



FIXING THE CARDS SPORTS, C1

Kragthorpe plots comeback against Syracuse
▶ UK fined \$25,000 after fans storm field



FEATURES | 21
Group helps
kids' dreams
come true

The Courier-Journal

50 CENTS
75 CENTS, COIN PACKS/
OUTLYING AREAS
TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

METRO EDITION

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

courier-journal.com

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

USPS 135567

NATION | A3



As a judge, Michael Mukasey, above, presided over the case of terror suspect Jose Padilla.

Bush picks ex-judge for attorney general

President Bush nominated Michael Mukasey, a former federal judge, to succeed the controversial Alberto Gonzales as U.S. attorney general. Senators stopped short of pledging to support Mukasey, but most agreed to try to start confirmation hearings quickly.

BUSINESS | D1

Oil futures pass \$80 ahead of Fed meeting

Oil futures rose to new highs, hitting \$80.70 yesterday, as investors anticipated that the Federal Reserve will cut a key interest rate. Market experts expect that action will support the economy and ensure that demand for oil and gasoline will remain strong.

COURIER-JOURNAL.COM



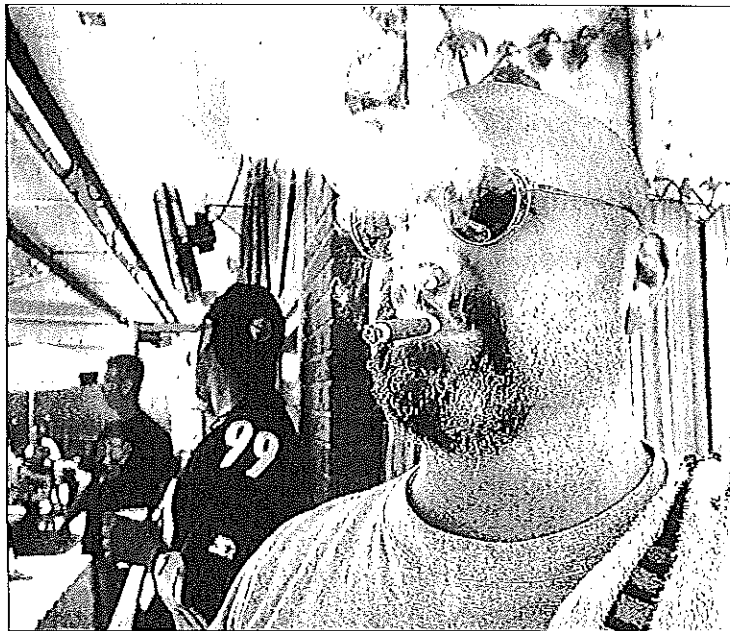
Each week, take an online tour of one of the area's finest homes.

HOME AND GARDEN

Check out past homes of the week photo galleries and the houses in Homearama 2007. You can share your photos from your garden and see past stories on the latest trends at courier-journal.com/hg. See an expanded list of Web Extras on A2.

WEATHER | B8 36-HOUR FORECAST

Ky. health report targets tobacco use



James Triney, 37, of Louisville, took a smoke break recently outside the R Place Pub on Whippys Mill Road.

By David R. Lutzman, Special to The Courier-Journal

Oldham is healthiest county; Wolfe is worst

By Deborah Yetter
dyetter@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

Smoking continues to be the public health scourge of Kentucky, contributing to nearly one-fourth of all deaths in the state as well as high levels of cancer, cardiovascular disease and respiratory illness, according to a public health report released yesterday.

The report by the Kentucky Institute of Medicine, an independent research group, said the state continues to have the highest rate of smoking in the nation. And cardiovascular disease — a direct consequence of

smoking — is the leading cause of death among Kentuckians, it said.

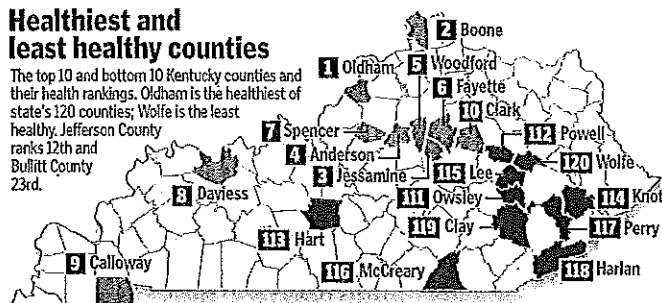
In all, more than 8,000 Kentuckians die each year from smoking-related illnesses that translate into medical costs of more than \$1.2 billion a year, according to the report, the first to provide breakdowns for each of Kentucky's 120 counties.

The report ranks Oldham County as the most healthy and Wolfe County as the least healthy based on 25 factors, such as smoking, rates of cancer and other diseases, infant mortality, access to health care, education

See HEALTH, A2, col. 1

Healthiest and least healthy counties

The top 10 and bottom 10 Kentucky counties and their health rankings. Oldham is the healthiest of state's 120 counties; Wolfe is the least healthy. Jefferson County ranks 12th and Bullitt County 23rd.



Source: Kentucky Institute of Medicine

By Steve Durbin, The Courier-Journal

ON THE WEB

To read the full report, including information on each of Kentucky's counties, go to www.courier-journal.com

Cap put on cost of arena downtown

Construction company says it won't exceed \$254 million

By Marcus Green
mgreen@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

Louisville's downtown arena will cost no more than \$254 million — guaranteed.

The project's construction manager announced yesterday that it has agreed to lock in a maximum price to build the arena at Second and Main streets, a step arena officials say is needed so bonds can be issued this fall.

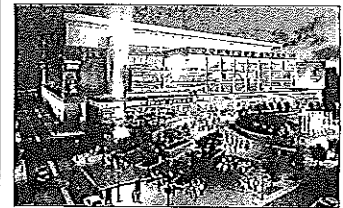
Earlier estimates projected the arena to cost \$252 million.

John Wood, a vice president for Minneapolis-based construction firm M.A. Mortenson Co., told the Louisville Arena Authority at its monthly meeting that he expects the building will cost about \$235 million, but as part of the deal, unexpected costs could boost that to \$254 million.

Jim Host, the arena authority's chairman, said he expects bonds to be issued for the project in October or November. No more than \$360 million in bonds will be issued, according to a resolution approved by the authority yesterday.

Total debt on the bonds underwritten by Goldman Sachs is expected to be about \$600 mil-

See ARENA, A5, col. 1



Rendering courtesy of Louisville Arena Authority

The downtown arena's design features a two-level plaza along Main Street.

U.S. firm blamed for Iraqi deaths

Iraq said yesterday that it has expelled Blackwater USA, a private security company, because shots fired from an American convoy killed eight Iraqis. Blackwater provides protection for U.S. diplomats and others in Iraq.

Abdul-Karim Khalaf, a spokesman for Iraq's Interior Ministry, said those responsible would be prosecuted, though according to the rules that govern private contractors, it was unclear whether the Iraqis had the authority to prosecute them.

The incident occurred Sunday in Baghdad when a car bomb exploded near a U.S. convoy and the vehicles were shot at. Guards fired back.

▶ See the story's first blamed on company, A4

HEALTH | Report on Kentuckians targets tobacco use

Continued from A1

and income. Jefferson County ranks 12th in the study with a relatively low smoking rate of 23 percent, good physical activity and good oral health. Its problems include a 24 percent rate of adult obesity and high rates of diabetes, lung cancer and infant mortality. Urban and more affluent counties fared better than poorer, rural counties. And counties with better educated people with higher incomes had better health, the report found.

The report cited other "poor lifestyle choices," including obesity and physical inactivity, as factors in poor health but cited smoking as "Kentucky's greatest challenge."

"What disease do you know of that is not either caused by or affected by smoking?" asked Dr. Raymond Wells, a University of Kentucky medical professor who worked on the report. "Almost all of them are."

The report recommends better education about smoking risks and more programs to help people stop smoking.

Reducing smoking — the leading cause of preventable death, disease and unnecessary health care costs across Kentucky — could have a dramatic effect on the state's overall health, the report said.

The report also calls for an increase in Kentucky's cigarette tax of 30 cents a pack to at least the national average of \$1.07, said Mike Kuntz, with the American Lung Association of Kentucky.

"There is not an excuse anymore for our elected leaders not doing what we know works," said Kuntz. An increase in taxes, he said, would reduce smoking and raise money for health needs and anti-smoking efforts.

The report also cited poor diet and lack of exercise as factors in the state's rising obesity rates, which are linked to diabetes, stroke and other health problems.

"Most of our issues are

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Kentucky Institute of Medicine's recommendations for improving health in Kentucky and its counties include:

- ▶ Encouraging community leaders to address health issues, including checking and coordinating intervention programs, setting goals and priorities for improving health, and establishing a county health plan.
- ▶ Recognizing the impact of education and economic development on health — including pushing stay-in-school and adult education and literacy programs — and coordinating technical education with business needs.
- ▶ Encouraging cooperation between public health officials and schools on local and state levels and expanding narrowly focused health programs to help individuals and families.
- ▶ Reducing Kentucky's smoking rate from 29 percent to at least the U.S. average of 21 percent through education and cessation programs and advocating the state become smoke-free in all public places.
- ▶ Promoting state-financed health insurance for screening and prevention services, including dental care, for all children from birth to 17.
- ▶ Increasing education levels, such as bringing the high school graduation rate up to 85 percent and offering more opportunities for adult evening and after-work education.
- ▶ Reducing state's obesity rate from 29 percent to the U.S. average of 24 percent through programs encouraging weight loss, good nutrition and physical activity.
- ▶ Reducing occupational deaths by enforcing use of safety equipment and implementing drug screening programs for all employees.
- ▶ Cutting motor vehicle fatalities in Kentucky from 21 per 100 million miles driven to the U.S. rate of 15 by enforcing the seat-belt law and improving roads.
- ▶ Reducing the number of low-birth weight infants by getting mothers to not smoke during pregnancy and improving services for high-risk expectant mothers.
- ▶ Improving dental health by encouraging expanded insurance coverage for annual exams and cleanings and by promoting sealants for all children.
- ▶ Increasing primary care physicians in Kentucky's 55 rural counties that have been designated as shortage areas by the federal government.
- ▶ Cutting the cancer death rate in Kentucky from 237 per 100,000 population to 202 by cutting smoking and increasing early health screenings.

really behavioral kinds of things," said Dr. Michael E. Samuels, a UK medical professor and the report's principal investigator. "We know what to do, but usually we don't have the will to do it."

Wells, who also works as a physician in his native Martin County — ranked 80th in the report — agrees: "The remedy for most problems is really simple. It's exercise, diet and lifestyle changes."

Samuels said he hopes leaders in individual counties will use the report to identify health problems and work to address them.

Overall, Kentucky ranks 39th this year among states in health outcomes, accord-

well-being."

Poor oral health continues to be a major problem throughout Kentucky, which has the nation's highest rate of adults who have lost all their teeth through decay or disease, it said.

But the report cited Kentucky's high rate of smoking — 29 percent compared to the national average of 21 percent — as the single most pernicious health problem. One in four pregnant women in Kentucky smoke.

"More than half the individuals who smoke will die of a smoking-related illness and more than 23 percent of all deaths in Kentucky are attributable to smoking," it said.

The report recommends that all public places in the state become smoke-free.

That last recommendation suits Terry Alexander, a 51-year-old Louisville resident who recently stopped smoking with a pilot program offered through Passport Health Plan, a Medicaid managed care program.

"The whole world needs to go smoke-free," said Alexander, a former two-pack-a-day smoker who said he started around age 12.

Passport, which provides coverage for Medicaid recipients in the Jefferson County region, began the program in June because of concern over high smoking rates among patients, spokeswoman Jill Bell said.

"This is a high priority for us," she said.

It provides medications not covered by Medicaid to help alleviate withdrawal from nicotine and also provides counselors and other support, said Sherry Rumbaugh, a nurse who manages the program. Next year Passport hopes to expand from the current 200 patients to 800.

Alexander said he couldn't have quit without help, including medication, from the Passport project.

"People think it's easy," he said. "It's hard to quit smoking, especially when you've been smoking as long as I have."

Reporter Deborah Yetter can be reached at (502) 582-4228.

Smoking's impact on Kentucky's health

Smoking and tobacco use make up the most significant health risk factor in Kentucky that can be modified and improve the state's health.

ADULT SMOKERS
Kentucky 29%
U.S. 21%

By the numbers

20% Lowest county rate
▶ Shelby
▶ Washington
▶ Breathitt
▶ McCracken
▶ Christian

36% Highest county rate
▶ Garrard
▶ Boyle
▶ Taylor

5
Number of counties with smoking rate below national average

8,000-plus
Number who die each year of smoking-related illnesses

\$1.2 billion
Annual medical costs attributable to smoking

\$300
Annual medical costs per Kentuckian

TEEN SMOKERS
Kentucky 25%
U.S. 23%

By the numbers

18% Lowest county rate
▶ Shelby
▶ Washington
▶ Breathitt
▶ McCracken
▶ Casey
▶ Christian

32% Highest county rate
▶ Garrard
▶ Boyle
▶ Taylor

30
Number of counties with smoking rate below national average

10%
Smokers in sixth grade

28%
Smokers in seventh grade

42%
High school seniors who smoke

Source: Kentucky Institute of Medicine; Kentucky Youth Tobacco Survey 2005
The Courier-Journal

Florida attorney held in sex sting

Police posed as mother of girl, 5

Associated Press

DETROIT — An assistant U.S. attorney from Florida was arrested in an Internet sting after flying to Michigan to have sex with a 5-year-old girl, authorities said yesterday.

John D. R. Atchison, 53, was arrested Sunday at Detroit Metropolitan Airport after several weeks of Internet conversations between the prosecutor and a detective posing as the mother of a 5-year-old girl, authorities say.

"There wasn't much reaction from him at all," Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel said, adding that Atchison was cooperative.

He is charged with using interstate communication to entice a minor to have sexual contact and traveling across state lines with the intent of engaging in illicit sexual contact.

If convicted of both charges, he could be sentenced to up to 40 years.

According to court records, Atchison initiated an online chat Aug. 29 with an undercover officer posing as a mother interested in letting men have sex with her daughter.

At one point, Atchison said: "I'm always gentle and loving; not to worry, no damage ever; no rough stuff ever," according to an affidavit filed in court.

Atchison, of Gulf Breeze, Fla., is a prosecutor in the office of the U.S. attorney for Northern Florida, based in Tallahassee.

At his hearing yesterday, he requested a court-appointed lawyer.

READERS' GUIDE

MAIN SWITCHBOARD: 502-582-4011 | HOME DELIVERY: 502-582-2211 OR 800-866-2211 OR customercare@courier-journal.com

FOR RESEARCH
Online Archives
Search articles back to 1999 can be searched for free. Full article viewed on a fee basis. Go to courier-journal.com. Click on Search/Archives.

Library: 582-4601 for extensive research on a fee basis.

SPORTS SCORES: 582-4871

REPORT A NEWS TIP
Managing Editor Arthur B. Post, 582-4050

Metrolinks
Features/Arts
Joel Wein, 582-4524
Treadmann, 582-4242
Special Publications
Mark Provano, 582-4252
Arlene Jacobson, 582-7147
S. Indiana
Joe Taylor, 913-3255

Suburban
Veda Morgan, 582-4567

Business
Dan Blake, 582-4651
Sports
Harry Bryan, 582-4351

Features/Arts
Joel Wein, 582-4524
Special Publications
Arlene Jacobson, 582-7147
Photos
David Harrison, 582-4607
Purchase reprints
582-4545

Listings
Josh Suter, 582-4777
Churches
Patia Burba, 582-4500

HAVE A COMPLAINT?
Circulation Customer Service: 582-2211 or 800-866-2211
customercare@courier-journal.com
Hearing Impaired: 582-4815
Advertising: 582-4711
News: Pam Platt, 582-4600 Fax: 582-4600 pplatt@courier-journal.com

MISSING YOUR PAPER?
Newspaper Replacement Service is available from 6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. Saturday 7 a.m. to Noon Sundays and Holidays in Jefferson County, Kentucky and most areas of Clark and Floyd counties in Indiana. Call 582-2211 or 1-800-866-2211 or email customercare@courier-journal.com

AD RATES/ORDERING
Classified Ad: 582-2622
Display Ad: 582-4711

PAID ANNOUNCEMENTS
Celebrations: 582-4625
Obituaries (call after 10 a.m., Holiday hours):
Weekday 10am - 5pm
Weekend 11am - 5pm
Louisville-area: 582-4624
All others: 1-866-582-4624, toll-free
Email: obits@courier-journal.com
Fax: 582-582-4534

SUBSCRIPTION RATES INFORMATION
Call 582-2211 or 1-800-866-2211
Monday to Friday 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. to Noon
Holidays
7 a.m. to Noon
Christmas Day and New Year's Day 7 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Email Delivery comments can be sent via e-mail to customercare@courier-journal.com
Save up to \$2 on your monthly daily/Sunday subscription rate. *Choose our EZPay option for payment. For more details, call Customer Service.
*Certain restrictions apply

Monthly home delivery rates for all other counties of Kentucky and Southern Indiana:
2007 Great Day New Year's Day (01), March Luther King & Day (03), Presidents Day (02), Good Friday (04), Day After Passion Day (05), Day (06), Day (07), Day (08), Day (09), Day (10), Day (11), Day (12), Day (13), Day (14), Day (15), Day (16), Day (17), Day (18), Day (19), Day (20), Day (21), Day (22), Day (23), Day (24), Day (25), Day (26), Day (27), Day (28), Day (29), Day (30), Day (31), Day (32), Day (33), Day (34), Day (35), Day (36), Day (37), Day (38), Day (39), Day (40), Day (41), Day (42), Day (43), Day (44), Day (45), Day (46), Day (47), Day (48), Day (49), Day (50), Day (51), Day (52), Day (53), Day (54), Day (55), Day (56), Day (57), Day (58), Day (59), Day (60), Day (61), Day (62), Day (63), Day (64), Day (65), Day (66), Day (67), Day (68), Day (69), Day (70), Day (71), Day (72), Day (73), Day (74), Day (75), Day (76), Day (77), Day (78), Day (79), Day (80), Day (81), Day (82), Day (83), Day (84), Day (85), Day (86), Day (87), Day (88), Day (89), Day (90), Day (91), Day (92), Day (93), Day (94), Day (95), Day (96), Day (97), Day (98), Day (99), Day (100)

ON THE INTERNET
courier-journal.com/subscribe
The Courier-Journal is available online through the following databases. For information call:
Dow Jones Lexis-News 1-800-369-7455 1-800-227-4908
The Courier-Journal is also available to public, academic and business libraries on-line.
NewsBank 1-800-762-6332

Published by The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Company, Monday-Sunday, at 525 West Broadway, P.O. Box 740221, Louisville, Ky. 40276-0221.
Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Courier-Journal, P.O. Box 740221, Louisville, Ky. 40276-0221.
The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to reproduce local news originated by The Courier-Journal. Member Audit Bureau of Circulations.

EXECUTIVES
Denise Ivy, President and Publisher 582-4301
Vice-presidents
Christopher Apel, Finance 582-4825
Randi Austin, Human Resources 582-4225
Randy Hammer, Audience and Content Development 582-4034
Elaine Hoot, Digital Media 582-4954
Mike Hoot, Circulation 582-4745
Bernie L. Ivory, Exec. Editor, News 582-4265
Gary Shewell, Information Tech. 582-4291
Anna Shipp, Advertising 582-4703
Thomas F. Travis, Production 582-4772