharp increase from the 2.7 percent of cases fast-tracked last year.

"In practical terms, this means that this year 100,000 to 125,000 disabled Americans -- those with the most severe disabilities -- will be approved for benefits in about 10 days instead of waiting the three to four months it typically takes for an initial decision," Commissioner Astruc said. "These initiatives are truly a lifeline for those who need it most."

Under QDD, a predictive computer model analyzes specific data within the electronic

file to identify cases where there is a high potential that the claimant is disabled and where Social Security can quickly obtain evidence of the person's allegations. Through Social Security's standards, Social Security expedites the processing of disability claims for applicants with medical conditions so severe that their conditions by definition meet Social Security's standards. These fast-track systems increase the efficiency of the disability process and also help free up resources so the agency can better cope with an increase of about 250,000

cases resulting from the current economic downturn. "During these tough economic times, getting Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability benefits quickly to Americans who are unable to work helps them and strengthens our economy. For SSI recipients, expedited approvals also ensure they immediately get the vital medical coverage they need," Commissioner Astruc said. "It is critical that we continue to embrace innovative technologies in order to improve the services we provide to the public."



Lagoon

assumes control of the company and begins ordering up some Armageddon.

Female fans of the Kirkster will really dig this one, as it was made at the height of his "I'll drop my pants for any genre movie" phase. Let's just

say that Mr. Douglas appeared proud of his physique during this period, which included nude turns in mediocre fare such as "Saturn 3" and "The Fury."

The formula breaks down like this -- the chances of see-

ing more than you wish to of Mr. Douglas' anatomy go up as the quality of his moves go down.

Best line: "We're not seven headed monsters unleashing a holocaust." 1977, rated R.

Norris

trite religious repetition to Warren. He once explained in one of his teachings: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Why do we pray that "Thy will be done as it is in heaven"? Because in heaven, God's will is done perfectly. Is God's will done perfectly on earth? Absolutely not. In fact, most of the things that happen on earth are not God's will. God's will is not always done. O But when you pray, "Thy will be done," you're saying "I accept your plan, and I surrender to God's control."

Reciting the Lord's Prayer is pleading with God to erect his kingdom and execute his desires on earth as they are in heaven. It is calling upon the one true God, asking for his nature to overrule ours, his wishes to be fulfilled (not ours), and his rule and reign to be established (not ours). On the flip side, it is the most "dangerous" prayer one can pray if one wants to continue to live selfishly, misuse power and maintain control over others.

The Lord's Prayer is, in reality, the most invasive and subversive prayer to human selfishness that one can say. It's able to break down strong-

holds within us, within others and even within political structures. As Warren again said, praying the Lord's Prayer is ideal "when your circumstances are uncontrollable, when people around you won't change (they're unchangeable), and when problems are unexplainable."

Now you tell me: Why would Warren, who thoroughly understands the Scriptures, pray that particular prayer at the transference of new political powers with whom he largely disagrees? The answer is obvious.

Like millions of others, I repeated this relatively short prayer by rote for most of my life without thinking twice about its meaning. But then I learned about its powerful truths from my pastor, who teaches its principles and encourages its daily recitation through a simple acronym. (You can listen to his Lord's Prayer message series on his Web site, www.NationalTreasures.org.) The Lord's Prayer has revolutionized my prayers and my life, and I believe (as I know Warren does) it can change all of our lives, government and the world if we sincerely and regularly pray it. That's exactly

why Warren's invocation included it.

For most, Warren was reinforcing his image as "a unifying, post-Christian-right figure rather than as a divisive culture warrior." But reality is, as Jesus called his apostles to do, Warren was being as "shrewd as a serpent and innocent as a dove." And most never even caught it.

Say what you will about this purpose-driven pastor, but when you parse it, the Rev. Rick Warren's inaugural invocation was about as purpose-driven as prayers come.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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Soup

saw no counselor. He knew no sponsor. Prayer was the only recovery program my father ever used to maintain his sobriety.

Dad wasn't sick in the mornings anymore, which meant he was able to work in the car factory regularly, which resulted in his being offered a promotion. He turned it down, explaining, as usual, that he would lose too many friends. Nevertheless, the regularity of the paychecks improved our lifestyles. As he drove us home from church in our black 1941 Hudson that memorable day,

Dad overflowed with the good feelings that come from singing with your heart and soul, and he sang his personal favorite, "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are gray..."

During church services, I suspect Dad may have been singing his faith. Dad never said.

Three weeks before Christmas that year, in his bed, at home, Dad passed away from stomach cancer.

Hundreds of his friends attended his wake and funeral. Dad's been gone a long

time now, and yet both the spiritual and musical qualities of his sweet tenor voice remain with me. They are now stuff of legend with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The memory of his singing comforts me when my skies are gray. I know he is singing in that heavenly cathedral of legend where it won't cost him any friendships.

When my life is less than musical, I pray, "Lord, help me remember, through Dad's spirit, that You are my sunshine."

Governor

months ago in the wake of Hurricane Ike when 600,000 customers were without power. The reported 607,152 customers without power does not include rural electric cooperatives within the Tennessee Valley Authority system or any municipal utilities that are not regulated by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC). Utilities are telling the PSC that outages will extend into next week and beyond. Repair crews from other states have begun arriving in Kentucky to assist with the restoration efforts.

Approximately 93,000 customers on 55 water systems remain without access to water due to power outages and other damage from the storm. Return of those services is closely associated with return of power to those areas.

As of noon today, the Kentucky National Guard had 620 soldiers on duty and is assembling additional units that will increase the total number of soldiers assisting recovery efforts to approximately 1,000.

Three National Guard battalions are being deployed today to Paducah, Owensboro and Benton to support relief operations in the western por-

tion of the state. Additional National Guard personnel are supporting counties throughout the commonwealth in route clearance, humanitarian assistance and security missions.

The National Guard will also be providing support in the transport and distribution of Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) commodities to the commonwealth and will staff and operate the staging areas to receive FEMA supplies and make distribution to the affected counties. FEMA is currently in route to Kentucky and will operate initially out of the Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort.

Currently, 78 counties have declared emergencies, as have 47 cities. In addition, 113 emergency shelters have been opened statewide. There have been three fatalities linked to the storms.

State highway crews today continue the task of clearing roadways of snow, ice and downed trees left by a winter

storm that roared through the commonwealth.

Widespread power outages across the commonwealth have hampered Kentucky Transportation Cabinet crews, as has loss of telephone service in a broad swath of western and central Kentucky. Rising water has blocked roadways in many counties.

Gov. Steve Beshear and Transportation Secretary Joe Prather have pledged that Kentucky Transportation Cabinet crews will remain on the job as long as it takes. State crews are supplemented by contract crews in all counties and by Kentucky National Guard troops in many areas.

The Transportation Operations Center (TOC) monitors road conditions 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Condition reports for major routes are available by calling 511 or online at <http://511.ky.gov>. The site logged 1.7 million hits from midday Tuesday to midday Wednesday.

ThemeCross by Kelly Ann Buchanan

ACROSS

- Cookware item
- Dam
- Rick Derringer hit: "Rock and Roll, Hootchie"
- Prepare, as onions
- Earthenware dish for pilaf
- Culinary cover-up
- Item in an oven
- Jesus brand
- Luggage-screening org.
- Pipe material, briefly
- Tip to "sure" (Hold dear)
- Ice, in Germany
- That was closed
- Briefly cook vegetables
- Poet's name, previously
- Mesh-bottomed utensil
- Sports venue
- S. Amer. nation
- Clko, such as of fruit
- Stove-top items
- Hip-Hop's Dr.
- Canyon sound
- Society page word
- Opposite of WHW
- King: French
- One way to serve rice
- Heats, as potato water
- Pin
- Intermittently squeezed liquid
- Cuts
- Opposites

COOKING CLASS

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108
109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119
120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130

TUMBLE-THEME-A!

After completing the ThemeCross, unscramble the 11 circled letters to spell out a CHEF'S MUST-HAVE:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 59 Casual attire | 18 * Browned at high heat | 38 * Coat, as with flour or breadcrumbs |
| 60 Letters at Indy | 21 Approximately [abbr.] | 40 Make the food storage bag airtight |
| DOWN | 23 Food weighing | 43 * Crunchy |
| 1 * Blender | 24 Strings | 44 Victoria (One of British novelist Eleanor Hibbert's vague pen names) |
| 2 Pratik meaning 'Ear' | 25 Timeline segment | 45 River to the Seine |
| 3 It may be pitched | 26 Firm director Mr. Craven | 47 Radicle in a cute way |
| 4 Use a sieve | 27 Citrus fruit | 49 Dwindles |
| 5 Fair-hiring letters | 28 * Charlemagne's domain [acronym] | 51 Lanka |
| 6 * Saran | 29 * Cook's realm (rice next to nothing) | 52 Freight weight (Tranquil) |
| 7 * Cook's realm (rice next to nothing) | 30 * Have dinner, in a cute way | 53 * Core add-on (shaped) |
| 8 * Saran | 31 * In a cute way | 55 * Cereal grain |
| 9 * Cook's realm (rice next to nothing) | 32 401(k) cousin, for short | |
| 10 * Ingredient squeezed liquid | 33 * Core add-on (shaped) | |
| 11 Cypriot utensil | 34 Storm center | |
| 12 Invitation | 35 Storm center | |

Asterisked * clues relate to theme of the puzzle

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A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration

FLOYD COUNTY Sports

Coaches now allowed to stand during play in high school volleyball matches

TIMES STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS - One of several rules changes adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Volleyball Rules Committee will permit head coaches to stand during play. The changes, which were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors, will take effect with the 2009-10 season.

With volleyball becoming a growing spectator sport, result-

ing in more noise from crowds, this change to Rules 12-2-6 and 9-1-1 will allow coaches better communication with their players.

"Previously, head coaches were only permitted to stand during a dead ball or time-out. As of the 2009-10 season, coaches may stand in the replacement zone during play," said Becky Oakes, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the Volleyball Rules Committee.

With the head coach gaining the privilege to stand during

play, Rule 12-2-5 was revised to clarify when it is appropriate for an assistant coach to stand and the actions he/she may perform.

In another effort to keep up with the growing popularity of the sport and crowd interaction, Rule 3-2-1 was amended to address the color(s) of an official game ball. The current rule requires a solid white ball for competition. Beginning with the 2010-11 season, teams will now be given the option of using a colored-panel ball. The

new ball cannot have more than three colors, one-third of which must be white. Each panel must be a solid color.

"This rule is fairly well-received by both players and coaches," Oakes said, "and will help fans track the ball better, while also adding excitement to the game. Putting this rule into effect during the 2010-11 season will not force schools to adjust their budgets for the upcoming season, and will give

(See VOLLEYBALL, page two)



High school volleyball coaches will be able to stand during the 2009 season. Recent Pikeville College signee Brittany Hodges is pictured for Allen Central during a match in the 2008 campaign.

Perry Central too much for Patriots

by STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HAZARD - Host Perry County Central established an early lead and finished strong Thursday night in a 14th Region boys' basketball matchup versus Knott County Central. The Commodores posted their second straight win over Knott County Central in as many outings, defeating the Patriots 52-44.

Klay Maggard led a balanced Perry County Central offensive effort with 14 points. Chris Noble nailed 12 points and Jordan Amis added 11 for the Commodores.

Perry County Central entered halftime out in front 21-19. The Commodores led at the end of each quarter, outscoring Knott Central 12-8 in the third period.

The Patriots hadn't lost since falling to the Commodores in the WYMT Mountain Classic championship Jan. 10.

Tyler Mullins added nine points for the Allan Hatcher-coached Commodores.

Tate Cox paced Knott County Central with a game-high 21 points. Stuart Stamper followed Cox in the Knott County Central scoring column, finishing with 11 points.

Perry Central improved to 15-3 while Knott Central dropped to 14-6.

In other 14th Region boys' basketball matchups Thursday night, Cordia defeated Jackson City 57-48 and Letcher County Central leveled rival Jenkins 89-30.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Kentucky falls to Florida

TIMES STAFF REPORT

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - Despite a game and season-high 19 points from Carly Ormerod and a 16-point, 12-rebound game from Victoria Dunlap, the Kentucky women's basketball team suffered a 74-59 loss at No. 12 Florida, in front of 2,053 fans at the O'Connell Center.

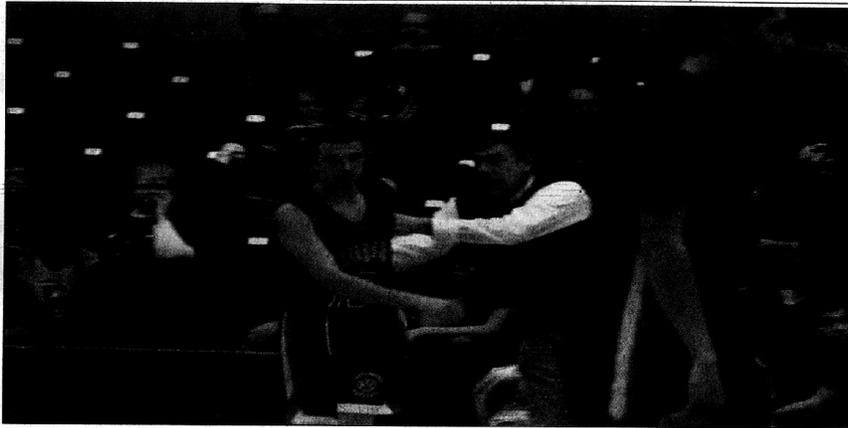
"We're terribly disappointed in the outcome of this one," Kentucky head coach Matthew Mitchell said. "We thought we had a great shot to come down here and win. Florida played great and their team is really a fine team. They're able to overcome any mistakes by just playing hard and putting tremendous pressure on us on defense. We'll just have to try to learn from this loss and build from it, and see if we can get back on the winning track on Sunday."

To lead the Gators, Sha Brooks had 17 points and nine assists. Trumae Lucas had 14 points, and Marsha Deters finished with 13 points and eight rebounds for Florida (19-2, 4-1 Southeastern Conference).

Ormerod had a game-high and a season-high 19 points for Kentucky (12-9, 2-4), and Victoria Dunlap added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Florida is 11-0 at the O'Connell Center and has won four straight overall.

Kentucky will return to action on Sunday, traveling to Oxford, Miss., for a 3 p.m. matchup with Ole Miss.



BLACKCAT BASKETBALL

Senior Jody Tackett (above) and junior Michael Burchett (right) continue to lead the Prestonsburg High School boys' basketball team. Head coach Jack Cox (also pictured above) guided Prestonsburg into the 15th Region All "A" Classic finals just over one week ago.



Letcher holds off Shelby Valley girls

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ROBINSON CREEK - Host Shelby Valley had a two-game win streak snapped Thursday night in a non-region matchup versus Letcher County Central.

The visiting Lady Cougars led at the end of each quarter, outscoring Shelby Valley in every frame en

route to a 55-44 win.

Junior guard/forward Brittany Sexton led Letcher County Central with a game-high 23 points. Sexton was the only Letcher County Central player to reach double figures in the scoring column. Eighth-grade guard Kefah Eldridge scored eight points, and Whitaker flipped in seven

for the Lady Cougars.

Letcher County Central edged Shelby Valley 15-13 in the first quarter. The Lady Cougars went into halftime ahead 32-24.

Letcher County Central was its best on the defensive end, limiting Shelby Valley to 11 or fewer points in each of the last three quarters.

Senior guard Laura

Perkins paced Shelby Valley with 13 points. Sophomore forward Brooke Coleman contributed 11 points for the Lady Wildcats in the home setback.

In another area girls' high school basketball game played Thursday night, Cordia defeated Jackson City 54-48.

Lady Cards get past Gallatin

by STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

RICHMOND - Gallatin County was no match for 15th Region champion Sheldon Clark on Thursday in the Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic quarterfinals at Eastern Kentucky University's McBrayer Arena. Sophomore Carla Booth scored 21 points, handed out eight assists and recorded four steals to lead Sheldon Clark past

Gallatin County 66-47 in the quarterfinals. Eighth-grader Kaitlyn Newsome, daughter of former Sheldon Clark coach Robin Newsome, added 12 points. Sara Sumpter scored 12 points, and the Lady Cardinals advanced.

Defensively, Sheldon Clark pressured Gallatin County into committing multiple turnovers in more than one quarter. The Lady Wildcats had more than one dry stretch offensively.

Sheldon Clark forced Gallatin County to play from behind early on. The Lady Cardinals outscored Gallatin County 11-4 in the first quarter. Sheldon Clark ultimately held 8th Region champion Gallatin County to just over a dozen points in the first half. The Lady Cards packed a commanding 29-13 lead into halftime.

Sheldon Clark put the game completely out of Gallatin County's reach in

the third quarter, outscoring the Lady Wildcats 23-18.

Darrin Rice is in his second season as Sheldon Clark head coach.

Gallatin County struggled offensively. The Lady Wildcats shot 28.6 percent for the game.

Brooke Hill led Gallatin County with a double-double of 20 points and 17 rebounds. Ashley Jones added 10 points for the Lady Wildcats.

Bears topple Temple Baptist

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE - Five players reached double figures Thursday night as the Pikeville College Bears stepped out of league play and knocked off Temple Baptist College 102-52.

The score was eerily similar to their meeting in December when the Bears rolled 102-54.

The Bears tipped the nets for 69.2 percent shooting in the first half and hit 56.3 (9-of-16) from the arc to bolt out to a 66-22 halftime lead. The Bears cooled off slightly in the second half but still shot 59.1 percent from the floor.

Pikeville (14-7) was led by sophomore Justin Hicks, who hit four three-point shots en route to a game-high 24 points. The Hazard native handed out seven assists as well.

Sophomore Adam Simmons came off the bench to fire in a career-high 15 markers, while junior Josh Samarco added 15 as well. Simmons hit two threes while Samarco added three. The Bears were 10-of-25 (40 percent) from the arc.

Junior Anthony Smith was 7-of-9 from the floor for 14 points, while senior J.B. Smiley scored 11 and handed out 10 assists. The Memphis product finished with seven steals.

Senior Ewan Linton finished with nine points, nine rebounds and blocked four shots.

Temple Baptist had one player in double figures as Greg Russer tossed in 21 and pulled down seven rebounds. Thomas Burton came off the bench to score nine and pull down a team-high eight rebounds as the Rams won the rebounding battle 36-34.

Pikeville had 21 steals and forced 31 Ram turnovers. Pikeville gave it up only 13 times.

The Bears returned to action on Saturday as they entertained WVU Tech in a Mid-South Conference doubleheader. Results from the Pikeville College men's and women's basketball games were unavailable at press time.

Copley moves on to Greenup

by STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

GREENUP - After one season at the helm of the Pikeville High football program, Mike Copley is set to guide another prep gridiron unit. Copley has been named the new head coach of the Greenup County High football program.

A 1997 graduate of Lawrence County High School, Copley is an advocate of the Belly offense. He vows to run the Belly offense at Greenup County. Copley, a Marshall University graduate, has coached prep football under both Chuck Williams and Mike Jackson. He took over the Pikeville program after serving as an assistant coach under Jackson. Copley also had stints as an assistant coach under Williams at Lawrence County, Bourbon County and Paintsville.

In his lone season as Pikeville head coach, Copley guided the Panthers to a 7-6 record. Greenup County finished last season 3-8 under the direction of mentor Mike Simmons. The Musketeers made it to the regional championship game under the guidance of Simmons two years ago. Copley and his wife, Joslyn, are currently planning a move to Greenup County.

Sixty UK student-athletes named to SEC Academic Honor Roll

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A total of 60 University of Kentucky student-athletes — more than any team in the league — were named to the 2008-09 Southeastern Conference Fall Academic Honor Roll, SEC Commissioner Mike Slive has announced.

UK had 31 student-athletes from the football team, nine from men's soccer, 14 from women's soccer and six from volleyball earn a spot on the honor roll. The 31 football players are second-most in school history, just two shy of the mark of 33 set in 2002.

The 2008-09 SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll is based on grades from the 2008 Spring, Summer and Fall terms.

A student-athlete must have a grade point average of 3.00 or above for either the preceding academic year (two semesters or three quarters) or have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or above at the nominating institution.

If a student-athlete attends summer school, his/her grade point average during the summer academic term must be included in the calculation used to determine eligibility for the Academic Honor Roll.

Student-athletes eligible for the Honor Roll include those receiving an athletics scholarship, recipients of an athletics award (i.e., letter winner), and non-scholarship student-athletes who have been on a varsity team for two seasons.

Prior to being nominated, a student-athlete must have successfully completed a semester or 36 quarter hours of non-remedial academic credit toward a baccalaureate degree at the nominating institution.

The student-athlete must have been a member of a varsity team for the sport's entire NCAA Championship segment.

University of Kentucky student-athletes named to the Honor Roll were Jess Beets; Ross Bogue;

Marcus Davis; Billy Joe Murphy; A.J. Nance; Nii Adjei Oniknu; Corey Peters; Tyler Sargent;

Michael Schwindl; Alfonso Smith; Taiedo Smith; Brandon Thurmond; Reid Baker; Tyler Burns; Lucas Carden; Tim Cron; George Davis; Jason Griffiths; Chad Hagerly; David Lane; Masumi Turnbull; Samantha Au; Alicia Browning; Katie Easley; Tam Herald; Sydney Hanes; Nicole Hildsworth; Kate Hughes; Julie Hull; Stefani Kildare; Kristin Kover; Kelly Miller; Laura Novikov; Ashley Stack; Rachel Ulrich; Ann Armes; Brooke Bartek; Lauren Rapp; Sarah Rumely; BriAnne Sauer; Laura Stokowski.

Fitzgerald earns second MSC weekly honor

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE — University of the Cumberland's senior forward Luke Fitzgerald is the Mid South Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Week for the week ending Jan. 24, the MSC announced on Monday.

Fitzgerald earns his second MSC Player of the Week award of the season while helping the Patriots win two out of three games on the week.

The Cleveland native averaged 16.3 points and eight rebounds while shooting 58.1 percent (18 of 31) from the field and 81.2 percent (4-of-5) from the free throw line. Fitzgerald scored seven points and pulled down six rebounds in limited minutes as the Patriots beat Johnson Bible College 119-55 to open the week.

He just missed a double double (17 points, 9 rebounds) in a 71-69 loss of West Virginia Tech before concluding the week with 25 points and nine rebounds in a 69-59 win over No. 16-ranked Lindsey Wilson

College.

Fitzgerald ranks in the top five in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage in the Mid-South Conference. He ranks eighth in the NAIA shooting 60.2 percent from the field on the season.

Following last week's loss, Cumberland (15-8, 2-2 in the MSC) dropped from No. 9 to No. 17 in this week's NAIA Coaches' Top 25 Poll. The Patriots travel to Campbellsville University on Thursday before closing the week with non-conference foe Cincinnati Clearmont College in Williamsburg.

Mid-South Conference Weekly Winners: Nov. 17: Josh Samarco (Pikeville); Nov. 24: Chad Byron (Cumberland); Dec. 1: Haakim Johnson (Pikeville); Dec. 8: Luke Fitzgerald (Cumberland); Dec. 15: Demetrius Guions (Georgetown); Jan. 5: Shanon Savage (Campbellsville); Jan. 12: Arthur Latham (St. Catharines); Jan. 19: Darryl Slack (West Virginia Tech); Jan. 26: Luke Fitzgerald (Cumberland).

Volleyball

the manufacturers time to prepare for placement of the NFHS "Authenticating Mark" and number.

To keep up with the fast pace of the game and provide more exciting rallies, Rules 9-4-5 will now allow any part of the body to be considered legal contact with the ball.

"In years past, the ball was only able to hit a player from the waist up in order to remain in play, but to reward great plays and provide more excitement for players and fans, a legal contact is now acknowledged as a touch of the ball by any part of the player's body," Oakes said.

Two changes were made to Rule 5 regarding the deciding set and the second referee's responsibilities.

In Rule 5-3-4d, captains will be called out before the deciding set for the coin toss by the

first referee and teams will then be released to their benches. By allowing players to go to their bench rather than the end line during a coin toss, coaches will be able to more efficiently provide instructions and ensure players are ready to take the court for the final set.

In a change to Rule 5-4-3b Net 10, the second referee has the responsibility to manage illegal libero replacements.

Rule 10-2-3, the procedure of substituting in and out of the set, will be changed next year. If more than one substitution is occurring, the substitutions shall be made in succession. Only one substitute shall be in the substitution zone at a time, while the second pair waits outside of the zone.

"By having the first substitute ready in the substitution zone, it will help the scorer

record who is coming in and out of the game. The second player will be up and ready, but will not be permitted into the substitution zone until the other players have been released," Oakes said.

With a change in Rule 4-1-5, unadorned bobby pins, no longer than 2 inches in length, may be worn to control a player's hair.

"Consistently in the past, hair devices had to be made of soft material to be permitted," Oakes said. "With the high request for bobby pins as a means of controlling longer hair, along with the unlikely event they would cause an accident, they will now be allowed."

The Volleyball Rules Committee also identified editorial changes and points of emphasis for the upcoming season. The four points of

Continued from p2 emphasis identified for the 2009-10 season include the head coach standing, match officials' responsibilities, ball handling and the libero uniform.

"The main editorial change for the upcoming season is Rule 1-2-1.3, which changes the term 'game' to 'set.' This updates and reflects the current terminology of the sport and replaces all references in the rules to set," Oakes said.

Volleyball is the third-most popular sport for girls at the high school level, according to the 2007-08 NFHS Athletics Participation Survey, with 397,968 participants nationwide. The sport also ranks third in school sponsorship with 15,009 schools sponsoring the sport. In addition, 46,780 boys participate in volleyball at 2,006 schools.

Track and field rules set to take effect

TIMES STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS — Beginning next track and field season, pole vaulters once again will be charged with a foul if their feet leave the ground in an attempt to clear the crossbar but are unsuccessful. However, an exception was adopted to permit the vaulter to leave the ground and return when stopping an attempt.

Rule 7-5-29 was one of seven rules revised by National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Committee at its annual meeting last June in Indianapolis. The changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

In a revision last year, vaulters were allowed to leave the ground and not be charged to them provided they did not break the plane of the crossbar. This rule was revised to clarify the original intent of the committee.

The exception added to the rule provides it is not considered a foul if the competitor aborts the approach and, in stopping, plants the pole and momentum causes his/her feet to leave the ground.

"The change in 7-5-29 last year by the committee was not intended to allow a vaulter to abort a vault but rather to have the opportunity to stop and abort the approach," said Becky Oakes, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the Track and Field Rules Committee. "The change clearly reflects the original intent of the committee to abort only the approach and have the opportunity to restart the approach."

"Specifically for starter's pistols were addressed as Rule 3-9-2 was revised to only allow closed-barreled pistols.

"It is not appropriate to use a live weapon in an educational event," Oakes said, "and in most cases, state law prohibits firearms on school grounds and at school events."

Revisions to Rules 6-4-9c and 6-5-9c will allow competitors in throwing events to enter

and exit the throwing circle without a foul providing it occurs within the time allowed for the trial and before the competitor starts his/her attempt beginning with the pause.

"The change will allow competitors, for example, to leave the circle to wipe off their hands and re-enter the circle without a penalty."

A note was added to Rule 7-5-3 clarifying that visible etchings appearing on poles shall not meet the requirement of the manufacturer's pole rating appearing on the pole in a contrasting color.

Rules 7-4-11 and 7-5-18 were revised to delete the option for the event judge to place a cloth marker on the crossbar for sighting purposes during the pole vault and high jump.

"The current crossbars are of a bright, contrasting color and no longer present a sighting problem for competitors," Oakes said, "and, therefore, the use of the cloth is no longer needed for competition."

Revisions to Rules 6-4-9c and 6-5-9c will allow competitors in throwing events to enter

the full use of fully automatic timing (FAT). Rule 3-9-6 now allows all ties for place finishes and/or determining qualifiers for a subsequent round to be broken using timing to one one-thousandths of a second.

The addition of Rule 3-9-9 allows all ties for place finishes and/or determining qualifiers for a subsequent round to be broken using timing to one one-thousandths of a second.

The committee also identified six points of emphasis for next season: 1) electronic devices; 2) observed violation reporting procedures; 3) starter's pistols; 4) equipment failure; 5) pole vault and 6) visible undergarments.

Track and field is the third-most popular sport among boys and the second-most popular sport among girls at the high school level with 544,180 boys and 444,181 girls participating during the 2006-07 season, according to the High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS. It also ranks second in school sponsorship for both boys and girls.

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Softball rules changes address pitchers, batters

TIMES STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS — Beginning in 2009, new rules will be in place to create more balance between pitching and batting in high school softball.

Three rules revisions were made by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Softball Rules Committee regarding the pitcher-batter relationship at its annual meeting earlier in the year in Indianapolis. The rules changes subsequently were approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The penalty for Rule 6-2-3 — a pitcher exceeding the 20-second time limit — is now a ball awarded to the batter, rescinding the previous penalty of an illegal pitch.

"The change makes a violation of the time to pitch by the pitcher consistent with a batter failing to be ready within 10

seconds after the ball has been returned to the pitcher," said Mary Struckhoff, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the Softball Rules Committee. "An illegal pitch penalty is excessive as it also awards runners one additional base."

A revision to Rule 6-1-4d changes the pitching windup requirement to a maximum of 12 clockwise revolutions. The change will benefit batters and umpires alike.

"More and more, pitchers are pushing the rule to the limit in an attempt to gain an advantage by adjusting the batter," Struckhoff said. "The change will make an illegal pitch, as it relates to the windup, easier to identify and enforcement more consistent."

The final adjustment will help create balance between offense and defense clarifies the definition of an attempted bunt. Rule 2-8-2 will be changed to state that holding

the bat in the strike zone is considered an attempted bunt. In order to take a pitch, the batter must withdraw the bat backward away from the batter.

The committee also addressed the issue of ball specifications. Beginning in 2010, all softballs must have a dynamic stiffness that does not exceed 7,500 lbs/inch when tested under current proposed ASTM test methods. Rule 1-3-3 adds the dynamic stiffness requirement to complement the existing size, weight, COI, and compression standards.

Editorial changes approved by the committee:

— Rule 1-4-2 includes the allowance of one American flag (2 inches x 3 inches maximum) permitted on the glove.

— Rule 1-7-1 states that any eye shield worn by a catcher must be clear.

— A note addition to Rule 3-2-1 establishes that individ-

ual state associations may permit a player to participate while wearing a different style of uniform for religious reasons.

— Rule 3-2-7 was clarified to affirm that exposed undergarments must be a solid color.

— Rule 6-2-3 clarifies that once the ball is returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch, she has 20 seconds to release the pitch.

— Rule 7-3-1 clarifies that the batter has 10 seconds to take her position in the batter's box after the ball is returned to the pitcher. The wording of the penalty for this rule was also changed to state that the pitcher bringing her hands together indicates a commitment to deliver the pitch.

The committee also established three points of emphasis for next season: 1) Pitching; 2) Obstruction/interference and 3) The DP/FLEX Rule.

Revisions made to four prep baseball rules

TIMES STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS — The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Baseball Rules Committee adjusted four rules at its annual meeting last June. The rules changes subsequently were approved by the NFHS Board of Directors. A revision was made to Rule 6-2-3 regarding infractions by a pitcher. The rule states it is illegal for a pitcher to intentionally pitch close to a batter, replacing the prior phrasing of "throw" close to a batter. The change was necessary for clarification and in order to be consistent with other pitching rules. "This rule is violated while the pitcher is pitching, and not just throwing the ball," said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of educational services and liaison to the Baseball Rules Committee.

Infractions by a batter were

also addressed. The committee is concerned that batters are still attempting to be hit by pitches and earn an undeserved awarded base by "taking an illegal pitch." Rules 3-3-4 clearly prohibits a batter allowing himself to be hit by a pitch. In such a situation, the pitched ball is deemed either a strike or a ball and the player who permitted the ball to touch him remains at bat unless the pitch results in a third strike or ball four. The phrase "or ball four" was added to the rule to clarify the pitch needed to be called a strike or ball.

Revisions were also made to Rule 1-2-2 regarding painted field lines. All nonpermanent lines on the playing field shall be marked white with a material not injurious to the eyes or skin.

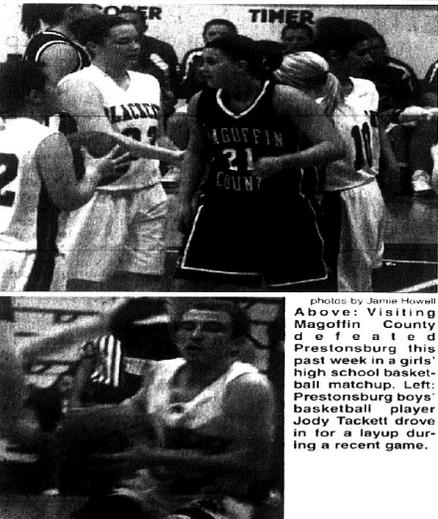
Non-permanent refers to all lines that must be painted on the field. Only permanent

lines, such as on artificial turf, may be a color other than white. Lastly, umpires will be given more flexibility with their uniforms beginning in 2009. An adjustment to Rule 10-1-9 eliminated the need for umpires to specifically wear leather gray pants. "Equipment dealers are transitioning to charcoal gray slacks," Hopkins said. "The rule change will provide umpires the opportunity to purchase any shade of dark gray and be in compliance."

In addition to the four rules changes, the committee identified four points of emphasis simplifying illegal pitch penalty administration; re-emphasizing that team personnel remain in dugouts; keeping the pace of play steady; and having all coaching staff members display professional behavior. Baseball is the fourth-most popular sport among boys at the high school

level with 477,430 participants during the 2006-07 season, according to the High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS. It also ranks third in school sponsorship across the nation with 15,458 participating schools.

15th Region Boys' Basketball (Records through Jan. 29)	
Team	Overall Record
Shelby Valley	14-4
Johnson Central	13-5
Pikeville	12-7
Lawrence County	11-6
East Ridge	11-7
Philps	10-4
Prestonsburg	10-6
Betsy Layne	9-5
Sheldon Clark	7-9
Magoffin County	7-11
Bell	6-10
Paintsville	4-13
South Floyd	4-14
Rika Co. Central-15	3-15
Allen Central	1-9



photos by Jamie Howell
Above: Visiting Magoffin County defeated Prestonsburg this past week in a girls' high school basketball match. Left: Prestonsburg boys' basketball player Jody Tackett drove in for a layup during a recent game.

B3

Stewart honors Eldora Speedway champions during banquet

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ROSSBURG, Ohio — A capacity crowd was on hand Saturday, Jan. 24 to witness Eldora Speedway track owner Tony Stewart crown his 2008 champions and distribute numerous specialty awards as the famed one-half clay oval brought an official close to the 2008 campaign.

Veteran driver Matt Miller (Whitehouse, Ohio) claimed his first-ever Eldora Speedway title with a stronghold on the Late Model division, while

Mike Dirksen (Union City, Ohio) captured his second Advance Auto Parts Stock Car Championship. Dirksen's first title was in 2005. Jerry Bowersock (Wapakoneta, Ohio) also earned his second Eldora Speedway title, but this time in a different division. His 2008 trip was the result of his efforts in the Moser UMP (United Midwest Promoters) Modified division. Bowersock's first trip to the stage was in 2001 to represent the Late Model division.

In addition to the champi-

ons, point fund monies and trophies were presented to each of the top 15 in the cumulative points chase for each division.

Stewart personally praised each driver for their efforts and addressed the massive audience with praise for their loyalty and support to Eldora Speedway.

"I may be on the road racing all across the Nation during the summer with my NASCAR team, but everywhere I go, I think about Eldora Speedway and have

even installed cameras around the track to allow me to check up on things and watch the action while I'm away," said Stewart. "I'm not here in person, but my heart is."

Eldora Speedway's most coveted award, the Sportsman of the Year, was presented to John Staples. Unable to attend due to illness, the award was accepted by his driver, Gary Richard.

Special awards in the Late Model division included Rusty Schlenk as the Most Improved Driver, Hillard Miller as the

Hard Luck recipient and the Halcomb Racing Team as the Best Appearing Car & Crew.

Josh Morton began the parade of Moser UMP Modified specialty awards with his Rookie of the Year Title, while Jon Henry was named as the Most Improved Driver. Hard Luck Award honorees were bestowed upon Mike Koediger, with the Best Appearing Car & Crew award handed to Bowersock.

The Advance Auto Parts Stock Car division found Andy King named as the Rookie of

the year, with Chad Barr garnering the Most Improved Driver title. Rounding out that division were Kevin Gossard with the Hard Luck Award and Mike Barr with the Best Appearing Car & Crew title.

Shirley Phillippi was named the Woman of the Year, while Duke Drosch was the recipient of the Fan of the Year trophy.

ONLINE:
www.eldoraspeedway.com

Ansell, Menards to sponsor Frank Kimmel in ARCA

Veteran driver has won nine series titles

TIMES STAFF REPORT

TOLEDO, Ohio — Officials from Ansell Protective Products Inc. and Menards Home Improvement Stores announced today that they will become co-primary sponsors of nine-time ARCA RE/MAX Series Champion Frank Kimmel in 2009.

"We are pleased to

announce a comprehensive, multi-faceted marketing program in conjunction with Menards Home Improvement Stores and ARCA," said Sean Sweeney, Sr. Market Development Manager for Ansell. "Together, Ansell Gloves and Menards have partnered to sponsor nine-time ARCA Champion Frank Kimmel for the 2009 season."

"The marketing program is anchored by a business-to-business relationship between Ansell, the world's largest manufacturer of protective gloves and clothing, and Menards, a Midwestern-based chain of home improvement stores. As a result of the sponsorship, the Ansell line of hand protection products will be

available for purchase in each of the nation's 245 Menards Home Improvement Stores.

"This sponsorship program is really neat," said Kimmel. "It has been designed to promote the availability of Ansell's safety glove line to the contractor and installer markets at Menards retail locations. The support of Ansell and Menards helps me to continue to pursue my goals of active racing in a tenth ARCA RE/MAX Series Championship and hopefully surpass Iggy Katona on the all-time ARCA win list."

Kimmel is the ARCA RE/MAX Series' all-time active leader, with records in the categories of championships won, most laps led, superspeedway pole awards,

superspeedway challenge championships, top-five finishes, top-ten finishes and career earnings. With 73 career wins, he is just five wins shy of tying Katona's all-time win record in the ARCA RE/MAX Series.

"Menards is very excited to sponsor Frank Kimmel's run for a 10th ARCA Championship in 2009," said Jeff Abbott, company spokesperson for Menard, Inc. "We feel his strong work ethic is a good fit with our family-owned, customer service oriented, home town hardware stores."

Retail offerings at Menards range from lawn and garden supplies to lumber, tools and supplies for landscaping, building and remodeling. The home

improvement stores cater to the do-it-yourself consumer and the professional contractor, jobber and installer. Menards is based in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and currently has 245 locations in 12 states.

"As business needs evolve, so do our marketing efforts," said Steve York, Director of Channel Development for Ansell. "The opportunity to partner with ARCA and Menards as well as expand our value proposition into the retail market further promotes our worksite safety initiatives. We are excited to partner with Menards, Frank Kimmel and ARCA."

Ansell is the world's largest manufacturer of protective gloves and clothing, providing

leadership in the areas of development, design, manufacturing and marketing. Ansell has led the personal protective equipment industry with "Ideas that FITM" for more than 100 years. The global manufacturer has provided comprehensive safety solutions and product innovations to help manufacturers across a wide range of industries reduce worker injuries and boost productivity.

Beginning with the Lucas Oil Slick Mist 200 on Saturday, February 7 at Daytona International Speedway, Kimmel's family owned team will sport the familiar "Day Glo" yellow color scheme carried by other Menards sponsored teams.

All Star Circuit of Champions acquires IRS

TIMES STAFF REPORT

CAMARGO, Ill. — The All Star Circuit of Champions, Inc. has purchased the Independent Racing Series (IRS) Late Model Series and has begun to put together the most affordable premiere Late Model series in the country, the O'Reilly All Star Late Model Series. The O'Reilly Late Model Series is the newest series owned and operated under the banner of the "O'Reilly All Stars" which includes the O'Reilly All Star Circuit of Champions and the O'Reilly Midwest All Star Series.

The O'Reilly All Star Late Model Series will have approx. a 30 date schedule that will be focused in the Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, Michigan, Maryland, Kentucky and Illinois. Eighty percent of the schedule will be within eight hours from Columbus, Ohio area featuring a base show of \$5000.00 to win and \$400.00 to start with many \$7,000 and \$10,000.00 shows as well in the 2009 schedule.

The improvements will include a large point fund for the top 10 drivers and owners, appearance fees for the five chosen "All Stars" and a race format that will entertain and excite the fans. The multi-state tour will feature some of the best drivers in the country going fender to fender at some of the best Late Model tracks in the country.

This is not the first time that there has been a companion Late Model series to the All Star Circuit of Champions. From 1980-1993 Late Models raced their own schedule as well as partnered with the Super Cars in several events. Hall of Famer Charlie Swartz is at the top of the all-time win list with 36 followed by Donnie Moran (26), and the final points champion Billy Moyer (15).

Eagles move into first-place tie with Tennessee Tech

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD — Leon Buchanan scored 24 points and Robert Murray had 17 points in a reserve role to lead Morehead State to a 94-73 Ohio Valley Conference win over Tennessee State (Jan. 29) Thursday evening in Johnson Arena.

Tennessee State (6-14, 4-6 OVC) was led by Gerald Robinson, Jr. who scored 23 points. Parker Smith came off the bench to score 17 points.

The win enabled Morehead State (12-10, 8-2) to move

into a tie for first place with Austin Peay in the conference standings. Those two teams met Saturday evening in Morehead. The Morehead State-Austin Peay game, however, ended too late to make this edition.

"It's exciting to have a share of first place," said MSU Coach Donnie Tyndall. "Our kids played hard tonight. We were efficient offensively. I thought we guarded them pretty well."

"But the biggest thing tonight — they outrebounded us in the earlier game — was that we got them by 16 on the

boards. That's unbelievable, especially in a conference game."

The Eagles led by 16 points at halftime and by as many as 30 points after intermission.

MSU shot 59.3-percent (32-of-54) from the field, while TSU managed only 37.5 percent (21-of-56). The Eagles won the rebound battle, 47 to 24. Kentucky Faried, who ranks fifth nationally in rebounding, had a game-high 13 against the Tigers. The sophomore center also had eight points, three assists, two blocked shots and six steals.

Second half defense, rebounding rally Eagles past Tennessee State

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD — Junior Deja Watson pulled down a career-high 18 rebounds, junior Britany Pittman posted her ninth double-double with 18 points and 11 rebounds, and the Morehead State University women's basketball team held Tennessee State University to 23 percent shooting in the final half, rallying for a 60-51 win Thursday at Johnson Arena.

The Eagles' 14th consecutive home win pushed their record to 13-9 and 7-3 in the OVC, while TSU fell to 11-10 and 7-3 in the OVC.

After a slow first half that saw MSU shoot just 31 percent (10-of-32) and trail 32-25, the Eagles' defense rose to the occasion in the second half. At one point, TSU was 2-of-19 from the field, and the Lady Tigers were held to a 7-for-30 effort in the final 20 minutes. The Eagles had just six turnovers in the final half and outscored the visitors 35-19.

Watson had six boards by the break and then exploded

for 12 in the final half. Overall, she pulled down 12 defensive rebounds and also added seven points. Pittman had 12 points and seven rebounds by the half. She was on the bench for much of the final half in foul trouble but still managed to record a game-high 18 points to go along with 11 boards. Sophomore Chlyna Bozeman reached double figures for the 16th time this year with 13 points.

Tennessee State got a double-double — her third of the year — by Jasmine Smith with 16 points and a game best 12 rebounds. Tiffany Jackson had 12 points. The Eagles limited leading scorer Kendra Appling, who entered the night with an 18-point scoring average, to seven — all in the first half.

The Eagles quickly erased the seven-point halftime deficit with a 10-3 run. Tiffany Hamilton tied the game at 35-all at the 15:01 mark. At the 13:45 mark, Pittman's free throw gave MSU a 36-35 lead it never gave up. TSU crept to within one (39-38), but the

Eagles went on an 11-2 run — capped by a Tiffany Stephens jumper at 7:44 — to lead 50-40. The Eagles' largest lead of the night proved to be 13 (60-47) with 3:42 remaining.

In the opening half, the Eagles led 13-11 with 13:24 left, but the Lady Tigers ripped off a 13-0 run to take its largest lead of the night at 24-13. TSU would have led by 10 at the half, but Bozeman's three-pointer with just more than a minute left set the halftime margin at 32-25.

For the night, the Eagles out-rebounded TSU 52-39 and shot 75 percent at the free throw line. MSU shot just 34 percent overall, but forced TSU to hit on only 32 percent of its attempts.

Morehead State was hosting Austin Peay Saturday. The game had not ended when this edition went to press.

ONLINE:
www.msueagles.com

EAST KENTUCKY BASKETBALL



EMMALENA won the 13-and-under division title in the 2008 EKBA (East Kentucky Basketball Association) Mountain Christmas Spectacular tournament held at the Knott County Sportsplex Dec. 13-14.



CARR CREEK finished runner-up in the 13-and-under division of the 2009 EKBA Winter Slam tournament held at the Knott County Sportsplex.



BEAVER finished runner-up in the 9-and-under division of the Winter Slam tournament. The tournament was held Jan. 17-18. Teams from throughout Eastern Kentucky compete in the EKBA.

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For Sale : 2006 Toyota 4-runner, white w/sunroof, SR5 / 4x4 . 56k miles. Call 791-2955 or 285-3975.

Ford Econoline 15 passenger church van for sale. New tires and bolts. \$1500. OBO. Contact Trimble chapel church at 874-2324 or Mike Ousley at 606-263-4240.

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 Prestonsburg. If interested call 606-478-9501 Mon-Fri 9:00am to 5:00pm or go online www.teamkoro.com to fill out online application.

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.

Abbott Engineering, Inc. is currently seeking qualified applicants for the position of permitting technician. The applicant should have experience in completing all aspects of surface and deep mine permits for submission to regulatory authorities. The applicant should also have experience with the following computer programs : Auto CAD, SEDCAD, and REAME. Please send resume to Abbott Engineering, Inc.

3073 KY Route 321, Prestonsburg, Ky 41653 or by email to thoward@abbott-engineering.com.

Medical office needs part time employee. No experience needed. No degree required. Lots of patient interaction with some reception skills. Located in Prestonsburg. Send resume to PO - Box 2038 Pikeville, Ky 41502.

News paper route available. From Allen to Wheelwright. \$1,200 profit potential. Must be able to be bonded. Call 1-800-274-7355.

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. SOL experience preferred. Also seeking a LPN or RN. Salaries are to be negotiated. A criminal background check is required for positions. Apply in person at Community Connections 4663 US 23 South level, Ky 41602. Phone Number 606-274-1900.

Experienced parts specialist needed. Apply in person only. Napa

at 810 South Lake Drive in Prestonsburg. Full benefits package. Pay commensurate with experience. Ask for Phillip.

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

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 Ratly at 606-226-9543 or 606-886-6465 leave message

Prestonsburg Health Care Center has openings for full time C.N.A.'s, 6a / 6pm. We offer competitive wages and benefits. If interested 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.

Do you need a nurse to help provide care for a loved one? I am an LPN with 8 yrs experience. Contact Della at 606-205-4851 for more information.

Post office Now Hiring! Avg pay

\$20/hr, \$57K/yr, incl Fed ben. OT. Placed by ADSOURCE not affiliated w/ USPS who hires. Call 1-866-668-5257.

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.

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If you need brick, block, stone, fireplaces built or trailers under pinned. Call 606-424-2969 or 606-668-3906.

If you need wills, deeds, power of attorney or other legal documents drawn up or need a notary. Call 791-1202.

Do you need a nurse to help provide care for a loved one? I am an LPN with 8 yrs experience. Contact Della at 606-205-4851 for more information.

Misc.

Buying scrap gold, top prices paid. Call - 606-447-2956.

Nanny needed for two young girls to live in home near Pikeville. Must 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 606-478-6355.

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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.

Sale or lease

House for sale or lease. Located at Stone Crest, 3 +/- acres. Serious inquiries only. For more information. Call 606-434-1281 or 606-454-3646.

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

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.

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

interested contact 606-874-2333

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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.

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 \$195,000. Call 285-1000 for appointment. Serious inquiries only.

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1 or 2 br apartments for rent. Located in Prestonsburg. Furnished, clean, all utilities paid. References required. Call 886-8566.

North Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Ky. Downtown from Jerry's.

For sale: Small community post office building plus 1,200 sq ft living area with back yard. Plus another office workshop & garage. Can be home with income or 3 rental units. 3 miles from Hwy 80. \$145,000. Call 606-285-9650.

Commercial space for rent conveniently located at 834 South Lake Drive. Call 889-6510 or 886-0255.

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APARTMENT

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Citizens National Bank, located in Paintsville, Kentucky, is actively seeking a Controller to join their Finance team. This position would report to the CFO and will be considered as a possible succession step to the CFO position. Candidates should have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Finance with 3 to 5 years experience in the financial services or public accounting industry. A post graduate degree or CPA would be desirable. This position prepares reports to regulatory agencies—Call Reports, FDIC and OCC assessments, Personal Property & Franchise Tax Returns, maintains the General Ledger and budgets, provides management information to senior management and the Board, and supervises two employees. This position will be located in Paintsville, Kentucky, and a relocation package will be provided. This position comes with a complete package of benefits, including health, dental, vision, 401(k), life insurance, long- and short-term disability. Compensation will be commensurate with experience and education.

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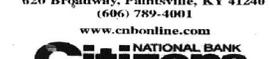
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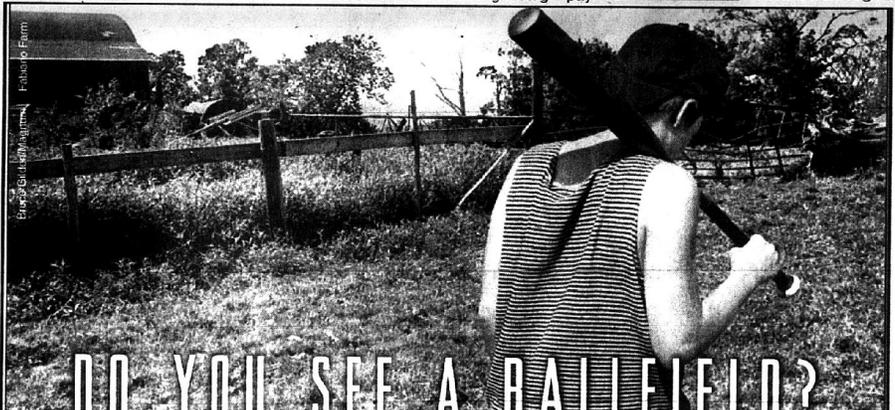
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NOTICE (OF FINAL SETTLEMENT)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COUNTY OF FLOYD...SCT

I, Douglas Ray Halk, Clerk of the Floyd District Court, do hereby certify that the following settlements of estates have been filed in my office. Anyone desiring to take exceptions to said settlements must do so on or before February 28, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.

Settlement	Case Number	Estate Of:	Fiduciary	Date Filed
Final	06-P-00261	Belle S. Sturgill	Carla Burchett	12-30-08
Final	07-P-00249	Mabel Allen	Woodrow Allen & William Allen	01-05-09
Final	08-P-00027	Ellis Stone	Josephine S. Muncy	01-08-09
Final	08-P-00222	Carson Reffett	Laudy Reffett	10-07-09
Final	08-P-00285	Elmo Allen	Jancy Allen	01-07-09

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

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
I just turned 40, ughhhhh, so I guess I have hit my "midlife crisis." Unlike my friends, I don't want a Porsche or a Ferrari. I want a late-'50s to early-'60s VW Bug. That's right, a VW Bug. I live in Kentucky, and you are more likely to find a vintage Camaro or Mustang than an old VW that still has a floor. I have, however, found several for sale at very reasonable prices in the Southern California area. Herein lies my question, oh esteemed wrench heads. Would I be crazy to fly to Los Angeles, buy a VW and then drive it across the country back to Kentucky? Oh, one more thing: I have never been on an airplane, and have never been more than 300 miles from home. I think this could be one of the great adventures of my life ... or not. What do you think? — Don

TOM: I think it's a great idea, Don. Midlife crises occur when we get that first ugly inkling of mortality — which often happens in our 40s. And we say to ourselves, "Self, I don't want to leave this earth without ever having —" Fill in the blank.

RAY: And some midlife crises are more realistic than others. For instance, my brother's involved a trapeze, a Christmas tree and Heidi Klum. He's still in crisis. But I think yours is doable, Don.

TOM: Yours involves owning a car that you find romantic and doing some traveling, which you've never done. That's all good fun that doesn't do anyone else any harm. So here's what we suggest.

RAY: First, leave yourself plenty of time. You'll need time in Los Angeles to see several cars and have a mechanic of your choosing check them out. Try our Mechanics Files at www.cartalk.com, where you can find mechanics who've been personally recommended by other readers and radio listeners of ours. Call them in advance, and tell them what you're doing and when you're coming out. And make arrangements for them to look at a couple of cars for you.

TOM: If they specialize in old VWs, they may even know of a good one for sale. Once you find the Bug for you, and it's approved by your mechanic (or approved once X, Y and Z are fixed), then you're ready for your cross-country trip.

RAY: In your case, we're going to strongly recommend that you drive the "back roads." Spend some time planning a route that doesn't involve major interstate highways. Sure, it'll take you longer, but the back roads will give you several advantages.

TOM: First, they'll be a lot safer. The car you're buying won't have air bags, stability control, side-impact protection, crumple zones, anti-lock brakes. Heck, it might not even have seat belts! So a major highway is the last place you want to be.

RAY: Plus, by taking the "old routes," you'll really get to see the country, meet the locals and eat food that's not advertised on TV. This isn't just about getting the car back home, it's about seeing the country and having some unexpected adventures.

TOM: And driving at a slower pace will be easier on the car, too. That car was never designed to do 75 mph for eight hours a day.

RAY: Finally, we'd suggest that you bring a tow-club membership card and a healthy credit card. Even after being checked out by a mechanic, you easily could experience mechanical difficulties along the way. But as long as you have money for a motel room and time to spare, you can just consider that part of the adventure.

TOM: Right. And if worse comes to worst (let's say the engine and transmission fall out on Route 66, and while you're walking back to collect them, a Ford Expedition crushes the rear of the car), you abandon the car at a local junkyard, buy a bus ticket home and start planning your next car-buying adventure trip.

In cold climates, block heaters have many benefits

Dear Tom and Ray:
Help! I have an '04 Chevy Trailblazer, and I live in the far north of Canada. It's minus 24 degrees as I write this. Can you tell me what the benefit is, to my engine, of using a block heater? — Emily

TOM: Well, the primary benefit is that your car will start, Emily.

RAY: For those of you lucky enough not to live in the great frozen north, a block

heater is an electric heating element that's installed in your engine block. You plug it in overnight with an extension cord, and it keeps the engine block, and the coolant inside of it, warm. And that, in turn, keeps the oil from thickening up.

TOM: When an engine gets bitterly cold, the oil gets thick, like molasses. If the moving parts of your engine have to push through this thick oil just to get started in the morning, they may not be able to do it.

So the block heater keeps the coolant warm, and that, in turn, keeps the oil just warm enough so that it moves easily.

RAY: That has benefits for your engine as well. Most significantly, since the oil moves more easily, it circulates faster and gets to moving parts of the engine faster. So there's less time just after the engine starts when key metal parts are unprotected — or underprotected — by oil. That means your engine lasts longer.

TOM: The prewarmed

coolant and oil also allow your engine to warm up faster and reach operating temperature sooner. That means you get less oil dilution from cold, unvaporized gasoline, and better fuel efficiency.

RAY: AND it means you get heat to your feet faster. When it's minus 24 degrees, don't tell me that the benefit of a warm passenger compartment isn't as important as any benefits to your engine, Emily!



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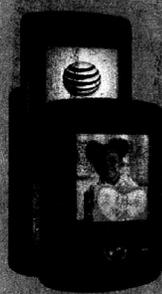
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