

WVU victory

The 'Eers slip past Wake Forest 111-105 in double overtime

SPORTS, 1D



Boat reminder of the past

A replica of a bateau, a long, flat boat, will offer journeys along the New River.

WILD & WONDERFUL, 2B



Catholic loses

Irish fall to defending champs in Class A finals of state tournament.

SPORTS, 1D



INDEX, 2A

First day of Spring

Sunday Gazette-Mail



MOSTLY CLOUDY
High 53
Low 31
Page 16A

Charleston, West Virginia

THE STATE'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

★ March 20, 2005 \$1.50

Fla. woman spurs action by Congress

Case prompts Bush to return to Washington

By Siobhan McDonough
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders hoped a deal reached Saturday would clear the way for a brain-damaged woman to resume being fed while a federal court reviews the right-to-die battle between her parents and her husband.

President Bush changed his schedule to return to Washington from his Texas ranch on Sunday to be on hand to sign the legislation.

"Everyone recognizes that time is important here," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said in announcing the president's plans Saturday evening in Texas. "This is about defending life."

"I'm pleased to announce that House and Senate Republican leadership have reached an



AP photo

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, speaks to reporters regarding brain-damaged Florida woman Terri Schiavo on Capitol Hill Saturday in Washington.

agreement on a legislative solution," Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee said Saturday at the start of a brief Senate session.

"We are confident this compromise addresses everyone's

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Miners' insurance about to expire

By Paul J. Nyden
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Richard Young and Carl Leake worry about what is going to happen to them and their wives at the end of the month. That's when their health insurance is scheduled to expire.

Health problems forced Young and Leake to retire from coal mining. Now, both their wives have faced illnesses, too.

After working at Cannelton Coal in Smithers, and in other nearby union mines, Young and

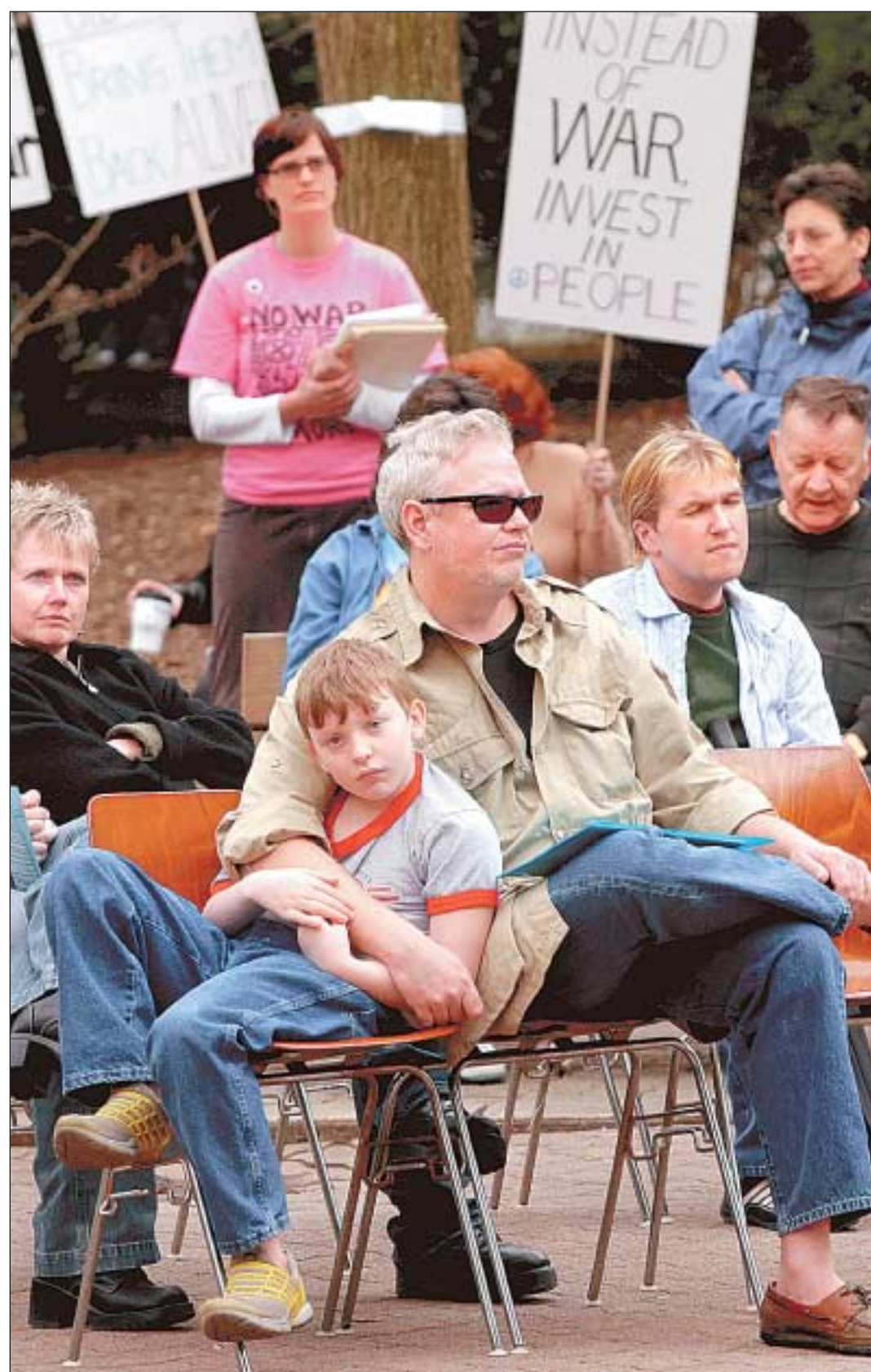
Leake believed they had health insurance for life.

Then on Aug. 31, a Lexington, Ky., bankruptcy court dashed those expectations. Judge William Howard approved the bankruptcy filing of Horizon Natural Resources, the company then operating the Cannelton mines.

Howard canceled all of Horizon's obligations under the United Mine Workers contract. That meant Horizon could sell its mines free of any obligation to

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Anti-war rally



CHRIS DORST/Sunday Gazette-Mail

The West Virginia Patriots for Peace focused on "Ending the War, Beginning the Healing" during a Saturday demonstration in downtown Charleston. The second anniversary of the Iraq war has been marked by similar events worldwide. Here, Bob Kincaid of Ansted listens to a speaker with his 9-year-old son, Bob Jr.

Medical schools to boost classes

Teaching hospitals may struggle with enrollment hike

By John Heys

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If several recent studies are on the mark, West Virginia's three medical schools will need to admit more students like Amy Tickle.

A Hinton native, the West Virginia University medical student is finishing her fourth year at the school's Charleston campus. She plans to specialize in family medicine and practice in the state where she was born and raised.

"I love West Virginia," said Tickle, 26. "The great majority of my family is in the southern part of the state. I just felt like I

West

Virginia's three medical schools all plan to increase their class sizes or have already done so in response to the projections and other factors, according to schools officials.

At the same time, the state's teaching hospitals, where graduates train after medical school, could face a financial crunch if the federal government doesn't increase funding for residency programs.

The call to increase class sizes bucks the trend experts were predicting in the 1980s and 1990s, when schools were told to limit enrollment to prevent a surplus of doctors. Some remain skeptical of the shortage projections, including the American Medical Association, which has taken a neutral stand on the issue and plans to complete its own study on the subject in June.

But a growing and aging population, the retirement of older physicians and younger doctors working fewer hours convinced the American Association of Medical Colleges to recommend larger class sizes last month. The association represents 125 medical schools in the United States.

Dr. John E. Prescott, dean of WVU's medical school, said the predictions of a shortage are realistic. In the past three years, the school has boosted the size of its first-year class from 90 students to 110 students today, according to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

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ANNA RUTH'S STORY

Kanawha woman struggled for normalcy after lobotomy

By Rusty Marks
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Anna Ruth Noell could have been anything.

An intelligent young woman who grew up in Marmet, Anna Ruth had a natural gift for numbers. She might have become a scientist or mathematician. But all she wanted to be was a good wife and mother.

Because of Dr. Walter Freeman, she couldn't even be that. In early 1950, Freeman performed a transorbital lobotomy on Anna Ruth Noell in an effort to cure her recurring headaches. The procedure left her screaming in pain for months, and would eventually cost her her husband, her children and her future.

"Anna Ruth needed to be taken care of, because Freeman took everything she had," said Carol Noell Duncanson, Anna Ruth's only surviving daughter. "She just walked up and down MacCorkle Avenue, pretty much. That's how she spent the rest of her life."

Anna Ruth was born Nov. 25, 1924, in Point Pleasant, the youngest of three children born to French and Lillian Gates Channels. As a child, she was hit by a car while getting off the school bus. The door handle of a passing Studebaker hit her in the head, piercing her skull.

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Photos courtesy Carol Noell Duncanson, LineageQuest.org

Anna Ruth Noell was a normal young woman from Marmet until a botched lobotomy robbed her of her husband, her children and her future.

Doctor was known for procedure

By Rusty Marks
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Walter J. Freeman was a driven man. Grandson of a prominent Philadelphia surgeon who was onetime president of the American Medical Association, Freeman had watched his own father sink into obscurity as a local medical examiner and doctor whose specialty was probing the sinuses. It was work the elder Freeman neither embraced nor particularly enjoyed.

Things would be different for the young Walter Freeman, the boy vowed. One day Walter J. Freeman would be famous. One day he would change the world.

"He was a complicated guy," said Jack El-Hai, author of the recently released biography "The Lobotomist: A Maverick Medical Genius and his Tragic Quest to Rid the World of Mental Illness." The book tells the story of Freeman's rise in the 1930s and '40s as the father of American lobotomy, and his subsequent downfall and discrediting.

On the one hand, El-Hai says, Freeman was sincerely driven to find a surgical cure for mental illnesses that kept thousands of people confined for their entire lives in hospitals

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Walter J. Freeman, a neurologist and psychiatrist, is considered the father of the lobotomy in America. In the 1940s and '50s, Freeman conducted or supervised more than 700 lobotomies in West Virginia's state-run mental hospitals.

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