

Miners to take on Atlanta page B1



# The Times

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## In brief Draud announces resignation from state House

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — State Representative Jon Draud has announced his resignation, days after the lawmaker was chosen to be Kentucky's next education commissioner.

A spokeswoman for House Speaker Jody Richards says the Republican from Edgewood submitted his resignation letter, effective Sunday, to House leadership.

The Kentucky Board of Education picked the 69-year-old Draud to hold the state's highest education job at a meeting on Sunday. He replaces former commissioner Gene Wilhoit, who left last year for a job in Washington D.C.

Draud was a member of the House since 1999.



Big Sandy Community and Technical College President Dr. George Edwards addressed details of the KCTCS plan during a breakfast meeting Friday.

## KCTCS unveils 'Plan for a Competitive Commonwealth'

by JACK LATTA  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Floyd County students being under-prepared for college was one of the issues addressed Friday at a meeting concerning proposals by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System held at the Big Sandy Community and Technical College campus.

According to figures provided during the meeting, in 2006, Floyd County schools had a graduation rate of 75 percent, and 51 percent went to instate schools. Of those students, 65 percent required developmental math courses.

Dr. Michael B. McCall, president of KCTCS, who spoke at the meeting via telephone, said that one of the strategic initiatives proposed will address collaboration with school districts to better prepare high school students entering into KCTCS.

During the legislative briefing to introduce the "Plan for a Competitive Commonwealth," McCall outlined a series of goals for improving the KCTCS system.

"Our work will become even more important as we move forward in meeting the needs of business and industry in providing an adequately trained workforce," McCall said.

Research shows that 83 percent of all jobs created in the state over the next seven years will require an associate degree or less.

"KCTCS was charged with

## Knott judge, three others indicted

by JENNIFER LAWSON  
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — Knott County Judge-Executive Randall Clinton Thompson and three other county officials have been indicted in U.S. District Court, charged with misappropriating public funds to influence an election for the judge in 2006.

The indictment returned by a federal grand jury in London, alleges that Thompson, Deputy Judge-Executives John Mac Combs and Phillip G. Champion and Magistrate Ronnie Adams conspired to use county-owned gravel, asphalt and building material to buy votes.

According to the indictment, thousands of dollars worth of these materials were distributed to private citizens in an effort to influence the election. Federal law makes it unlawful to misappropriate property worth more than \$5,000 from a state agency receiving more than \$10,000 worth of federal funds in a 12-month period.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Federal

(See INDICTED, page three)

## Man arrested in vandalism case

by JENNIFER LAWSON  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Prestonsburg man has been arrested just over a month after a local Masonic lodge was the victim of extensive vandalism.

Joshua Miller, 23, was arrested by Prestonsburg Police Det. Steve Little Friday morning after he allegedly admitted he was responsible for the crime following an hour and 15-minute interrogation session.

Members of Zebulon Lodge No. 273, F&AM, were in the lodge on Saturday, Oct. 20, only to return the following Wednesday to find over

(See ARREST, page three)

3 DAY FORECAST

Today  
Evening showers  
High: 59 • Low: 28

Tomorrow  
Partly cloudy  
High: 39 • Low: 24

Tuesday  
Partly cloudy  
High: 41 • Low: 26

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## Buser named dean of medical school



Boyd R. Buser

PIKEVILLE — On behalf of the Board of Trustees at Pikeville College, President Hal Smith announced Friday the appointment of Boyd R. Buser, D.O., as vice president and dean of the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine.

"It is my honor and pleasure to announce that Boyd Buser, D.O., has been selected and has agreed to serve as the permanent dean for PCSOM," said Smith. "He, of course, has been serving as the interim dean since September. He was the candidate recommended by the search committee for the deanship and he was endorsed by the executive committee. Boyd has outstanding credentials and experiences. We feel very fortunate to have him in this important position of leadership for the institution."

Buser previously served as the associate dean for Clinical Affairs at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine, where he was also vice president for health services and dean (interim).

"Having gotten to know and work with him during the last several months, I know that he is equally excited about being at PCSOM and in Pikeville," Smith continued. "We look forward to the opportunities ahead and are pleased to welcome Dr. Boyd Buser, and his wife, Pam, to the College family."

"I am pleased and honored to have this opportunity to serve Pikeville College and the School of Osteopathic Medicine," said Buser. "I have enjoyed the past three months as interim dean and hope to continue in the development of the school and the important work being done here. My wife Pam and I are happy to be in Pikeville. We have been well received and look forward to becoming an active part of the community."

A native of Iowa, Buser received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa. After earning his osteopathic

(See DEAN, page three)

## Agriculture, state police team up to teach ATV safety

FRANKFORT — Kentucky Department of Agriculture staff on Thursday trained Kentucky State Police troopers on an all-terrain vehicle safety course designed to stem the tide of ATV deaths and injuries in the Commonwealth.

KSP assigned 18 troopers to take the four-hour training at state police headquarters in Frankfort. One trooper was selected from each KSP post to learn how to teach ATV riders in their respective areas how to ride safely and reduce the risk of an accident. Trooper Scott Hopkins from Pikeville represented KSP Post 9 at the training and plans to bring many of the safety initiatives from training program back to Eastern Kentucky. Dale Dobson, the KDA's Farm and Home Safety Program Coordinator, conducted the program.

"Kentucky led the nation in ATV deaths between 2002 and 2005," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "That simply is not acceptable. That's why I'm pleased to work with the Kentucky State Police to spread the word that you can ride an ATV safely and still have fun. That's

(See ATV, page three)



KSP Trooper Scott Hopkins and KDA Farm Safety Coordinator Dale Dobson.

inside

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# Regional Obituaries

## PIKE COUNTY

■ Pomerine England, 49, of Harolds Branch Road, died Friday, November 23. Arrangements, under the direction of Pikeville Funeral Home.

■ J. Loyell Johnson, 86, of Pikeville, died Thursday, November 22, at Banner Elk, NC. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Kinney Johnson. Funeral services were held Monday, November 26, under the direction of Lucas and Son Funeral Home.

■ Druey Mounts, 72, of Hurley, Va., a Pike County native, died Tuesday, November 20, at Buchanan General Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Elsie Spencer Jackson Mounts. Funeral services were held Saturday, November 24, under the direction of Grundy Funeral Home of Grundy, Va.

■ Larry D. Phillips, 63, of Pikeville, died Thursday, November 22, at his home. Funeral services were held Sunday, November 25, at the Thacker Funeral Home. Arrangements are under the direction of Thacker Funeral

## Home.

■ Michael Howard Ratliff, 56, of South Carolina, formerly of Robinson Creek, died Tuesday, November 20, in South Carolina. He is survived by his wife, Michelle Ratliff. Funeral services were held Monday, November 26, under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home.

■ John L. Thacker, 69, of Hellier, died Wednesday, November 21, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Carol Thacker. Funeral services were held Sunday, November 25, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Ella Renfro Vanover, 81, died Wednesday, November 21, at her home. She is survived by her husband, Clifton A. Vanover. Funeral services were held Saturday, November 24, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ William Conley Webb, 78, of Neon, died Wednesday, November 21, at Whitesburg ARH. He is survived by his wife, Lola Webb. Funeral services were held Sunday, November 25, under the direction of Carty Funeral Home.

## KNOTT COUNTY

■ Bobby Boyd, 69, of Dema, died Monday, November 13, at Whitesburg ARH. Funeral services were held Saturday, November 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Clarence Daniel Hall, 73, of Topmost, died Thursday, November 15, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were held Sunday, November 18, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Robert Lee Smith, 91, of Nicholasville, died Tuesday, November 13, at the Hazard ARMC. Funeral services were held Friday, November 16, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Donnie Lynndale Sullivan, 66, of Venus, Florida, died Saturday, November 17, at Hazard ARH. Funeral services were held Monday, November 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

## FLOYD COUNTY

Rebecca "Becky" Justice

Dye, 66, of McDowell, died Thursday, November 22, at her residence. Funeral services were held Sunday, November 25, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Helen S. Kendrick, 76, of Melvin, died Thursday, November 22, at Saint Joseph Hospital, in Lexington. She is survived by her husband, Edward Kendrick. Funeral services were held Monday, November 26, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Ralph Watkins, 72, of Harold, died Wednesday, November 21, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Ernestine Fife Watkins. Funeral services were held Saturday, November 24, under the direction of J.W. Call and Son Funeral Home.

Kizzie J. Halbert, 73, of McDowell, died Thursday, November 15, at Hazard ARH. Funeral services were held Saturday, November 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Vina S. Tuttle, 71, of Garrett, died Wednesday, November 12, at Prestonsburg Health Care. Funeral services were held Thursday, November 15, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Alice Ousley, 87, of Willard, Ohio, formerly of Hueysville, died Thursday, November 29, at the Willard Health Care Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 1, under the direction of Secor Funeral Home.

Jeremiah "Jerry" Turner, 43, of David, died Tuesday, November 27, at his home. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 1, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Retta (Akers) Hall, 93, of Banner, died Friday, November 23, at the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, November 25, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Helen S. Kendrick, 76, of Melvin, wife of Edward

Kendrick, died Thursday, November 22, at Saint Joseph Hospital, in Lexington. She is survived her husband, Edward Kendrick. Funeral services were conducted Monday, November 26, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Minta Nunnery Burke, formerly of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, November 20, in Shelbyville, Tennessee. Services at a later date in Prestonsburg.

Mary C. Jefferson, 86, of Old Main Street in Maysville, died Saturday, November 24, at the UK Medical Center in Lexington. Funeral services were held Tuesday, November 28, under the direction of Knox and Brothers Funeral Home.

Mary Magelene "Maggie" Allen, age 66, of Allen, died Thursday, November 22, 2007, at Riverview Health Care, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, November 25, at 11 a.m., at the Wheelwright Freewill Baptist Church, in Bypro, with Louis Ferrari and John Allen officiating.

Malta S. Porter, 87, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, November 24, 2007, at the Prestonsburg Health Care.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, November 27, at 2 p.m., at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Nathan Lafferty officiating.

## JOHNSON COUNTY

John Hubert Patton, 40, East Point, died Wednesday, November 14, at Cabell Huntington Hospital, Huntington, W. Va. Funeral services were held Saturday, November 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

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## Obituaries

### Stephen Lawrence Patton

Stephen Lawrence Patton, 13, of Eastern, died Wednesday, November 28, 2007, at Cabell Huntington Hospital, in Huntington, West Virginia.

Born March 3, 1994, in Huntington, he was the son of Lawrence and Sheila Shepherd

Patton. He was a student at Allen Central Middle School.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Maxie Patton; and grandfathers, Floyd Patton and Coet Shepherd.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his grandmother, Ann Shepherd; uncles and aunts: Sherrell and Jalenda, Mary Allen, Dolvin

and Charlene, James and Nancy, and Lee and Belluah; a special cousin, Olivia; and cousins: Chessie, Ronald, Rebecca, Angelena, Dwayne, and Shena.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, December 2, at 11 a.m., at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin.

Bethel Bolen and others will officiate.

Burial will be in the Bolen Family Cemetery, at Garrett.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

[www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com](http://www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com)

(Paid obituary)

### Marian Etta Rowe

Marian Etta Rowe, 76, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, November 17, 2007, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

Born March 8, 1931, in Norwood, Ohio, she was the daughter of the late Clarence and Pearl Peirce.

She was a retired insurance agent.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Clarence Peirce.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Steven W. and Amy Weil, of Hager Hill; three grandchildren: Christina Weil, of Knoxville, Tennessee; Reed Lee Weil, of West Palm Beach, Florida; and Steven Douglas Weil, of Prestonsburg; and two great-grandchildren, Katrina and Kenneth Ray.

Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday, November 20, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin. Lenvil Campbell officiated.

Burial was in Salt Well Cemetery, at Incz.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

[www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com](http://www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com)

(Paid obituary)

### Clayton Slone

Clayton Slone, 66, of 2981 W. CR 200S, Warsaw, went to be with his Savior at 1:53 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 18, 2007, in Kosciusko Community Hospital, Warsaw, Indiana.

He was born July 1, 1941, in Dock, Ky., to Adam Slone and Julie Haywood Slone. He married Millicent Carey, who entered into the Kingdom of God Feb. 1, 2003.

He worked at White Metal for many years, and as a porter at Kosciusko Community Hospital for more than 20 years. He loved the people he worked with. They told the family how caring, thoughtful and respectful he presented himself. He loved small children and they loved him. He dressed up as Santa Claus at the Christmas parties. That brought him great joy. He will be missed by his friends at Marsh, as he loved to go there and visit. He felt like that was his second home. Above all others, he loved his Lord and longed to see Mom in Heaven. He was a member of The House of the Living Stones, Warsaw. He also went to Victory Christian Center, Warsaw.

Surviving are six brothers: Ervin (and spouse Easter) Slone, Prestonsburg; Carl (and spouse Dorothy) Slone, Isaac (and spouse Colleen) Slone, Kenton (and spouse Bonnie) Slone and Adam (and spouse Cathy) Slone, all of Warsaw; and Wendell (and spouse Brenda) Slone, Mentone; three sisters: Ethel (and spouse Ray) Harmon, Churubusco; Edith Stumbo, Prestonsburg; and Ruby (and spouse Richard) Krebs, Warsaw; many nieces and nephews he dearly loved. Later in life, when he married Millicent, instantly 11 children, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren were added to his family. They leave behind their children Robert (and spouse Mary) Clemens, Edwardsburg, Mich.; Jim (and spouse Carolyn) Carcy, Fort Wayne; Rosetta Stout, Glenda Holbrook, Linda (and spouse Rick) Creamer and Rodney (and spouse Phyllis) Carey, all of Warsaw; Susan (and spouse Lester) Fairbanks, Watervliet, Mich.; Virginia (and spouse John) Schuh, Sarasota, Fla.; Forrest (and spouse Betty) Vining, Claypool. He was preceded in death by a brother, Fred Slone.

Services were at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 21, at McHaton-Sadler Funeral Chapel, Warsaw, with Jeff Prater and Chad Burkhart officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery, Warsaw. Calling was from 4 to 8 p.m., Tuesday at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent to [mchattonsadlerfuneralchapels.com](mailto:mchattonsadlerfuneralchapels.com)

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**Plan**

Continued from p1

combining the 14 community colleges that were part of the University of Kentucky with the fifteen technical colleges that were under the state's jurisdiction, and functions today as an innovative system of 16 comprehensive community and technical colleges with 67 campuses," said McCall.

According to the plan, as a result of working collaboratively with sec-

ondary school districts, KCTCS will contribute to the level of preparedness for high school graduates by increasing the percentage of high school dual credit/dual enrollment students from 9 percent in 2006-07 to 15 percent by 2020, with a greater emphasis on general education courses.

Other initiatives addressed at the meeting included an expansion of

workforce education, increasing the number of transfers from KCTCS schools to Kentucky's four-year colleges, and improved remediation services. KCTCS also plans to assume the primary role in providing adult education and literacy programs and services.

"We have great relationships with our public school partners, four year

colleges, and with the business community," said Dr. George D. Edwards, president of Big Sandy Community and Technical College. "The funding of the KCTCS plan will enable us to work collaboratively to make huge differences in the success of our students in terms of remediation, transfer and workforce readiness."

In order to achieve the initiatives

outlined in the business plan, KCTCS will need an incremental increase in funding of \$32 million annually through 2020.

State Sen. Johnny Ray Turner and state Rep. Leslic Combs as well as several local elected officials and business representatives, were in attendance to show their support for the proposals.

**Arrest**

Continued from p1

\$1,000 worth of damage done.

Though the damage was confined to the meeting room on the third floor of the building, it was spray painted with a variety of words and symbols, including the letters "KKK" and both Nazi and satanic symbols. Assistant Police Chief Bryan Hall said it appears the building was only vandalized and nothing was actually stolen, but the crime was being taken very seriously due to the nature of the vandal-

ism.

Conducting an intense 36-day investigation, Little was finally able to gain knowledge of a suspect, at which time he approached Miller and asked him to come into his office to discuss it.

"He (Miller) said he had no hatred for the lodge," said Little, "though he did admit he was drinking alcohol."

Despite the damages, Master James E. Goble said the lodge has continued with

its regular meetings and activities.

"The vandalism itself was bad enough," said Goble, who added that the lodge is now cleaned of the mess, other than replacing the carpet. "But what bothers me most is the fact that it was done at all."

Miller is being lodged in the Floyd County Detention Center. Exact charges were not determined as of press time, though Little did say it would be handled as a felony case.

**Dean**

Continued from p1

medical degree from the Des Moines (Iowa) University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1981, he went on to complete an osteopathic internship at the former Cranston General Hospital in Cranston, R.I. He is board certified in family practice as well as osteopathic manipulative medicine.

A fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, he was re-elected as first vice president to the

American Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees in July. Buser was also recently appointed to the Current Procedural Terminology editorial panel by the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association. He is the first D.O. to be appointed to the panel.

As past-president of the American Academy of Osteopathy, the New England Academy of Osteopathy, the Maine Osteopathic Association,

and former chairman of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, Buser maintains a leadership role within the osteopathic medical profession. A member of the AOA's board since 2004, he serves the AOA in a number of other capacities, including chairman of the Bureau of Emerging States' Concerns and member of the Bureau of Osteopathic Clinical Education and Research.

**Indicted**

Continued from p1

Bureau of Investigation and the Kentucky Auditor's Office.

"It is a sad day for Kentucky when public corruption charges are levied against elected officials," said Crit Luallen, state auditor. "I am pleased the auditor's office was able to assist federal law enforcement agencies. It should be reassuring to all Kentuckians that state and

federal officials can work closely together on cases like these, ensuring that allegations of misconduct are fully investigated."

The defendants appeared Friday before the United States Magistrate Judge in Pikeville. If convicted, the conspiracy charges and the vote buying charges carry a maximum

prison sentence of five years. The theft of federal funds charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years. However, any sentence following conviction would be imposed by the court after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence.

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**ATV**

Continued from p1

also why I will ask the General Assembly to appropriate \$250,000 for the Department to take our ATV safety course statewide."

KSP Commissioner Jack Adams said state police look forward to working with Commissioner Richie Farmer and his Department to reduce ATV fatalities in Kentucky.

"Youth under the age of 16 account for one-third of the ATV fatalities in our state," Commissioner Adams said. "These are senseless tragedies that can be avoided through the implementation of an effective ATV Safety Program. Kentucky State Police is committed to this partnership to bring the importance of ATV Safety to the forefront. "Even though ATVs are off-road vehicles, law enforcement officials have received increased complaints about ATVs on Kentucky roadways."

Captain Tim Lucas, Commander of the Highway Safety Branch, contacted the Department of Agriculture about its ATV training course for KSP troopers.

"Once an ATV travels on to a roadway, it becomes an enforcement issue. We have troopers in eastern and western Kentucky who have to deal with this frequently," said Lucas.

"We feel our time can be used proactively by addressing this issue with a training program that is proven and effective. Our goal is to have troopers trained to administer the ATV Safety Program and take it back to their respective post areas."

Twenty-four people have died in ATV-related accidents since Jan. 1, the state police reported. Of those fatalities, 20 victims were not wearing helmets or protective gear. The Consumer Product Safety Commission stated that 136,700 people nationwide were injured while riding ATVs last year.

For more information about ATV Safety and Training please contact the Department of Agriculture at (502) 564-4696 or Kentucky State Police at 502-695-6353.

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# expression

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

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

## A false choice

What do Americans want in their next president? It seems there is no single response. The answer depends entirely on which Americans we're talking about and which political party they belong to.

A variety of polls illustrate that, if you're a Republican, it's likely that you're looking for experience and strength. The GOP candidates who pop up most often in polls as having those qualities are Mitt Romney, Rudy Giuliani and John McCain. Then come Mike Huckabee and Fred Thompson.

On the other hand, if you're a Democrat, polls show you're more likely to be looking for new ideas and someone who will lead the country in a new direction. The candidates mentioned most often who fit that bill are just about anyone other than Hillary Clinton, who is seen by many as simply an extension of the Clinton dynasty.

The New York senator is still the Democratic front-runner, of course. But it is not because she is seen by Democrats as having new ideas or providing a new direction. Rather, it's because she is seen by many as having the best chance to win. The "new ideas/new direction" mantle seems to go to Barack Obama or John Edwards.

American voters are complicated. We already knew Republicans and Democrats didn't agree on what they want a president to do, or to stand for. But it's interesting to note the two parties can't even seem to agree on what personal qualities they want in a president. It's more evidence that red staters and blue staters really do live in two different worlds, and it helps explain why some presidents have sometimes found it difficult to govern over such a divided electorate.

For our part, we'd like to think that, when it comes to presidential candidates, you can have it all — experience and strength on the one hand, and new ideas and a new direction on the other. This is a false choice concocted by media pollsters, and one that forces voters to choose between worthwhile qualities that any president would find helpful and that any group of voters would find valuable in a president.

As for which candidate in either the Republican or Democratic field best represents this blend, that is for voters to decide. Bill Richardson tells Democratic audiences he represents both experience and change, and one could imagine Huckabee making the same pitch to Republicans.

Certainly there are other qualities that voters think are important to have in a president, such as honesty and trustworthiness. On that score, Obama and Edwards tend to do better than Clinton and Richardson for Democrats. For Republicans, it is Huckabee and Romney who are often seen as the most honest and trustworthy.

Perhaps it comes from voters having so many choices in a presidential election that is so fluid. Choices are great but, at some point, they have to be exercised. And voters have to decide what qualities they want in their next president.

Don't look away. This is about to get interesting.

— The San Diego Union-Tribune



## Rich Lowry Column

### Barack Obama on Barack Obama

When it comes to self-reflection, Barack Obama is an overachiever. At age 46, he has already written two memoirs when most people in public life — sometime at the end of their career — will be lucky to write one.

So far, what Obama seems set to get out of his presidential campaign is yet another memoir — this one an agonized, deeply personal account of how his campaign went nowhere despite all the media hoopla, crowds and fundraising. It turns out that voters aren't as interested in Barack Obama as Barack Obama is.

Like Jacob grappling with the archangel Gabriel, Obama has been wrestling with his own conscience the entire campaign and has come up lame. He has engaged in a running commentary on whether the tactics of his own campaign — down to specific press releases — live up to his standard of audacious hopefulness. Left unclear is why anyone else besides Barack Obama should care.

The insular, self-obsessed campaign of her chief rival is one of the reasons Hillary Clinton has had as good a 90-day run as anyone in presidential politics in recent memory. She still has a race on her hands in Iowa, but she leads there after trailing most of the year, and more than dou-

bles Obama's support in national polls, where he has slipped as low as 17 percent.

Obama ended a typically precious ad in Iowa: "I approved this message to ask you to believe, not just in my ability to bring real change in Washington. I'm asking you to believe in yours." OK, but what sort of change exactly?

The Obama campaign finally has realized that campaigns here in the real world are won on what consultants call "contrasts." So it trotted out Obama to tell New York Times reporters that he will soon begin attacking Clinton, the same assurance he gave to The Washington Post months ago. The Times interview featured Obama discoursing on his favorite campaign topic: the ethics and processes of his own campaign.

Obama has indeed been on the attack lately, only maladroitly. He is hitting Clinton for having the same position as he does on Iran. He favors designating the Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organization and placing more sanctions on Iran, as does Clinton. The difference is that Clinton voted for a sense of the Senate resolution endorsing those

measures, a resolution Obama has condemned as "dangerous."

While Clinton was in the Senate negotiating out of the resolution language Democrats thought went too far, Obama was someplace else, too busy spreading hope even to vote on a measure he says might drag us to war with Iran.

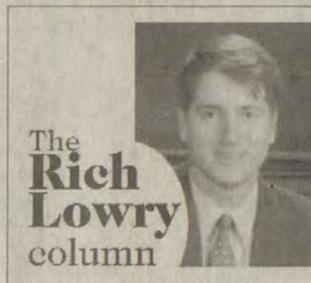
His other avenue of attack on Clinton is that she's vague about her plans to keep Social Security solvent. She supports a favorite Washington placeholder, a bipartisan commission. He's upfront about his support of increased payroll taxes. Hillary is dodgy about it because she's thinking about running in a general election, something Obama doesn't have to worry about overmuch.

Maybe he'll yet revive. No path to the nomination is ever as smooth as Hillary Clinton's looks to be right now. But Obama likely will go the way of that other earnest liberal, Bill Bradley, who high-mindedly let himself be run over by Al Gore in 2000.

Oh, well. It'll be a great book.

□□□

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



The Rich Lowry column

## beyond the beltway

### Religion doesn't disqualify a president

by DONALD KAUL  
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

As experienced readers of this space (both of you) know, I am not a fan of the Republican presidential candidates.

I like the Libertarian, Ron Paul, but he'd drive me crazy as president. I admire John McCain, but he's in love with the war. It goes down from there — to Rudy Giuliani, who is Dick Cheney without the charm.

But I don't understand why some people, and more than a few, think Mitt Romney is unqualified because he is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. A Mormon.

There seems to be this feeling that Mormonism is more cult than religion and a kooky cult at that. To that I say, let's put it to the test:

Do Mormons drink sacramental wine and pretend they're drinking the blood of their founder? No, Mormons don't drink at all, actually.

Do Mormons, as a matter of ritual, hire a non-medical person to mutilate their baby sons' penises when they're 8 days old? I don't believe so.

Do Mormons rush into crowded buildings and blow themselves up in expectation that God will reward them with eternal life in a heaven equipped with 32 virgins per martyr? Never heard of it happening.

All of those things happen in other religions.

What about polygamy? Well, what

about it? The Mormon Church withdrew its sanction of polygamy in 1890 — 117 years ago. If you're expecting Mitt Romney to take two or three more wives anytime soon you're going to be sadly disappointed. Actually, of the four major Republican candidates, he's the only one who's had only one wife.

My point is this: Looked at from the outside, all religions seem more than passing strange and, at their extremes, downright crazy. That is because they are not rational; they are systems of belief. Attempts to justify religious beliefs rationally are always a little absurd (see "scientific creationism"). Belief and the feeling of well-being it engenders need no further justification.

I'm fine with that. It's a free country; believe what you want (except for the bombing, of course).

I'm sure Mormons practice things that seem odd to the rest of us. So what? Looked at objectively, from a distance, they are an admirable people — clean-living, industrious, generous and civic-minded.

If you don't want to vote for Mitt Romney, I can think of a number of very good reasons not to do so. Being a Mormon isn't one of them.

I suppose you now imagine that I think the Democratic candidates are the cat's pajamas, a bunch of would-be philosopher-kings vying to lead us out of the wilderness.

Not even close. I think they tend to be professional politicians who have spent their political lives walk-

ing around with a tin cup, begging money from rich contributors. They have sold out so many times to so many people that they can hardly remember who owns them anymore. They just know it's not the American people.



Not that I blame them. That's our system. If you don't do it you don't get to be a serious candidate for President. You get to be Dennis Kucinich.

Still, there's something about each of the Democrats that I can like. It's an extremely intelligent, articulate group, for the most

part very knowledgeable about the problems that beset this country.

What's missing, I think, is a sense of boldness in addressing those problems, a message that some solutions require sacrifice, not merely by the very rich but by all of us.

I'd like a candidate to tell Iowa that corn-based ethanol is a fraud and that the state is setting itself up for disaster by depending on it for so much of its economic prosperity. I'd like him or her to tell the American voter that the problem with gasoline isn't that it's too expensive, but that it's too cheap.

It's not enough to talk truth to power; you have to talk it to voters too.

I'm not holding my breath.

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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 [dkaul@verizon.net](mailto:dkaul@verizon.net).

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PUBLISHER

Joshua Byers

[jbyers@heartlandpublications.com](mailto:jbyers@heartlandpublications.com)

MANAGING EDITOR

Ralph B. Davis

[web@floydcountytimes.com](mailto:web@floydcountytimes.com)

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Kim Frasure

[advertising@floydcountytimes.com](mailto:advertising@floydcountytimes.com)



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How much does phantom gasoline cost?

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**Nominations sought for 2008 history awards**

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Historical Society and the Historical Confederation of Kentucky are seeking nominations for the 2008 Kentucky History Awards, which acknowledge outstanding achievements in the field of history by individuals, civic leaders, communities, museums, and historical organizations. The awards celebrate outstanding programs, exhibits, Web sites, and publications, as well as individuals who have excelled in the field or made lifetime contributions to the preservation, awareness, and appreciation of Kentucky's history.

"The Kentucky History Awards program is one of our most important annual programs as it is our chance to recognize the great work being done in the field of history throughout the state," says Chris Goodlett, administrator of the Historical Confederation of Kentucky. "The Historical Confederation of Kentucky and the Kentucky Historical Society are proud to sponsor such a wonderful event."

Award categories include Service Awards, Special Awards, and General Awards. Within these categories are the President's Award of Excellence, which is presented to a museum or organization for outstanding achievement throughout the year; the Frank R. Levsstik Award for Professional Service honoring the contributions of a current or recently retired paid staff member of a museum or history-related organization; and the Lifetime Dedication to Kentucky History Award, among other honors.

Nominations must be submitted by January 25, 2008. The awards will be presented at the Kentucky History Awards dinner at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort on Saturday, March 1, 2008. For more information or for a nomination packet, contact Ann Johnson at the Kentucky Historical Society, 502-564-1792, ext. 4404.

The Historical Confederation of Kentucky is a member-driven organization that provides support, technical assistance, workshops, seminars, marketing opportunities, and advocacy efforts for museums and historical organizations in the commonwealth.

**Editor's Notice**

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Students, alumni, friends and church family celebrated the tenth anniversary of Wesley Christian School with a special Thanksgiving service.

**Wesley Christian School celebrates 10th anniversary**

On November 20, Wesley Christian School celebrated their tenth school year with a special Chapel Service of Thanksgiving. The service provided a forum for praise to the Lord for the success of Wesley Christian School over the last decade as well as a chance to reflect on the history of how the school came into being.

Fifteen years ago, the concept of Wesley Christian School did not even exist. Ken Lemaster was the pastor of a church called Christ United Methodist Church in Allen. However, his life and ministry took a very different turn one night while watching a television documentary. The film's content discussed the role of God in public education and delved into the argument of whether or not there is a place for Christianity in school. Dr. Lemaster had a very clear, personal conviction about the need for Christ to be a part of every person's life and particularly for Jesus to be part of every child's life. Ken suddenly had an epiphany. He realized that he did feel strongly about the role of God in education and about providing a Christ-like atmosphere. Thus, he asked himself "Why don't I do something about this?" He turned to his wife, Kay and said, "Maybe we need a new ministry as a part of Christ United Methodist Church."

A short time after Ken's initial idea came into being, he introduced the concept of a school to his congregation. "From the very beginning, I saw the school as an extension of our church and envisioned it as an outreach ministry where we could positively impact the lives of our students and their families," stated Rev. Lemaster. "I wanted to provide our area children with an exceptional academic education provided in a safe, secure environment where we could be uninhibited about Christ. However, what I did not want was to create a place of rigorous religion but rather an environment of balance, discipleship and freedom from denominational issues."

After discussions with the congregation and meetings with individual administrative committees at the church, the school took its first steps toward becoming a reality. Both Ken and the congregation of Christ United Methodist Church had come to believe that this school was not only a great opportunity for spreading the Gospel but that this undertaking was truly the will of God. The school was to be named Wesley Christian School as a tribute to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. The mascot for the school was determined as the Circuit Rider. "I was so inspired by John Wesley and his ministry. I stood in awe of his ability to motivate and move people to action," Rev. Lemaster stated. "I found people like Wesley and the men and women who comprised the ministry of the Circuit Riders to be fascinating. They took the church outside the walls of the building itself and were willing to give up those things that most of us deem as important to follow Christ."

Wesley Christian School opened to its first students with total enrollment at only 14 children. Even with such small numbers, Chapel services were a fixture from the beginning. One of the wonderful, original concepts of the school was that there would be a time set aside each week when the students of the school could come into the sanctuary of the adjoining church and

worship the Lord in a service that was all their own. Today, Chapel services occur every Wednesday and are led by the students. "I am blessed every week when I step into that sanctuary and see our students, along with their friends and families, joining together in worship. We have students who sing in groups, others who perform solos, some who lead prayers and pledges, and students who perform our puppet ministry. It is such a blessing to watch children sing praises to God and use their talents for Him. We are so fortunate to have this opportunity to teach our children not just about the Lord but how to serve Him, how to love Him and how to praise Him," acknowledged Dannette James, Music Instructor.

Wesley Christian School joyously celebrated their tenth school year with a special Chapel Service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday morning, November 20.

Throughout most of the school's existence, Janic Tinchler has served as principal. Wesley Christian chose to use the A Beka curriculum which is one of the nation's finest Christian based academic programs. The A Beka curriculum is a treasury of textbooks, programs, and teaching materials that reflect the very best in scholarship, design, practicality and Scriptural fidelity. "Our academic program is one of the many advantages Wesley Christian School offers. In addition to our academic core curriculum, we also provide students with a variety of related arts classes such as Music, Art, Physical Education and Spanish as well as access to our school Library. Exceptional academics are a central focus of our school and our students perform incredibly well during our annual testing. Much of our academic success comes from the fact that our teacher/student ratio is 1 to 17," Mrs. Tinchler explained. "Even so, our desire is to provide children with a well-rounded education while also offering them fun and enjoyable team sports such as boys and girls basketball and cheerleading. Involvement in these programs teaches students how to work as a team and helps develop their capacity to work well with others. Further, we participate in character building programs such as 4-H which teach leadership, citizenship and life skills."

Current enrollment now stands at 123 as the school continues to grow. "Our church continues to support and operate Wesley Christian School. As a result of their faith, leadership and giving we are able to gain additional support for our school and scholarship funds for students who may not be able to afford tuition. I am in awe of our congregation to have taken on such a monumental task as the construction and implementation of a school. Further, I am so grateful for the Lord's provision of such an outstanding faculty and staff who view their service to Wesley Christian as a fulfillment of God's plan for their individual lives. Both the church and the staff's continued willingness to follow the call that the Lord has placed upon them is simply God inspired. We may never truly know, on this side of heaven, how many lives our ministry may affect but if we can set one child's heart on fire for Jesus it will all have been worth it," Rev. Lemaster said.

**MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON**

**'L.A.P.D.'**

by TOM DOTY  
TIMES COLUMNIST

This month the Lagoon reaches out to you selfless consumers who have spent every last dime on your loved ones for the holidays. In your honor we will be looking at those dollar DVDs that pop in bargain bins. Dollar Generals and the Dollar Tree. Plenty of them are just plain awful, but a precious few are worth your hard earned buck and offer a diversion from the hectic holiday times.

This week we begin with a film that appears to sport a decent budget, seasoned actors and a true-life storyline (though I couldn't find any evidence of it) that purports that there are corrupt elements in the Los Angeles police department (say it isn't so).

This one opens with a bang, several bangs actually, as the police respond to a shooting at a savings and loan. When they arrive, two heavily-armed hoods emerge from the building sporting automatic weapons, which they use to full effect as the cops take cover behind their cruisers.

Eventually the men are brought down by the newest additions to the force, officers Steele and Wade, who take out one thug by ramming him with their car before putting him on an all-lead diet. The other goon wilts under Steele's iron gaze and promptly shoots himself.

Back at the station their Captain dresses down both men for hot-dogging, but they are embraced by their fellow officers who invite them to their nightly party pad which is located in the posh Hollywood Hills.

The party house is expansive and obviously more than a policeman can afford. Wade is put off by the ambiance, which includes generous portions of drugs and what appears to be a small army of prostitutes. Steele, on the other hand, meets a young lady who produces music videos and becomes a regular at party central.

Meanwhile Steele's dad, a retired LAPD cop, has opened a convenience store and the two check in on him regularly after a trio of hoods begin robbing 24-hour markets. Papa Steele eventually gets robbed and manages to shoot one of the offenders after succumbing to the most awkwardly staged punch in the nose ever committed to celluloid. He sustains a gunshot wound in the fracas, which sidelines him and makes him available for heart-to-heart chats with his son, who is starting to question the integrity of his fellow officers.

Steele may be slow on the uptake but he eventually figures out that most of the squad is taking graft. It helps that he and Wade respond to a robbery call and find half of their fellow officers blatantly stealing electronics from a warehouse. They decide to look the other way and their fate is sealed as Wade puts in for a transfer and Steele begins to enjoy the extra perks that come with taking bribes.

(See LAGOON, page six)

**Bargaining with God**

by KELLY POWELL

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE TEEN SOUL"

When I think of my family, I consider it "normal" — two working parents, a daughter, son and even a white picket fence. Our family life was stable and dependable — until one January day.

It was a Sunday morning, and I was getting ready to baby-sit. My door was shut. Suddenly, I could hear my mom running up the stairs, screaming my name. I thought Dad

must be playfully chasing her, as he often does. I opened the door to watch the fun. It might have been the tears in her eyes or the terrified look, but I knew something was really wrong. Soon, I was downstairs with my family, each with our own tears and terrified looks. My father was in the basement, seated in a chair, his limp body being supported by my brother. He could hardly talk; only murmurs came from his mouth. His eyes were squinted, and he was breathing heavily.

My mom sent me outside to "wait for the ambulance." I wasn't in any state to argue. In the two or three minutes it took for the medics to get there, my whole life changed. What was happening? What would I do without my father? Why him? Why me? Why hadn't I told him I loved him more often?

I could hear the sirens in the distance. They sounded light-years away.

When help finally arrived, I ran and begged them to hurry. The

medics quickly went to my father and, after a quick examination, put him in the ambulance and rushed him to the hospital.

At the hospital, the hours dragged like years. Finally, the doctor came and told us what had happened. His medical jargon meant nothing to me, but I did catch the word "stroke" here and there. My father, MY father, had a stroke? How could this be happening?

My dad stayed at the hospital for two days. Both nights, I bargained with God. I knew that if there was ever a time when I needed his help, this was it. I swore that if he spared my father, I would never ask for anything again. I vowed never to take my father for granted again. I promised everything I had to have my father back. I wanted my crumbling world to be normal again. I just hoped God was listening.

(See SOUP, page six)



# How much does phantom gasoline cost?

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Tom and Ray:  
I recently saw an article on a Web site claiming that car owners should pump their gas in the morning, when it's cool out, instead of in the afternoon, when it's hot. The alleged reasoning is that gasoline expands at higher temperatures and contracts at lower temperatures, allowing more "dense" gas to be pumped when it's cold. I personally think this is nonsense, since a car's gas tank also will expand and contract, and because gas stored in an underground 500-gallon tank probably doesn't warm by more than a few degrees. So, what is the truth to this? — Richard

RAY: Well, the expansion story is true, Richard. When gas pumps are calibrated, they're set to measure a gallon of gasoline that's 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

TOM: But when gasoline gets hotter than that, it expands. So you get less than a gallon's worth of energy for every gallon you pump. How much less? Well, the most recent congressional study

we've seen found that the average temperature of gasoline sold in the United States is almost 65 degrees F. That means the average Joe is paying an extra 3 cents a gallon for phantom gasoline.

RAY: What can be done about it? Well, you can fill up in the middle of the night. But a better solution would be to use pumps that compensate for temperature fluctuations. In Canada, where gasoline usually is COLDER than the standard — which is to the consumer's advantage — it was the gas stations that voluntarily backed a program to use those pumps. Quelle surprise, as they say in Quebec!

TOM: But here, where the gas stations are getting the extra money, they argue that retrofitting their pumps is too expensive. They say it would cost \$1,500-\$3,000 per pump.

RAY: But with the value of the phantom gasoline sold adding up to more than \$2 billion a year now, the pressure on the gas stations will probably continue to heat up. Now, if they'd agree to put that 3 cents a gallon toward clean bathrooms, maybe a compromise could be worked out here.

This minivan has a few screws loose

Dear Tom and Ray:  
I have a 2004 Toyota Sienna XLE with 28,000 miles. Last month while camping with our family of five, the big automatic sliding door on the right side of the car stopped working. We manually shut the door and did not open it again until we got home. Once home, my 5-year-old pushed the button to open that door, and the door fell off the car. Yep. Fell off the side of the car. It literally was hanging by part of one of the upper hinges. We tied it to the car and took it in to the dealer for repair. We paid for the repair and were happy to have our car back in working order again — until last week, when the other door did the exact same thing. So I called Toyota to see if there had been some sort of recall or problem with Toyota minivans that we should be aware of, and told them our tale. The guy at the customer-service line told me that he had heard of other minivans with similar problems, but no, there was no recall, just a "TSB" regarding

door-hinge problems. We took the car back to the dealer, and he told us that Toyota will pay for the parts for the second door, but he wants us to pay for the labor, which is expensive! I think the fact that both doors fell off within one month means the car has a problem independent of our usage. I've already paid to repair one door; I'd like Toyota to pay to repair the other door. BUT I am finding it difficult to find anyone at Toyota who can help us. The customer-service flunkies say there is no one else to talk to. A call to the regional offices in San Ramon, Calif., got me redirected back to the aforementioned customer-service office. I have loved this minivan up until this point, and now I'm quickly becoming disillusioned with Toyota. Do you have any advice on how I could better handle this and get Toyota to pay to fix my car? The car is only three years old, and the doors have fallen off! — Kate

TOM: Well, I'd suggest you write to a couple of newspaper columnists and see if you can get them to print your



back to us and report some further delay on their part, and that we might print that letter, too.

TOM: Even though I'm not aware of a TSB (Technical Service Bulletin) on this, I'm guessing that this was a flaw in some 2004 Siennas. That was the first year for the current Sienna design, so you were one of the guinea pigs.

RAY: They probably beefed up the design for those hinges at some point, because, frankly, we haven't seen this in the shop before.

TOM: So when they beg you to let them fix it, make sure you get the upgraded hinges. If you just get yours replaced with the same old ones, your doors will fall off again in another 28,000 miles. And you'll have to write to us again.

RAY: Good luck, Kate! Let us know how it all turns out.

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

## Soup

Continued from p5

On the third day, the doctor met us as we were coming in. He said he had to talk to us. This is it, I thought.

He sat us down and started to talk. I did all I could to concentrate on his words. Finally, I heard "fully recover." I burst into tears — at last, happy tears. My prayers had been answered. I had a father.

Since then, I realize that nothing is ever certain. Now

when my parents say something, I listen. When the family sits down to dinner, we enjoy each other's company. Dinnertime isn't just time to fill our stomachs; it's a time to fill our heads and hearts with memories to last forever. I have come to believe firmly that you don't realize what you have until it is almost taken away.

## Lagoon

Continued from p5

The heat gets turned up when a homeless man comes forward as a witness to the warehouse robbery. When said witness winds up as street pizza under an automobile, Steele begins to see the light. Unfortunately, so do the sticky fingers at the squad who decide that Wade is gonna sing and that they would be better off without Steele as well.

It all leads to an extended shootout at a pawnshop, where nobody is able to score a direct hit for five minutes, despite the enclosed space. Eventually bodies begin hitting the floor and just about everyone goes down. When the smoke clears, one good cop walks away but a final note from the filmmakers reveals that no one was ever prosecuted for the crimes we have just witnessed.

This one is about as good as it gets for a dollar. The action sequences are plentiful and the drama quotient gets equal time as the main characters deal with moral dilemmas. It sure helps that a talented bunch of actors are on display here and they help the film over the rough spots, which are plentiful thanks to uninspired direction by Ed Anders (don't bother to commit that name to memory).

Anders makes a few blunders that the cast can't clean up, which include substituting rainy Vancouver locations for sunny Los Angeles. He also gets sloppy with the opening sequence, which appears to have been shot on both a rainy and sunny day with little editing know-how, so that it

appears to be alternately raining and clear from moment to moment. He also proves to be humbled by action scenes that come off as clumsy, though he does manage to flip over a burning vehicle well enough.

The actors sell this one and include Dennis Hopper (in a role that seems to have been shot in one day), Les Durning and Marc Singer ("Beastmaster") as Steele.

Michael Madsen ("Reservoir Dogs") logs a fair amount of screen time as the evil leader of the bad cops, but his is the only performance that appears to be phoned in. Madsen has oodles of screen presence but his work is so casual here that you expect he was more worried about those checks clearing than giving any weight to his lines. That said he does have some moments at the start of the movie though by the end it's clear that he is barely paying attention.

Singer handles the central role with much more skill and deserves the poor man's Nick Nolte award for best impersonation of moral anguish in a B-movie.

For a dollar movie, there are at least 80 cents worth of primo stuff here, though I wouldn't expect any change when the clerk at the dollar venue of your choice scans this one.

Best line: "One more word out of you and you'll be working male prostitutes in Sequoia."

2001, rated R.



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Sports Editor:  
Steve LeMaster

Phone Number:  
Floyd CountyTimes:  
Phone: (606) 886-8506  
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# FLOYD COUNTY Sports

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## Gordon has no regrets after finishing second in title chase

by JENNA FRYER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Minutes into NASCAR's annual industry luncheon, the driver known as "Four Time" spotted teammate Jimmie Johnson at the next table.

"What's up champ?" Jeff Gordon whispered, reaching across to shake Johnson's hand. "Two-Time now. Two-time."

Despite losing the fight for the Nextel Cup title, Gordon is very much enjoying Johnson's second consecutive championship. The Hendrick

Motorsports drivers waged a fierce competition all season, but Johnson used an unbelievable late push to handily defend his title while denying Gordon a fifth one.

But Gordon showed no signs of bitterness Thursday when the 12 title contending drivers gathered at Cipriani's to pick up their end of the season awards.

"Jimmie and I finished 1-2 and that was obviously a tremendous year for Hendrick Motorsports," he said. "It's certainly not something that I am going to hang my head about. I had a great year."

A record-setting year, actually.

Gordon notched a record 30 top-10 finishes in the 36 points races, while winning six times and building a lead of more than 300 points during the "regular season." And if NASCAR still had the same scoring system it used during Gordon's first four titles, he would have locked down the championship with two weeks to go in the season.



Jeff Gordon

But under the new Chase for the championship format, the field was reset for the final 10 races and 12 eligible drivers battled for the title. Gordon jumped out to an early lead with two Chase victories and a stellar 5.1 average finish.

Johnson was just a notch better, though, and reeled off four straight wins to grab the title away. His average finish was 5.0. It was a run reminiscent of Gordon's early days, when he dominated the series and won everything in

sight.

And in becoming the first driver since Gordon to win consecutive titles and notch double-digit wins (10) in a season, Johnson is tugging at Gordon's hold on the role of the best active driver.

The two headed into the finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway with Johnson needing a collapse to lose the title.

"The only way we were going to win it in Homestead was for Jimmie and those guys to have problems, and there's nothing worse than going into a race and know that unless they have trouble — and you

don't want to wish that on anybody," he said. "I want to win that championship by beating those guys, and the truth of the matter is they beat us when it counted."

Gordon said the days after the penultimate race at Phoenix, when he realized Johnson would win the title, were the toughest of the season for him. But when the disappointment subsided, he was able to view every one of Johnson's feats as accomplishments that strengthen Hendrick Motorsports.

(See GORDON, page two)

## Gift ideas for the outdoorswoman

by HAYLEY LYNCH  
KENTUCKY AFIELD

FRANKFORT — Hunting and fishing are not just for men. Nationally, 9 percent of hunters and 25 percent of anglers are women. But it can still be tough to find a gift for the outdoorswoman on your Christmas list.

Consider the most common problems experienced by women who hunt and fish: It's difficult to get started in the first place, well-fitting clothes are hard to find, and guns often don't fit properly. These three issues are perfect opportunities for gift-giving this Christmas. Some great ideas to address them include outdoor instruction, waders, boots and clothing made specifically for women, and gun alterations.

National research shows that women who hunt and fish often start later in life and may have less experience than men. Instruction in the outdoors is the perfect gift for women who are just getting started. Consider shooting or casting lessons, a guided fishing trip or instructional books and DVDs. If you're experienced in an outdoor activity she's interested in, create a homemade coupon for a day of your time at the range, in the woods or on the water.

One of the best gifts you can give a beginner is a gift certificate for a Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop. The three-day workshops, offered by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources several times a year, introduce women to hunting, fishing, hiking and more. Participants are taught by experienced instructors, both men and women. It's a great way for women new to the outdoors to meet female role models, strike up friendships with other budding outdoorswomen and learn the basics in a non-intimidating atmosphere. Go to fw.ky.gov and click on "Special Programs" or call 1-800-858-1549 to learn more. Gift certificates are available in any amount up to the full workshop fee by mailing a check or money order to KDFWR BOW Program, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.

For women already active in hunting or fishing, it can be difficult to find clothes, boots and other equipment that fits. But several companies now offer a small selection of women-specific

(See GIFTS, page two)



photo by Jamie Howell

ALLEN CRAYNON (3) helped the Prestonsburg Blackcats to a district football championship during the 2007 season. Prestonsburg finished the season 9-4.

## Meet the Blackcats Night scheduled

by STEVE LeMASTER  
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — The Prestonsburg High School boys' basketball program will host the annual Meet the Blackcats Night Thursday, Dec. 6 at the PHS Fieldhouse beginning at 6 p.m. Meet the Blackcats Night will include a businessman's shootout.

Senior guard Jordan Hall is one of the leading returnees for the Prestonsburg basketball team. Bobby Hughes — Hall's runningmate in the Prestonsburg backcourt last season — suffered a football season-ending injury earlier in the fall and will also miss the basketball campaign.

Senior forward Nathaniel Stephens (6-4) is another starter back for Prestonsburg. Senior Taylor Clark and sophomore Michael saw extensive playing time one season ago and will also be key contributors for the Blackcats during the upcoming seasons.

Prestonsburg lost seniors Chayse Martin and Trevor Patton via graduation.

The Blackcats fell in the opening round of last sea-

son's 58th District Tournament. Prestonsburg ended last season 1-17.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL SCOREBOARD: Thursday, Nov. 29 — Ballard 82, Scott County 73; Barbourville 65, Everts 57; Cordia 93, South Floyd 51; Dayton 68, Bracken County 50; Jackson City 60, Owsley County 57; Jackson County 80, Buckhorn 65; Jeffersontown 53, St. Xavier 43; Kentucky Country Day 64, St. Francis 37; Lewis County 58, Sheldon Clark 54; McCreary Central 62, Pulaski County 47; Muhlenberg South 80, Todd County Central 77 (OT); Oldham County 51, Ryle 47; Owen County 57, Williamstown 45; Paducah Tilghman 51, Hickman County 39; Perry County Central 74, Letcher County Central 63; Pineville 78, Williamsburg 55; Rowan County 85, Menifee County 60; St. Henry 51, Bishop Brossart 34; Trimble County 66, Carroll County 54; Walton-Verona 58, Henry County 48.



photo by Jamie Howell

SETH SETSER, pictured accepting an award following this year's Operation Unite Bowl at Blackcat Stadium, made a huge impact out of the Prestonsburg backfield this fall.

## Miners set to host Kenny Anderson-coached Atlanta

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — The East Kentucky Miners (3-4) will return to their home hardwood at the East Kentucky Expo Center today when fellow Continental Basketball Association (CBA) expansion team Atlanta Krunk visits for an American Conference game. Former NBA star Kenny Anderson guides the Atlanta team as its head coach.

Anderson — who enjoyed a brilliant record-setting career at prep basketball powerhouse Archbishop Molloy in Queens, NY — has excelled on every level. After high school, Anderson went on to star at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. After averaging 26 points per game as a sophomore for the Yellowjackets, Anderson declared for the NBA Draft. The Queens, NY native was selected as the second overall pick by the New Jersey Nets in the 1991 NBA Draft. Anderson spent 14 seasons in the NBA with nine franchises.

Atlanta's roster includes Grayson Boucher, AKA The Professor from the And1 Tour.

East Kentucky and Atlanta have identical 3-4 records.

The Miners have won two of their last three games. Atlanta has dropped two of its last three games, falling in back-to-back outings.

Today's matchup will pit East Kentucky Coach Kevin Keathley versus Anderson for the first time.

Tickets for the East Kentucky-Atlanta game remain available. The first 500 fans in attendance will receive a Miners rally towel.

Tip-off for Stoday's East Kentucky-Atlanta game is set for 4:05 p.m.

## Two UK basketball greats pass away

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — University of Kentucky Wildcat greats Ralph Beard and Tommy Kron passed away Thursday.

Beard passed away Thursday morning in his home in Louisville, Ky. After a series of illnesses in recent years, Beard died from heart failure. Kron died Thursday afternoon, also in Louisville, following a battle with cancer.

"I've heard so many great things about both Ralph and Tommy," Head Coach Billy Gillispie said. "It's a sad day because we've lost two valued members of our basketball family. Both men did a lot to build the tradition of Kentucky basketball, and both meant a great deal to the University of Kentucky and to this state. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and loved ones."

"Ralph was without question one of the greatest to ever wear the Kentucky uniform, and Tommy remained one of the most popular Wildcats on one of the most popular UK teams," Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart said. "The commonwealth of Kentucky lost two special people today."

Beard (1946-49) was UK's only three-time, consensus

(See GREATS, page two)

## CBA: Daredevils outlast Miners, 108-102

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — In a game that had each team being minus five players down the stretch, visiting Butte held on to defeat East Kentucky 108-102 Thursday night at the East Kentucky Expo Center. Butte built a double digit lead in the first half and held off East Kentucky in the second half.

Marcus Jefferson paced Butte with a game-high 26 points. Aaron Cook followed with 25 points for the Daredevils. Jibril Hodges netted 23 points for the Butte team.

Martane Freeman and Jason Miller also reached double figures for the Daredevils, finishing the contest with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Butte sprinted out in front in the opening quarter, leading 32-21 at the conclusion of the first period.

Mike Crain led East Kentucky with a team-best 23 points. Six different Miners reached double figures in the scoring column. Ed Horton was East Kentucky's second-leading scorer, finishing with 14 points. Reo Logan and Lawrence Barnes each had 13 points for the Miners. Boo Jackson pushed in 11 points while Marcus Heard added 10.

Jason McLeish finished just outside of double figures, ending the regular-season CBA matchup with nine points.

Five players were ejected from each team a second quarter altercation.

East Kentucky players eject-

ed from the game were Jackson, McLeish, Byron Allen, Bryant Northern and Josh Pace.

The following Butte players were ejected: Jason Miller, Lionel Davis, Tim Taylor, Benon Callier and Sir Valiant Brown.

Butte improved to 3-5 after claiming the win.

East Kentucky, following the loss, dropped to 3-4.

The Miners managed to finish strong, outscoring Butte 30-25 in the fourth quarter.

Butte won the quarter points battle 5-2.

East Kentucky will return to the Expo Center hardwood today at 4:05 p.m. when Atlanta visits for the first of two straight American Conference games.



BRYANT NORTHERN

# UK football program exceeds preseason predictions

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — A look back at the predictions made by the national preseason magazines shows that the University of Kentucky football team exceeded the projections by the publications that forecast a final record.

Kentucky finished 7-5 during the regular season, tied for fourth place in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division. Two magazines, *The Sporting News* and *Scout.com*, picked a 6-6 record for the Wildcats. *Athlon Magazine* forecast a 4-6 mark with two games designated as unpredicted swing games.

Blue Ribbon, *Street and Smith's*, *CBS SportsLine*, *Lindy's*, and *Phil Steele's College Football* did not predict a record. All eight of the magazines forecast the Wildcats to finish fifth in the SEC East.

Six Wildcats named to Rivals All-SEC Team: Six Kentucky Wildcats — tight end Jacob Tamme, defensive end Jeremy Jarmon, linebacker Wesley Woodyard, quarterback André Woodson, wide receiver Steve Johnson, and offensive guard Jason Leger — were named to the All-Southeastern Conference squad selected by Rivals.com

Woodyard (LaGrange, Ga.), and Jarmon (Collierville, Tenn.) are first-team selections. Woodson (Elizabethtown), Johnson (San Francisco, Calif.), and Leger (Brodhead) are second-team picks.

Here is more information on their seasons:

Tamme caught 53 passes for 584 yards and five touchdowns. He often was the go-to receiver in clutch situations, with crucial receptions in the wins over Louisville, LSU, and Vanderbilt. He is the all-time leading pass catcher among UK tight ends and second in SEC history.

Woodyard leads the SEC in tackles with 124 stops, his

third consecutive season reaching the century mark in tackles. He was named SEC Defensive Player of the Week in the win at Arkansas. He has an active streak of 36 consecutive games with at least four tackles.

Jarmon has nine quarterback sacks, second in the SEC in that category. For the season, he has 58 tackles, 13.5 tackles for loss, two fumbles caused, two pass breakups, and a fumble recovery. He was SEC Defensive Lineman of the Week in the win at Vanderbilt.

Woodson has thrown for 3,351 yards and 36 touchdowns, leading the SEC in

both categories. He was named National Player of the Week following three games this season and set an NCAA record with 325 consecutive passes without an interception. He has led Kentucky to its best back-to-back seasons in 30 years.

Johnson has caught 54 passes for 928 yards. He leads the SEC with 11 touchdown receptions, including game-winning TDs in the victories over two top-10 ranked teams, Louisville and LSU.

Leger was named SEC Offensive Lineman of the Week twice this season, following the wins over Kent State and Arkansas. He has

blocked for one of the most potent offenses in school history, as UK averages 36.7 points and 438.6 total offensive yards per game.

Practice resumes this weekend; coaches recruiting: The Kentucky football team will resume practice Saturday and Sunday.

During the week, the coaches are on the recruiting trail. The players are continuing their academic work as they wrap up the semester (exams Dec. 10-14).

*Follow the University of Kentucky football program throughout December in The Times.*

# Tamme, Masthay named Academic All-American

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — University of Kentucky tight end Jacob Tamme and punter Tim Masthay have been voted to the 2007 Academic All-America Team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America and sponsored by ESPN The Magazine.

Tamme (Danville) is a first-team Academic All-American and Masthay, a junior from Murray, was named to the second team. It is only the third time in

school history that more than one Wildcat has earned the honor in the same season, as it also happened in 1978 and 2005.

Tamme graduated in three years with a degree in Integrated Strategic Communication and a 3.82 grade-point average. He is now in his second year of study for his Master's in Business Administration and has a 3.83 master's GPA. In addition to the CoSIDA honor, he is one of 15 finalists for the Draddy Trophy, given by the National

Football Foundation and Hall of Fame for the national scholar-athlete of the year. That award will be named on Dec. 4.

The Academic All-America team takes athletic accomplishments into account as well as academic performance. On the field, Tamme has caught 53 passes for 584 yards and five touchdowns this season. He is Kentucky's all-time leading pass-catching tight end, No. 2 in Southeastern Conference history, with 130 career receptions.

Masthay has a 3.72 GPA with a major in Economics. He is in his third season as the team's starting punter and has a career-best 39.8-yard average this year. He handles kickoff returns for the Wildcats and leads the Southeastern Conference with 20 touchbacks. He also serves as the placekick holder for record-setting kicker Lones Seiber.

Seiple to represent UK at SEC Legends: Larry Seiple will represent the University of Kentucky as one of the Southeastern Conference Football Legends this week-

end at the SEC Championship Game. The 12 SEC Legends, one from each league school, will be honored at a dinner on Friday and will be introduced at halftime of Saturday's game.

Seiple was a versatile performer who starred for the Wildcats as a runner, pass receiver, kickoff returner and punter from 1964-66. He was named All-SEC as a junior and received UK's "Unsung Hero Award" as a senior. He holds the UK records for average yards per pass reception in a season (23.5 yards

per catch, 1965) and career (19.8 average). He caught 72 passes for 1,422 yards during his career.

Seiple went on to the National Football League and played 11 years for the Miami Dolphins. He also was a long-time assistant coach in the NFL, working with the Detroit Lions, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and Miami Dolphins. Seiple also spent several years working in athletic administration at Florida Atlantic University. He is now retired and lives in Pembroke Pines, Fla.

## Greats

first-team All-American, earning the honor in 1947, 1948 and 1949. A member of Kentucky's 1948 Olympic Gold medal winning team, Beard received the highest honor a Wildcat basketball player can receive when his jersey was retired in the rafters of Rupp Arena.

The Louisville native led the Wildcats to back-to-back national championships (1948 and 1949) and finished his career with 1,517 points, currently 14th on Kentucky's all-time scoring list.

Also a member of Adolph Rupp's "Fabulous Five" in 1948, Beard was a four-time first team All-SEC performer and was named to the SEC All-Tournament all four years as well. Following his senior season, Beard was selected in the second round of the 1949 NBA Draft by the Chicago Stags.

Kron was a starter on Rupp's Runts, one of Kentucky's most popular teams that reached the NCAA national championship game despite not hav-

ing a starter taller than 6-5. Kron (1964-66) helped lead the Wildcats to a national runner-up finish in 1966 and SEC Championships in 1964 and 1966.

A two-time All-SEC performer, Kron was drafted in the third round (24th overall) of the 1966 NBA Draft by the St. Louis Hawks. He played three seasons in the NBA and one in the ABA. Kron, 64, was a native of Tell City, Ind., but resided in Louisville.

Continued from p1

# James Madison 82, East Kentucky 71

TIMES STAFF REPORT

RICHMOND — Three James Madison players tallied double-doubles as the visiting Dukes defeated the Eastern Kentucky University men's basketball team Wednesday night in McBrayer Arena, 82-71. With the win, James Madison (4-1) ended Eastern's (2-4) seven game home winning streak.

The Dukes controlled play on the boards all night long, outrebounding Eastern Kentucky, 42-22. Terrance Carter, Abdulai Jalloh and Juwann James each hauled in 10 rebounds. Those three players also finished in double figures in the scoring column led by Carter's 17 points.

Junior Mike Rose paced the Colonels with 21 points while

senior Darnell Dials chipped in with 15 tallies on a perfect 6-for-6 from the field.

The Colonels, playing their first home game in two weeks, started the contest in grand fashion by building an 18-7 cushion. Eastern hit 3-of-4 (75 percent) three-point shots during that stretch, but then went 2-of-13 (15.4 percent) the rest of the way.

James Madison slowly chipped away at the deficit and took its first lead at 23-22 when Jalloh netted a jumper with 5:08 remaining in the first half. After a Dials layup briefly gave Eastern the lead again, the Dukes went on a 14-3 spurt to stretch their advantage to 37-27. Heiden Ratner keyed JMU's run with a pair of three-point baskets.

Eastern Kentucky fought back to even the score three

times early in the second half, but would never regain the lead. Sophomore Josh Taylor sparked the Colonels after the break with a pair of buckets, including a three-pointer, to knot the score at 37-all. An Adam Leonard lay-in at 14:18 leveled the score one last time at 44-apiece.

From there, James Madison responded with six straight points and did not look back. EKU made one final charge to cut the deficit to five points with two minutes left only to see the Dukes knock down 10-of-12 (83.3 percent) free throws down the stretch.

Eastern Kentucky was not as fortunate on the free throw line against James Madison. The home team missed 11 free throws while shooting 56 percent (14-of-25) from the charity stripe.

## Gordon

Instead of ruing the day he lobbied team owner Rick Hendrick to hire Johnson, Gordon is focusing on the overall operation at Hendrick, which won 18 races this year between its four drivers. Casey Mears and Kyle Busch each won once.

"This year was by far the best year I've seen all four Hendrick cars performing together, working together and communicating the way they did," Gordon said. "It was the best, and the results showed it and it speaks volumes of what kind of organization we have."

Hendrick certainly cashed in Thursday, when Johnson

and Gordon claimed most of the major awards. Each one came with a hefty payday — Gordon's four awards totaled almost \$400,000 — and the two drivers dutifully handed over their envelopes to Hendrick during the ceremony. The car owner showed no reaction as he quietly placed the thick stack in his suit pocket.

The car owner is looking to continue the success next season. The team will have a different look as Dale Earnhardt Jr. replaces Busch in the organization, but there's been no indication the team will have any dropoff.

Gordon either. A leading trade magazine told Gordon on Thursday it has rated him the No. 1 driver going into next season, an honor Gordon doesn't think he's earned.

"I wouldn't consider myself the favorite," he said. "I don't see how ... looking at how this season ended up, going into next season, I don't see how you can not pick Jimmie. If I was going to do a ranking, we'd be head-to-head, it would be very, very tight, very close."

"But if I was picking it, I would certainly pick Jimmie."

Continued from p1

## Gifts

ic items, and a couple of small specialty companies cater only to the outdoorswoman.

There are several models of full-length waders on the market made just for women. Good women's waders are cut to fit a female shape and proportions, but are as tough and well-designed as men's versions. Look for the same features you'd want in any good pair of waders — breathable materials, reinforced knees, comfortable suspenders and a strong belt.

Men's boots are made for men. Unfortunately, many wading or hunting boots, including some of the best models available, are not made in women's sizes. A smaller men's size may work with some boots on some women, but many outdoorswomen find men's boots too wide and tall. Even if you need to choose something other than the latest, greatest boot on the market in order to get a women's size, that's probably going to fit the woman on your list better than

a cutting-edge model that trips her on the way to the tree stand.

Hunting clothing is notoriously hard to find in women's sizes. While stores stock a variety of materials, camo patterns and sizes for men, the women's section tends to be sparse or nonexistent. Make the extra effort and find what's available. Men's shirts and jackets are usually too large in the chest and narrow at the hip, and pants are too big in the waist, small in the hip and inches too long. The more buyers choose to purchase women-specific clothing — not men's sizes — the more women's models will come on the market in the future.

Many people, especially women, shoot production guns that simply don't fit. For the female hunter or shooter on your list, consider a custom fitting by a stockmaker or gunsmith. Precision fitting can be as simple as swapping recoil pads or as complex as shorten-

ing a stock or raising a comb, which means it is not a good surprise gift. Take her with you to the gunsmith for exact measurements.

Buying gifts for the outdoorswoman can be a challenge. You may need to get creative with your gift ideas, or peruse catalogs, go online or drive a little farther to find a store that carries outdoor items tailored for women. But the effort is worth it. Women who are comfortable in the outdoors, thanks to well-fitting clothes and equipment and enough know-how to have a safe and fun day outside tend to stick with hunting and fishing for the long haul. That's the best gift of all.

*Hayley Lynch is an award-winning writer for Kentucky Afield magazine, the official publication of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. She is an avid hunter and shotgun shooter.*

# Louisville edges Rutgers, 41-38

by WILL GRAVES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Art Carmody filled the one hole in his resume just in time to salvage Louisville's disappointing season.

The record-setting kicker drilled a 33-yard field goal with 20 seconds left to lift the Cardinals to a 41-38 victory over stunned Rutgers on Thursday, upstaging the going away party of hometown kid Brian Brohm.

The senior, who set an NCAA record for career points by a kicker, had never made one like this during his career. He went out in style though, calmly drilling the ball through the uprights.

Carmody finished his career with 433 points, breaking the old record held by Houston's Roman Anderson, who had 423 points for the Cougars from 1988-91.

Carmody's feat wouldn't have been possible without

Brohm, who threw for 237 yards, including a 46-yard strike to Harry Douglas to put Carmody in range to win it.

The Cardinals (6-6, 3-4 Big East) got it back with a stunning comeback from 18 points down in the second half, one that was similar to the rally Rutgers (7-5, 3-4) put together to upset the Cardinals last year.

Louisville was ranked No. 3 last season when it went to Rutgers, and had just knocked off West Virginia. But the Cardinals let an 18-point lead slip away, ruining their shot at a perfect season.

The Cardinals have been far from perfect this year, but Brohm and couple of late stands by one of the nation's worst defenses left Louisville with remote hopes for a bowl bid.

"A fitting end to the way the season went," said Louisville coach Steve Kragthorpe. "We never seemed to be able to make a play through the season to put us over the top, but we

did that tonight."

Brohm and Carmody had plenty of help. Brock Bolen ran for 117 yards and two touchdowns and Bilal Powell added 91 yards as the Cardinals offset a fierce Rutgers pass rush by running quick-hit plays right by the blitzing Scarlet Knights.

Ray Rice ran for 120 yards and three scores for Rutgers. Mike Teel threw for 265 yards and two touchdowns to Kenny Britt, but Rutgers couldn't find a way to stop Brohm and the Cardinals in the second half.

Offensive tackle Jeremy Zuttah rumbled 13 yards on a lateral pass, and little-used freshman quarterback Chris Paul-Etienne came in to throw a bomb to Britt. The pass was incomplete, but Louisville's Rod Council was called for pass interference — one of nine Louisville penalties on the night. Rice strolled in from 14 yards out to put the Scarlet Knights up 21-3 late in the first quarter.



THE ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM was honored during this year's Floyd County girls' basketball tournament. Adams captured the Floyd County championship.

Continued from p1

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# Without Favre, Packers hang in but can't beat Romo, Cowboys

by JAIME ARON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING, Texas — Tony Romo took a knee, sealing a playoff-clinching, record-setting victory over the team he grew up rooting for and the quarterback he's obviously patterned himself after. So when it was time for hugs and handshakes, the kid from Wisconsin went looking for Brett Favre.

He had to settle for Aaron Rodgers.

Favre was already in the locker room getting treated for a banged-up right elbow and a separated left shoulder. Besides, the graying icon already had seen enough from Romo and the Dallas Cowboys.

For all his denials about Favre's influence on him, Romo sure played a lot like a young No. 4 Thursday night — full of moxie and joy, but needing a bit of a high-wire act to send the Cowboys past the Green Bay Packers 37-27 and into the lead for home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

"When I got out to the field, (I realized) it was pretty neat, the atmosphere," Romo said. "I looked around and was like, 'This is why you

want to play sports.' You want to play in games like this. Your competitive juices get flowing and you want to prove what kind of player you are."

Romo led Dallas to two field goals, then three touchdowns on his first five drives. He finished with four TD passes, giving the Cowboys (11-1) their sixth straight win and guaranteeing a spot in the playoffs.

They also have a leg up on avoiding a trip to Lambeau Field should these teams meet again in the NFC championship.

"We've got ourselves in the driver's seat," Dallas' Terrell Owens said. "Now we've got to stay there."

The Packers (10-2) ended a six-game winning streak and are now essentially two games behind Dallas in the chase for the conference's top spot with only four games left.

The bigger concern is Favre's health.

Favre was hurt on a hit by cornerback Nate Jones in the second quarter. His run of 249 consecutive starts — a record that's about six seasons longer than the next-best by a quarterback — might be in jeopardy, although he has 10 days to heal before the Packers play again, Dec. 9 at home against

Oakland.

"I had a similar injury last year," Favre said. "I lost feeling in my fingers and I still have some tingling. But I think I'll be fine."

Rodgers, who spent the week pretending he was Romo in Green Bay practices, provided the kind of rally Favre usually specializes in, even throwing the first touchdown pass of his three-year career. But he's no Brett Favre, so this comeback came up short.

Romo was 19-of-30 for 309 yards. He's up to 33 TD passes, smashing the club season record. He tied another club mark by throwing a touchdown in his 16th straight game.

Owens caught seven passes for 156 yards and a touchdown. He tied a team record with his 14th TD catch of the season and tied another mark with a TD catch in seven straight games. Patrick Crayton caught two of the touchdowns and Anthony Fasano the other.

Dallas also extended the best start in franchise history. With four games left, the Cowboys already have their most wins in a season since going 12-4 in 1995, their last Super Bowl season, and

they're two wins from matching the franchise record.

"It's pretty amazing to break any record with all the glory this team has had," first-year coach Wade Phillips said.

The Packers are still in great shape for at least the No. 2 seed and a first-round bye because their next three opponents have losing records. And the idea of starting Rodgers next week may no longer be as dreadful to fans who have wondered if he was a wasted draft pick. In the most extended action of his career, he was 18-of-26 for 201 yards and a touchdown with no turnovers.

"I thought he played great," Favre said. "He gave us a chance to win."

Favre was 5-of-14 for 56 yards with two interceptions, one that looked like a punt and another on the play he was injured. At least two other heavens could have been picked off. The Packers' only touchdown during his action came on a 62-yard run by Ryan Grant.

It's a shame most of the country missed seeing this game because it sure was worthy of a bigger audience than the NFL Network can provide.

There were historic teams and star players, dramatic plays and bizarre ones — like

T.O. juggling a potential back-breaking touchdown, letting it turn into an interception that could have let Green Bay take the lead. And, of course, there was the Romo-Favre storyline, which got rolling when they smiled and laughed through a chat on the field about 1 1/2 hours before kickoff.

What did they say?

"Exchanging recipes and stuff," Romo said. "Guy talk. I don't know. We just talked about hunting or something. I told him NFL Network was going to have a heart attack if I didn't come over and say hi. They were running out of film waiting for it."

Even the pregame coin toss was cool as Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman were honorary captains, joining Cowboys players dressed in throwback uniforms that ironically hark back to the days when Vince Lombardi and the Packers dominated Tom Landry's early Dallas teams.

Green Bay got a field goal on its first drive, but wouldn't lead again. The Cowboys were up 6-3, then turned it into 27-10 in the span of just eight offensive snaps.

Then Favre left and Dallas' intensity went, too. The lead frittered to 27-24 and after Al

Harris caught the interception caused by Owens, the Packers were driving for a go-ahead touchdown. But Green Bay's bid ended quickly, then Romo drove right back for a touchdown that made it 34-24.

Rodgers got a field goal, then the Packers needed a stop from their defense. But with Kaber Gbaja-Biamila and cornerback Charles Woodson inactive with injuries, they couldn't do it. Dallas got a clock-draining drive and field goal for a 10-point lead with 1:03 left — and with Favre nowhere in sight, having already headed to the locker room before the 2-minute warning.

Notes: Favre already considered Texas Stadium a miserable place, half-joking earlier this week that he was hoping "it would be gone before I got back there." He's 0-9 here. ... Dallas leads the regular-season series 11-10. ... Cowboys WR Miles Austin didn't have a catch, but he drew pass interference penalties of 42 and 40 yards. ... Look for the shaggy-haired Rodgers to get a haircut soon. He vowed not to trim it until he threw a touchdown.

# Houston Nutt introduced as Ole Miss football coach

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OXFORD, Miss. — Five weeks after handing Mississippi an embarrassing loss, Houston Nutt returned to this oak-studded campus Wednesday as the Rebels' new coach.

Nutt was introduced to 1,500 cheering fans during a news conference less than 48 hours after resigning at Arkansas and the day after Ole Miss athletic director Pete Boone announced he'd hired Nutt to resurrect a football program that has lost its way.

"One thing I love about Ole Miss is the tradition," Nutt said, naming past players like Archie

Manning and Frank "Bruiser" Kinard. "It's about tradition. That's the reason I am here. I feel like this place can be successful. I feel like this place can win."

Nutt replaces Ed Orgeron, who was fired Saturday after the Rebels finished 3-9. The team went winless in the Southeastern Conference for the first time since 1982, including a 44-8 loss to Nutt's Razorbacks.

While Orgeron increased the talent level, he never fielded a winner in three tumultuous years and finished 10-25.

Boone said Nutt matches the description of the kind of coach

he told Chancellor Robert Khayat he was looking for: "I said, 'It's fairly simple. I'd like a proven Southeastern Conference coach.'"

Nutt's resume matches Ole Miss' needs. The 2006 SEC coach of the year led Arkansas to an 8-4 finish and a likely Cotton Bowl berth, the school's eighth postseason trip in Nutt's 10 years.

The 50-year-old is 111-70 in 15 years as a head coach at Arkansas, Boise State and Murray State, and he's been a winner in the SEC. He revived the Razorbacks after replacing Danny Ford in 1997, going 75-48. Nutt was 42-38 in confer-

ence and won three SEC West division titles, though no championships.

Nutt grew up in Little Rock, Ark., played for the Razorbacks for a season and was an assistant coach in Fayetteville. But his relationship with Arkansas had soured over the last year.

Nutt expressed hope Sunday that he could stay, but resigned Monday evening and was hired by Boone about four hours later.

Nutt went 10-4 in 2006 to win the SEC West, but he's been under fire since the January departures of offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn and quarterback Mitch Mustain. The Razorbacks lost their first

three Southeastern Conference games this year, fueling more speculation about his job security.

Nutt agreed to a four-year, \$7.4 million contract with options for three more years totaling \$6.6 million. He appears to have the credentials required to turn around a program that hasn't been much of a force in the SEC since the 1960s.

The Rebels won three national titles and six SEC championships between 1947-63. Nutt said it's his goal to bring championships to Oxford again.

"We want to win an SEC

championship outright," Nutt said. "We want to do those things. But you're in the toughest conference in America. So it's going to take an unbelievable commitment by everyone."

About 500 fans had to be turned away at the door of the campus' Gertrude C. Ford Performing Arts Center, and Nutt had to pause through several ovations from the standing-room only crowd. Signs that the Ole Miss faithful approved of the hire were everywhere.

"It gives me chills when you clap and applaud because it means you're hungry," Nutt said.

# Centre beats Berea 80-67 for second win

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BEREA — Four players scored in double figures as the Centre College men's basketball team earned its second win of the season defeating Berea College 80-67 in a non-conference game Tuesday at the Seabury Center.

The Colonels, which had not played since the LaGrange Tournament November 16-17, improve to 2-1 on the season,

while Berea falls to 2-5 in the early going.

Centre shot 53.6-percent (15-28) in the first half, including five of 10 from beyond the three-point line to take a 41-31 lead into the locker room.

The second half was more evenly played as the Colonels only scored three more points (39-36) than the Mountainers, but that was all they needed in earning their

second straight win.

Sophomore forward Danny Noll (Ft. Thomas) led all scorers with 19 points on seven of 14 shooting from the field. Senior guard Matt Nestheide (Edgewood) had 18 points, six assists and five rebounds. Senior guard Thomas Britt (Louisville) tallied 15 points and six rebounds and junior forward T.C. Thomason (Russellville) added 14 points, four rebounds and four assists

in the win.

Floyd County native Kris Bentley, a Shelby Valley High School graduate, added two points and one rebound for the Colonels.

Three players finished in double figures for Berea led by forward Micah Turner's 17 points. Forward Jordan Samuels had a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds, while Cody Hornsby chipped in 12 points.

# Lady Toppers shut down Morehead State in second half, win 64-42

TIME STAFF REPORT

BOWLING GREEN — The Western Kentucky University women's basketball team held Morehead State to just four second-half field goals, and outscored the Eagles 34-18 in the final 20 minutes to pick up a 64-42 win Tuesday night at E.A. Diddle Arena.

WKU improved to 5-2 with the victory, while Morehead dropped to 1-5.

Leading by just six at intermission, WKU traded baskets with Morehead to open the second period, but then got a layup from Charlotte Marshall to spark an 11-0 run that opened up a 43-26 lead less than five minutes into the half. After getting their first field goal of the half from Afton Perry at the 18:14 mark, the

Eagles did not hit another shot from the floor until a Perry layup at the 9:39 mark.

WKU stretched its lead to 20 for the first time in the contest when Brooke Faulkner knocked down a jumper to make it 53-33 with 6:30 to go. The lead got as high as 24 twice in the final minute before Candyce Flynn accounted for the final bucket of the game to cut the margin to 22 points.

For the game, the Lady Toppers held Morehead State to just 22 percent shooting from the floor — the lowest opponent field-goal percentage since South Alabama also shot 22 percent back on Feb. 27, 1999.

The Lady Toppers hit only one of their first 10 shots from the field, and finished at 28.1 percent from the floor in the

first half. Crystal Kelly provided a bulk of the offense for the Lady Toppers in the opening 20 minutes as she finished with 18 points and nine rebounds, and connected on four three-point plays in the opening half.

After WKU scored the first six points of the contest, Morehead State got a layup from Chynna Bozeman at the 16:33 mark to spark a 9-0 Eagle run as they held the Lady Toppers scoreless for nearly five minutes. Two straight three point plays by Kelly gave the Lady Toppers a 15-12 lead as they were able to hold Morehead without a field goal for over five minutes, opening up a 25-17 lead on a pair of Kelly free throws with 4:23 remaining before intermission. WKU opened up its biggest

lead of the period when a Kelly layup with just under a minute remaining stretched the advantage to 30-21, but Bozeman knocked down a three in the closing seconds to cut the lead down to six at halftime.

Despite playing just eight minutes in the second half, Kelly finished the night with a game-high 25 points and 13 rebounds. Faulkner also scored in double figures off the bench as she dropped in 10 points — eight of which came in the second half — and also pulled down a career-high six rebounds. Bozeman paced the Eagles with 13 points, while Perry dropped in 12.

ONLINE:  
www.msueagles.com

www.wkusports.com

# Smith expands NASCAR Sprint Cup knowledge with Kentucky Speedway test

TIMES STAFF REPORT

SPARTA — Rookie of the Year hopeful Regan Smith laid the groundwork for his first full NASCAR Sprint Cup Series season by testing his new Dale Earnhardt, Inc. (DEI), machine at Kentucky Speedway Wednesday.

The six-year NASCAR Nationwide Series veteran will compete in the No. 01 Chevrolet in 2008 and is part of a new five-driver DEI Sprint Cup line-up that also will include Paul Menard in the No. 15 and Martin Truex, Jr., in the No. 1. Newcomer Aric Almirola and veteran Mark Mark Martin will split time in the team's No. 8 entry.

Smith shared the No. 01 seat with Martin last season

under the Ginn Racing banner before the team merged with DEI later in the year. Smith competed in seven NASCAR Sprint Cup races and earned a season-best 24th-place finish at Talladega April 29. He started a season-best 10th at Watkins Glen International Aug. 12. He also raced in 17 NASCAR Nationwide Series events and registered a total of three top-five and five top-10 finishes. He took his only series pole award at Kentucky Speedway June 16 before finishing 19th in the "Meijer 300 Presented by Oreo."

His brief but solid 2007 experience will help him approach his 2008 endurance test with confidence.

"I think I picked up a lot (last season). I got a lot of

races in and completed most of the laps in those races. I tried not to tear up equipment, that was one of the first goals, and I accomplished that for the most part with the exception of Watkins Glen.

"All of my races were Car of Tomorrow (COT) races except for Talladega and that's a totally different beast anyway. There's a lot I'll be able to transfer to the upcoming season and a lot of new stuff I've learned since I've been with the DEI guys. We're all going to be learning as we go with the car and with me being a rookie driver, but everything is going really well so far."

Smith also will benefit from a deeper involvement with the veteran Martin and the opportunity to consult

with his up-and-coming teammates Truex, Jr. and Menard throughout the season.

"I have a really good relationship with Mark. I respect him a lot and what he's done throughout his career a ton. Not only am I going to still be able to work with him, I'll actually be able to work with him at the racetrack. When I was racing last year, he wasn't there. This year, he'll be there for 26 races, so I'll be able to see him after practices. There will be a lot of unknowns for all of us and I'll be able to go talk to him.

"Likewise, Martin, who has been on fire lately, and Paul now have a couple years of Sprint Cup experience under their belts and I'll be able to go get information

from them," Smith said.

He additionally likes that the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series will utilize a single car design for the entire season.

"There's not going to be the unknown, 'I wonder how the other car would've been like at this place.' It's our racecar, that's what we have to work with and I think it's better they went ahead and made a full season with the (one) car (design). By this time next year, I don't think anyone will be talking about the other car. We're going to work with what we have and make it good," Smith said.

With several factors working in his favor, Smith set the goal of winning top series rookie honors next season.

"I think Rookie of the Year is a must for me, I want that

title. I look at it and it's all open-wheel guys. I want to carry the stock car banner and keep that going strong.

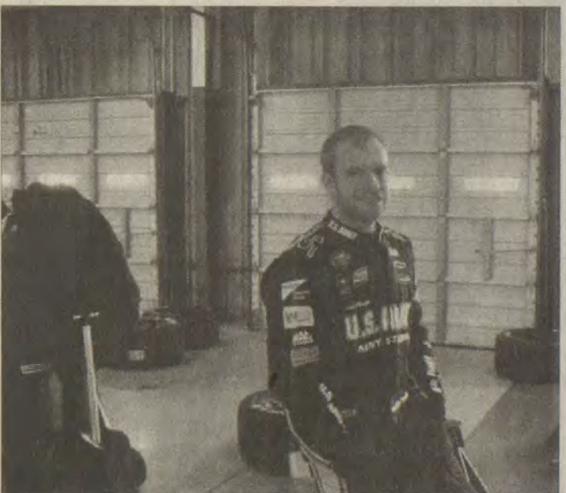
"If we can go out and get top fives and top 10s by the end of the year, consistently try to run up front, get good experience and finish races — those will be the biggest things."

He shaved away a portion of his learning curve Wednesday by making progress on his set-up.

Smith also was joined on the track by his teammate Menard and USAC star Ricky Stenhouse, Jr., who turned laps in a Roush Fenway ARCA RE/MAX Series car with guidance from 2003 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series champion Travis Kvapil.



photos courtesy of Kentucky Speedway  
NASCAR Sprint Cup upstart Regan Smith took his share of laps around the Kentucky Speedway track Wednesday during a testing session.



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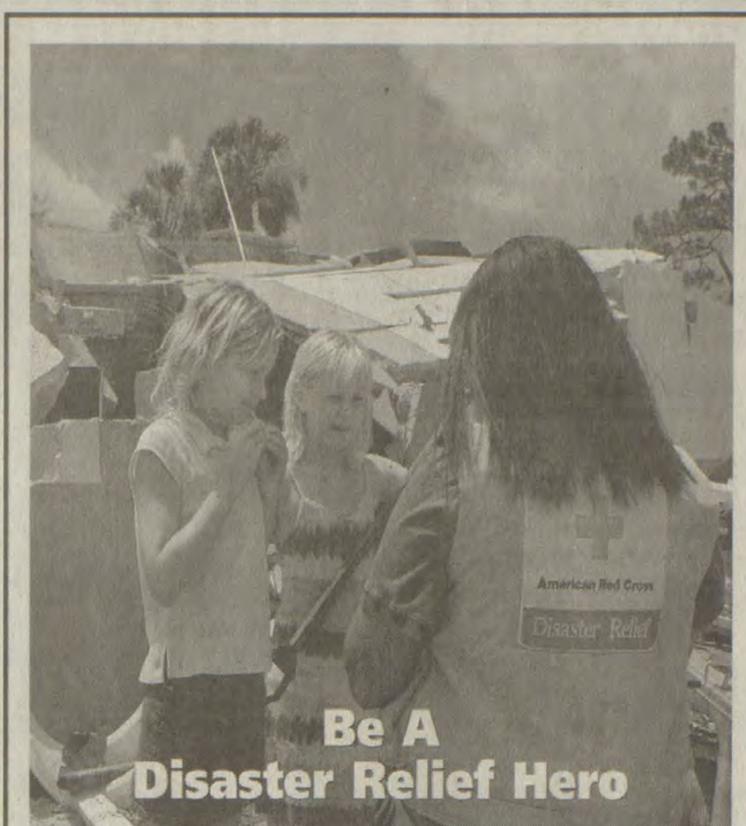
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# Odds & Ends

■ MISSOULA, Mont. — Taking holiday decorations from a man named Clouse this time of year might land you on the “naughty” list. Putting them up in your yard with the tags still on might land you in jail.

Michael Allard, 39, is accused of stealing Christmas trees and wreaths from the Montana Wreaths & Pink Grizzly Christmas Store several blocks from his home. He was arrested Monday and charged with felony burglary and misdemeanor theft.

Shane Clouse, the shop's owner, reported a burglary after he spotted Allard walking with a shopping cart full of items Clouse recognized as his own, the Missoulian newspaper reported. Clouse later saw two of his Christmas trees in Allard's yard and stacks of wreaths in the entryway of his trailer.

Clouse said the trees were identical to those he sells and pointed out that the red and yellow sales tags were still attached.

A sheriff's deputy who responded noticed trees and wreaths at Allard's house, then saw him inside making additional wreaths, according to the newspaper.

Investigators said that Allard acknowledged taking the wreath-making supplies but said that the items had been abandoned near the business and that he didn't break in. He said a friend had given him the trees.

Allard was being held Thursday in the Missoula County Detention Facility. A phone message left Thursday by The Associated Press with the regional public defender's office seeking the name of Allard's attorney was not immediately returned.

■ WESTBURY, N.Y. — A 72-year-old man fought off a would-be robber who brandished a gun, wrecked his Christmas decorations, and allegedly had been sent by his

nephew in search of jewelry and cash, police said.

“I don't know how I got the power,” said the victim, Reinaldo Herrera.

Herrera was working on his outdoor Christmas light display Tuesday afternoon when Santos Zelaya, 21, followed him into his suburban home on Long Island and confronted him with what turned out to be a pellet gun, police said. Herrera believed it was a real firearm.

Demanding cash and jewelry, Zelaya tore down Herrera's living room Christmas tree and Nativity scene, Detective Lt. Raymond Cote said.

“Jesus, Mary and the wise men all fell to the ground,” Cote said.

Herrera was pushed to the ground, but he managed to fight back.

“I punched him many, many times, (and) he punched me,” the 5-foot-6-inch-tall supermarket worker said. “He got afraid.”

Zelaya ran off, police said, but authorities soon noticed him because he was without a jacket, which he had lost in the fray. They later also apprehended Herrera's nephew Jorge Duque, 47, who drove with Zelaya to Herrera's home and waited in a car during the robbery attempt, police said. Duque thought his uncle would be a good target because he kept cash and jewelry in the house, Cote said.

Zelaya and Duque were arrested on robbery and burglary charges. No telephone numbers for them could be found at the addresses police provided. Information on their court appearances was not available early Thursday.

■ MONTAGUE, Mass. — Cash fluttering in the breeze might have seemed like a gift from heaven, but anyone in this western Massachusetts town who grabbed some of it is being asked to please give it back.

The money — a total of

\$1,100 — belonged to 83-year-old Mary Olive Corbiere, who was banking on it to buy Christmas presents and lost it after a freak accident.

Corbiere had left a drug-store Tuesday and was putting her bags in her car when a wind gust pushed her shopping cart — still containing her purse and cane — into the back of a nearby delivery truck.

The cart somehow became stuck in a rear wheel well before the truck pulled away and disappeared into traffic.

“Everything was normal, then I turned around and the cart had taken off,” said Corbiere, a retired English teacher and nurse.

The cart was dragged for blocks along one of the town's busiest thoroughfares as the driver, oblivious to what had occurred, headed to the next delivery.

Witnesses told police that when the purse finally burst open, strangers stopped and grabbed the fluttering currency, which Corbiere had withdrawn for holiday shopping and bills.

Officers found Corbiere's tattered checkbook and cane — but little cash. They are urging people not to be Grinch and return any of the money they might have found.

“We're hoping people will do the right thing,” police Sgt. Charles Dodge said.

Corbiere, though, isn't waiting around for the money's return. She headed to the bank Wednesday to get a new checkbook and make another withdrawal.

She didn't even bother to retrieve the battered purse from police.

“That's no use to me now,” she said. “What I really needed badly is my cane, and I am lucky I did get that back.”

■ BARRE, Vt. — A homeless man thought he was doing some good by standing at a supermarket for 10 hours a day to get shoppers to donate

money into a red Salvation Army kettle.

The shelter where Paul Tucker lives doesn't see it that way.

The Good Samaritan Haven ordered him out by Saturday, saying that 48-year-old Tucker is spending his time raising money for the needy instead of finding a place to live or looking for work.

The 20-bed shelter offers emergency housing, clothing and food, and requires clients to leave each day at 7 a.m. to look for housing or go to work, executive director Paul Mascitti said.

The average guest stays 29 days, Mascitti said. Tucker has been there since May.

“If you're not doing anything 10 hours a day, whether it's lounging on a beach or working for the Salvation Army or sitting at a Dunkin' Donuts, you're breaking your contract with us,” Mascitti said.

“I can't see someone saying, ‘I'm going to benefit mankind when I haven't taken care of myself.’”

The Salvation Army — which runs a soup kitchen he frequents — gave Tucker one of the bell ringer jobs two weeks ago. The gig pays \$20 a day for meals.

“He's a sweet man; he'd do anything for anybody,” said Capt. Louis Patrick, who runs the local group.

Dressed in a knit Salvation Army cap and wearing a Salvation Army coat, Tucker solicits the donations from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. under a sign that reads: “Sharing and Caring. Need Knows No Season.”

“It's for generosity, really,” he said.

Tucker, who has worked as a painter, a farmer and a maintenance worker at a fast-food restaurant, has been getting well-wishes from shoppers who know of his situation and holds no ill will toward the shelter.

“I don't find fault with them, but I don't feel it's quite

right,” he said.

Tucker said he isn't sure where he'll go when he clears out of the shelter. There's a hiking camp he's heard about nearby and may go there.

Mascitti, meanwhile, makes no apologies. Rules are rules, he said.

“Here it is, the ‘Grinch’ time of the year, and this guy is being asked to leave the homeless shelter, no room at the inn. It's an old story,” he said.

■ DUBLIN, Ireland — Irish police were hunting for a beer bandit who stole 450 full kegs from the Guinness brewery — the largest heist ever at Ireland's largest brewer.

National police said a lone man drove into the brewery — a Dublin landmark and top tourist attraction — on Wednesday and hitched his truck to a fully loaded trailer awaiting delivery to city pubs.

Diageo PLC, the beverage company that owns Guinness, said the brewery had never suffered such a large-scale theft before in its 248-year history.

Police said the raider took 180 kegs of Guinness stout, 180 kegs of U.S. lager Budweiser and 90 kegs of Danish beer Carlsberg. Guinness brews both of those foreign brands under license for sale in Ireland.

Police declined to say whether the theft had been captured by closed-circuit surveillance cameras. No description of the suspect was issued, suggesting that nobody got a good look at him.

Each keg holds about 88 British-sized pints, the most common serving size in Ireland, equivalent to 20 ounces each. The total theft involves 39,600 pints with a retail value exceeding \$235,000.

Police said it would be difficult for the thief to sell the stolen beer without attracting attention, unless he has criminal associates who own a network of pubs.

But customs agents say it is common for pubs to sell stolen or smuggled cigarettes and alcohol, particularly counterfeit-labeled supplies of vodka, to avoid paying hefty taxes.

In the past, the outlawed Irish Republican Army and other gangs have hijacked truck shipments of alcoholic beverages and cigarettes for resale in pubs run by sympathizers or friends. Those raids typically happen in rural areas, never in the center of Dublin.

The Republic of Ireland, a country of 4.2 million, has more than 10,000 pubs and bars. The Guinness brewery in Dublin is the biggest supplier, producing more than 5 million kegs annually.