

ALLTEL introduces limited edition UK calling card

ALLTEL has introduced a new limited edition long-distance calling card featuring University of Kentucky head basketball coach Tubby Smith.

The 30-minute card is free when customers visit any ALLTEL retail location and sign up for any ALLTEL service.

Participating retail locations include Ashland, 619 15th St.; Campbellsville, 1715 East Broadway; Elizabethtown, 1897 North Dixie Highway; Lexington, 151 Martin Luther King Blvd. and 2125 N. Nicholasville Road; London, 719 N. Main St.; Somerset, 305 N. Main. "ALLTEL is excited to offer this card as we celebrate 100 years of

University of Kentucky basketball," said Terry Beeler, ALLTEL's market area president for Kentucky. "ALLTEL is proud to be a corporate partner of UK Athletics."

The cards are for domestic use only. The cards cannot be used for international calls and are available while supplies last.

ALLTEL, with more than 12 million communications customers and more than \$7.7 billion in annual revenues, is a leader in the communications and information services industry. ALLTEL has communications customers in 26 states and provides information services to telecommunications, financial and mortgage clients in more than 50 countries.

Gas price declines 9 cents since last month

The nationwide average price of self-serve regular gasoline has declined 9 cents per gallon since mid-November and currently averages \$1.37 per gallon, AAA said today. The state average price is \$1.36 down 11 cents from one month ago.

Last month the average nationwide price was \$1.464 per gallon. One year ago the average price was \$1.122 per gallon. Statewide last month's average price was \$1.39. One year ago the average price was \$1.08.

Gasoline prices were unseasonable high in October and November as demand for gasoline remained strong and tension increased over Iraq's compliance with United Nations' arms resolutions. While demand for gasoline among consumers remains high, the start of arm inspections in Iraq has eased pressure

on the price of crude oil. Since mid-November, gasoline prices have decreased an average of 17.3 cents per gallon in the Great Lakes region to \$1.329. Prices have fallen 13.1 cents in the Midwest to \$1.339 per gallon, and moved 9.8 cents lower in the West to \$1.426 per gallon.

The national average prices for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline for AAA's mid-December survey for the last five years are: 2001, \$1.122; 2000, \$1.406; 1999, \$1.31; 1998, \$1.022; and 1997, \$1.216.

AAA's Fuel Gauge Report is based on data from Oil Price Information Service, the nation's most comprehensive source of petroleum pricing information.

As the nation's largest motorist and leisure travel organization, AAA provides more than 45 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services.

Decorate for the Holidays, but, KU says, do it safely

The holiday decorating season is here and lots of electric lights and decorations will be hung with care. With that in mind, people can make their holidays safer and more enjoyable by first taking some safety pre-

cautions. Here are some tips on electrical safety from Kentucky Utilities Company (KUC).

Christmas Tree

• Locate the tree away from heat sources that could dry it out, such as

heating ducts, radiators, the fireplace or the television.

• Keep the tree stand filled with water and preservative to prevent the tree from drying out.

• If you use an artificial tree, choose one that's fire-resistant.

• Never string electric lights on a metal tree.

Decorations and Indoor Lighting

• Check for damaged insulation, cracked sockets and bare wires.

• Never overload circuits or extension cords. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for the number and type of light strings that can be linked together safely.

• Do not run cords under rugs, through doorways, around sharp corners or over radiators or pipes.

• Locate cords where they won't create a tripping hazard.

• Connect decorative lights to multi-outlet power strips that contain their own breakers.



Favorite Chicken And Biscuits For Families On The Go

Cheesy Chicken Biscuit Sandwiches

1 (16.3-oz.) can Pillsbury Grands! Refrigerated Buttermilk Biscuits

1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breast halves, cut into eight 1 to 1½-inch strips

¼ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon pepper

8 (½-oz.) slices American cheese, cut in half

Heat oven to 375°F. Separate dough into 8 biscuits. Press out each biscuit to form 5-inch round.

Place chicken strip in middle of each dough round. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place 2 cheese slices halves on top of each chicken strip. Fold both sides of dough to the center, slightly overlapping. Secure with toothpick. Place on large cookie sheet.

Bake at 375°F. for 18 to 20 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink. Remove toothpick before serving.

Makes 8 servings.

Outdoors

• Use only decorations made specifically for outdoor use.

• Use ground-fault circuit interrupters for added safety.

General

• Do not use water on an electrical fire.

• Unplug all holiday decorative lights before you leave the house, or go to bed.

Kentucky Utilities Company, based in Lexington, is committed to serving communities by producing reliable, low-priced electric energy to more than one-half million customers in 77 Kentucky counties and five counties in southwestern Virginia.

KUC is a subsidiary of LG&E Energy Corp., headquartered in Louisville. LG&E Energy is part of the E.ON AG group of companies. E.ON AG is headquartered in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Tips to help avoid those 'return to sender' blues

Submitted by: Kim Owens, Mt. Vernon Postmaster

The U.S. Postal Service doesn't like to sing the 'Return to Sender' Blues. Its purpose is to provide every household and business in this nation with the ability to communicate and conduct business with the world. The Postal Service provides prompt, reliable and economical services for the collection, transportation and delivery of messages and merchandise, but it needs help.

Postmarking and delivering the mail is a postal employee's job, but there are some things customers can do to help ensure letters and packages are handled efficiently. Here are a few simple steps to take to avoid the 'Return to Sender' Blues:

• Address unknown. Notify the Post Office and your personal and business correspondents when you move. As a recipient of mail, make sure your mail moves with you. You can get and complete an official change-of-address form at your local Post Office or online at the USPS web site at www.usps.com.

• No such number. Verify the address; is the house or Post Office Box number included? Did you include the street, city and state? Remember, using the apartment or suite number is important as well as directionals (E, W, N and S) and street suffixes (Ave, St, Blvd and Rd). Countless pieces of mail have to be returned because the address did not exist or the Postal Service was unable to determine where the mail was meant to go.

• No such name. Never guess about the ZIP Code. If you are not certain, call your local Post Office to obtain the correct ZIP Code, visit www.usps.com or call 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777).

• Never lose touch because your forwarding order has expired. Remember, the Postal Service will forward mail to your new address for 12 months free of charge. The Mover's Guide even provides notification cards so you can let correspondents know of your new address.

• Package every item you want to send correctly. Things like keys, coins, rings and bracelets should not be mailed in a letter. The Postal Service uses high-tech machines to process mail in the most cost-efficient manner possible. Chances are good that the letter containing these items will be damaged in a machine and may have to be 'Returned to Sender.'

• Package the mail piece securely. When mailing parcels, use packaging tape. Don't rely on cellophane tape, twine, string or staples.

• Print or type the complete address horizontally in the appropriate center of the envelope or parcel. Avoid address smudges; use smudge-proof and waterproof ink when addressing.

The Postal Service does everything possible to provide you with efficient mail service. With a little assistance, it can help you avoid the 'Return to Sender' Blues.

Automation opens door for mail handling

Submitted by: Kim Owens, Mt. Vernon Postmaster

Did you know that even though Postal Service automation has opened the door to unmatched speed and accuracy in the handling of your mail, your personal touch and attention to complete addressing is now more important than ever?

Today, letters speed through optical scanners and sorters faster than the eye can see. Reading the key address information is necessary for the computer controlling the scanner to make the best choice. Incomplete address information not only could slow the processing of your letter, it could even cause it to be misdelivered.

Common omissions that cause

delays or misdeliveries are:

• Using the wrong route number.

• Using a street address when you receive your mail at a PO Box.

• Missing or incomplete street suffixes such as Ave, St, or Rd.

• Missing directional such as N, S, E and W.

• Missing secondary indicators such as Box # or Apt #.

• Incorrect or no zip code. If you need a zip code your Post Office lobby has a zip code directory. Zip codes can also be obtained by accessing the USPS's website at www.usps.com or call 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777).

Remember, complete addressing keeps your letters from getting lost or misdelivered.

Racing Reporter . . . cont. from D5

to the total by season's end. Winner concluded the season with four wins, 11 top fives and 17 top 10 finishes.

Racing Trivia Question: Who won this year's Winston 'Cup Manufacturer's title?

Answer: To Last Week's Question: Matt Kenseth's five Winston Cup victories topped all other drivers during 2002. Kurt Busch was second with

four wins.

Gerald Hodges' Racing Reporter is a syndicated NASCAR columnist. If you have a racing question that you would like answered send it to The Racing Reporter, P.O. Box 160711, Mobile, AL, 36616, or e-mail it to:

110335.405@compuserve.com.

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Seasons Greetings



As we celebrate the joyous holiday season, my deputies and I would like to wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas. May your days be filled with joy, peace and the best of health.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from

County Clerk Norma Houk

and Deputies Janet Burdine, Tina Gibbs, Becky Smith, Sonya McGuire and Anita Moore

Closed December 24th and 25th and January 1st - 5th