

ot compete in KHSAA,

BREATHITT COUNTY



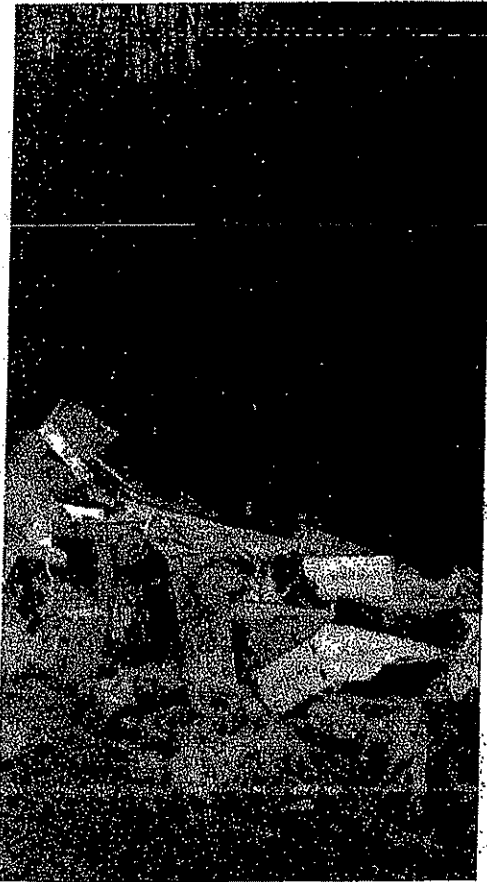
The Voice of our Times

BHS Assistant  
Principal  
Michael Bowling  
works through  
logistics to bring  
team to Breathitt

50 Cents

# uces jam

f clean-up



ald Holliday worked the scene here on Hwy. 15  
eathitt/Wolfe County line Tuesday night when  
er hit the guard rail and overturned. Jackson  
nt on the scene reported no injuries. As of press  
onal information was available.

## Basketball Prep Program COMING TO BHS

James David Fugate  
*Times-Voice General Manager*

Basketball has been a good thing for Breathitt County for many years, positively impacting numerous lives of its young people, giving them perspective to see beyond the hills and hollers, and opening up doors of opportunity in the process. Who'd thought that Breathitt County might just be good for the game of basketball?

Brothers Matt and Ryan Schmidt think so; in fact the coaching pair from Oregon are banking on it. They're bringing their unique high school basketball team to Breathitt County, Breathitt High School specifically. Nine highly skilled athletes will be enrolling there today, Thursday, January 4. These players will not be playing for Breathitt High's basketball team, nor are they sanctioned by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association. They'll be playing for 22ft Academy, a Holland based organization with affiliates in the United Kingdom, Dubai, Singapore and the USA. The sports' management company helps kids, semi-pros and the real-deals to achieve their athletic goals. Nonetheless, those coming to Breathitt will

be Breathitt High School students, seniors, juniors, and sophomores coming from Senegal, Croatia, Canada and the Netherlands.

Burlington Christian in North Carolina was originally to be the home base for this team of highly ranked basketball hopefuls, but unforeseen issues found them looking for alternatives. Research revealed Breathitt High's Student and Exchange Visitor Program to be tailor-made for the student athletes, many of which are in this country on student VISAs. Breathitt High was one of only a handful of schools that qualified, but after Coach Schmidt's November 27 visit to Breathitt High where he met with Principal Derek McKnight, Assistant Principal Michael Bowling and Counselor Bev Neace, he was sold. Furthermore, a tour of the spacious Fairce O. Woods Coliseum, solidified the decision to bring the team to Breathitt County.

The team, comprised of Division I and NBA hopefuls, will be playing schools such as Huntington Prep, the nation's top ranked high school team boasting top recruit Andrew Wiggins, as well as many other nationally ranked prep schools.

See 'PREP' PG. A4

## 'PREP' From Front

They will also compete against NAIA teams such as UPIke and Alice Lloyd and JV squads from Division I universities. The prep school concept is gaining popularity with the proven success of programs such as Oak Hill, St. Anthony, Christ the King, Hargrave Military, etc. Many of college basketball's greatest players, and NBA stars for that matter, have taken the prep school route, including UK's Nerlens Noel and U of L's Gorgui Dieng. For that matter two of the players coming to Breathitt are being recruited by UK and Louisville. Coach Calipari is recruiting a sophomore guard, presently ranked fourth in his class, while Coach Pitino is going after a 6-7, 230 lb. senior point guard, ranked 10th in his class. The team's coming to Breathitt will undoubtedly bring a caliber of basketball rarely seen in the state and should fill the coliseum with scouts and basketball aficionados.

22ft Academy's presence will not affect practice nor game schedules for Breathitt's boys and girls teams. The new team, which has rigid academic and social standards, will be practicing before school and/or late in the evening. Possibly, games will be scheduled as double headers with Breathitt High, as details are being formulated. "The potential is there for a win-win situation for all of Breathitt's sports programs, given all the attention that will undoubtedly come our way," affirmed Bowling.

Coaches Matt and Ryan Schmidt are legal guardians of the student athletes and will be calling Breathitt County home as housing arrangements are presently being secured. The young men will be getting to know their new classmates in the coming weeks as the community finds ways to welcome Breathitt County's newest addition. The team's coming is not just for this year, as the organization hopes to make the arrangement ongoing, as promising athletes continue to make their way from all over the world to Breathitt County.

"The positive news of the team's arrival couldn't have come at a better time," stated Bowling, who's played an instrumental role in working through the logistics. With the school district having been in the news for quite some time with less than favorable stories, the team's coming has the potential to positively reestablish Breathitt's prominent spot on the map. Basketball has been good for Breathitt; hopefully we can return the favor by saying that Breathitt is good for basketball.

## 'PAIN CLINIC' From Front

Council believe the risk to the community and its citizens is too great," the ordinance reads.

Vice Mayor Stephen Bowling cautioned the council, "I vote absolutely yes on this issue but we're not done with this. This is an issue we will have to stay on as it evolves."

- Birthdays - Births - Holidays
- Anniversaries - Weddings
- Congratulations - Just Because

**\$10**

## Happy 14th Birthd

### Makaylah Rowle

Jan. 5, 2012



*From your family!*

