

# CITY REGION

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THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010

## State cites new nursing home

COVINGTON FACILITY INVESTIGATED WITHIN FIRST 2 MONTHS

By Valarie Honeycutt Spears  
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Within two months of the opening of a Covington nursing home, investigators cited it twice for serious violations of state regulations after one resident's death and another's stroke.

Investigators found that Providence Pavilion's failure to have an effective system in place to ensure that residents received medicines and lab tests ordered by doctors placed them "in im-

minent danger," according to a state citation.

On Feb. 26, Providence Pavilion received two Type A citations, the most serious given by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' inspector general, according to state documents.

The facility began accepting residents in early January in a refurbished building that once housed St. Elizabeth North Hospital.

A resident who died Jan. 30 was sent

to a hospital emergency room Jan. 27 to treat "an open area" that would not stop bleeding, according to the citation.

After the resident returned to Providence that day, a doctor ordered that the patient should not receive a regular dose of Coumadin, a medication used to prevent blood clots.

The physician also ordered a test to monitor the resident's blood on Jan. 28.

But staff at the facility did not transcribe the order and gave the resident the medication in spite of the doctor's

See PROVIDENCE, A4



2010  
General  
Assembly

## Gambling measure in doubt

BUT REGULATORY ACTION MIGHT PAVE WAY FOR INSTANT RACING AT TRACKS

By Janet Patton

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FRANKFORT — Less than a week after a proposal to allow "Instant Racing" gambling came flying out of a Senate committee, the bill has been sidetracked and looks unlikely to finish the legislative race.

Senate President David Williams predicted late Tuesday the proposal would be stripped from House Bill 368 on Wednesday by the Senate State and Local Government Committee, but the panel did not take up the measure during its noon meeting Wednesday.

Committee chairman Damon Thayer, who favors allowing electronic Instant Racing games at the state's racetracks, said he put the bill on hold because he did not have the votes to pass the version of the bill that he prefers.

"Nobody's happy. I'm not happy," said Thayer, R-Georgetown, who last Thursday added language that would allow

**Livestock bill advances:** Panel revises, approves animal-care measure. **Page C9**

**Workers' comp:** Legislation calling for refund to policyholders gets committee approval. **Page C9**

racetracks to install electronic gambling on randomly chosen previously run races. "There are challenges present in building a consensus on this bill, so we're going to pass over it, perhaps for another time."

Although Thayer pulled the bill off Wednesday's agenda, the horse industry and Gov. Steve Beshear have signaled interest in allowing Instant Racing through regulatory changes that don't require legislative approval. If allowed, the measure could generate millions of dollars to beef up racing purses and incentives for Kentucky-bred horses.

Attorney General Jack Conway said in a January opinion that Instant Racing could be made legal without

See GAMBLING, A7

"Kentucky has recognized me way more than Indiana has. This state has always taken me in as one of its own. That has meant a lot."

Steve Wariner, singer-guitarist who was born in Indiana but grew up in Russell Springs



## GETTING THE CALL TO THE HALL



**Patty Loveless,** Pikeville native and country artist, has had eight gold albums.



**John Michael Montgomery,** who lives in Nicholasville, has sold 15 million albums.



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Melvin Goins, left, Steve Wariner and John Michael Montgomery shared some laughs during the announcement that they are the newest inductees in the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame.



**Melvin Goins** of Catlettsburg will be inducted with his late brother Ray, with whom he sang.



**Larnelle Harris,** a native of Danville, has won multiple Grammy gospel awards.

## Music inductees have ties to country, bluegrass and gospel

By Walter Tunis

Contributing Music Writer

It won't convene for another year. But the 2011 Kentucky Music Hall of Fame induction class is now official.

Entering the Hall of Fame, in Renfro Valley, will be:

■ Chart-topping Nicholasville country star John Michael Montgomery.

■ Grammy-winning singer and guitarist Steve Wariner, who grew up in Russell Springs after living briefly in Louisville.

■ The Goins Brothers, the pioneering Eastern Kentucky bluegrass duo. Its 50-year career is maintained to-



**Keith Whitley,** a Sandy Hook native who died in 1989, had five No. 1 hits

day by surviving sibling Melvin Goins of Catlettsburg.

■ Grammy-winning country-bluegrass vocalist Patty Loveless, a Pikeville native who grew up in Elkhorn City and, later, Louisville.

■ The late bluegrass singer-turned-country celebrity Keith Whitley, who was born in Sandy Hook.

■ Multiple Grammy-winning Danville gospel artist Larnelle Harris.

■ The late Pike County-born singer Molly O'Day, whose brief recording career (1946-51) helped define Kentucky country music.

"It's the ultimate achievement to be inducted into a Hall of Fame in your home state, where you grew up learning your trade, doing something you always loved to do," Montgomery said.

For Wariner, who was born in Indiana, the induction furthers the bond with the state he has long viewed as home.

See HALL, A4

## Dumpsters crush worker to death

**Lexington:** A Morehead man died Wednesday after being pinned between two Dumpsters at a Lexington landfill just before 11 a.m., according to the Fayette County coroner's office. Jesse Hodges, 27, was helping load the bins for transport when the accident occurred at a landfill on Hedger Lane, officials said. Hodges was an employee of Demolition Disposal Services.

The company's president, Troy Thompson, estimated each bin weighed more than 1,000 pounds. Thompson said it was the first fatal accident in the company's 32 years. He said he did not think the accident was a result of faulty loading equipment.

Hodges was pronounced dead at University of Kentucky Hospital about 2:40 p.m.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Northcutt & Son Funeral Home in Morehead. Officials at the funeral home said survivors include Hodges' wife, Shayne Hodges, and stepchildren Kyler and Shelby Gilbert.

## Inmate sues state

**Honolulu:** A Hawaii inmate who claims she was raped by two guards at a private prison in Kentucky has sued the state of Hawaii and prison operator Corrections Corp. of America. The woman says in the suit filed Monday that she was sexually assaulted in June 2008 at the Otter Creek Correctional Center in Wheelwright.

The woman and her husband are serving life sentences without the possibility of parole for a 1997 kidnapping and murder. A similar suit was filed by another female inmate from Hawaii in October.

Hawaii moved all 128 of its female inmates out of Otter Creek in September after 23 female inmates, including seven from Hawaii, alleged they were sexually assaulted. At least six prison workers have been indicted in the case.

## Doctor loses license

**Nashville:** A doctor allowed to practice medicine after spending time in prison for killing his wife and mother-in-law lost his license Wednesday because of a more recent charge involving prescription drugs.

The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners revoked the license of Dr. Visu Vilvarajah, and it put his ex-wife, Dr. Mireille Lalanne, on probation for five years, health department spokeswoman Shelley Walker said.

The two were censured because of a case against them in Kentucky. The pair were arrested on drug conspiracy charges last year after both were accused of illegally writing prescription painkillers for about 350 people in Harlan County.

They have maintained they didn't know their patients were selling the prescription drugs. They both entered Alford pleas in Kentucky to the reduced misdemeanor charge of facilitating drug trafficking. An Alford plea allows defendants to avoid admitting guilt while acknowledging there was sufficient evidence to convict.

Vilvarajah's license was suspended after he shot his wife and mother-in-law in 1986 in his home in Germantown, a suburb outside of Memphis. His wife, Jayanthi Vilvarajah, had filed for divorce a day earlier, claiming irreconcilable differences and cruelty. He shot both women in the head as they were packing to leave the home. The state fully restored his license in 2001.

## Carrier alerts family to flee

**London:** London's fire chief said he plans to give a Herald-Leader newspaper carrier an award for rousing a family of four during a house fire last week.

Paul Moyers, 61, was delivering papers in the Johnson Addition area just before 4 a.m. March 10 when he saw a fire on a wraparound porch, Chief Larry VanHook said.

While calling 911, Moyers beat on the windows trying to wake anyone who might be in the home, said Shirley Moyers, the driver's wife. Michael Catching and his family, including a 9-month-old daughter, were sleeping in the same room after Catching's wife had had surgery the day before, VanHook said.

VanHook said Catching told him the family was exhausted after the surgery and had slept through warnings from the home's smoke detectors. Catching "heard somebody beating and banging and screaming and hollering," VanHook said. VanHook said fire trucks were arriving at the scene just after the family got out of the house and just as the fire began to enter the front rooms.

STAFF, WIRE REPORTS

## GOP tries to rescue anti-abortion effort

PETITION WOULD GET BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE

By Beth Musgrave

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FRANKFORT — House Republicans are trying to advance an anti-abortion bill from a House committee using a rarely successful parliamentary procedure.

The minority caucus wants the full House to vote on the measure even though it died in the House Health and Welfare Committee on a 7-7 vote in February.

On Wednesday, Rep Joe Fischer, R-Fort Thomas, filed a petition for discharge of

Senate Bill 38, which would require a doctor to present a woman with the results of an ultrasound before performing an abortion.

Fischer and 25 other Republican House members signed the petition.

House Speaker Greg Stumbo, D-Prestonsburg, will rule Thursday on whether the petition should get a vote.

Stumbo would not say Wednesday how he would rule, but he noted that no discharge petition has been granted during his more than 20-year career in the legislature.

See ABORTION, A7



No column

Merlene Davis' column will return on Sunday.