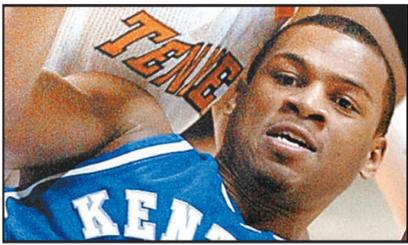




LEXINGTON WWW.KENTUCKY.COM
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HAYES BREAKS NOSE BUT CATS POUND VOLS

SPORTS — B1

Lexington Catholic boys beat West Jessamine SPORTS — B1

ENVELOPE, PLEASE

'Aviator,' 'Million Dollar Baby' top nominations

POP! — A2

JANUARY 26, 2005 | WEDNESDAY | METRO FINAL EDITION 1

50¢

WRONG SIDE OF THE TRACK

CRUSHED, REJECTED



DAVID STEPHENSON | STAFF

At his apartment in Lexington, James "Junior" Sweeting said the horse industry abandoned him after he was severely injured.

Injury's aftermath shows track workers' vulnerability

By Janet Patton HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

Almost six years ago, James "Junior" Sweeting was crushed under a 2-year-old filly, and he learned just how ruthless racing can be.

As he recuperated from severe injuries, Sweeting, 49, says he got little help from Keeneland, where he had been galloping the filly.

He got no help from the horse's owner, he says, nor from the trainer. Now Sweeting, who spent decades

as a popular exercise rider known among top trainers for his way with fractious fillies, struggles to get by on \$600 a month in public disability benefits — about what he used to make every week.

He lives in pain and walks in a slow shuffle, with barely enough energy to be bitter.

What bitterness he has is aimed at an industry that valued him right up until he couldn't work anymore — and then had little use for him.

Thousands of workers like Sweeting — exercise riders, grooms and hot walkers — accept injury as a part of life on the backsides of racetracks.

But few realize that they might be just one catastrophic accident away from losing everything — their health, their jobs, their homes.

Some think that there's a safety net waiting for them, whether it's actual

PART 2 OF 4

Continued on A12

Isaac makes offer to end water dispute

MAYOR ASKS CONCESSIONS OF UTILITY OWNER

By Andy Mead and Michelle Ku HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITERS

Lexington Mayor Teresa Isaac has offered to let the condemnation of Kentucky American Water end in exchange for concessions from the utility's German owner.

In a letter to Harry Roels, chief executive officer of RWE AG, Isaac lays down four conditions that will stop her from vetoing a condemnation-ending resolution approved by the Urban County Council last week.

Isaac campaigned on the platform that the city should own the water utility, and her letter caught both sides of the issue by surprise.

Now she's done it

Cheryl Truman: Isaac alienates both sides of water issue — Page C1

Condemnation opponents said she was trying to extort RWE, or that she had given up on condemnation. Supporters of city ownership said the letter was Isaac's last shot at getting a better deal.

Isaac declined to answer questions about her motive yesterday.

The conditions she spelled out in the letter were:

RWE would pay the city's legal fees associated with the condemnation attempt.

See WATER, A11

Budget deficit expected to rise, hit \$427 billion

By Edmund L. Andrews NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The White House announced yesterday that the federal budget deficit was expected to rise this year to \$427 billion — a figure that includes a new request from President Bush to help pay for the war in Iraq.

The announcement marks the fourth year in a row in which the budget deficit has grown; as recently as last July, the administration had predicted that the deficit would fall this year to \$331 billion.

The deficit figure announced by the White House, which includes part of an extra \$80 billion that Bush requested for Iraq, was higher than the \$368 billion estimate announced earlier in the day by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, but that figure did not include supple-

Hostage videotape released Arab satellite TV shows American with rifle to his head. Page A10

mental costs for the war. The deficit estimates are roughly consistent with the inclusion of those costs, which include bombs, bullets, armor for vehicles used in Iraq and the replacement of tanks and Humvees blown up by insurgent forces.

Neither estimate includes the cost of privatizing part of the Social Security program, the leading element of Bush's domestic agenda. Estimates of the cost of creating those accounts range from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion over the next two decades.

The Congressional Budget Office said that, if Bush wins

See DEFICIT, A10

COMING NEXT

The power of benefits: Coverage helps rider live with paralysis. Friday

Photos, past installments online. www.kentucky.com

CHAPLAIN'S LIFE — A13



LITTLE HELP

Backsiders have some advocates, but safety net has plenty of holes Page A13

Richmond votes against moving chemical weapons

COMMISSIONERS CONTEND ON-SITE DESTRUCTION IS SAFER

By Peter Mathews CENTRAL KENTUCKY BUREAU

RICHMOND — City commissioners sent a message to the Pentagon last night: Keep your chemical weapons off our streets.

They unanimously approved on first reading an ordinance

that would ban the transport of nerve or blister agents within the city limits.

The measure is aimed at the 523 tons of lethal, aging chemical weapons stored at Blue Grass Army Depot. Plans had called for them to be chemically neutralized at a \$2 billion plant to be built at the depot.

But the Pentagon, facing tight budgets because of action in Iraq and Afghanistan, directed that other disposal methods be studied.

One of those alternatives would be to ship the weapons to Utah or Alabama to be incinerated.

So Richmond, which stands between the depot and Interstate 75, is moving to keep the weapons off its roads

and rail lines. The commission will have to vote again on the ordinance.

City Attorney Garrett Fowles told the commission that, although the law probably can't be enforced, it is "highly valuable as a symbolic gesture."

Police Chief Robert Stephens acknowledged after the vote that it would be "hard for my officers to stop an Army truck."

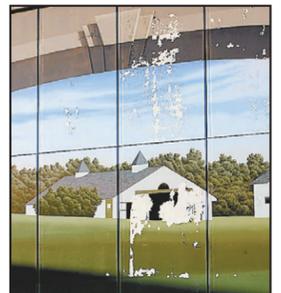
"We do what the government tells us to do," he said.

But commissioners were eager to tell the Pentagon that they vehemently oppose plans to cut funding for the neutralization plant.

Federal law bars transports of chemical weapons from state to state. And the Army decided in 1988 that it was safer to dispose of the weapons on-site

See DEPOT, A10

INSIDE



CHARLES BERTRAM | STAFF

The new mural at Blue Grass Airport isn't aging well. Page C1.

>KNIGHT RIDDER<

INFORMATION FOR LIFE



CLOUDY, BREEZY Chance of precipitation more than 80%. Weather, B8

40 | 18 HIGH LOW

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