



ACHS girls' coach named

page B1

# The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

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### In brief

## Fire destroys historic mansion

The Associated Press

PAINTSVILLE — Authorities are investigating a fire that destroyed the historic Enchanted Mountain Mansion in Eastern Kentucky.

Owner James Green told WYMT-TV he had just returned from a Florida vacation on Thursday when he discovered the mansion's charred remains.

Firefighters say the blaze spread quickly and was already out of control when they arrived. No one was hurt, but they say nothing was saved in the 12-thousand-square-foot building.

Investigators say they don't suspect foul play.

## SOLDIER HONORED



Capt. Corey Flannery posed with Mayor Jerry Fannin after being presented with his Kentucky Colonel certificate. Flannery who just returned from two tours of active duty, will now begin teaching military leadership in Greenville at Officer Candidate School.

photo by Jack Latta

## Iraq veteran honored by city, named a Kentucky Colonel

by JACK LATTA  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — An Army veteran who has completed two tours of duty in Iraq was presented with a certificate pronouncing him to be a Honorary Kentucky Colonel this past week by Mayor Jerry Fannin.

Capt. Corey Flannery, born in Syracuse, N.Y., just recently completed his second tour of duty in Iraq, serving as a communications officer at the Baghdad International Airport, also known as "Camp Victory."

Flannery's mission in Baghdad, where he served with the 10th Mountain Division, was to insure the communica-

tions for a 250 square kilometer radius for an 800-man battalion which consisted of five forward operations.

Before going active duty, Flannery attended Bowling Green State University in Ohio on a four-year ROTC scholarship.

Flannery, who is a Bronze Star recipient, said one of the biggest challenges in Iraq was the rebuilding of the country's infrastructure, particularly with regard to the education system. "They had a solid infrastructure before the invasion," said Flannery.

Flannery said that the current conflict in Iraq is a "purpose we need to maintain."

"My overall feeling is that we should

continue to downsize our presence in Iraq, and let the Iraqi people begin to take ownership of their own future," said Flannery.

Though Flannery feels positive about the work being done in Iraq, he said he is happy to be home.

Flannery will now move on to Greenville, where he will be working with the National Guard as a military leadership instructor for Officers Training School.

Kentucky Colonels are presented for contributions to the community, state, or nation. Being recognized as a Kentucky Colonel states that the governor "has recognized your service and accomplishments on behalf of others."

## Inmates charged in heroin ring

by JACK LATTA  
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — Federal prosecutors received indictments last week against two inmates accused of distributing heroin at a Martin County prison.

According to the court records, "Sherlon Henderson, a.k.a. Peanut, and David Ward, a.k.a. Dollar, did conspire with Personne Elrico McGhee, Clady McGhee, Grady G. Perry, Temeka Halliburton, Maria Mimms, a.k.a. Re Re, and Alice Mari Stapleton did knowingly and intentionally distribute a mixture of substance containing a detectable amount of heroin, a schedule 1 controlled substance."

The indictment alleges that between December 2005 and July 23, 2006, Henderson and

(See HEROIN, page three)

## Weapons charges filed

by JACK LATTA  
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — Three inmates at a local federal have been indicted on weapons charges.

Indicted this week were Big Sandy USP inmates Demetrius Chambers, James L. Thompson, and Kenneth Donnell Hoffman, who all according to court records, had allegedly been found in possession of "a weapon or object designed and intended to be used as a weapon, that is a homemade knife or shank."

(See WEAPONS, page three)

### 3 DAY FORECAST

#### Today



High: 83 • Low: 58

#### Tomorrow



High: 80 • Low: 57

#### Tuesday



High: 83 • Low: 60

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### inside

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## MSHA warns 16 mining companies over safety

by TIM HUBER  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration officials said Thursday they told 16 U.S. mining companies they have patterns of violating health and safety rules and warned them to clean up their acts or face heightened enforcement.

All but two of the companies operate coal mines or processing plants, the majority of them in Kentucky and West Virginia, MSHA said. Also receiving warnings were a Kentucky limestone operation and a Michigan

iron ore mine.

"Repeated safety and health violations by mine operators will not be tolerated," MSHA Director Richard Stickler said in a statement.

This is the third time in the past year that MSHA has singled out mines with patterns of serious violations.

Seven of eight operations notified last June reduced their serious violation rate by an average of 50 percent within months, according to MSHA. The eighth closed.

Another 20 operations targeted in December cut their violation rates an average of

(See SAFETY, page three)



Some Prestonsburg children were taking advantage of the increased traffic on Court Street brought about by the downtown construction detours to offer lemonade to passersby.

photo by Jack Latta

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# Regional Obituaries

## FLOYD COUNTY

■ Dr. William O. Allen, 87, of Lexington, a native of Goose Creek/Eastern, died Monday, June 16, at St. Joseph Hospital Hospice Care Center, Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Betty May Allen. Funeral services were held Friday, June 20, under the direction of W.R. Milward Mortuary.

■ Loretta F. Frasure, 70, of Hueysville died Saturday, June 14, at her home. She is survived by her husband, Don Frasure. Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 17, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Daisy Mae Mitchell, 82, of Beaver, died Friday, May 30, at the McDowell ARH. Funeral services were held Monday, June 2, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ John Mullins, 49, of Hi Hat, died Sunday, June 8, at the U.K. Medical Center in Lexington. Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 11, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Ethel May Ratliff, 101, of Lexington, formerly of Floyd County, died Monday, June 16, at St. Joseph Hospital, in Lexington. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 21, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Dorothy Conley Stover, 72, died Monday, June 16. She is survived by her husband, Jess Stover. Services were held Thursday, June 19, at the First United Methodist Church. Carter Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Alvin "Butch" Marshall Taylor, 51, of Olive Hill, formerly of Floyd County, died Friday, June 13, at King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland. Funeral services were held Monday, June 16, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

**PIKE COUNTY**

■ Delbert E. Copley, 86, of Elkhorn City, formerly of Huntington, W.Va., died

Sunday, June 8, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, June 12, under the direction of Chapman's Mortuary of Huntington.

■ Dorothy Jane Robinson Gibson, 72, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, June 17, at the Parkview Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Robinson Creek. Funeral services were held Friday, June 20, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

■ Charles Edward Hellier, 71, of Amarillo, Texas, formerly of Pikeville, died Tuesday, March 4, in Amarillo. He is survived by his wife, Ann Marie Brasfield Hellier. Funeral services were Thursday, June 19, under the direction of J.W. Call and Son Funeral Home.

■ Margaret Maynard, 62, of Meta, died Wednesday, June 18, at her home. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 21, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ Randy Mullins, 48, of Toler Creek, died Friday, June 13, at his home. Funeral services were held Monday, June 16, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

■ Martha Lee Bartley Potter, 89, of Ashcamp, died Monday, June 16, at the Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, June 19, under the direction of the Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Reed D. Potter Sr., 83, of Elkhorn Creek Road, died Wednesday, June 18. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 21, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Calvin "Peanut" Ray, 62, of Kimper, died Wednesday, June 18, at Pikeville Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 21, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

■ Robert Douglas "Doug" Tackett, 74, of Sarah Branham Road, died Monday, June 16, 2008, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Mabel Tackett. Funeral services were held Friday, June 20, under

direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

■ Robert Dale Thacker, 54, of Pikeville, died Thursday, June 12, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, June 15, under the direction of the Community Funeral Home.

■ Auther Wolford, 76, of Dandridge, Tenn., formerly of Phelps, died Friday, June 13, in Tennessee. Arrangements, under the direction of R.S. Jones and Son Funeral Home.

**MAGOFFIN COUNTY**

■ Mary Miller, 68, of Salyersville, died Thursday, June 12. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 15, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

■ Ballard Moore, 84, of Salyersville, died Thursday, June 12. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 15, at Big Lick Pentecostal Church. Magoffin County Funeral Home in Salyersville was in charge of arrangements.

■ Jane Trusty, 83, of Salyersville, died Tuesday, June 17. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 21, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

**LAWRENCE COUNTY**

■ Marie Caudill, 83, of Louisa died Friday, June 13, at the J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center. Funeral services were held Monday, June 16, at the Catalpa Freewill Baptist Church. Wilson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

■ Guy Fugett, 71, of Louisa, died Tuesday, June 17, in the J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center in Louisa. Funeral services were held Friday, June 20, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home in Louisa.

■ Okie Stephens, 87, of Louisa, died Tuesday, June 17, in J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center in Louisa. He is survived by his wife, Samantha Magdalene Sparks Stephens. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 21, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

**JOHNSON COUNTY**

■ Emma Dunn Crawford, 74, of Hagerhill, died Monday, June 18, in Paul B. Hall Medical Center in Paintsville. Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 20, under the direction of Herald & Stewart & Halsey Funeral Home.

■ Leonides L. Fraley, 77, of Keaton, died Friday, June 13, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Johns Fraley. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 15, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

■ Fontaine Lewis, 82, of Thelma, died Sunday, June 15, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Ocilene Walters Lewis. Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 18, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Roma Jack Picklesimer, 91, of Lynchburg, Virginia, a native of Paintsville, died Tuesday, May 20, at Virginia Baptist Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Beulah Hudson Picklesimer. Memorial services were held Thursday, May 22, under the direction of Tharp Funeral Home.

■ Ford Salyer, 78, died Tuesday, April 29, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, in Paintsville. Memorial services will be held Sunday, June 22, at 2 p.m., at the Oil Springs United Methodist Church.

■ James Warren Wells, 63, of Roan Mountain, Tennessee, a Johnson County native, died Tuesday, June 10, at Sycamore Shoals Hospital in Elizabeth, Tennessee. Memorial services were held Monday, June 16, under the direction of the Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

**KNOTT COUNTY**

■ David Doyle Bailey, 69, of Litcarr, died Thursday, May 29, at the Whitesburg Appalachian Regional

Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Ada Combs Bailey. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 31, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Delmar Ray Craft, 65, of Bonifay, Florida, formerly of Mallie, died Saturday, May 31, at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Alabama. He is survived by his wife, Laura McDermott Craft. Funeral services were held Friday, June 6, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ David Allen "Waterboy" Honeycutt, 41, of Pinetop, died Tuesday, June 3, at home. Funeral services were held Friday, June 6, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Hindman.

■ Betty Jo Ison, 71, of Pippa Passes, died Wednesday, May 28, at UK Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 31, under the direction of Letcher

Funeral Home.

■ Glenna Smith Miller, 55, of Decoy, died Monday, June 2, at her home. She is survived by her husband, Earl Miller. Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 4, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Forest Risner, 81, of Holiday, Florida, formerly of Knott County, died Sunday, June 1, at Morton Plant Hospital, Clearwater, Florida. Funeral services were held Saturday, June 7, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

■ Betty Louise Slone, 60, of Pippa Passes, died Monday, June 9, at the Hazard ARH. Funeral services were held Friday, June 11, at the Hindman Baptist Church.

■ Hattie Stacy, 84, of Pigeon Roost, died Friday, June 6, at her home. Funeral services were held Monday, June 9, under the direction of

## Obituaries

### Nora Lou (Poe) Williams

Nora Lou (Poe) Williams, 60, of Hilliard, Ohio, died Tuesday, June 18, 2008, at the OSU Medical Center.

Born June 3, 1948, in Prestonsburg, she was the daughter of Isom Poe and Kathryn H. Parker Poe. She was a homemaker and a member of the Darby Creek Community Church.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Thurman Williams.

Other survivors include a son, Paul Thomas (Tammy) Williams of Hillard, Ohio; a grandson, Seth Thomas Williams of Hillard, Ohio; two brothers: Benny (Brenda) Poe, and Tom (Susie) Poe, both of

Prestonsburg; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 21, at 4 p.m., at the Tidd Funeral Home, with clergyman Charlie officiating.

Burial will be in the Poe Family Cemetery, Route 114, Prestonsburg.

Graveside services will be held Tuesday, June 24, at 11 a.m., with Bill Campbell officiating.

Visitation, Monday, June 23, 4-8 p.m.; and Tuesday, June 24, from 9:30-10:30, with procession following.

Donations may be made to MDA, c/o Fifth Third Bank, 2500 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43231. (Paid obituary)

## Local leaders named as officers for Highlands Foundation 'Hope for Life' campaign

Highlands Regional Medical Center is pleased to announce that several local leaders have stepped up to guide the Foundation's Hope for Life Campaign, which seeks to raise \$1.75 million in support of a new Emergency Department for the community.

General Chair of the Hope for Life Campaign Cabinet is Mark Wiete, Chief Operating Officer for Citizens National Bank. Mr. Wiete holds a thirty year career in banking and has served our country as a member of the armed forces. He cares about the people of Eastern Kentucky and devotes so much of his time giving back to his community. Mr. Wiete was recently awarded the 2008 Excellence Award for his work with the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce.

Gerald Robinette, Chief Executive Officer of Appalachian Wireless, will serve as Vice-Chair of the Campaign Cabinet. Mr. Robinette is a native of Eastern Kentucky and has served over 40 years in the communications field. He wants to give back to mountain people, not only as a good

citizen and a good neighbor, but as a responsible business leader. For his continued leadership, Mr. Robinette was named the Businessperson of the Year in 2007 by the Pike County Chamber of Commerce.

Highlands Foundation has named Ann Latta as Secretary of the Cabinet for the Hope for Life Campaign. In 1986, she became the first woman elected mayor of Prestonsburg and was instrumental in creating the city's first tourism bureau and the Mountain Arts Center. Ms. Latta was later named as Secretary of the Kentucky Tourism Cabinet. During her service, she helped develop ways to increase tourism in Kentucky, including the very popular and unique Kentucky Music Highway.

Bob Bayes, former Chairman of the Big Sandy College Educational Foundation and retired President of Paintsville Market for Classic Bank (now City National), will serve as Treasurer. Bob has been an active leader in his community through his service to the Mayo State Vocational and Technical Foundation and Johnson County Industrial

Development Authority. He also served as President of the Paintsville/Johnson County Chamber for 10 years.

Chair Mark Wiete talks about the importance of this project to the community. "I am excited to be a part of not only a wonderful team, but a wonderful cause! Being a former firefighter and EMT, I know how critical it is to have a world class emergency and trauma center in close proximity. Every second counts when it comes to life and death."

Highlands Regional Medical Center is pleased to have excellent support and leadership from the community. If you would like to join our Officers in supporting this worthwhile project, please contact the Highlands Foundation at 889-6271 or visit the web at [www.highlandsfoundation.com](http://www.highlandsfoundation.com).

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## FCT ONLINE POLL

RESULTS FOR WEEK OF JUNE 8 - JUNE 22, 2008

Should Barack Obama choose Hillary Clinton as his running mate?

Yes, she deserves it	(50 Votes, 39%)
No, he should choose someone else	(34 Votes, 27%)
She should be considered, but he should make his own choice.	(42 Votes, 33%)
Don't know	(2 Votes, 2%)

Go online today and answer this week's question!

What do you think of the detour in Prestonsburg?

- It's an inconvenience, but it's going as well as could be expected
- It could have been planned much better
- The detour is okay, but the drivers are terrible
- What detour?

## FCT ONLINE POLL

**Safety**

65 percent, MSHA said.

But two mines on the latest list are owned by companies with mines targeted previously by MSHA.

A spokesman for one of them, Massey Energy Co., said the company expects to fix problems at its Rockhouse Energy Mining Co.'s mine No. 1 in eastern Kentucky. Richmond, Va.-based Massey is the nation's fourth-largest producer by revenue and operates mines in Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky.

"On the other potential pattern of violations that we've gotten in the past, we've worked through those issues," spokesman Jeff Gillenwater said. "We'll work with MSHA to go through any of their concerns. We'll definitely take any corrective actions."

Richmond, Va.-based James River Coal Co. did not immediately return a request for comment. Its Blue

Diamond Coal Co.'s No. 75 mine in Kentucky is among the latest operations targeted by MSHA. James River also operates mines in southern Indiana.

A third large operator with a mine on the list, Tulsa, Okla.-based Alliance Resource Partners, did not respond immediately to a request for comment. MSHA is targeting a Kentucky mine operated by the company's Excel Mining subsidiary.

Mines on the latest list were picked by the number of violations that could lead to serious injury or illness during the past two years. Mines on the list must review and comment on the violations and develop plans for correcting problems.

If a mine significantly reduces the rate of significant and substantial violations during an ensuing 90-day monitoring period, MSHA says the operator will not receive a notification of a pattern of violations.

MSHA can temporarily halt work at mines that don't

reduce the number of serious violations.

The federal action comes as coal mining fatalities are increasing in the U.S. As of June 16, 15 coal miners had died in 2008, compared with six by the same time last year.

The trend prompted MSHA, the National Mining Association, the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association and United Mine Workers to

send a safety letter to mine operators, miners and contractors Thursday.

"With a joint effort by all to refocus on safety a repeat of these accidents could be prevented," the letter said. "We are urging everyone to maintain a focus on safety by trying to anticipate hazards and, most importantly, thinking before acting and avoiding shortcuts."

Continued from p1

**Heroin**

Continued from p1

Ward conspired together with several other inmates and at least one prison official to obtain prohibited items inside a federal prison.

Personne Elrico McGhee, was a former inmate of Big Sandy USP, and also listed in the records, Alice Marie Stapleton, a former Big Sandy USP corrections officer.

Stapleton was reportedly placed on administrative leave in July 2006, and was convicted of conspiracy to distribute

heroin and marijuana and conspiracy to introduce contraband in February 2007. Stapleton is currently serving a seven-year prison sentence.

Henderson was released from Big Sandy USP in June of 2006.

If convicted on the new charges, Henderson and Ward could each face a maximum prison sentence of 30 years.

A court date has not yet been set for Henderson and Ward.

**Weapons**

Continued from p1

Chambers, was charged with three counts possession of a prohibited object including a "six-and-one-half inch piece of metal, sharpened to a point, with a string for a handle and a lanyard."

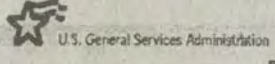
Chambers, could receive up to five years of additional imprisonment, as well as a \$250,000 fine for the charge.

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# expression

Freedom of the press is not an end in itself but a means to the end of [achieving] a free society.

— Felix Frankfurter

Guest view

## Decision corrects legal subversion

It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of Thursday's Supreme Court ruling that prisoners at Guantanamo Bay have a constitutional right to go before a federal judge and challenge their detention.

The decision, by a narrow 5-4 margin, upholds the principle of habeas corpus, a pillar of American justice. By denying its application to the Guantanamo detainees for more than six years, the Bush administration in effect has claimed the absolute right to hold people indefinitely and without charges or trials. This is a subversion of the rule of law and has shamed the United States in the world's eyes.

Critics should shelve their usual braying about "permissive liberal judges." Does American conservatism truly now embrace a doctrine of authoritarian executive power?

Last week's ruling actually marks the third time that the Court has attempted to force the administration to grant due process of law at the American base in Cuba and to move along the process of deciding prisoners' fates. In the first two instances, a lapdog Congress, then under Republican control, passed laws to subvert the Court's findings. The latest decision, couched in powerful constitutional terms, is likely far more secure.

Justice Antonin Scalia, in a shrill and intemperate dissent, argued that the ruling "will almost certainly cause more Americans to be killed."

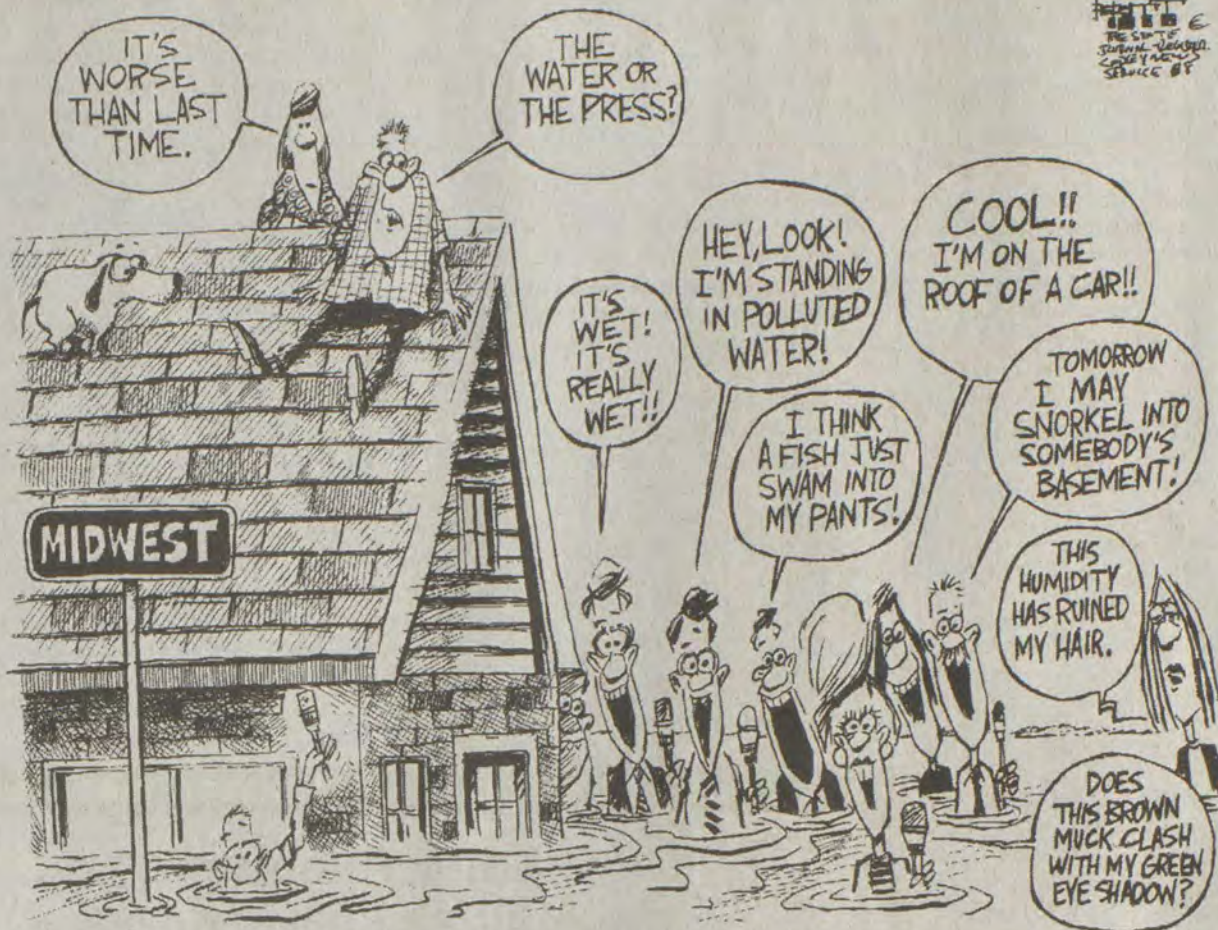
The government must do all that it legally can to make sure that is not the case. But Justice Scalia's argument could be used to sidestep constitutional safeguards whenever dangerous people are involved.

Yet, American courts have successfully prosecuted terrorists, war criminals and serial murderers. It is sad that the President and four justices do not trust the system to weigh the evidence against the Guantanamo prisoners.

In any case, as Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in the majority's opinion, "The laws and Constitution are designed to survive, and remain in force, in extraordinary times."

Due process, fair trials and timely resolutions are American strengths, not weaknesses. The Court has wisely cleared the way for them to work.

— The Courier-Journal, Louisville



## Rich Lowry Column

### The talking cure

In their litany of American presidents who met with hostile dictators, supporters of Barack Obama cite John F. Kennedy and his meeting with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in Vienna in 1961. They leave out how it went.

The earnest, young American president wanted to forestall any possibility of misunderstanding and to win Khrushchev's commitment to the international status quo. The blustery, risk-taking Soviet premier wanted to bludgeon Kennedy into making concessions that would further the Soviet goal of global revolution. When Kennedy thought he was being accommodating, Khrushchev thought he was being weak. Vienna was the backdrop for Soviet assertion in the Cold War flash points to come.

Not all talking is created equal. Which is why it's folly for a presidential candidate to make a blanket promise to negotiate personally with adversaries.

Consider President Reagan, another president invoked by Obama supporters. Reagan believed in personal diplomacy, but concluded upon taking office that it was pointless to talk to Soviet hard-liner Leonid Brezhnev. In stiffening U.S. defenses and pursuing the Strategic Defense Initiative, his administration sought to convince Moscow, in the words of

Secretary of State George Shultz, that restraint "was its most attractive, or only, option," while pressuring the tottering Soviet economic system.

When Mikhail Gorbachev came to power, the administration thought it had the strategic upper hand, and a man it could work with. Reagan met with his counterpart in Geneva and Reykjavik.

Keenly aware of his inability to keep pace in a high-tech arms race, Gorbachev wanted any deal contingent on prohibiting SDI. Reagan said "no." Out of his weakness, Gorbachev eventually gave the Reagan administration the kinds of arms cuts it wanted and openings in the Soviet system. The Cold War was about to end.

If a President Obama handles relations with Iran as deftly, maneuvering the clerical regime to its doom, he's worthy of his hype. Nothing suggests that he even conceives of his desire to talk in these terms. To do so, he'd have to develop some appreciation for the concept of leverage.

Has the Bush administration been too diplomatically inflexible?

Maybe, but it has allowed the EU-3 (Great Britain, France and Germany) to take the lead with Iran, and the Europeans have offered incentives

for the suspension of its nuclear program. It has engaged in prolonged negotiations with North Korea, winning the (dubious) promise of the suspension of its nuclear program. It has relentlessly promoted

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

We have a recent example of even more active Middle East diplomacy. President Clinton had Yasser Arafat to the White House more than any other foreign leader, and his secretary of state, Warren Christopher, spent long, bootless hours with then-Syrian President Hafez al-Assad. When Clinton tried to pressure Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak into a deal that wasn't there near the end of his second term, the second intifada erupted. It wasn't appeasement; it was just foolish.

Obama beware.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

### The Rich Lowry column



## Letter Guidelines

Letters to the Editor are welcomed by The Floyd County Times.

In accordance with our editorial page policy, all letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author.

The Times reserves the right to reject or edit any letter deemed slanderous, libelous or otherwise objectionable. Letters should be no longer

than two type-written pages, and may be edited for length or clarity.

Opinions expressed in letters and other voices are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper. Send letters to: The Editor, The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 391, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653.

## — beyond the beltway

### Driving was sure fun while it lasted

by DONALD KAUL  
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

Who said that the power of the Press is dead? A few weeks ago I told people to stop whining about the high price of gasoline and do something about it; namely, use less gas.

Almost immediately, the American people responded. In March of this year Americans drove 11 billion fewer miles than they did in March of 2007 and used 4.3 percent less gasoline.

That marks the first time since 1979 that traffic has declined from one March to the next and constitutes the biggest drop since the government started keeping track in 1942. Which means that my advice has had a greater impact on gas consumption than either World War II or the gas lines of the Carter years.

I am so proud. I am well aware, however, that with power comes responsibility. So it is with deep humility that I say to my fellow Americans:

It's not good enough, kids. You have to do better. You're still spending, on the average, four percent of your disposable income on fuel (in some rural areas, 10-15 percent). That's more than twice as much as you were spending in 1998. In other words, too much.

And you haven't even thought about increasing fuel standards or lowering speed limits. All you've

done is complain and cut a measly 4.3 percent from your gas bill.

A Chicago woman, a single mother of two, told the New York Times: "Rising gas prices end up hurting working, lower class people like me, who can't afford it anymore."

So what else is new? All bad things—wars, economic depressions, inflation, George Bush—end up hurting the working classes most. That is the way of the world, folks, particularly when the world is being run by a party whose answer to all problems is tax-cuts for the rich.

So don't think government will help you. Don't wait for the oil companies to give you a hand. And if you're expecting our oil-producing Arab allies to bail you out, forget it.

To repeat what I've said before: If you want to stop spending so much on fuel, use less of it. And I'm not talking about a four percent cut, I'm talking a 20, 30, even 40 percent cut in consumption.

That won't be easy. You can only do so much with car-pooling, driving sensibly and one-trip multiple errands. You're going to have to find alternative modes of transportation.

I don't mean to blow my own horn, but this is what I have done: I got rid of one of my cars, thus making my wife and me a one-car family. I can't tell you that there aren't moments of conflict over who should have the car and when but basically it's working out fine. And it gives one

a sense of moral superiority.

When it's inconvenient to walk or ride a bike to where I'm going, I take a bus. This has its own inconveniences, of course, but so does dragging around a 3500-pound car that has to be parked and attracts expensive tickets not to mention dents in the doors.

Buses would be more convenient if there were more of them and there'd be more of them if more people used them. Start using them.

As for long-distance hauls, there are trains. Yes, they're still with us. They're like Santa Claus—just because you don't see

them doesn't mean they don't exist. I recently took two train rides—one from New York to Michigan (in a sleeping compartment) and one a round-trip between Ann Arbor and Chicago.

I'm here to say they were...OK. Not a patch on what train travel used to be in this country and still is in Europe, but better than sitting, fists clenched on a steering wheel, for hour after hour as you dodge homicidal truckers.

Gas prices are going to get higher before they get lower. It's time to adjust our living to them. Complaining is just a waste of hot air.

Don Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. Email him at [dkaul2@earthlink.net](mailto:dkaul2@earthlink.net).

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263 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE  
PRESTONSBURG, KENTUCKY 41653

Phone: (606) 886-8506

Fax: (606) 886-3603

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PUBLISHER

Joshua Byers  
[jbyers@heartlandpublications.com](mailto:jbyers@heartlandpublications.com)

MANAGING EDITOR

Ralph B. Davis  
[web@floydcountytimes.com](mailto:web@floydcountytimes.com)

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Jamie Vanhoose  
[advertising@floydcountytimes.com](mailto:advertising@floydcountytimes.com)



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## CAR TALK:

### If ESC is so great, why is there an off switch?

see pg. A6

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## This Town, That World

*Editor's Note: For years, Floyd County Times founder and former publisher Norman Allen wrote a weekly column that looked at Floyd County through his eyes. His columns are being*

The most far-sighted man I know of, is the character who, on one of the hottest days recently, picked up a piece of poplar plank and, toting it away, explained it would come in handy for kindling a fire, next winter.

### BIG FISH

Delbert Mullins, of Arkansas Creek, showed up at this office, last Friday morning, with a 20-pound mudcat that measured 33 1/2 inches. The fish was caught in the river, near Banner, on a trot-line. Wonder what became of the boys who used to come by, grinning like Cheshire cats, with those big bass. Perhaps I should wonder what became of the bass.

### THE LAST STRAW—YEAH!

The paper had no more than got around last week, when Chief Justice Warren's decision to fold his robe and silently steal away, was announced. I'm sure my "Contempt of Court" item in this column did the trick.

### QUESTION

Middle Creek, a stream which once had a good supply of fish, has not a living thing in it now, not even a crawdad, all the way from David, to where the stream runs into the Big Sandy, at West Prestonsburg. What would the Water Pollution Commission suggest?

### CLOSE CALL

There's a fellow named Hugh Allen who, writing in The Knoxville News-Sentinel, came close to hitting me with this description of a "wrong way sportsman": When he's golfing, he hooks 'em, and when he's fishing, he doesn't. (I slice.).

□□□

You know when fishing gets so rotten you can't find anything ridiculous to record about the trip, matters are in the sere and yaller leaf, indeed.

## Editor's Notice

The Floyd County Times is happy to announce your engagement, new marriage, new baby, birthday or family reunion free of charge. However, space is limited and we can offer no guarantee of the exact day your announcement will run. Readers may opt to purchase ad space if these conditions are not satisfactory. With the purchase of a paid ad, run date, size and place-



## Career Day

Mrs. Selina and Mrs. Geneva's K-4 classes of the Wesley Christian School got a thrill some excitement during career week from the fire engines of Allen Volunteer Fire Department. The students got lessons in other careers from, 4-H, Ambulance & Rescue Squad, Dr. Lee Boyd Dentistry, The Floyd County Times, Citizens National Bank, and Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement. The students who participated included: Emily Adams, Tyler Francis, Caleb Ayala, Clark Frazier, Kimber Harless, Sarah Hunter, Brenton Jannell, Cameron Kimber, Katie Maynard, Melissa Meade, Kyle Sturgill, Bryce Ousley, Jacob Rainey, Ariella Salyers, and Colby Martin.



## MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

## 'Wrestlemaniac'

by TOM DOTY  
TIMES COLUMNIST

A gaggle of unappealing morons run afoul of a crazed Luchador (Spanish for wrestler) in this entertaining fright-fest that was filmed for less than what ex-New York Governor Eliot Spitzer spent on call girls.

This one busts out of the gate early with an eerie opening scene that features a camera panning along a dark path up to the ancient doors of a church. Suddenly, the doors spring open and a blood-soaked damsel comes screaming out of said portal and right at the camera.



Tom Doty  
Times Columnist

Cut to black and white footage of masked Mexican wrestlers battling it out while a mariachi band swings into action. It's the perfect opening as it telegraphs exactly what to expect here — a cross between a Santo movie and your typical teens-in-jeopardy slasher opus.

Next we meet our "heroes," who turn out to be a pretty unappealing lot who are headed to Mexico in order to produce a low rent pornographic film. They consist of three bimettes (one of whom spends most of the film in a comatose state after smoking more grass than Willie Nelson's roadies), a sleazy director named Alphonse, a cameraman named Steve (whom everyone calls "Fats" because he's obviously consumed more Doritos than Nelson's road crew) and a male stoner who's there because he owns the van.

This charismatically challenged bunch is not even on Mcensa's radar, which is quickly evidenced when they toss out their only road map and decide to wing it. They eventually stop at a gas station that has an attendant but no petrol.

What it does have is a bizarre owner sporting black teeth and a sense of local legends. He informs the group that the nearest location is a ghost town that is haunted by legendary wrestler "El Mascarado" and that all of the people there have since perished.

Whereas such news would send anyone else back over the border, we have to remember that this is a horror movie, so our dimwitted stars proceed there with all due haste.

They aren't there long before they are shooting their magnum opus. The sleeping bimbo wakes up long enough to toss her cookies, cut her foot and get lost, before finding out that El Mascarado still lives and he doesn't take kindly to gringos. The stoner male quickly follows suit and the remaining geniuses eventually figure out that something is amiss.

They get a heads up from Steve (turns out he's a wrestling fanatic), who relates the tale of El Mascarado. He apparently went a little south of the border and began skinning his opponents after pinning them. This practice turned out to be too much for the wrestling commission (they actu-

(See LAGOON, page six)

## Frosty the Snowman

by LAHRE SHIFLET, age 15  
"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL"  
CELEBRATING BROTHERS & SISTERS

My family and I live about two hours from several Sierra Nevada ski resorts, and we love to ski. The snow was perfect the day we chose to take the short drive "up the hill" from Sacramento, and with no storms blowing in, it turned out to be a sunny and warm day with almost no wind.

My father is a really good skier, so he went on some really hard runs by himself, while Michelle (my step-

mother) and my little brother Shawn and I headed for some easier runs. We took one of the chairlifts up the hill and got off at the top, turning to the right, which was a "beginner's" run. For my little brother Shawn, it was a really big hill; for Michelle and me, it was cake. All three of us started skiing down the mountain, but suddenly Shawn somehow got turned around and was skiing down backward! He was screaming, "Mommy! Lahre! Help!"

I was below him, so I stopped, took off my skis, and ran up the

mountain. He grabbed me and held on for dear life.

"Shawn, it's OK, bud; I got you." I tried to assure him. I turned him around so he was facing forward, but he still was so scared and crying a little. I really wanted to find a way to make my little brother smile and laugh. I wanted him to know how much fun skiing could be and for him to have fun skiing the rest of the day. I ran back down to my skis and put them on. Shawn was still upset and scared as the three of us continued down the hill.

Then I saw it, my opportunity to make my brother laugh. Sitting there, right in the middle of the run, was a snowman! I was so excited because I

pictured myself skiing though the snowman, and its fluffy snow flying all over me. It would just be so cool! As I picked up speed, heading downhill directly at the snowman, I screamed to my little brother, "Shawn, watch this!"

Just as I was expecting to hit the snowman and send it flying into a billion snowy pieces, my skis hit what had turned into a snowman-shaped solid block of ice.

Instead of the snowman flying everywhere, my right ski popped off and went flying in one direction while I flew over the snowman and continued tumbling and sliding down the hill in the other direction.

When I finally opened my eyes, I was lying on my back, and everything was quiet. Then I heard them! Shawn and Michelle were laughing so hard, I couldn't believe it. I had gotten my wish: Shawn was happy and laughing. Skiing was once again fun for my little brother.



# If ESC is so great, why is there an off switch?

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

terms, it helps you maintain control of the car even when you drive like a moron.

RAY: Up to a point.

TOM: Right. There's a point where even stability control can't help you.

RAY: So, when wouldn't you want ESC on? There are two times we know of. One is when you WANT to drive like a moron. People who drive their cars on racetracks sometimes want their cars to slide around and skid. If you're one of those knuckleheads, you might decide to turn off the ESC and take your chances — presumably, while wearing a crash helmet.

TOM: But the more common reason has to do with getting unstuck when you're stuck in the snow, sand or mud. The way ESC works when you're moving is that if it detects one or more of your wheels slipping, it applies the brake to that wheel to prevent a skid.

RAY: But if you're stuck in the snow, for example, and your drive

wheels are spinning, you might not want them to stop spinning — at least not until the car has broken free of whatever it's stuck in. In that case, you'd turn off the ESC and turn it back on once you're free and on your way.

TOM: But generally speaking, Dennis, it's a life-saving technology, and you want it on all the time. Just like the paper bag we keep over my brother's head when we take him out in public.

### Driver confesses to bad parking-brake behavior

Dear Tom and Ray:  
Twice now, I have left a late-evening rehearsal without releasing the parking brake on my 2007 Toyota Corolla Matrix, and driven 10 miles home (50 mph on the freeway most of the way) before discovering my ridiculous error. Please tell me what horrible things I have done to my car. I love this car, and I really don't want to confess to anyone what I have done! You're my only hope for advice — scathing though it may be! Gratefully yours — Amy

RAY: You've been drinking too many glasses of Mateus during rehearsal, Amy.

TOM: Don't feel bad about the parking brake. I've done this myself. Fortunately, it was always on a cus-

tomor's car!

RAY: It's possible that you've done some damage, Amy. But we can't tell without inspecting the rear brakes. So, you're going to have to go to the professional at your local dealership, close the curtain and spill everything to your service adviser.

TOM: Don't worry, he's heard much worse.

RAY: What you did was the equivalent of driving with your foot pressed partway down on the brake pedal — but only for the rear brakes. Depending upon how firmly your parking brake was applied while you drove (clearly not that firmly, if you were able to drive on the freeway at 50 mph), you could have overheated those rear brakes.

TOM: If they did overheat, you could have cracked your brake shoe linings, or even warped the brake drums. But I doubt it.

RAY: Me, too. Any decent mechanic can tell you after taking a quick look. The range of what this might cost you runs from nothing (our guess), to about \$150 if you need shoes, to \$350 if you need your drums replaced, too.

TOM: But here's a surefire way to prevent this in the future: Apply the parking brake more firmly. How firmly? Try this experiment: Put the car in drive with your foot on the

brake pedal.

RAY: Do this on an open driveway, where you have some room to move, not in front of your prized African tulips or your freshly painted garage door.

TOM: Right. With the car in drive and your foot on the brake, pull up the parking brake and take your foot off the brake pedal. The car shouldn't move. If it does, pull up harder on the hand brake and try again. Not only should the car stay perfectly still, but if you step on the gas and try to drive it away, you should feel a discernible drag on the car, like something is wrong.

RAY: If you can't get to that point, your parking brake might not be working properly, and you should have it looked at.

TOM: But once you find that spot, Amy, where it's hard to drive away — that's how hard you should apply the parking brake every time you park the car.

RAY: If you do that, there are two benefits. No. 1, the parking brake will be sure to do its job and prevent the car from rolling away if it ever slips out of gear. And No. 2, it'll keep you from driving home with the parking brake engaged, because even YOU will notice that something's wrong, Amy. Good luck!



CLICK & CLACK  
Talk Cars

Dear Tom and Ray:  
I just purchased a car with ESC, and have read how it is a feature that should be standard on all vehicles — it could reduce the number of accidents and save more than 10,000 lives a year. If this is so good, why does the car manufacturer provide a switch to turn it off? Under what conditions would I not want to have ESC? Thank you. — Dennis

RAY: Great question, Dennis. For those who aren't familiar with automotive acronyms, ESC is the generic term for electronic stability control. We've also seen it called stuff like ASC, DSC, ESP, RSC, SCAS and StabiliTrak.

TOM: ESC works by using sensors to determine where the car is going, and compares that with where you WANT the car to go (by measuring steering and pedal inputs), and then helps direct the car to where you want it to go by applying the brakes on individual wheels. Or, in layman's

## SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

# Pop culture makes mark on Social Security's most popular baby names list

Continuing a popular tradition, the federal government's top official for baby names, Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, last month jointly announced with Parade magazine the most popular baby names for 2007. Parade also highlighted the Social Security Administration's Mother's Day campaign to inform people with limited income about the extra help available with their Medicare prescription drug costs. That extra help is worth up to \$3,600 per year.

Please click on the Most Popular Baby Names link at Social Security's website — [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) — to see the top baby names for 2007. The top ten boys and girls names for 2007 are:

### Boys

- 1) Jacob
- 2) Michael
- 3) Ethan
- 4) Joshua
- 5) Daniel
- 6) Christopher
- 7) Anthony
- 8) William
- 9) Matthew
- 10) Andrew

### Girls:

- 1) Emily
- 2) Isabella
- 3) Emma
- 4) Ava
- 5) Madison
- 6) Sophia
- 7) Olivia
- 8) Abigail
- 9) Hannah
- 10) Elizabeth

Emily has topped the list since 1996. Jacob has done so since 1999. Elizabeth returns to the top ten after a two-year absence.

In addition to a list of the 1,000 most popular boys' and girls' names for 2007, the website has a list of the top 100

names for twins born in 2007. Jacob and Joshua are again the most popular twin's names.

The Social Security website offers lists of baby names for each year since 1880. Social Security started compiling baby name lists in 1997.

Although "American Idol's" Sanjaya did not influence this year's list, other young celebrities influenced the naming of American children. The 2007 success of popular race car driver Danica Patrick undoubtedly inspired her first name moving from number 352 to number 307. Similarly, the name of the first pick in the 2007 NFL draft, Oakland Raiders' quarterback JaMarcus Russell, rose from number 914 to number 743 on the boys' list.

Shiloh, the youngest daughter of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, debuted on the list at number 804. Maddox, the name of their oldest child, has seen steady gains since first appearing on the list in 2003 at number 583 and now ranking at number 226. Suri, the name of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' daughter, did not make the list. But Britney Spears' second son is named Jayden, which ranked at number 18. Miley is new to the girls' list this year, entering fairly high at number 278, attributable to the popularity of teen sensation Miley Cyrus.

For reasons likely to puzzle baby name experts around the world, American parents have become infatuated by names, particularly for their sons, that rhyme with the word "maiden." These names for boys include: Jayden (No. 18); Aiden (No. 27); Aidan (No. 54); Jaden (No. 76); Caden (No. 92); Kaden (No. 98); Ayden (No. 102); Braden (No. 156); Cayden (No. 175); Jaiden (No. 191); Kaiden (No. 220); Aden (No. 264); Caiden

(No. 286); Braeden (No. 325); Braydon (No. 361); Jaydon (No. 415); Jadon (No. 423); Braiden (No. 529); Zayden (No. 588); Jaeden (No. 593); Aydan (No. 598); Bradyn (No. 629); Kadin (No. 657); Jady (No. 696); Kaeden (No. 701); Jaydin (No. 757); Braedon (No. 805); Aidyn (No. 818); Haiden (No. 820); Jaidyn (No. 841); Kady (No. 878); Jaydan (No. 887); Raiden (No. 931); and Adin (No. 983). This startling trend was present, but less pronounced, with girls names: Jayden (No. 172); Jady (No. 319); Jaden (No. 335); Jaiden (No. 429); Kayden (No. 507); and Jaidyn (No. 561). Social Security spokesman Mark Lassiter indicated that the agency would resist any legislative efforts to standardize the spelling of these names.

Experts also may be surprised by the extent to which American parents are naming their daughters after spiritual and philosophical concepts. One of the most popular names for girls (rising this year to number 31) is Neveah, which is "Heaven" spelled backwards. The variant Neveah came in this year at number 891 and Heaven is number 263. Also represented were: Destiny (No. 41); Trinity (No. 72); Serenity (No. 126); Harmony (No. 315); Miracle (No. 461); Charity (No. 673); Journey (No. 692); Destini (No. 914); and Essence (No. 930). Cutting against this trend was Armani (No. 971).

American parents were far less likely to name their sons in this way, although the 2007 boys' list does include Sincere (No. 622) and Messiah (No. 723).

Finally, Commissioner Astrue expressed his approval that Elvis has risen 85 spots from number 761 to number

676 and noted, "It is further proof that Elvis is not dead."

For more information about benefits and services call your local Social Security Office in Prestonsburg at (606) 886-8525. The office is located at 1897 Kentucky Route 321 in Prestonsburg. Representatives are available to answer questions.

And remember, we have representatives available to give presentations and speeches about Social Security Programs. Contact the office for more information.

## Lagoon

Continued from p5

ally have one of those?), which suspended his license and sent him to this remote town for treatment.

It isn't long before the masked man shows up for a bout with his guests and they fare poorly. Steve figures out that the only way to defeat the monster is to rip off its mask, which will, hopefully, force the brute to slink away in shame and never wrestle again. The hitch turns out to be getting close enough to do the deed and it all comes down to a grudge match with the lovely glimpsed in the opening scene, but even she may not have what it takes to get out of this in one piece.

This one has a lot going for it. The locations are authentic, the gore is plentiful and the

execution is quick (it only runs about 75 minutes).

That said, the actors are not up to the task of currying audience sympathy (though the guy playing Steve comes close). You wind up rooting for Mascarado, and that is fine as he is authentically interpreted by wrestler Ray Misterio, who rocks a colorful mask, big arms and a gut that appears to have been sponsored by Budweiser.

The ending hints at a rematch which might be worth attending if they give you a couple of characters worth worrying about.

Best line: "It's El Mascarado, dude. He took his face off."

2008, unrated.

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# FLOYD COUNTY Sports

Inside

Boating • B2  
Reds • B3

## Turner named ACHS girls' basketball coach

by STEVE LeMASTER  
SPORTS EDITOR

EASTERN - Allen Central High School has turned to an alumnus to guide its girls' basketball program. ACHS graduate Tiffany Turner has been named ACHS girls' basketball head coach for the 2008-09 school year. Turner played basketball at ACHS for five years. She played softball at Alice Lloyd College, graduating with a degree in Biology. She has worked in the Floyd County School system and has coached volleyball at South

Floyd High School for four years and at Allen Central for one year; she assisted the South Floyd girls' basketball team for two years. Turner was the South Floyd softball coach for one year.

Assisting Turner will be Rick Hancock and Terri Mullins. Hancock is a 1978 graduate of Allen Central and assisted and managed the Rebels from 1974-1978. He was the head coach of the Maytown Elementary School boys basketball team from 1990-1996 and the Allen Central boys' freshman coach from 1996-1998. He

has coached the Allen Central Middle school girls' basketball team since 2003. Hancock has been employed with Floyd County Schools since 1978.

Mullins is also a graduate of Allen Central High School. A former teammate of Turner's, Mullins played basketball for the Rebels for five years. She played basketball at the collegiate level at Saint Catherine. Turner played softball at Saint Catherine and at Pikeville College for four years. While attending Pikeville College, Mullins assisted

coaching the ACHS girls' basketball team during the 2007-2008 season. She has assisted coaching the Allen Central softball team since 2006. Majoring in Art, Mullins is continuing to work on her Master's Degree at Pikeville College.

Turner insists on hard work and discipline. She wants to continue the building process for the girls program and has indicated she is in it for the long term.

"We believe she, along with Coaches Hancock and

(See TURNER, page two)



file photo

Prestonsburg High School will host the Focus High School Football Combine on Saturday, July 26. Players from various parts of the state continue to register for the combine.

## Former Wildcat Prince makes US Team

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT - Tayshaun Prince earned a spot on the USA Basketball team for the Beijing Games, a person in the NBA told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The person spoke Thursday on the condition of anonymity because the roster will be announced Monday during a news conference in Chicago.

Last year, Prince played for a U.S. team that was led by Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony during an unbeaten run in an Olympic qualifying tournament.

Earlier this month, USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo said the squad would be selected without a tryout.

Also Thursday, the Arizona Republic reported that Suns forward Amare Stoudamire has declined a chance to be on the Olympic squad.

Colangelo told the newspaper that Stoudamire was concerned about pushing his body too hard after knee surgery in 2005 and 2006.

The 6-foot-9, 215-pound Prince gives the U.S. team a playoff-tested player who can slow down opponents with his defensive skills. He can also score occasionally with an array of runners and spin moves around the lane.

Prince helped the Detroit Pistons advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the sixth straight year, making them the most consistent in the playoffs since the Los Angeles Lakers of the 1980s.

He has played in 114 playoff games to surpass the total of any player his first six NBA seasons.

Pistons teammate Chauncey Billups pulled himself out of consideration for a spot on the U.S. team earlier this week. The All-Star point guard might have had a hard time making the team anyway because of available guards such as Jason Kidd, Dwyane Wade, Chris Paul and Deron Williams.

## Wilson to continue basketball career at Alice Lloyd College

HARLAN DAILY  
ENTERPRISE

CUMBERLAND - Garfield Wilson made a big impact on the Cumberland basketball program in only one year after transferring from North Carolina.

The coaching staff at Alice Lloyd College hopes the 6-foot-4 senior center can be just as effective on the next level.

New Alice Lloyd coach J.R. Hammond, a former head coach of the Sheldon Clark High School boys' basketball program, said Wilson will be a great addition to the roster.

"Garfield is a super athlete. He has very good hands, a nice soft touch and can handle the ball very well. To be this late in the recruiting season and for him to still be out there is a blessing for the Eagle program

(See BASKETBALL, page two)



photos by Steve LeMaster

EAST KENTUCKY MINERS COACH KEVIN KEATHLEY conducted his Pro Basketball Youth Camp at the Knott County Sportsplex in Soft Shell this past week. The camp attracted 55 campers from seven different Eastern Kentucky counties.

Above: Keathley signed autographs for the young campers in attendance.

Right: Kent Damron, son of Sean and Stephanie Damron, attended the camp. The young Damron, age 4, earned a spot as one of the top campers in his age group.



## California road course awaits Sprint Cup drivers

by BRIAN KACHARABA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASCAR SPRINT CUP: Race: Toyota/Save Mart 350; Site: Sonoma, Calif.; Track: Infineon Raceway (permanent road course, 1.99 miles, 10 turns).

Race distance: 218.9 miles, 110 laps.

Last race: Dale Earnhardt Jr. ended a 76-race winless streak by stretching his last fuel load at Michigan International Speedway.

Earnhardt, whose last victory came on May 6, 2006, at Richmond, lasted the last 55 laps on the two-mile oval, including three laps of overtime, without stopping for gas.

Last year: Juan Pablo Montoya showed off his road racing prowess, stretching his fuel to the limit and grabbing his first Cup win. Montoya, who qualified a disappointing 32nd in the 43-car field, was the first driver to win on the Northern California road circuit starting farther back than

13th.

Fast facts: Earnhardt has never won a road-course race in his Cup career or posted a top-10 finish at Infineon. He and Carl Edwards are tied for the series lead with 11 top-10 finishes this season. ... Kyle Busch increased his lead in the standings to 32 points over Jeff Burton, but third-place Earnhardt moved within 84 points of the lead. ... Jeff Gordon leads all drivers with five wins and four poles at Infineon, but is still looking

for his first victory of 2008. He had four wins and was leading the point standings at this time last year. ... This is the first of two road-course races this year. The other is at Watkins Glen, N.Y., on Aug. 10. ... Marcos Ambrose is expected to make his Cup debut this weekend driving for Wood Brothers Racing.

Next race: Lenox Industrial Tools 301, June 29, Loudon, N.H.

On the Net: <http://www.nascar.com>



photo courtesy of FLW Outdoors  
Boater Tee Watkins of East Point was the highest-placing finisher in the Ranger Cup program at the April 14 BFL Volunteer Division event. Watkins continues to fish several tournaments. The Eastern Kentucky native is a veteran fisherman. He has fished some of the nation's top lakes. His angling career has taken him to several different states.

## NCAA Board to reconsider 2007-30c

TIMES STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS - The NCAA national office has received the requisite number of requests to call for the Division I Board of Directors to reconsider legislation eliminating the opportunity for men's basketball coaches to evaluate at non-scholastic events in April.

Intended to address concerns about the amount of missed class time by prospective student-athletes who travel to several non-scholastic events in April and

the disruption of the relationship between Division I coaches and their current student-athletes, the legislation was sponsored by the Championships/Competition Cabinet and supported by the Men's Basketball Issues Committee.

Institutions who sought the override, particularly those with limited financial resources, cited cost savings as a chief reason for wanting to eliminate the rule - evaluating several prospects in one location, as provided by non-scholastic events, is more

cost-effective than traveling to different high school-sponsored events. Those who oppose the legislation also said they believe that evaluating prospects at non-scholastic events helps coaches make better recruiting decisions.

"This opportunity could assist coaches with making better decisions and hopefully diminish transfers," one institution wrote in its request. "Allowing coaches to evaluate the top prospective student-athletes competing against the top prospects

in the country will help eliminate student-athletes from transferring. Coaches and prospects will have a better understanding of the talent and playing time at their institutions."

The Board will meet August 7. The override period for all legislation adopted at the April 25 Board meeting ends June 23. A total of 100 override requests are required to send the legislation to a vote of the full membership at the 2009 NCAA Convention.

## NABC Board asks coaches to refrain from making early commitments

Former Kentucky Coach  
Tubby Smith favors move

TIMES STAFF REPORT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The Board of Directors of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) announced that it strongly opposes 10th grade students and younger from making commitments to collegiate institutions for the purpose of playing men's basketball. The Board is asking men's basketball coaches to refrain from offering or encouraging these young people to make such commitments.

The Board of Directors' opposition is based on the fact that these students have not yet displayed sufficient academic credentials or, in the vast majority of cases, basketball maturity to accurately project them as admissible students to the institution or impact players on the basketball team.

The Board of Directors asks coaches to not offer scholarships or accept commitments from students earlier than June 15 following the conclusion of the sophomore year, which is the first date of permissible contact with prospective student-athletes according to NCAA regulations.

"If the current rules state that coaches cannot offer scholarships or accept commitments from students earlier than June 15 following the conclusion of the sophomore year, it certainly makes sense that this should apply to anyone in lower grades," said NABC president Tubby Smith, the head coach at the University of Minnesota. "The academic and athletic profiles of these younger students are still very much works in progress. Coaches and athletes need to respect the process and allow development to occur in both areas prior to making commitments."

Located in Kansas City, Missouri, the NABC was founded in 1927 by Forrest "Phog" Allen, the legendary basketball coach at the University of Kansas. Allen, a student of James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, organized coaches into this collective group to serve as Guardians of the Game. The NABC currently claims nearly 5,000 members consisting primarily of university and college men's basketball coaches. All members of the NABC are expected to uphold the core values of being a Guardian of the Game by bringing attention to the positive aspects of the sport of basketball and the role coaches play in the academic and athletic lives of today's student-athletes. The four core values of being a Guardian of the Game are advocacy, leadership, service and education.

ONLINE: [www.nabc.com](http://www.nabc.com)

# Trainer to Congress: Racing is 'chemical warfare'

by JOSEPH WHITE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Testifying before Congress, Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg summed up thoroughbred racing's woes in two words: "chemical warfare."

"The present rules permitting the use of steroids and other drugs have comprised the integrity of horse racing and has been a major factor in attendance and for interest falling to an all-time low," Van Berg told the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection. "Crowds at most of these tracks, you could shoot a cannon through and not hit anybody."

The use of performance-enhancing drugs took a big hit at Thursday's hearing, which was called after Eight Belles broke down and was euthanized at the Kentucky Derby last month. All of the witness-

es spoke in favor of banning such substances, although the consensus was far from clear on how best to achieve that goal as well as other reforms in a sport lacking an authoritative, central governing body.

"We need a league and a commissioner. We need action, please. Congress, help," said Jess Jackson, owner of 2007 Horse of the Year Curlin.

"The last thing this industry needs is another layer of bureaucracy. A 'Department of Horse-land Security' funded by yet another tax on our long-suffering customers is not what we need," said Alex Waldrop, president of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association.

In between those opposing points of view was Jockey Club president Alan Marzelli, who favored the establishment of a national governing body without government intervention.

The congressman most proactive in his interest in the sport — Rep. Ed Whitfield of Kentucky, the subcommittee's ranking Republican — suggested that Congress was ready to act. Whitfield said lawmakers can use leverage under the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978, which grants simulcasting rights that now account for much of the industry's profits. A law could be passed, for example, that withholds simulcast money from states that don't adhere to federally mandated guidelines.

"Mr. Waldrop has the very best intentions, but he does not have the authority to do anything," Whitfield said. "We are going to be looking at some legislation to deal with this."

Deteriorating bloodlines, due to inbreeding, were also discussed as a cause for concern. Witnesses noted that horses wear out much more

quickly than the thoroughbreds of past decades.

Illinois Democrat Jan Schakowsky, the subcommittee's vice chairwoman, said Eight Belles was a "genetic disaster waiting to happen," a point she made by displaying a chart of what she called the horse's "fragile bloodline."

Others pointed to new surveys, including one by The Associated Press, that have discovered thousands of racing-related horse deaths in recent years.

"We are a rudderless ship," said longtime breeder Arthur Hancock. "The way we're going, we will all end up on the rocks."

The lack of conformity in the sport is a result of its lack of structure. Racing is essentially run by 38 sets of rules — one for each state in which racing takes place.

"Imagine if the NFL were set up to permit each state to field as many pro teams as it

wanted, play as many games as it wanted all year long, and set its own individual football rules. ... Horse racing has been set up in this fashion," ESPN analyst Randy Moss said.

Jockey Club president Marzelli offered hope by pointing out that its safety panel two days ago called for a sweeping ban on anabolic steroids. He expects all horse racing states to adopt the ban.

"We are confident that 2008 will be the last year in which anabolic steroids will be permitted in our sport during training and racing," Marzelli said.

That would have an effect on the methods used by the trainer of Big Brown, the Triple Crown favorite that finished a stunning last in the Belmont Stakes on June 7. Rick Dutrow, who gave a legal steroid to Big Brown through April, was expected to tell Congress his side of the

story in person, but was a no-show.

Dutrow on Wednesday told the AP that he was too ill to attend, but he remained on the witness list — there was even a symbolic name card for him at the table — because he apparently failed to tell those in charge.

"I'm disappointed by his absence," Schakowsky said. "I'm disappointed that he did not feel the need to notify the subcommittee of his decision."

Dutrow did provide a statement in which he discussed his checkered record, including his use of anabolic steroids on horses.

"My observation is that it helps the horses eat better," the statement said. "Their coats brighten. They're more alert. It helps them train."

Dutrow added that "if steroids are banned in the United States, we'll stop using them."

# Simple tips to use to conserve gas when boating

by LEE McCLELLAN  
KENTUCKY AFIELD

FRANKFORT — It is amazing how quickly it happens. Your truck's gas tank is nearly half empty by the time you finish a sausage biscuit and cup of coffee while driving to the lake with your boat in tow. The \$4 per gallon gas stings your wallet. You may be well over \$100 in the hole from vehicle and boat gas before making a single cast on a fishing trip this summer.

Large outboard engines drink gas at an alarming rate. However, a few simple tips can help you save boat fuel and reduce the financial pain of record gas prices.

Patterning fish close to the launching ramp is one of the best ways to burn less gas.

You might be surprised how good the fishing is near a ramp or marina. Many anglers bypass this water because they are too pumped up to get to their honey hole 10 miles up the lake. Launching your boat closer to your fishing spot not only saves gas, but it gives you more fishing time and saves wear and tear on your boat.

Fishing near the ramp can provide a bonus for bass anglers because tournaments use boat ramps and marinas as weigh-in areas. Many tournament anglers also release their bass right there. This stacks fish up on nearby structure, such as points, weedlines, channel drops, fallen trees and stump beds.

You can also challenge yourself to see how many bass you can catch without even fir-

ing your boat's big motor. Some of the best fishing days occur when electrical or lower unit failures force you to use your trolling motor only.

By eliminating the use of your primary motor, you must probe a point, channel drop or stump bed for fish thoroughly instead of making a few casts and running somewhere else. Fish don't bite unless your lure is in the water. You won't catch a fish if your lure is jiggling at the end of your rod while you're making a run.

Another gas-saving tip: Lighten the load in your boat by taking out what you don't need for your trip. If you plan to bluegill fish, you don't need the heavy sinkers, cast nets, strong rods and big reels left over from your last catfishing trip on the Ohio River. Take

that stuff out of your boat and store it. Things accumulate over time on a boat from each successive fishing trip. Just remember to keep the required safety equipment onboard, such as your life jackets.

Go through each storage compartment and eliminate things you won't need. You'll just need to make a list before your next trip. Put that weight on your garage or storage shed floor. Don't make your boat motor push it and burn more gas.

Proper boat maintenance is another way to save gas. The only time many of us maintain our boat's motor is when it malfunctions. A person of modest mechanical means can change the spark plugs, the lower unit oil and inspect the fuel lines for cracks or dry rot.

Check the primer bulb and make sure it is pliable and stays firm after pumping it full of gas. This saves fuel.

Keeping the bottom of your boat clean also saves gas. If you store your boat in water for any length of time, algae grows on the hull. The drag it creates forces the engine to burn more gas to get the boat through the water. A clean hull glides over the water, reducing the engine's workload. A clean hull also improves the boat's handling.

Finally, pay attention to your boat's prop. If your boat is slow to get on plane or lacks top-end speed, the pitch or diameter of your propeller may be off. Have your boat mechanic check the propeller performance and upgrade if necessary. It will pay for itself

in fuel savings while increasing performance. A bent propeller or one with a chunk missing from it also costs gas. Replace a damaged propeller.

These simple tips will lighten the cost of your fishing trip by burning less gas in your boat. This means more fishing trips this summer and fall.

*Author Lee McClellan is an award-winning writer and serves as the associate editor for Kentucky Afield magazine, the official publication of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He is a life-long hunter and angler, with a passion for smallmouth bass fishing.*

## Basketball

and a great addition to our roster," he said.

Hammond also expressed that he was impressed with Wilson's defensive aggressiveness and athleticism.

"Garfield will bring a very aggressive defense style of play that he learned from coach (Jerry) Edwards and coach (Derrick) Akal. His athleticism is also going to be

very welcome to our new style of play," Hammond said.

Wilson averaged 13.8 points and 9.5 rebounds per game last season for the 20-9 Redskins, who finished as the 52nd District runner-up.

"There's still a lot there to be developed," Edwards said. "He's very strong. The year he sat out, he stayed in the weight room, and he's a lot quicker

than people would think for his size."

Edwards said Wilson could help the Eagles as a freshman.

"He should see a lot of playing time on the inside," Edwards said. "He came on strong for us last year. He made a great adjustment during the season after sitting out last year and was a key part of our 20 wins."



photo by David C. Dixon  
Cumberland High School center Garfield Wilson signed recently with Alice Lloyd College. He is pictured with Cumberland High School/ Harlan County High School AD John Bond (left), Cumberland/Harlan County assistant coach Derrick Akal and Alice Lloyd College Coach J.R. Hammond.

# FLW Outdoors announces 2009 Wal-Mart FLW Tour

Lake Champlain to host final qualifier

TIMES STAFF REPORT

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — FLW Outdoors announced its 2009 Wal-Mart FLW Tour schedule today from the FLW Tour event presented by BP in Knoxville, Tenn., and indicated that a major announcement on the 2009 Forrest Wood Cup presented by BP and Castrol would be made soon. The regular-season schedule includes some of the nation's top fisheries at peak times of the year for limits of big bass.

The FLW Tour will kick off the season with a \$1 million tournament on Lake Guntersville in Huntsville, Ala., Feb. 12-15 followed by another \$1 million tournament on Table Rock Lake in

Branson, Mo., March 12-15. Branson will also play host to the TBF National Championship presented by the National Guard March 12-14. TBF anglers will fish Bull Shoals Lake and share the same weigh-in stage as their FLW Tour counterparts. Lake Norman in Charlotte, N.C., will host the \$1.5 million National Guard Open April 23-26 followed by the \$1.5 million Wal-Mart Open on Beaver Lake May 14-17. Murray, will host the fifth tournament of the season, a \$1 million event on Kentucky Lake, June 11-14, and Lake Champlain in Plattsburgh, N.Y., will host the season's sixth and final qualifier, the \$1.5 million Chevy Open, July 9-12.

"We will be visiting some tremendous fisheries and some terrific fishing communities in 2009," said FLW Outdoors President and CEO Charlie Evans. "We will be visiting a number of lakes during a time of the year when we could see records fall, and we are thrilled to be visiting communities that

have demonstrated outstanding fan support."

Additional details on each FLW Tour stop and the TBF National Championship will be announced soon. A major announcement from the site of the 2009 Forrest Wood Cup is also being planned.

FLW Outdoors, named after Forrest L. Wood, the legendary founder of Ranger Boats, is the largest fishing tournament organization in the world. In 2008 alone the organization is offering more than 90,000 anglers the chance to win over \$40 million through 230 tournaments in 10 circuits targeting bass, walleye, rodfish, kingfish and striped bass. FLW Outdoors is also taking fishing mainstream with the largest cash awards in the history of fantasy sports, \$7.3 million.

ONLINE:  
www.flwoutdoors.com

## Turner

Mullins will continue to build on the foundation of individual fundamentals and

teamwork while developing a successful girls' basketball program at Allen Central,"

ACHS Athletic Director Larry Maynard said in a press release.

# Tiger Woods gives and then he takes away

by TIM DAHLBERG  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

He gave us one of the most memorable golf tournaments you'll ever see, winning the U.S. Open on one leg.

Then he took the rest of the golf season away.

In just a few short days, golf went from prime time to who cares. There are two major championships and the Ryder Cup left, but without Tiger Woods around it won't be must-see TV anymore.

Think the PGA Tour had trouble selling the FedEx Cup last year? Try getting people to change channels from the NFL when the only player anyone really wants to see is sitting at home in Florida playing with his toddler daughter.

Put an asterisk next to the winner of the British Open and PGA Championship because those are both tournaments Woods likely would have won had he been healthy and able to play. Add another to the golfer who wins player of the year, because that was always going to be Woods, too.

As for the Ryder Cup? Well, it should be a friendly little competition down in Louisville in September. I don't know about you, but I can hardly wait to see Justin Leonard and Stewart Cink paired up against Lee Westwood and Robert Karlsson.

Golf once again has been rendered meaningless, leaving us nothing to look forward to the rest of the year other than watching some anonymous millionaires covered in logos win even more millions against other anonymous millionaires covered in logos.

Yes, Rocco Mediate was fun while he lasted, but he could just as easily miss the next five cuts as be in contention on a Sunday once again. And although Phil Mickelson can always be counted on to do something silly like play one of the most important tournaments of his career without a driver in the

bag, it doesn't take much to get our fill of Phil.

Commissioner Tim Finchem should be paying close attention, because this is a glimpse of the future for the PGA Tour. There will come a day in the not-too-distant future that Woods will quit playing competitive golf altogether, and that day will be a bleak one indeed.

Tour spokesman Ty Votaw admitted as much Wednesday when asked what losing Woods for the rest of the year means.

"We're not going to sugar coat the fact there will be fall-out in certain areas," Votaw said. "But it will probably be felt in the near term, and less over time as other storylines emerge and other players step into the spotlight."

The problem is, none of those players are Tiger Woods. That has to make some tournament sponsors and television networks more than a bit nervous about their investments.

If we didn't realize it before, we'll have plenty of time now to come to the sobering realization just how rare a gift to sports Woods has been. Only a few athletes (Muhammad Ali and Michael Jordan come to mind) have ever been so good and had such a flair for the dramatic that they transcended their sport and became a part of the national consciousness the way Woods has.

He took golf and made it an in thing that you weren't embarrassed to talk to other sports fans about. He brought minorities to the game who would never have dreamed of putting on plus fours before.

Along the way he made himself and his fellow players richer than they would have ever imagined. If he isn't already, Woods is on line to soon become the first athlete to earn \$1 billion, while the total money up for grabs on the PGA Tour has gone from \$70 million when Woods burst on the scene in 1996 to \$280 million today.

For all but the most loyal

fans of the sport, he is golf.

People who wouldn't know Vijay Singh from Jim Furyk or Davis Love III from Mike Weir not only know who Woods is but care about what he does. The same people who wouldn't take a second glance at a television in a bar when golf is on can't keep their eyes off it when Woods is playing.

He hasn't yet laid claim to the mantle of greatest player ever, because Jack Nicklaus is still four majors and a lot of second-place finishes ahead. But he will someday, and we'll all be the better for having seen him in his prime.

His parting gift for this year was a performance far guttier than anyone ever suspected. Indeed, there was some talk in the press tent, and surely some in the locker room, that Woods was being a bit of a drama queen at Torrey Pines and was milking his recent knee surgery for all it was worth.

Who knew he went against his doctor's advice and not only played the Open but told the doctor he was going to win it? Who knew he could play 91 holes of brutally tough U.S. Open golf with a torn ACL and two stress fractures of his left tibia and do just that?

Now he's gone, at least through the rest of the year, and possibly longer. Torn ACL's can be dicey. And it wouldn't be surprising if Woods, who has always geared his schedule around the majors, doesn't come back until sometime just before next year's Masters.

When he does, make sure there's a new green jacket ready to drape over his shoulders.

Because he is, after all, Tiger Woods.

*Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlberg@ap.org*











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