



INSIDE TODAY

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Suicide bombs attached to mentally retarded women reveal new al-Qaida tactic — A7

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Top Colombian drug lord slain in Venezuela — A8

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Professors hold a 'teach-in' to encourage environmental action — A6

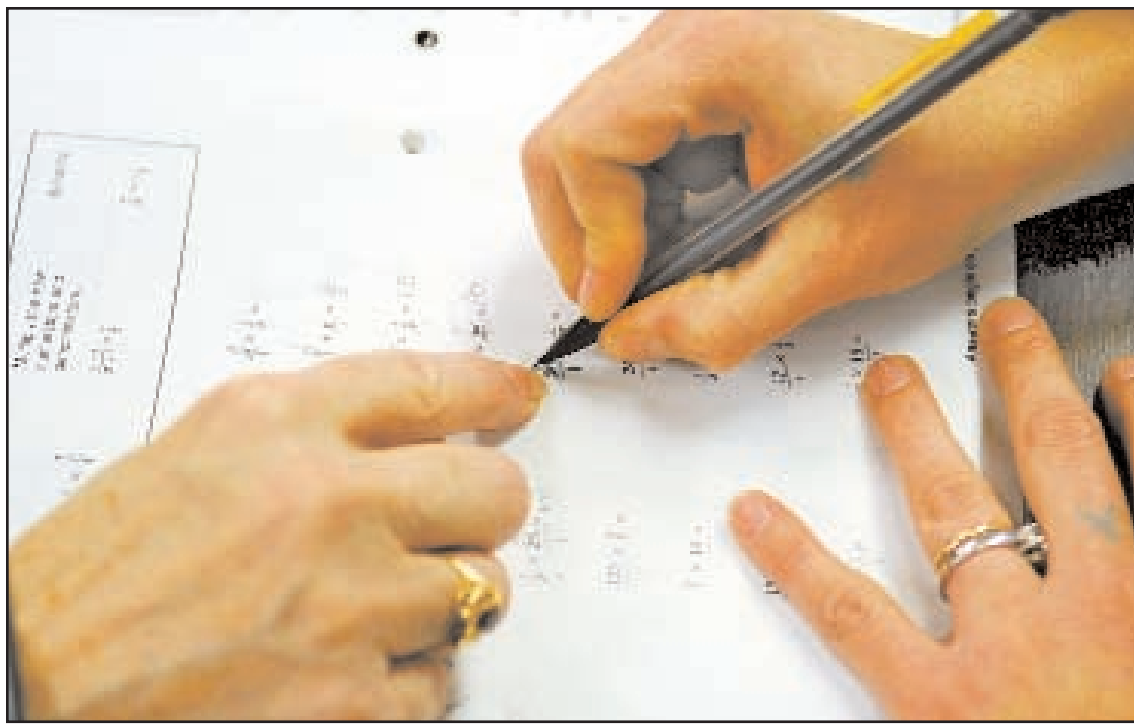
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The state is faced with tough fiscal choices. Would you rather see a higher cigarette tax or sharp cuts in higher education spending? Vote online at www.winchester-sun.com.

WEATHER

Today: 48° Tonight: 31° The AccuWeather forecast appears on A8.

50 CENTS PER COPY



Reading between the lines

In 2004-2005, 22 percent of Kentucky adults did not have a GED.

Thanks to the local literacy program, 32 adults earned their GEDs last year.

And 32 more have completed their GEDs so far this year.

STORY BY JENNIFER THORNBERY ♦ PHOTOS BY JAMES MANN

TOP: Debbie Jones, family literacy coordinator, helps adult education student Tina Mata with her math problems.

RIGHT: Debbie Jones teaches math to adult education students Tina Mata, foreground, Chris Willin, back right, and Nicole Tipton, back left, at the Winchester Adult Education Center.

BELOW: Ryan Bowsen works in the computer lab at the Winchester Adult Education Center. Basic computer skills are one component of the program.

When Clark County began its literacy program in 1985, 44 percent of adults here did not have a high school diploma or GED. Today, 25 percent of the county's adults age 25 or older still do not have a high school education.

Those numbers, reported by the Kentucky State Data Center, show that while Clark County's literacy rate has improved, it still has a long way to go. "We're only hitting a small piece of the people in the community that need it," said Jim Porter, executive director of the Winchester-Clark County Literacy Council Inc., which helps adults improve their reading skills and earn their GEDs.

Nevertheless, the campaign to improve literacy in Clark County has been going strong since 1981, when Doris Henry attended a literacy training workshop in Fayette County and learned to



teach adults to read. The late Hazel Hieronymus donated \$300, and with it she and Henry bought supplies and began a tutoring program here in Clark County.

Alice Tucker came into the program in 1985 when Hieronymus asked her if she would like to teach an adult to read.

"Well, I never had thought about it, but yes, I would like to do that," Tucker responded then.

Thus began her long involvement with the program, and she still serves as chair of the board today.

"It's still my passion. People need to be able to read and write. That mission never stops," she

said. The program incorporated in 1990 as a non-profit organization under the name of Winchester/Clark County Literacy Council Inc., located at 52 N. Maple St. It has grown from those early days into the multi-service adult education program that it is today.

The Literacy Council teaches adults from the most basic skills all the way up to high school. It helps adults who want to improve their reading skills, earn their GED, learn basic computer skills or improve their job skills.

The program also

See READ, A3



New suspect arrested in alleged child abuse case

Sun Staff Report

A second suspect has been charged with abuse in connection with an infant who was found bruised and bleeding and taken to UK Hospital two weeks ago.

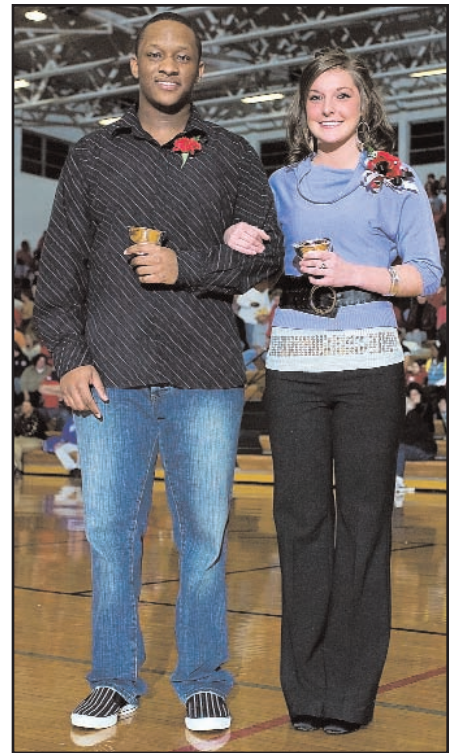
Winchester police charged Genne Burgess, 23, of 12 1/2 N. Main St., with second-degree criminal abuse on Friday. Police were not available Friday night to comment on the woman's relationship with the child.

According to police, 3-week-old Wyatt Patrick had bruises to his head and torso and was suffering from a brain hemorrhage, retinal bleeding and a possible skull fracture when he was brought in for treatment.

The boy's father, Jesse Patrick, 28, was the first suspect to be charged when he brought the child to Clark Regional Medical Center on Jan. 25 at the direction of social services.

See ABUSE, A3

GRC HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN



Bill Thiry/bthiry@winchestersun.com

Michael Blair and Sarah Catron were named the senior homecoming King and Queen Friday night. For more on the game, see page B1.

Board seeks help finding county's small cemeteries

By KATHERAN WASSON kwasson@winchestersun.com

Members of the Clark County Cemetery Board are seeking help from local residents to identify and locate hundreds of small cemeteries throughout the county.

Maps created by Clark County Geographic Information Systems will be posted in the Clark County Courthouse, Clark County Public Library, Winchester City Hall and the Extension Office. Several of the cemeteries on the map are marked as "unknown," and Cemetery Board member Bobbi Newell said there are probably many others that aren't even listed.

"If people will just all come together and look at these maps, fill out the forms and mail them in," she said.

See BOARD, A3

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READ

FROM PAGE A1

includes English Second Language training, and instructors also will go to a specific workplace to improve employees' job skills or assist them toward a GED.

All books, materials and instruction are provided at no cost to the student because of grant funding from Kentucky Adult Education, formerly the Kentucky Literacy Commission.

The tutors and instructors who run the program clearly have a passion for it. Debbie Jones, family literacy coordinator, says she is trying to make her community better.

"Your children are going to do what you do. If you didn't get through school, if you don't change your attitude toward education, your kids are not going to get through school," she said.

She sees teaching literacy skills as a long-term preventative measure toward decreasing the county's dropout rate, which is one of the highest in the state, she said. According to the Council on Postsecondary Education, 22 percent of adults statewide did not have a high school diploma or GED in 2004-05.

Mary Wells, lead instructor for GED and Adult Basic Education courses, knows what it's like to earn a GED. She did it at age 28, when she found herself divorced with an eighth-grade education and three kids to raise. She now has a bachelor's degree in science, a master's degree in language, and is a certified reading instructor.

Since she has been an adult learner herself, she said, it gives her a special insight and a connection with the students. She has also lived in Winchester for more than 20 years.

She said she has always loved to teach.

"I love what I do," she said. "If I can make a differ-

ence in their life, I feel like that's what I'm here for."

Tina Mata and Samantha Brewer are two of the adult learners for whom the council has made a difference this year. Mata is just starting to improve her education, and Brewer recently earned her GED.



SAMANTHA BREWER

Mata has been in the family literacy program since Dec. 4. She has been married for 12 years and has five kids.

"I want to get my GED, and my goal is to get a good job where I can support my family better than I do now," she said.

She is bilingual, speaking both Spanish and English. Her goal is to use her languages to work for the health department, a hospital, a welfare office or a school, "where I can help," she said.

She said her biggest barrier to learning was thinking she can't do it, but she is getting over that barrier. "I'm here every day," she said.

Brewer is currently this year's top scorer on the GED test. If no one beats her score before June 30, she will be this year's valedictorian. The young woman who is now considering college choices once struggled to stay on track in school.

She went to Clay City Elementary, then her mother and stepfather moved the family to Georgia, where she attended a large public school, which terrified her. She then transferred to a private Christian school, but it wasn't the setting she was hoping for. So she tried again at a much smaller Christian school, which also didn't work. In eighth grade, she decided she wanted to be home-schooled.

However, family concerns kept her going back and forth between Georgia and Kentucky, which made it

difficult for her to stay motivated. The home school curriculum was also behind what she had already learned in school, so she got bored.

"I wasn't learning anything. I wasn't doing it," she said.

After living in Georgia for six or seven years, her stepfather got a different job and move the family back to Kentucky. By the time she moved back here last April, she had already decided to complete her GED.

"I had already decided I didn't want to go on leaving school as a leftover subject. I did want to go to college, and I wanted to make something of myself," she said. "I'm proud that I did it."

Brewer now has a lot of opportunities that she didn't really expect. She has an interview with Berea College in a couple weeks. She has also been contacted by Bluegrass Community and Technical College. She spoke at the recent Regional Dropout Forum in

Mount Sterling, and a Morehead State University administrator there expressed interest in her. She may also have an internship opportunity with Civic Enterprises, a non-profit company in Washington, D.C.

She is still thinking about what major she wants to take. She enjoys acting, but as her "fallback plan," she is thinking about the medical field as a possibility.

"I want to go to college and see where it takes me," she said.

Each year in June, the council holds a graduation ceremony for all those who have completed their GEDs for the past year, complete with cap and gown. At this point, 32 people have completed their GED since July 1, according to Porter. For the previous fiscal year, from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, a total of 35 students tested, and 32 passed.

Porter expects to top that number this year. "Every year, we do better," he said.

ABUSE

FROM PAGE A1

According to police, hospital staff believed the injuries were consistent with shaken baby syndrome.

During the investigation, the child's mother reportedly told police that Patrick had entered the baby's room after the couple had an argument. She said she later found the bruises on his body.

Burgess was lodged in the Clark County Detention Center Friday night.

The baby has since been placed in foster care.

BOARD

FROM PAGE A1

"Anything will help us document these cemeteries."

Anyone with information about cemeteries on their property can view the maps and fill out a form to submit to the Cemetery Board. Newell said the Board is currently restoring the Taylor and Spencer cemeteries near Colby Road.

"We are going to visit all these cemeteries at some point in time," Newell said.

Newell said most of the graves date to the early 1800s, and back to the beginning of Winchester, when people often wanted to be buried on their own property. Winchester Cemetery wasn't opened until 1854.

"We were such an agrarian society in those days," she said. "Very few people lived downtown, and not everybody wanted to be buried there (at Winchester Cemetery)."

Clark County's graveyards were first documented in 1933 by George Doyle, and Kathryn Owen updated his work in 1974.

The Cemetery Board started the mapping project two years ago.

Defense secretary Gates visits Fort Campbell

By RYAN LENZ
Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL — The wives of 101st Airborne Division soldiers serving in Iraq used a visit from U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Friday to voice tearful concerns about the strains of a war soon to move into a sixth year.

For some, the complaints were of families left behind amid repeated deployments. For others Gates' visit was a chance to share the fears and frustrations associated with a spouse's first trip to the battlefield.

"It is so difficult. He missed the birth of our daughter," Emily Bhatta, 25, of Richmond, Va., said through tears after meeting with the secretary. Her husband deployed for Baghdad

last fall with the division's 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans."

The meetings with Gates were closed to reporters, but the secretary said afterward that he assured all spouses their concerns — which included the Pentagon lengthening deployments to 15 months — would be addressed.

"There is no question that 15-month deployments are a real strain. I tried to express to them that we understand how much of a strain it is, and our hopes to move them to 12-month deployments soon," Gates said after the meetings.

Gates said other concerns from families included poor medical care for children at Fort Campbell, difficulties with the military's benefit system and a lack of servic-

es offered to spouses left on post as soldiers leave.

Many soldiers at Fort Campbell have deployed three or four times. More than 11,000 soldiers from the post are serving in Iraq; about 3,000 are in Afghanistan.

The division has lost 15 soldiers in Iraq since October, including eight in January.

Also on Friday, at least 73 people were killed when remote-controlled explosives strapped to two mentally retarded women detonated in a coordinated attack on Baghdad pet bazaars, Iraqi officials said. The attack was the deadliest day since the U.S. sent 30,000 extra troops to the capital last spring.

Gates said the attacks were the type of behavior

that caused many Iraqis to turn away from al-Qaida in Iraq's western Anbar province.

"It is a manifestation of the success of our military operations that al-Qaida has to resort to not only pedestrian suicide bombers, but also women," Gates said.

The trip was Gates' first official visit to Fort Campbell, a sprawling Army post on the Kentucky-Tennessee state line.

Pentagon officials said Gates routinely meets with soldiers and spouses during visits to military installations, adding that many of the changes in the military are born in such meetings.

During his visit, Gates also attended the promotion of Col. Mark Milley,

who once served as a military assistant to the secretary of defense.

The next soldiers to deploy from Fort Campbell are bound for Afghanistan. Among them is Staff Sgt. Shawn Honeycutt, a 30-year-old Kiowa Warrior crew chief. Honeycutt returned from Iraq less than a year ago and said a visit from Gates, the military's second-highest official behind the president, was an honor and a comfort.

Knowing that the concerns of soldiers are finding an ear high in the military is assuring, he said.

"Sometimes it's hard," Honeycutt said. "But if he could get us some time off when we're home, the strain on the families will probably take care of itself."

CASINO OPERATOR SPENT MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN KY. GOVERNOR RACE

By ROGER ALFORD
Associated Press

FRANKFORT — A casino operator spent more than \$1 million last year to help elect Gov. Steve Beshear, a Democrat who is pushing to legalize gambling in Kentucky.

The largest contribution by William Yung went to a Kentucky political group that ran television ads blasting Beshear's opponent in the race.

Yung contributed a third of the \$3 million the Bluegrass Freedom Fund spent during the governor's race, according to a financial report filed with the Internal Revenue Service on Thursday. Yung heads Columbia Sussex, which operates casinos and hotels across the country.

Casino opponents in Kentucky reacted angrily

on Friday.

"There is the very real possibility that this governor has been bought and paid for," said Kent Ostrander, head of the Kentucky Family Foundation, a Christian group that opposes casinos. "Our concern is that the governor might be listening only to the gambling industry and those who have contributed to his campaign."

Jim Cauley, Beshear's chief of staff who served as his campaign manager, said the anti-casino group was overreacting.

"To say that he was bought and paid for is inflammatory rhetoric that just doesn't help the discussion," Cauley said. "This group came in and raised money and spent money, independent of anything we did."

Bluegrass Freedom Fund is a 527 organization — named after a section of the IRS code — that can raise unlimited amounts of money but must disclose its donors. Such groups' activities must be separate from any political campaign.

Yung did not return a telephone call to his northern Kentucky office seeking comment Friday. Beshear spokeswoman Vicki Glass had no immediate comment.

Beshear made a proposal to legalize casinos in Kentucky a centerpiece in his campaign against former Gov. Ernie Fletcher, saying such a move would generate \$500 million a year in additional revenue for state government. Although Kentucky has a long tradition of wagering at horse tracks, state law

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

Yung also made a maximum \$1,000 campaign contribution to Beshear during the election campaign. He also contributed \$10,000 to help pay for Beshear's inaugural party in December.

Columbia Sussex Corp., based in Crestview Hills, Ky., owns hotels and casinos throughout the country including the Tropicana in Las Vegas.

The company has owned the Tropicana in New

Jersey, but casino regulators there stripped it of its license in December. New Jersey's Casino Control Commission also fined Columbia Sussex \$750,000 for going nearly six months without an independent audit committee.

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