

# The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

Regional  
volleyball

page B1

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### In brief

## Coal miners passing on black lung tests

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — Coal miners are skipping free chest X-rays aimed at detecting black lung disease.

Health officials said Friday that more than 80 percent of Kentucky coal miners aren't taking part in the Coal Workers X-ray-Surveillance Program.

The program provides free X-ray scans aimed at detecting the respiratory disease caused from prolonged breathing of coal dust.

State and federal officials have commissioned a study to determine why Kentucky coal miners aren't taking part in the screening program. The retail giant Wal-Mart has gotten involved by offering \$20 gift cards to coal miners who participate in the study.

# 7 companies now vying for WW coal

SHELDON COMPTON  
STAFF WRITER

WHEELWRIGHT — What was two companies interested in bringing coal mining back to Wheelwright has now become seven.

Mayor Marlee Sammons said Thursday that seven companies have now said they will prepare proposals to remove two "gob piles" of coal along the city's ridge line.

The coal, which exists in two piles along two separate tracts of land, are

left over from mining operations that date back to the 1930s, when the city was a model coal camp for the nation.

The city owns one of the two tracts, a section of about 20 acres, while a family has since moved out of the second tract, a section of approximately 50 acres.

At that time, operators had no way to separate the coal and so left it.

"They just left it laying there," Sammons said Thursday. "So now where it was only two companies interested, we've got seven we'll be looking

at."

And that task will begin soon.

Sammons said the companies have been given until mid-November to provide city officials with proposals. After that, the commission will consider them and make a choice during the next meeting.

In addition to TECO and Trexis Energy, the two companies that first expressed interest in the operation, Sammons said they have heard from Beaver Elkhorn and Montana Mining, among others.

"We'll decide at the next meeting who we're going to give it to," continued Sammons. "It's been a long time since any coal was mined here, and this would bring revenue into the city and could create a few more jobs."

Sammons said some early estimates for the piles of coal have shown that they could be approximately 4 million to 5 million tons each, adding that after washing and processing companies are expecting about 38 percent of that to be

(See COAL, page three)

## CLEARING THE WAY



photo by Jarrid Deaton

Demolition is underway at the old office building in Prestonsburg that formerly housed the family practice clinic of Dr. Roger Jurich. A new facility is planned for construction that will link the building with the Archer Clinic, which was purchased by Highlands Regional Medical Center in February.

## Businesses take advantage of P'burg loans

by JARRID DEATON  
FEATURES WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The news headlines may be dominated by worries of a global recession, but one local official says the economy is doing just fine closer to home.

Business in Prestonsburg is booming, according to Economic Development Director Brent Graden, and he hopes that a special city loan program will benefit current

businesses and bring new ones to the city.

"We have \$25,000 we can give out to businesses through the course of the year," Graden said. "Businesses can borrow up to \$10,000 at a lowered interest rate of 3 percent."

One current business, The Glass Slipper, located on Court Street, took advantage of a smaller loan in order to remodel the store.

(See BUSINESS, page three)

### 3 DAY FORECAST

#### Today



High: 67 • Low: 35

#### Tomorrow



High: 48 • Low: 29

#### Tuesday



High: 47 • Low: 27

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### inside

- Regional Obituaries.....A2
- Opinion.....A4
- Lifestyles.....A5
- Sports.....B1
- Classifieds.....B4



## Feds indict woman for aiding escape

SHELDON COMPTON  
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — A woman federal officials say helped an inmate escape from Martin County's Big Sandy Detention Center has been indicted on that charge in U.S. District Court in Pikeville.

Susan A. Witherspoon was indicted Wednesday, Oct. 22, on one count of assisting escape and one count of possession of marijuana.

Federal agents arrested

Witherspoon on Oct. 7 following an investigation leading them to believe she had helped inmate Desmond Aaron Greene escape two days earlier on Oct. 5.

The original complaint that led to the indictment was accompanied by a signed affidavit from Special Agent Randolph Copley.

In that sworn statement, Copley said Witherspoon had checked into the Haven of Rest, a nearby faith-based motel for prisoner families, on Oct. 4.

In the early morning hours of Oct. 5, a midnight headcount showed Greene present, Randolph said. Just over an hour later, correctional officers reported hearing someone banging on an exterior door to the camp's housing unit. Witherspoon was found crying and screaming for help when the officers opened up, Copley said.

Greene was found in Witherspoon's car in the

(See INDICTED, page three)

## IRS owes 96 in Floyd, surrounding counties

by RALPH B. DAVIS  
MANAGING EDITOR

While the federal government bails out Wall Street and Congress debates another round of stimulus payments, a handful of people in Floyd and surrounding counties already have money waiting for them, if only they claim it.

The Internal Revenue Service released information this week showing that 96 people in the Big Sandy region are owed money from the federal government, either in the form of tax refunds or economic stimulus payments that were returned by the post office.

Across Kentucky, 3,613 people are due such payments. The amounts average \$554 for stimulus payments and \$898 for tax

refunds.

"People across the country are missing tax refunds and stimulus checks," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "We want to get this money into the hands of taxpayers, where it belongs."

"We are committed to making the process as easy as possible for taxpayers to update their addresses with the IRS and get their checks. All a taxpayer has to do is update his or her address once. The IRS will then send out all checks due."

To claim an undelivered stimulus check, taxpayers can either visit www.irs.gov on the internet and click on "Where's My Stimulus Payment?" to check on the status

(See CHECKS, page three)

### FYI

To see if you are owed money, check our list on page A3



The IRS released figures last week showing that 96 people across Floyd, Pike, Johnson, Martin, Magoffin and Knott counties are owed tax refunds or stimulus payments that were returned by the post office.

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# Regional Obituaries

## FLOYD COUNTY

■ Gloria Faye Clark, age 67, of Honaker, died Sunday, October 19, in Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, October 22, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Letha Mae Burchett Goble, 64, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, October 17, in Louisa. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, October 21, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Liddie Hall, 84, of Harold, died Wednesday, Oct. 22, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Saturday, Oct. 25, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

■ Aaron Levi "Fat Baby-Bud" Ousley, 20, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, October 17, at his residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 21, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

## PIKE COUNTY

■ Sara Elizabeth Bell, 32, of Cookeville, Tenn., died Monday, October 20. She is survived by her husband, Chad Bell. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 25, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

■ Joe E. Childers, 87, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, Oct. 22, at Pikeville Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Aileen Sloan Childers. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 25, under the direction of Lucas & Son Funeral Home.

■ Ruby June Chaney Darnell, 57, of Steele, died Saturday, October 18, at Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Clyde Cecil Darnell. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 21, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Carolyn S. Diles, 64, of Phelps, died Wednesday, October 15, at Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, W.Va. Funeral services were conducted Monday, October 20, under the direction of the R.S. Jones and Son Funeral Home.

■ Lilly Muriel Jude, 79, of Lovely, died Sunday, October 19, at the Martin County Health Care Facility, Inez. She is survived by her husband, Ralph Jude Sr. Funeral services were held Thursday, October 23, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Tonya Marie Harrison Looney, 32, of Rogersville, Tennessee, a Pikeville native, died Wednesday, October 15, at the Wellmount Hawkins County Memorial Hospital in Rogersville. She is survived by her husband, Jeff Looney of Harman, Virginia. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 18, under the direction of Grundy Funeral Home, Grundy, Va.

■ Stephanie Ann Moore, 38, of Zebulon, died Monday, August 20, at Russell County Medical Center. Funeral services were held Friday, October 24, under the direction of Pikeville Funeral Home.

■ Frank R. O'Brien, 75, of Belfry, died Thursday, October 23, at St. Mary's Hospital, Huntington, W.Va. Funeral arrangements, under the direction of R.E. Rogers Funeral Home.

■ Ralph Ramey, 71, of Fort Wayne, Ind., formerly of Raccoon, a Floyd County native, died Saturday, October 18, at his home. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 21, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

■ Warren Leslie "W.L." Rowe, 87, of Elkhorn City, died Wednesday, October 22, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Effel Looney Rowe. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 25, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Theodore M. Rowe, 72, of Lookout, died Tuesday, October 14, at Mountain View Health Care Center, Elkhorn City. He is survived by his wife, Lucille Rowe. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 18, under the direc-

tion of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ John C. Stepp, 77, of Anchorage, Alaska, a Inez native, and formerly of Pikeville, died Monday, October 6, in Rancho Mirage, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Lou Stepp. His remains will be cremated, and no services will be conducted.

■ A memorial service for Doug Swiney, 70, of Willoughby Hills, Ohio, an Elkhorn City native, was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 25, at the Elkhorn City Church of Christ. Obituary information courtesy of Bailey Funeral Home.

■ Billy E. Taylor, 75, of Feds Creek, died Saturday, October 18, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Wednesday, October 22, under the direction of Pikeville Funeral Home.

■ Elray J. Thacker, 75, of South Shore, a native of Pike County, died Saturday, October 18, in Community Hospice Care Center in Ashland. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 21, under the direction of Thacker Funeral Home.

■ Charles Edsel Thacker, 76, of Haysi, Va., a Pike County native, died Monday, Oct. 20, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Donna Thacker. Funeral services were held Thursday, October 23, in the Little David Old Regular Baptist Church. Burial was in the James Owens Cemetery, Haysi. Information, courtesy of Community Funeral Home.

## KNOTT COUNTY

■ Leo D. Cornett Cline, 91, of Burgcys Creek at Litter, died Wednesday, October 8, at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 11, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Vertie C. Conley, 100, of Logan, Ohio, formerly of Knott County, died Thursday, October 9, at her home. Funeral services were held Sunday, October 12, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Austin Jay Hall, 75, of Hollybush, died Sunday, October 12, at the Knott County Nursing Home. Funeral services were held Thursday, October 16, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Bruce Hall, 78, of Vest, died Tuesday, October 7, at the Knott County Nursing Home. He is survived by his wife, Vonda Lee Smith Hall. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 11, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Services.

■ Delia Ann Hall Casebolt Rasnick, 91, of Mousie, died Sunday, October 19, at the Knott County Nursing Home, Hindman. Funeral services were held Wednesday, October 22, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Hindman.

■ Rev. Bill Sawyer, 73, of LaGrange, Indiana, a native of Knott County, died Monday, September 29, at Miller's Merry Manor, in LaGrange. He is survived by his wife, Jean Sawyer. Funeral services were held Friday, October 3, at Independent Baptist Church.

■ Artis Slone, 85, of Leburn, died Thursday, October 9, at home. Graveside

services were held Saturday, October 11, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

■ Forrest Randall "Buddy" Sturgill, 63, of Kite, died October 8, at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 11, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Hindman.

■ Jimmy Wooton, 62, of Pinetop, died Sunday, October 12, at the Hazard ARH. Funeral services were held Wednesday, October 15, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Hindman.

## LAWRENCE COUNTY

■ Flora Wondolowski Burchett, 69, of Louisa, died Thursday, October 16, in King's Daughters Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Odis Burchett. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 18, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

■ Lois Jean Moore, 71, of Louisa, died Wednesday, October 22, in Community Hospice Care Center, in Ashland. A graveside service was held Friday, October 24, at the family cemetery in Louisa, under the direction of Young Funeral Home.

## JOHNSON COUNTY

■ Charles Ray Arms, 65, of Paintsville, died Tuesday, October 21, in St. Joseph East, in Lexington. Funeral services were held Friday, October 24, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

■ Arnold Blanton, 83, of Hager Hill, died Wednesday, October 22, in Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 25, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Langley Brown, 83, of Wittenerville, died Tuesday, October 21, in Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Erie Preston Brown. Funeral services were held Thursday, October 23, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

■ Lettrice Joy Conley, 82, of Paintsville, died Friday, October 17, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Frank Conley. Funeral services were held Monday, October 20, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

■ Maxine Williams-Daniel, 88, of Sarasota, Fla., formerly of Paintsville, died Monday, October 13, in Heartland Health Care & Rehabilitation Center in Sarasota. Funeral services were held Sunday, October 19, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Mary L. Davis, 71, of Wittenerville, died Thursday, October 16. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 18, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Lorena Gay Mullins, 47, of Meally, died Wednesday, October 15, at her residence. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 18, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

■ Carl D. Perkins, 63, of Sitka, died Friday, October 17, at his residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 21, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral

Home.

■ Merle O'Dell Pyles, 78, of Oil Springs died Saturday, October 18 at Highland Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Ina Blaine Salyer Pyles. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 21, at Oil Springs United Methodist Church. Burial was in Highland Memorial Park in Staffordsville.

## MAGOFFIN COUNTY

■ Vivian Irene Howes Elam, 77, of Salyersville, died Saturday, October 18, 2008. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 21, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

■ Oscar Green, 86, of Salyersville, died Wednesday, October 15. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 18, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

## MARTIN COUNTY

■ Rayburn Paul Fitch, 70, of Williamson, W.Va., formerly of Inez, died Friday, October 10, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were held Monday, October 13, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Frank Fletcher, 96, of Pilgrim, died Monday, October 20, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Olga Maynard Fletcher. Funeral services were held Thursday, October 23, under the direction of Phelps and Sons Funeral Home.

■ Raymond Maynard, 72, of Inez, died Thursday, October 9. Funeral services were held Sunday, October 12, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ James Sidney Maynard, 45, of Inez, died Saturday, October 18, while hunting in the woods. He is survived by his wife, Freda Marcum Maynard. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 21, under the direction of

Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Sada Spence Maynard, 89, of Inez, died Tuesday, October 14, at Three Rivers Medical Center, in Louisa. Funeral services were held Friday, October 17, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Connie Oaks Meek, 55, of Tomahawk, died Tuesday, October 14. She is survived by her husband, Charles Meek. Funeral services were held Friday, October 17, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Fitzhugh Potter, 82, of Inez, died Friday, October 10, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Bertha Muncy Potter. Funeral services were held Sunday, October 12, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ Edgar (Ed) Preece, 67, of Pilgrim, died Monday, October 13, at Three Rivers

Medical Center, in Louisa. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Moore Preece. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, October 16, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

■ James Edward (Jimbo) Preece, 45, of Kermit, died Wednesday, October 15, at St. Mary's Medical Center, in Huntington, W.Va. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 18, at Kermit United Baptist Church. Burial was in the family cemetery on Collins Creek, Warfield, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

■ Vivian Ward Slonaker, 56, of Columbus, Ohio, a native of Inez, died Friday, October 10. She is survived by her husband, Roger G. Slonaker Sr. Funeral services were held Tuesday, October 14, under the direction of Kauber-Sammons Funeral Home.

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## FCT ONLINE POLL

RESULTS FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 26, 2008

**Now that the debates have started, have you made up your mind about the presidential election?**

- Yes, I'm voting for Obama - Biden  (345 Votes, 57%)
- Yes, I'm voting for McCain - Palin  (205 Votes, 34%)
- No, I still need to see more  (14 Votes, 2%)
- I've decided not to vote for either  (39 Votes, 6%)

**Go online today and answer this week's question!**

**What is your favorite Halloween activity?**

- Trick or treat
- Hayrides
- Visiting haunted houses
- Telling ghost stories
- Watching scary movies
- I don't like Halloween

## FCT ONLINE POLL

Please Come and Join Us for a **Revival** at the **Community United Methodist Church**  
147 Burke Avenue, Prestonsburg, Kentucky

7:00 p.m. Nightly

**GUEST MINISTERS:**  
Rev. Mark Waltz—Sun. and Mon. (Oct. 26th and 27th)  
Rev. Ray Snider—Tues. and Wed. (Oct. 28th and 29th)  
Bishop Robert Randolph—Thurs. and Fri. (Oct. 30th and 31st)

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# List of Big Sandy area taxpayers owed money by the IRS

Below is a list of taxpayers in the Big Sandy region who are due tax refunds or economic stimulus payments that have been returned to the IRS as undeliverable.

To claim an undelivered check, taxpayers can visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), or call (866) 234-2942 for an undelivered stimulus check or (800) 829-1954 for an undelivered tax refund.

There is a Nov. 28 deadline to claim an undelivered stimulus payment. Those seeking to claim an undelivered tax refund will be required to provide their Social Security numbers, filing status and refund amounts.

**FLOYD COUNTY**  
 Ida Akers, Harold  
 Mohamad & Aiyche  
 Alnahhas, Prestonsburg  
 Carrie Conley, Garrett  
 Randall C. Crider,  
 Prestonsburg  
 Alice George, Bevinsville

Mark Green II, Teaberry  
 Marila Hall, Harold  
 Douglas R. Harden,  
 Prestonsburg  
 Jerry Hill, Beaver  
 Charles Hoover, Hucysville  
 Alex E. Hughes,  
 Prestonsburg  
 Aaron Jackson,  
 Prestonsburg  
 Robert & Angela Keathley,  
 Harold  
 Darrin & Tracy Newsome  
 Jesse & Melinda Osborne  
 John S. & Chasity Coleman  
 Ratliff, Harold  
 Crystal D. Tackett, Dana  
 Shirley L. Thompson,  
 Prestonsburg  
 Steve Vanhoose,  
 Prestonsburg  
 Steve & Kim Vanhoose,  
 Prestonsburg  
 Amber N. Wilson, Ivel

**PIKE COUNTY**  
 Derrick S. Akers,  
 McAndrews  
 Delana Albright, Pikeville  
 Michael R. Andersen,

Belfry  
 Juanita Bostic Atkins,  
 Pinson Fork  
 Mitchell D. Blackburn,  
 Pikeville  
 Tammy M. Blackburn,  
 Shelbiana  
 Chester Blair, Pikeville  
 William T. & Tara R.  
 Chaney, Shelbiana  
 Floyd Church, Pikeville  
 Anthony Collins, Canada  
 Savannah M. Compton,  
 Pikeville  
 Martha Fife, Pikeville  
 Dana R. Haring, Belfry  
 Joshua A. Johnson,  
 Pikeville  
 James A. Justice, Kimper  
 Kenneth Kendrick,  
 Pikeville  
 Jon D. Lewis, Stone  
 James Martin, Pikeville  
 Chadwick Matney,  
 Pikeville  
 Ricki Maynard, Raccoon  
 Amanda McCreary,  
 Pikeville  
 Bradley Mullins, Pikeville  
 David K. Daks Jr., Virgie

Adrienne Patrick, Belcher  
 Lacy Pauley Jr., Pikeville  
 Jacob T. Pinson, Pikeville  
 Keitha Pinson, Pikeville  
 Shonaya L. Ray, Pikeville  
 Johnny M. Robinson,  
 Pikeville  
 James E. SESCO, Pikeville  
 Richard D. Smith, Majestic  
 Angela B. Stiltner, Pikeville  
 Bobby R. Thacker, Kimper  
 Elliot A. Todd, Canada  
 Gary D. Walker, Pikeville  
 Cynthia M. York, Belfry

**JOHNSON COUNTY**  
 Jada S. Adkins, Paintsville  
 Marcus Castle, Hager Hill  
 Matthew Z. Clay, East Point  
 Ronald Cunagin, Paintsville  
 Nathan T. Frazier, Flat Gap  
 Jeriah Gray, Hager Hill  
 Shawn A. Hill, Paintsville  
 Eric D. Thornsby,  
 Paintsville  
 Bryan J. & Stacy Crigger  
 Wells, East Point  
 Denise K. & Thomas F.  
 Wells, East Point  
 James E. Williams II,

Paintsville  
 John E. Yarno, Paintsville  
**MARTIN COUNTY**  
 Keith Hendrickson, Lovely  
 Virginia Loving, Lovely  
 Steven L. Maynard,  
 Tomahawk  
 Justin M. Mollette,  
 Tomahawk  
 Donald J. Wiley, Warfield  
 Christopher S. Yaunk, Inez

**MAGOFFIN COUNTY**  
 Heather E. Bailly,  
 Salyersville  
 Marigrace B. Cole,  
 Salyersville  
 Mike Fletcher, Salyersville  
 Roger Lykins, Salyersville  
 Janice Spindler,  
 Salyersville

**KNOTT COUNTY**  
 Earl David Conley, Kite  
 Michelle Hall, Leburn  
 Laura Faith Hunsberger,  
 Leburn  
 Marha Logan, Hindman  
 Paul D. Slone, Hindman

Jamie Staley, Leburn  
 Michael Thomas, Leburn

## Checks

Continued from p1

of their checks and receive instructions on how to update their addresses. Those without internet access can call (866) 234-2942.

There is a deadline, however. Taxpayers must claim their undelivered stimulus checks by Nov. 28.

For undelivered tax refunds, taxpayers can visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click on the "Where's My Refund?" link. Once there, they can update their addresses with the IRS and checks will be mailed immediately. Those without internet access can call (800) 829-1954.

To claim an undelivered refund, taxpayers will need to provide their Social Security numbers, filing status and refund amounts.

## Scam

BBB computer systems or networks, nor has any data been comprised."

Reports began filtering into the bureau on Thursday, Oct. 23, that these messages and blogs were asking victims to "register new software and

update contact information," and provided links to use for that process.

In investigating the circumstances, BBB officials say they also discovered phony "notices" and postings on various blogs used as an added

tactic to reach victims.

There have been several reports in the central Kentucky area, particularly, but also in Eastern Kentucky, Clay said, adding the best approach was to remain alert for suspicious online requests.

Continued from p1

"Like such phishing scams in the past, the messages and posts are leveraging the trusted name of the BBB to entice recipients and bloggers," Clay said. "Anyone receiving an email or viewing a blog requiring registration of software should not click on any link or in anyway respond to the message."

Clays adds that falling prey to this scam could allow harmful viruses or spyware to enter the user's computer or network.

The phony email is signed off by "Sherry Hopper" claiming to be with the "2008 Council of Better Business Bureaus."

There are a number of subject lines being used in the scheme, says Clay. Some of those subject lines include such phrases as "Better Business Bureaus, Attention: Protecting your personal infor-

mation," and "Council of Better Business Bureaus — We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you."

Officials with the BBB are advising consumers and businesses to take a number of precautions to steer clear of what they are calling "phishing attacks" by not responding to the messages or exploring any of the included links, as well as encouraging people to report any received messages or blogs they might find. An email account — [phishing@council.bbb.org](mailto:phishing@council.bbb.org) — has been established and the BBB has asked that anyone who receives these to forward them to this address.

The public can view updates and the latest information on the phishing attack on the BBB website at the Security and Alerts page at [www.bbb.org/securityalerts](http://www.bbb.org/securityalerts).

## Business

"I think it's great," said Helen Wells, owner. "We've been here for seven years, and the loan gave us a dressing room and more space," and I think it also brightened up the general atmosphere. Also, we were able to put down a new wood floor. It just feels more comfortable in here now. We've had a lot of customers compliment us on our new look."

According to Graden, new businesses are coming in at StoneCrest, a new two-story

pharmacy is locating in town, and some national retailers are looking at the downtown area. Other businesses have been remodeled and renovated, including Especially for You and Down to Earth. Also, a new bar and restaurant called Malibu plans to open downtown.

With a variety of new businesses opening, and old establishments remodeling and renovating, Graden believes that people will start coming to the city to take advantage of what

the businesses have to offer.

"The loan is a great incubator for starting a business," Graden said. "We hope to have 100 percent occupancy in downtown. That's the goal. We want to get more encounters in downtown because that means more business. The more people we can get to come to Prestonsburg, the more the businesses will thrive. If you have a solid plan with a solid person behind it, we're going to support you."

Continued from p1

## Indicted

camp's parking lot and was unresponsive, according to Copley, and later taken to Highlands Regional Medical Center where he later died.

Federal officials said Witherspoon followed the transport to the hospital and later made "unsolicited" statements while there.

According to Copley one of

those statements was that she "just wanted to hold her husband in an unrestricted way without supervision," and that she and Greene were "just trying to work things out."

Futher investigation revealed that Witherspoon had allegedly rented a room at the nearby Haven of Rest, the night before Greene's death,

leading officials to perform a blanket search of the unit.

Kentucky State Police officers found female personal items and clothing, along with a cellular telephone charger, health supplements, a six-pack of beer, a user quantity of marijuana, rolling papers and various candy and food items after the search.

"I know from my training and experience, and from speaking with numerous Federal Bureau of Prisons employees that inmates routinely attempt to obtain contraband items such as drugs, alcohol, cellular telephone equipment and health supplements from their visitors," Randolph said of the evidence found at the rented room.

Other interviews conducted following the incident revealed that Witherspoon had placed two 911 calls at times prior to the time when she came distraught to prison officials.

Now Witherspoon could face time of her own in federal prison following Wednesday's indictment. If convicted, she could spend up to six years in prison and be fined upwards of \$250,000.

Continued from p1

## Coal

recoverable coal.

The process for the actual removal of the coal by truck has raised some concerns among residents and officials for the damages it might cause to the city's roads, especially one narrow stretch near city hall.

This stretch, which runs a distance of about 800 feet, might force whatever company to get approval to get creative in finding a safe way to bring the coal out to be washed.

"They might get into it and need to put up a red light or anything," said Sammons, "but

we'll get to that in the next stages."

Once the coal has been removed, another bonus will be a leveled flat of land spanning 70 or 80 acres, some of which, if not all, could then be used for further development, said Sammons.

"We can't say if we'll have the whole area until we know which company is going to be working and whether or not that will be on the table," he said. "But we're going to at least have some land that can be developed or used in whatever way can help the city."

Continued from p1

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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

## 'The big lie'

There's a feeling among her vocal supporters that a huge disconnect exists between Sarah Palin and the Lower 48, especially the news media down here.

So, far be it from us to excite their passions with what they would consider an illegitimate attack on the Alaska governor's abuse of power and violation of government ethics rules in her administration's tireless efforts to sack her former brother-in-law from his state job.

It's a complicated and unseemly stew of family and state politics known as Troopergate.

Last week, the bipartisan Alaska Legislative Council released a voluminous report whose bottom line was this: She abused her power and she violated the state's ethics law.

Naturally, none of this put a break in the Republican vice presidential nominee's jaunty stride. Nor did it change her insistence that she's an ethical reformer.

Indeed, Palin confidently declared herself vindicated — no abuse of power, she said; no unlawful actions on her part, she asserted.

We won't bother with Lower 48 media responses to this startling reaction.

What we will share is comment from the editorial page of the Anchorage Daily News, which knows Gov. Palin better than most. It affirmed she was within her right to fire her public safety commissioner, but the violation came in the vendetta against her brother-in-law. The newspaper wrote:

"Her response is either astoundingly ignorant or downright Orwellian.

"Page 8, Finding Number One of the report says: 'I find that Governor Sarah Palin abused her power by violating Alaska Statute 39.52.110(a) of the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act.'

"In plain English, she did something 'unlawful.' She broke the state ethics law.

"Palin's response is the kind of political 'big lie' that George Orwell warned against. War is peace. Black is white. Up is down."

More investigation under way.  
Stay tuned.

— The Courier-Journal, Louisville



## Chuck Norris

### A personality profile of Barack Obama's leadership

Obama will not lose his bid for the presidency because of his connections to Ayers, ACORN or socialist politics. In fact, he won't lose it because of his stand on any issue. The coup de grace for Obama's presidential election downfall will come only through convincing the American public of his lack of decisive leadership under pressure. I'm not just talking about facing rogue nations or terrorist thugs. I'm referring to making major choices in conflict. Indecisiveness is his greatest weakness, and it's one this country cannot afford at this time in its history.

Interestingly, a while back, the Unit for the Study of Personality in Politics, at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict, did a professional personality profile "for anticipating Obama's likely leadership style as chief executive, thereby providing a basis for inferring the character and tenor of a prospective Obama presidency." The study concluded:

"The combination of Ambitious, Accommodating, and Outgoing patterns in Obama's profile suggests a (SET ITAL) confident conciliator (END ITAL) personality composite. Leaders with this personality proto-

type, though self-assured and ambitious, are characteristically gracious, considerate, and benevolent. They are energetic, charming, and agreeable, with a special knack for settling differences, favoring mediation and compromise over force or coercion as a strategy for resolving conflict. They are driven primarily by a need for achievement and also have strong affiliation needs, but a low need for power."

While most might laud Obama's personality as a needed polar opposite to George W. Bush's, I pose to you that Obama's "accommodating-conciliator-favoring-compromise" personality pendulum swing is way too far to the other side. Even Obama's voting record proves that. His own Democratic colleagues have a difficult time understanding why, when he was an Illinois state senator, he voted "present" (instead of "yes" or "no") 129 times, including a number of noncommittal tallies on issues such as gun rights and abortion.

You also have heard that Obama doesn't have any executive experience, whether it be running a government or a business. I would pose to you the reason is simply that he's not comfortable making executive decisions. An "executive conciliator" overly depends upon others, at times compromising judgment and needed action in order to appease the masses.

Proof of that was seen in how Obama handled his and our "emergency" economic decisions.

A few months ago, Obama did not turn to Warren Buffett for counsel on the housing crisis. As The Washington Post reported July 16, he turned to Franklin Raines, the former Fannie Mae chief executive officer and six-year money manipulator. The Post said Raines took "calls from Barack Obama's presidential campaign seeking his advice on mortgage and housing policy matters."

And consider Obama's handling of the "emergency" bailout crisis. During the first go-round of the bailout, while McCain was certain of his stand, Obama wouldn't say where he stood because he was afraid it would be a wrong or unpopular stand. Only after most of his political cronies were bribed in favor of the bailout did Obama give it his stamp of approval. If he cannot take decisive action as a senator in the greatest nation on earth, how in the world is he going to make critical and emergency decisions as the president?

Obama's inability to draw and hold hard lines is the primary reason he repeatedly struggles with — and caves and morphs into — the polls or people in front of him. More than any

(See NORRIS, page six)



Chuck Norris

## Letter Guidelines

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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

### Obama might be steadier at the helm than McCain

by DONALD KAUL  
MINUTEMAN MEDIA

I remember listening to a prizefight on the radio when I was a youngster, a classic match between a puncher and a boxer.

The slugger threw punch after punch but never landed a solid blow; the boxer confounded him by bobbing and weaving, slipping and sliding, hardly bothering to throw a punch in return.

The judges gazed the decision to the boxer, which outraged many who thought the slugger ought to have been rewarded for carrying the fight to his opponent. But one sportswriter — it may have been Red Smith — recalled some wisdom he'd received from an old corner-man:

"If you throw a rock at a boid and you miss, that's one for the boid."

Which was pretty much the story of the final tilt between John (The Rock) McCain and Barack (The Zephyr) Obama. McCain, needing a knockdown to get back into the fight, came out swinging. He blamed his opponent for everything short of kidnapping the Lindbergh baby. He even likened Obama's economic policies to those of Herbert Hoover (marking the first time Hoover's name has been mentioned in a presidential debate by a Republican. Ever).

Obama, on the other hand, went in way ahead on points (in the polls); all

he had to do was stay on his feet.

Graceful as Fred Astaire, he moved easily about the ring, slipping an accusation here, blocking a charge there, landing an occasional jab of his own. He exited the battle unmarked.

In other words, the boid won.

That's my opinion, in any case. You're welcome to your own. Thank goodness it will all be over soon. It's been an exciting and interesting campaign but at this point, it feels as though it's been going on longer than the Iraq war. (It hasn't, of course; nothing has.)

Perhaps it's time for a summing up:

McCain is a study in contradiction. He calls himself a maverick and he's been that, but he's also been a go-along conservative. He denounced the leaders of the Religious Right as agents of hate, then embraced them as allies. He was against President George W. Bush's tax cuts for the rich before he was for them. He can be a generous, compassionate man as well as a mean bully, capable of telling a hurtful, sexist joke aimed at an adolescent Chelsea Clinton. His sense of humor is, as a matter of fact, bizarre. ("Bomb, bomb, bomb Iran." That's a joke?)

He is a Republican running against the record of a Republican president as well as that of a largely Republican Congress of which he's been a member — and he's doing it using their policies.

His campaign has been quixotic (witness his selection of a running mate) and mercurial, bouncing from

issue to issue, position to position. The only constant has been his anger, which is palpable.

Obama's campaign, on the other hand, has been as smooth as a Swiss watch and, like one, expensive. He turned his back on federal funding (after half-promising that he wouldn't) and instead raised vast sums of money to present himself to a skeptical public.

What did we get for the money?

A cool candidate, certainly; one who exudes, in Mark Twain's words, "the calm confidence of a Christian with four aces." But more than that, a very smart one who gives promise of attacking the monumental problems we face with intelligence and energy. His resume is very thin. I wish he had more of a record. I particularly worry that if elected he will fall victim to a cynical Democratic Congress content to serve without governing. I hope not. This country deserves better. It needs a leader and a lucky one at that. So far, he's been lucky.

If I were hiring a football coach, I'd pick McCain.

But what's wanted is someone to guide us through a rocky stretch of the river, someone who will keep a steady hand and a cool head.

That's not McCain. It might be Obama. If we're lucky.

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).



Donald Kaul

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# Lifestyles



## INSIDESTUFF

- Sports.....page B1
- Classifieds.....page B4

## CAR TALK:

### Using car as movie theater shouldn't harm battery

see pg. B6

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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 reprinted due to request.*

If I listen to many more football games such as UK played last Saturday, think I may do as the late S.D. Osborne was reported as having done, years after listening to radio accounts of his favorite for President taking a shellacking. He went over to a neighbor's house, announcing he was looking for another radio; that the one he had got only bad news.

### SPARE THAT TREE

Am making a valiant effort not to grow lyrical about the beauties of these Autumn days and the gay colors worn by the trees. Will just cut it to read: Looking on these hillsides, I pity anybody who would without cause destroy a tree.

### HEARTENING THOUGHT

My dread of the time ahead when the trees will stand bare and the weather will be dreary is relieved by the certainty that these birds who have been thumbing their bills at me, while food was plentiful elsewhere, will soon be back, looking for a handout. At this stage of the game I would welcome even those pesky grosbeaks, with whom (or which) I handed uncomplimentary remarks last winter.

### GETTING OUT THE HEADLESS NAILS

An important piece of legislation enacted by the Congress recently which deserves more than passing notice is the bill changing Civil Service to the extent that the drones can be lopped from the federal payroll. Until this bill was passed, the fellow on the payroll and under the protective shelter of Civil Service was, as one put it, like a headless nail in a board—you can't pull it out. This legislation will not mean instant cure, but it's a step toward saving the taxpayers money they shell out.

### THE UNSUING

Obviously we can't name everybody who helped make Red, White and Blue Day, 1978 such a success. All who planned and worked deserve an accolade, but I doubt they worked for that (if they did, they aren't so-deserving). And while you're passing out the plaudits don't forget all those youngsters in the school bands who stood till some were ready to drop, waiting for the time when they could step into the line of march, then swing out with such verve that spectators such as I would never have thought that they, too, needed a rest.

□ □ □

Prominently displayed on Page 1 is a story recording an opinion about Dewey Lake which this

(See ALLEN, page six)



CeCe has been in declining health, but Mary Mosley, her owner, says she has been feeling much better recently. Mosley says CeCe is a wonderful companion, and suggests other elderly residents could benefit from pets.

# PERFECT COMPANY

## Terrier provides companionship, happiness to woman

by JARRID DEATON  
FEATURES WRITER

**WHEELWRIGHT** — With her beloved dog next to her in bed, Mary Mosley explained the important role that the animal plays in her life and how she suggests that every elderly person living alone should have a canine companion.

Mosley, 84, and CeCe, a 14-year-old yorkshire terrier, have shared a home together in Wheelwright for almost 10 years.

"She's a lot of company and I love her dearly," Mosley said. "She's laying beside me right now like a little baby."

While still very active, CeCe's health is declining due to failing kidneys and other medical problems associated with her age.

"The veterinarian told me that it's a miracle she is still here," Mosley said. "I give her IVs two and three times per week and medication when her pancreas gets inflamed. She's been doing really well as of late. My family helps out a lot. I couldn't take care of her without them."

Mosley's family also purchases an abundance of costumes for CeCe to wear, including a Hawaiian shirt and a devil suit for Halloween.

"She's is a hot little devil in her Halloween outfit," Mosley said. "The family buys her things like this all the time, and she really enjoys wearing them."

Despite CeCe's health issues, Mosley said the dog loves to go swimming in her small pool during the summer, and continues to bark at visitors and chase cats when the opportunity arises.



"She will chase a cat as long as it is running away," Mosley said. "If the cat turns around, she comes running back. She loves being out in the yard and barking at the people that go by. She just wants me and her at this house."

Because she lives alone, Mosley values the companionship provided by CeCe, the first small dog she has ever owned.

"My children had dogs, but they were always the outside kind," Mosley said. "My daughter had to talk me in to taking CeCe, and now I wouldn't give her up for anything. I think every old person should have a pet. CeCe makes me get up sometimes when I would just as soon stay in bed. We are just going to grow old together."

## MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

### 'Capricorn One'

by TOM DOTY  
TIMES COLUMNIST

The conspiracy thriller is blended with the action film formula in this taut effort from the talented Peter Hyams ("Outland," "Time Cop") who posits an interesting scenario in which a corrupt space program official opts to fake a landing on Mars rather than risk losing his funding by scrubbing the mission.

The film begins with the mission only 30 minutes from liftoff. Just as the astronauts are making their final checks, a supervisor shows up and hustles the confused men out of the rocket.

The space dudes are none too pleased when they are whisked to a desert location and reunited with their boss, Dr. Kelloway. The good doctor appeals to their shared history and remarks that all they have worked for will be taken away if they don't play ball. He earnestly states that the future of their program rests on the men's willingness to fake a Mars landing in a film studio, while the real rocket flies to the red planet and back on remote control.

The guys turn out to have some character and refuse to participate, which brings out another side of Kelloway. The doc points out that he has to answer to the "money people" (you know these guys as the same mischievous magical elves who get the blame whenever a senator loses it and begins trying to pick up strangers in airport bathrooms when they aren't chasing White House pages).

Turns out that these cash guys only play hardball and have rigged a bomb to explode on the plane carrying all of the astronaut's wives home from the launch site. If they agree to shoot a bogus landing, then the bomb will remain inert. The men have no choice now and readily agree to phone this one in.

The shooting goes well but the scheme hits a major snag when the rocket disintegrates while returning to earth. The astronauts realize that they must now die or the whole plan goes up in smoke. They quickly get the better of their guards and escape into the desert, but they have no idea where they are and must split up and hope for the best as each heads out into the sand with precious few supplies.

Meanwhile a reporter suspects that something is amiss and must deal with several obstacles along the way as he tries to determine what really happened. Said road bumps for this guy include a persnickety editor, sources who disappear and have their whole lives erased by powerful government agents, and crafty adversaries who know how to turn car brakes into turbo thrusters (which makes for a thrilling sequence wherein the reporter finds that he can only steer his vehicle as it rapidly picks up speed in the middle of a major city).

This is great stuff and it's well staged by Hyams, who also wrote the

(See LAGOON, page six)

## Market madness

by CAROLINE AKERVIK  
"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE MOTHER OF PRESCHOOLER'S SOUL"

For me, there is a 30-minute window of opportunity on any given day in which shopping can be accomplished in a relatively painless fashion. This golden time occurs when the children have eaten and exer-

cised, and the baby's diaper is clean. More often, I stagger down the aisles as I stuff cheese into the baby's mouth, chase my 3-year-old and drag my 5-year-old.

Among the many shopping excursions I've sought to forget, one reigns supreme. Shortly after the birth of our third child, I stopped at a local market for milk. This was, of course, the kiss of death, because once in that Bermuda Triangle of Pop Tarts, ice cream and potato chips, escaping unscathed is impossible.

Anton yanked suddenly on my arm, causing me to drop and break a jar of applesauce. Anne got some on her dress and immediately began to writhe and scream. Baby John echoed her crying, and I noticed that his dia-

per was suspiciously heavy. At this point, I observed that Anton had opened a box of cookies and was munching away.

As the volume of John's screaming grew exponentially, I knew he needed to be fed. Here, I sat right down and began to breastfeed — surrounded by splattered applesauce, a screaming toddler and a preschooler now eating the peanut butter with his fingers. My entourage clearly disturbed store attendants, who asked several times if I "needed any assistance."

"No," I assured with more than a little sarcasm, "I'm just fine." Somehow, we made it through the next 15 minutes. I managed to gather enough meal supplies for several

days and made it through checkout car window. exhausted but satisfied with my accomplishments.

"Drive up or push out?" the clerk asked.

"Drive up, please." I dragged my brood to the car, and struggled to change John's diaper in the car seat. Afterward, of course, he again wanted to nurse. Anne and Anton got into a fight. Finally, an exhaustive 10 minutes later, I pulled up, curbside, to collect my groceries.

"Number 12," I muttered out the

"Twelve," the teenager repeated. He wore a strange expression.

"Just a minute, please." He walked back into the store and returned with an apologetic store manager.

"I'm sorry," he flushed, "but there appears to have been some confusion. Your groceries were mistakenly given to someone else."

"You're kidding, right? You didn't

(See SOUP, page six)





# Everybody's Science: What's in your closets?

It's that time of year when I tackle the Great Closet Shift. That's when I go through my upstairs closets, pull out all the warm-weather clothes, fold them and haul them down two flights of stairs to my big storage closets in the basement...and get out all the cold-weather clothes from the basement closets, drag them up two flights of stairs to my upstairs closets and hang them up.

It probably won't surprise you to hear that this activity usually does not put me in the greatest of moods.

But a definite "plus" of this process is that I always come across a few articles of clothing that I didn't even remember I owned. And while maybe at the time I bought them, I didn't really have anything that would "go" with those slacks or that jacket, suddenly I realize that the scarf I picked up on impulse a month or so ago is going to turn that "forgotten treasure" into this year's favorite outfit.

The scientists of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) do much the same type of thing, only they're not looking at jackets or scarves or slacks.

They're searching through all the types of plants that they've gathered over the years from all over the world, and looking at whether those types have special traits that today's biotechnology has suddenly made accessible and very useful in coming up with new plant varieties that give us the greatest grape ever, or tolerate drought, or stand up to a devastating disease.

Take grapes, for example. At the ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Tree Fruit and Nut Crops and Grapes, located in Davis, Calif., an ARS scientist is taking the "genetic fingerprints" of all 2,800 of the wild, rare and domesticated grapes in the genebank. Some of the types in the genebank have been there for years, while others are relative newcomers.

Just like me with all my blouses and scarves, the scientists are now sorting through what they have and what might "go well" with something else. But while I'm matching my longtime favorite gold charmeuse blouse with a brand-new tiger-print scarf, the scientists are figuring out that a certain wild grape has a trait that

will add a special "zing" to a well-established consumer favorite.

Once the genetic fingerprints of the entire grape collection have been nailed down, grape breeders can pinpoint which plants have traits that will appeal to us consumers, or which plants can "loan" useful traits, such as a longer fruiting season.

Of course, grapes aren't the only crop the ARS scientists are tackling. At that same genebank, the scientists are also delving into the genetic secrets of walnuts. They want to develop what are called "genetic markers" that would help tree breeders more quickly identify the best-of-the-best among walnut trees.

This kind of genetic sleuthing isn't just a way to keep scientists busy all day; it's also a way to ensure that we all have food on our tables. Consider wheat, for example—the basis of an astonishing array of foods, from crackers to cakes to pizza.

Right now, wheat worldwide is facing one of the worst threats to come along in many years: a type of wheat stem rust called Ug99. We've fought strains of

stem rust in American wheat for decades, and ARS scientists have developed wheat varieties specifically equipped to fend off older versions of this fungal foe.

But the wheat rust strain that turned up first in Uganda in 1999—and has since spread to Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Sudan and Iran—has overcome most of

the stem rust resistance genes bred into wheat varieties in recent years.

Fortunately, the scientists at ARS have been able to "go through the closets" of various wheats' genetic makeup, and have sent more than 5,000 U.S. wheat lines to Africa for testing against this global threat. And

they've already announced the release of the first wheat lines that combine two or more genes for resistance to Ug99.

So even though Ug99 hasn't yet made it to our shores, we won't be sitting here helpless if and when it does arrive. Thank goodness ARS has such big closets!

Continued from p5

## Lagoon

script. He came up with the idea when he was a reporter covering the Vietnam War. Hyams has said that he actually met people on stories who claimed that the war was a hoax. He knew the truth from being there but the idea stayed with him and you get to benefit from it here.

This is the kind of material that "The X-Files" did very well and Hyams is up to the task. He wisely casts a who's-who of late 1970s talent. Elliot Gould is well suited for the handdog reporter role and he has a knack for playing guys

who are smarter than they let on.

James Brolin (hot off "The Car") is also good here as the lead astronaut, but the film belongs to the villain. Kelloway is a great bad guy and Hal Holbrook plays him with all of the smarmy charm of a politician who is ready to promise you anything for your vote.

His best moment comes after he gives pointers to a death squad that is hunting the astronauts. He follows up this brutal betrayal by dropping in on Brolin's wife and suggest-

ing that her presence at a memorial for the fallen heroes would look good to supporters of the space program.

All this and you get Telly Savalas (TV's "Kojak") as a foul-mouthed cropduster whose primitive biplane proves more than a match for state-of-the-art military choppers.

Best line: "You occupy your time with tips from people that never existed, driving your car into water and claiming it wasn't your fault, and getting shot at by unseen gunmen."

1978, rated PG.

## Allen

newspaper has been annoying official circles—and, maybe, some ordinary readers—with for upwards of 15 years now. The only gratifying thing about the statements made by

the Corps of Engineers, state departmental heads and others is, these comments show that at long last they've quit burrowing their heads in the sand. Maybe there never was any

hope for Dewey. Which confirms my argument—voiced rather late, I admit—that no reservoir such as Dewey should ever be located in a coal-producing basin.

Continued from p5

## Norris

other politician in history, he has flip-flopped on a host of critical issues: Iraq, Iran, gay rights, NAFTA, abortion, race, religion, gun control, etc. It's one thing to be political, but it's quite another to be a chronic people pleaser under pressure. Swaying based on political expediency is not a leadership quality we need in tough times. Sooner or later, that character flaw will bite Obama big-time — and us if we elect him president.

I'm not saying Obama has no continued future in politics. He just needs more experience in life to weed out those character deficiencies. That's why I'm asking Americans to look afresh at these questions: Is Obama crisis-leadership qualified? Will he truly be ready Jan. 20 to assume the helm of our country?

Actually, those leadership

questions have been answered already by three leading Democrats (before they could taste the perks from their alignment with the Democratic presidential nominee). Obama's own running mate, Sen. Joe Biden, replied only months ago about whether Obama is ready for the presidency: "Right now I don't believe he is. The presidency is not something that lends itself to on-the-job training." Then he later told George Stephanopoulos, "I stand by the statement." Biden was right.

Before Obama was her party's choice, Hillary Clinton repeatedly proved him to be an indecisive waffler who couldn't or wouldn't be pinned down on any issues. Hillary was right.

Even former President Bill Clinton dodged having to give

an affirmative answer to an ABC correspondent when asked whether Obama is ready to be president by saying, "You can argue that no one is ready to be president." Another smooth answer, Bill. The fact is he totally understands that Obama is not ready.

America is in one of its toughest hours — a market meltdown, the worst fiscal environment since the Great Depression — an economic 9/11, if you will. Do we really believe we can be delivered by an indecisive people pleaser as our country's CEO?

To find out more about Chuck Norris and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

Continued from p4

## Soup

really give away my groceries, did you?" I raised my own voice over the noise in the back seat. At any moment, a group of singing employees was going to rush out and give me a prize for being the fifty-thousandth shopper, or maybe someone was catching this scene for "Candid Camera."

"Uh, I'm afraid we did. You can take your receipt and go back in and select the same items again."

I swallowed hard. I looked over my shoulder at my clamoring kids.

I stared past the manager at the web of aisles waiting to snare me once more.

I couldn't do it again. The store manager had no idea what he was suggesting. It was too much to ask. I pulled a scrap of paper from my purse and scribbled hurriedly. "Here's my address. Please mail me a refund."

"Are you sure?" "Oh, yes," I nodded emphatically. "I'm sure."

Next time, I'd send my husband — who doesn't understand my terror. Of course, there are two fundamental differences between his trips to the store and my own. First of all, he is very organized and always enters the store with a list and a game plan.

Secondly, he shops alone.

Continued from p5



# Attention,

# FLOYD COUNTIANS:

It has been my great honor and privilege to serve you as an elected official for over 30 years.

On November 4th, I am asking you to come out and vote to re-elect me as your State Representative.

*"Leadership—The Choice is Clear"*

**Thank You!**

# GREG STUMBO

**DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE**



Pol. adv. pd. for by Mary K. Stumbo, Treasurer





# FLOYD COUNTY Sports

Inside

■ NFL • B2

## East Kentucky Miners release 2008-09 schedule

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — Professional basketball is back in Eastern Kentucky. The East Kentucky Miners will tip off their second season in December. East Kentucky will host 16 home games inside the East Kentucky Expo Center as part of the 2008-09 Continental Basketball Association (CBA) season. The oldest professional basketball league in the world will tip off its 63rd consecutive season on Friday, Dec. 12 when the CBA begins the 2008-09 campaign. The five-team league will consist

of one conference made up of the following teams: East Kentucky Miners, Albany Patroons, Lawton-Fort Sill Cavalry, Minot Skyrockets and Pittsburgh Xplosion. The teams will play a total of 80 regular-season games. The 14-week season is slated to conclude on Sunday, March 15. The CBA Playoffs are scheduled to start Wednesday, March 18.

East Kentucky, which reached the 2008 CBA Playoffs following a 26-22 regular-season effort, continues to prepare for the upcoming season. It's been a busy

offseason for the East Kentucky organization. The Miners recently signed University of Kentucky legend Wayne Turner. Former CBA Player of the Week Jason McLeish, CBA All-Rookie Team honoree Mike Crain and CBA All-Star Mike Dean have each signed to return to play professionally in Eastern Kentucky. In addition, East Kentucky has signed veteran pro player Jermaine Blackburn.

The East Kentucky Expo Center hosted an uptempo, exciting brand of basketball during the 2007-08 season as

the Miners led all of professional basketball in scoring and broke a single-game all-time scoring record. The Miners led professional basketball in scoring, averaging 111 points per game.

"I thought Commissioner Dennis Truax did an excellent job with the schedule, giving as many weekend dates as possible to the home teams," said East Kentucky Coach Kevin Keathley.

In one of two CBA opening night matchups Dec. 12, East Kentucky will visit Pittsburgh.

(See MINERS, page two)



photo courtesy of University of Kentucky  
Former University of Kentucky Wildcat Wayne Turner is expected to lead the East Kentucky Miners during the 2008-09 season.

## State Football Finals headed to Bowling Green

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BOWLING GREEN — The City of Bowling Green and Western Kentucky University were selected as the host site for the 2009 and 2010 Commonwealth Gridiron Bowl by the KHSAA Board of Control at its meeting on Friday. The Board had heard a presentation from WKU and Bowling Green representatives at its September meeting and after a follow-up visit to the recently renovated Houchens/L.T. Smith Stadium by KHSAA Commissioner Brigid DeVries and Assistant Commissioner Julian Tackett, voted to award the event to Bowling Green.

Bowling Green was the only site submitting a proposal that complied with the KHSAA date and facility requests. "We are certainly thankful to the Louisville community for its support of our football finals," DeVries said. "After visiting with the facility and meeting with local supporters, we are excited about the proposal and having the football finals in Bowling Green," Commissioner DeVries said. "Bowling Green has a lot of experience hosting large events and has excelled in hosting the Houchens/KHSAA Girls' State Basketball Tournament as well as the Leachman/KHSAA Boys' & Girls' State Golf Tournaments."

"It is such an honor to be awarded the opportunity to host the Commonwealth Gridiron Bowl in 2009 and 2010," said Bowling Green Convention and Visitors Bureau Sports Sales Director Amy Cardwell. "Louisville has done a fantastic job and set the bar very high for this event. Our goal is to create a new experience and allow each one of these student athletes to feel like a superstar when they arrive in Bowling Green. Our city leaders, WKU, the CVB, and the entire community are collectively ready to step up to the challenge."

The State Football Finals have been played in Louisville since 1979 (1977 for Class 4A). In 2003, the event moved from the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center's Cardinal Stadium to the University of Louisville's Papa John's Cardinal Stadium which has hosted the event since. This year's Commonwealth Gridiron Bowl is set for Dec. 12-13 at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. "We are certainly appreciative of what the city, Fair Board and the University has done for the State Football Finals through the years," said Assistant Commissioner Julian Tackett who manages the sport. "It's unfortunate that we were unable to secure our desired

dates for the event, but we recognize that UofL's first commitment must be to its student-athletes, football program and conference. Papa John's Stadium is one of the best sites possible and scheduling can always be an issue when you have a facility like that. Tom Jurich, Kevin Miller and K.C. Skull have worked tirelessly behind the scenes on our event and in trying to get dates secured and we thank them for those efforts."



Betsy Layne claimed the 54th District championship, and finished runner-up behind Belfry in the 15th Region. The Lady Cats fell to Belfry Thursday night in the 15th Region Volleyball Tournament championship match.

## Lady Cats end season second in region

by STEVE LeMASTER  
SPORTS EDITOR

SALYERSVILLE — Betsy Layne ended the volleyball season as the 15th Region runner-up. The Lady Cats fell to Belfry Thursday night at Magoffin County High School in the 15th Region Volleyball Tournament title match. Belfry defeated the Lady Cats 2-1 (22-25, 25-21, 25-21).

Betsy Layne grabbed the early momentum in game one. The Lady Cats, however, couldn't maintain the momentum. The Lady Cats won the first game 25-22.

Seniors Andie Meade and Samantha Stewardson paced Betsy Layne in the opening game.

"Our seniors have been very dedicated leaders this year," said Betsy Layne Coach Christina Crase. "They have worked hard and led by example. We will miss their senior leadership next year."

The Lady Cats started the second game off falling

1-5 after a few service errors. Betsy Layne was able to rally back with digs and strong net play. Belfry, however, fended off the rally, prevailing 25-21 in the second game 21-25.

The third game was full of emotion. Both teams were determined to leave it all on the MCHS gym floor. Rally after rally, point after point, the two teams battled. Defensive errors — 16 of them — hindered Betsy Layne's chances at claiming a regional championship. Belfry outlasted the Lady Cats 21-25 in the third and deciding game.

Meade (nine passes, 11 assists, two kills, four digs) and Stewardson (three aces, 18 passes, six digs) played

five digs, four blocks) and Keleigh Wagner (one ace, five passes, 13 assists, six kills, six digs) aided the Betsy Layne effort.

"It's been a successful season and I am proud of my team," Crase added. "They worked hard and never gave up. They were fighting until the end. We started the season with many goals and I'm so proud to say we were able to accomplish most of them."

Betsy Layne faced a tough challenge against tradition-rich Belfry in the regional championship match.

"Belfry is a hard team to beat," said Crase. "I feel we came out ready to play and gave them a scare. But give them credit, they played a wonderful match. I wish them all the luck in the State Tournament next Friday."



well throughout the regional title match.

Audri Ray (three aces, five kills, six digs, four blocks), Allie Meade (one ace, one kill, three digs), Taylor Watkins 12 kills,

## KHSAA State Volleyball Tournament set

AC coach, player to be honored

TIMES STAFF REPORT

The field for next week-end's 2008 KHSAA State Volleyball Tournament is set. Following its win over Betsy Layne in the 15th Region Tournament title match, Belfry will vie for the state title along with 15 other teams. The State Volleyball

Tournament is slated for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at Bellarmine University in Louisville. The tournament will get underway at 1 p.m. and continue through 8 p.m. Play begin will begin Saturday with quarterfinal action at 9 a.m., followed by the semifinals at 2 and 3 p.m. and the State Championship at 7:30 p.m.

General admission tickets will be available at the door and priced at \$6 each per

session. Sessions are as follows: Session 1 — All Friday Play; Session 2 — Saturday's quarterfinals and semifinals; Session 3 — State Championship. All-session general admission ticket will also be on sale for \$15. Children six and under will be admitted free of charge. For the first time in its history, the semifinals and final of the 2008 KHSAA State Volleyball Tournament will be televised. Ryan Lemon and

Kathy DeBoer will call the action for Insight that will air on a delayed basis. The action will be aired in Louisville, Lexington and Northern Kentucky.

Allen Central Coach Larry Maynard and player Brittany Hodge will be honored during the State Volleyball Tournament. Maynard was named the 15th Region Coach of the Year. Hodge was named the 15th Region Player of the Year.



Running back/linebacker Andrew Hall led Allen throughout its football season. Hall rushed 184 times for 1,174 yards and seven touchdowns. He had 17 catches for 313 yards and three touchdowns. Defensively, Hall made 76 tackles and eight sacks.

## Kinzer races in Magnolia State

by STEVE LeMASTER  
SPORTS EDITOR

ALLEN — The Kinzer Motorsports team was in Dirt Late Model action over the October 17-18 weekend at the Magnolia Motor Speedway in Columbus, Mississippi. The annual running of the Cotton Pickin' 100 took place last weekend at MMS and featured a \$15,000 top prize for the winning driver. Allen Late Model driver Brandon Kinzer won his competitive heat race Friday, Oct. 17 and later started the 100-lap main event from the inside of the third row Saturday, Oct. 18. Kinzer, a veteran driver, suffered problems during the Cotton Pickin' 100 feature race. The Allen driver could never recover and finished 19th.

## Freshmen will fill center position for Cardinals

by MALCOLM C. KNOX  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Louisville's basketball team knew exactly what to do last season when a situation got tight.

Get the ball to center David Padgett.

"When the shot clock was running out, we knew that David would run up to the top of the key," junior guard Edgar Sosa said at the Cardinals' media day Thursday. "We'd throw him the ball and everybody cut off David, and get a layup or a wide open 3-pointer."

That type of versatility from a 6-foot-11-inch senior made the Cardinals unscoutable for other teams last season, coach Rick Pitino said.

No such easy answer for the Cardinals this season.

The bulk of the minutes at the center position will be played by a couple of freshmen — 6-foot-10-inch, 225-pound, Terrence Jennings, and 6-8, 240, Samardo Samuels.

Samuels will likely be the starter, but that doesn't discount Jennings' role, Pitino said.

"The key to our basketball team, without question, is Terrence Jennings," Pitino said. "Samardo's going to get in foul trouble. ... But the moment you substitute T.J. in there for him, it's gotta be the same thing. He can't bring the guys down."

The Cardinals also need Jennings because no one else can challenge Samuels in practice, Pitino said.

Of course, the two new guys won't replace Padgett and the other forwards and centers from last season that the Cardinals lost, team co-captain Andre McGee said. But, he said, teammates can expect them to work hard and get smarter with every practice, and so far they have. "Those two guys battle like beasts," he said.

Even with their inexperience in the middle, Louisville's front line has been rated as one of the best in the country. Big East coaches named forward Terrence Williams to the preseason all-conference team and Earl Clark honorable mention.

The leadership void left by Padgett will have to be filled by McGee and co-captain Williams, both seniors. McGee and Sosa, whom Pitino said will alternate in the starting lineup at point guard, are part of an experienced rotation of guards for the Cardinals, including Jerry Smith and Preston Knowles.

Experience in the backcourt will be more valuable than at center, Pitino said.

"If you ask me who would I rather have, would I rather have a freshman point or a freshman five, I'd much rather have the freshman five," Pitino said.

For now, Williams can only lead from the sidelines as he recovers from surgery on the medial meniscus in his right knee, which was torn during a pickup game. Williams walked on his own and shot 3-pointers as the team got ready to practice after all the interviews and picture-taking.

He'll be ready to play in the first game, he said.

And the Cardinals will need their big freshmen to be ready if the team is going to have success in the Big East.

"There's not going to be another David Padgett, and at the same token, there's not going to be another Samardo Samuels," Samuels said.



# 0-7 Bengals going to Houston for flashback game

by JOE KAY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Dick LeBeau predicted a win. Chad Johnson went ahead and guaranteed it. Remarkably, both turned out to be right.

The last time the Cincinnati Bengals went to Houston, they were 0-7 and awfully chatty for a winless team. Even the oddsmakers expected them to lose that 2002 game against the Texans, an expansion team that had never before been favored.

Cincinnati 38, Houston 3. The losing streak was over — for one week.

As they get ready to head back to Houston this weekend, the Bengals have the same record but few parallels with that team of six years ago. LeBeau is the defensive coordinator in Pittsburgh. Johnson has changed his last name to Ocho Cinco. And there's a whole lot less hubris this time around.

"There's really no room to talk trash," Ocho Cinco said. That '02 Bengals bunch had no trouble.

LeBeau was in the final year of his contract. During minicamp that year, he donned a Superman shirt and ran through a banner that said, "Bengals Super Bowl 2002." When the team fell to 0-7 with a 30-24 loss to Tennessee, LeBeau got emotional after the game.

"We had every opportunity to win, and next week we will win," he said, his voice rising for emphasis.

Told of his coach's prediction, Johnson went one step further.

"Next week, I assure you a win," he said. "I guarantee you we will win."

It was the first time the second-year receiver went out on a limb that way. He backed it up by catching one of Jon Kitna's four touchdown passes against the Texans, who were 2-5 heading into the game and had the Bengals' inflammatory quotes posted on their bulletin boards for inspiration.

Afterward, LeBeau played down how his prediction had come true.

"I didn't know my powers of clairvoyance were so omnipotent," he said. "I just wanted them (the Bengals) to know I was proud of them and I believed that."

He was done predicting, and the Bengals were done winning. They lost their next six games before winning another, and finished the season a franchise-worst 2-14. LeBeau was fired and Marvin Lewis was brought in as head coach.

Only four players remain from the 2002 team: Ocho Cinco, receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh, left tackle Levi Jones and long-snapper Brad St. Louis. Ocho Cinco had forgotten about his guarantee until he was reminded this week. Houshmandzadeh didn't remember too much about the game, either.

"What's funny is I did play that game," said Houshmandzadeh, who had three catches. "I played that game and I never thought I was going to play that game. Let's just say I went to bed that night at 4 o'clock in the morning. I went to bed late because I didn't think I'd play."

Just like in 2002, the Bengals are heading to Houston as an underdog. The Texans are 2-4, coming off wins over Miami and winless Detroit. They've never won three in a row in their brief history. They were a 10 1/2-point favorite at the start of the week.

The Bengals? A loss on Sunday would drop them to 0-8 for the fifth time in franchise history. Their worst start was 0-10 in 1993 under Dave Shula. They've also started 0-8 three other times: 1978, 1991 and 1994.

Cincinnati is coming off a 38-10 loss to Pittsburgh, their most lopsided defeat of the season. Although there's been no predicting and no guaranteeing, there was a sense of optimism that good things could happen again in Houston.

"I honestly think we're going to win every game," Houshmandzadeh said. "Last week I was like, 'Man, Pittsburgh is 4-1,' but going into the game I thought we were going to beat them. That didn't happen. But I think the same thing this week: We're going to win."

"Eventually we're going to win, and hopefully it's sooner rather than later."

## NFL SCHEDULE

### Today's Games

- Buffalo at Miami, 1 p.m.
- Washington at Detroit, 1 p.m.
- San Diego vs. New Orleans at London, 1 p.m.
- Tampa Bay at Dallas, 1 p.m.
- Oakland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
- Kansas City at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
- St. Louis at New England, 1 p.m.
- Arizona at Carolina, 1 p.m.
- Atlanta at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
- Cincinnati at Houston, 4:05 p.m.
- Cleveland at Jacksonville, 4:05 p.m.
- N.Y. Giants at Pittsburgh, 4:15 p.m.
- Seattle at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
- Open: Denver, Chicago, Green Bay, Minnesota Monday's Game
- Indianapolis at Tennessee, 8:30 p.m.

# Donovan likes what he sees from Gators

by JOHN ZENOR  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — So far, Billy Donovan sees signs that his bold end-of-season steps to get his players' attention might have sunk in.

The Florida coach locked his players out of the practice facility and forbade them from wearing any Gators attire after the two-time defending national champions faltered in a stretch-run stumble that kept them from the NCAA tournament. His messages previously hadn't been getting across.

"I don't want to say that they were disrespectful or didn't listen, but I don't think they totally heeded my words," Donovan said Thursday at Southeastern Conference media days.

And now? "I see a difference in the way that they're approaching practice so far."

Donovan said his biggest fear was the complacency he sees sometimes set in when people assume that freshmen will get better just by the passage of time. It takes working on shooting, defending and rebounding and just trying to learn from your experience and mistakes.

"Just because you're a year older doesn't make you a year better," Donovan said. "I wanted us to guard against that."

The Gators stumbled after an 18-3 start, following that with blowout losses at Arkansas and Tennessee and eight defeats in 11 games.

They went on to finish 3-1 in the NIT after becoming the first defending NCAA champion to not make it back to the tournament since probation-stricken Kansas in 1989.

Senior guard Walter Hodge said Donovan managed to get his message across to the

youngsters.

"He proved a point," Hodge said. "I think they were so spoiled that they thought, 'We'll just come in here and play and we're going to make the tournament.' It was a good learning experience."

"We figured out if you don't play defense you can't win. I think they've got it now."

**TRENT'S TENETS:** Garrett Temple passed a pop quiz by easily naming the three key tenets for new coach LSU coach Trent Johnson.

"Defend, rebound and take care of the ball," Temple said. "If I didn't know it, something's wrong. He's put that in our heads and it's going to take some people a little longer to realize that. With that formula you can win some games."

Johnson, who replaced John Brady, has had plenty of success using it the past nine seasons at Nevada and Stanford. He has all five starters back from a team that went 13-18.

"I don't care about how talented you are," Johnson said. "We could have Shaquille O'Neal and Chris Jackson playing and we're still going to emphasize defending and rebounding. Those are always going to be the major points of emphasis."

**REBELS GROUNDED:** Mississippi's media day contingent never made it out of Oxford. Mechanical problems kept their plane grounded Thursday morning, and left coach Andy Kennedy to talk to reporters via teleconference.

"We were on the plane and they said something was wrong," Kennedy said. "We tried to find an alternative plan and were unable to do so."

The pilots nixed his Plan B: "I had my wrench set in the trunk and I was preparing to

fix the mechanical problem."

Kennedy's peers might have been a little envious that he got out of the trip and session with reporters from around the SEC.

"I hope that Andy gets properly fined," joked Kentucky coach Billy Gillispie.

**PATTERSON'S BACK:** Patrick Patterson can score and rebound, but also has another skill that Kentucky coach Billy Gillispie often finds in short supply.

He's a good listener.

"A lot of times we just wait for our turn to talk," Gillispie said. "Patrick actually listens to instructions. He gets better because he works hard, because he does listen and because it's very important to him."

Patterson was pretty darn good as a freshman before a stress fracture in his left ankle ended his season after 25 games. He averaged 16.4 points and 7.7 rebounds.

Patterson said his ankle is fully recovered but he's still trying to get back into basketball shape.

"It is progressively coming back," he said. "The preseason practices will get me fully back to 100 percent and I will be able to get up and down the floor like last year."

Without him, the Wildcats lost to Georgia in their SEC tournament opener and were knocked out of the NCAA tournament by Marquette in the first round.

Kentucky had been on a 9-1 streak.

"I thought we were about to get it all together until the injury occurred," Gillispie said.

**BULLDOGS' LAST:** The Georgia Bulldogs' surprising run to an SEC tournament championship didn't help raise

their preseason stock among the media. The Bulldogs were picked to finish last in the SEC East.

"I don't worry about it, but I use it as motivation that they're kind of doubting us," senior guard/forward Terrance Woodbury said. "We've gotten better, we've gotten stronger, and our mind-set is basically to win championships."

"Me and the guys that come back from last year, we basically know what it takes. We can tell those behind us. If you want this ring, this is what it's going to take."

They finished last in the East a year ago, but won three games in two days to capture the SEC tournament title.

Georgia must replace three starters. One top recruit being relied on to help replace big man Dave Bliss has been slowed by injury. Trey Thompson, a 6-foot-8, 245-pounder, hasn't been able to practice. He sustained a stress fracture in his foot late in the summer and sprained the medial collateral ligament in his knee working his way back.

Coach Dennis Felton is hoping he can start practicing within the next week.

"He's a tremendous player, very, very talented," Felton said. "We're counting on the impact that he's going to make on our team a lot this year."

**QUOTABLE:** "Even the teams that might struggle and come closer to the bottom of the conference, their coaches are off-the-charts good. They're really talented in what they do and extremely knowledgeable. I have such a healthy respect for them that I fear all of them as I prepare to compete against them."  
—Felton on SEC coaches.

# Titans throw up Tennessee wall for quarterback

by TERESA M. WALKER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans have taken protecting the quarterback to a new level.

They have given up only two sacks through the first six games — none over the past four. Their two sacks allowed are the fewest in the NFL and puts them easily ahead of the club record 21 sacks allowed in 2002. Veteran quarterback Kerry Collins, sacked just once back on Sept. 14, appreciates the security provided by his offensive line and teammates.

"It definitely helps me. I'm obviously not going to scramble around and do a lot of different things," Collins said Thursday.

"It makes their job tougher, and they've risen to the challenge. Obviously it makes my job a lot easier. I know I'm going to get time, and they give me that time and it allows me to get to the second or third read. I think they're playing at a high level. They're as good an offensive line as I've been around."

That offensive line features left tackle Michael Roos and

right tackle David Stewart, a pair signed to long-term deals during the offseason. Veteran center Kevin Mawae is the anchor in the middle with Eugene Amano at left guard and Jake Scott, signed as a free agent away from Indianapolis, at right guard after replacing the retired Benji Olson.

"We knew coming in the year we were going to have a good front," Mawae said. "We knew teams would challenge us with eight- and nine-man fronts. They've challenged us on blitz pickups. ... Everybody's involved."

That includes the tight ends in veteran Alge Crumpler and Bo Scaife, fullback Ahmad Hall and the running backs, even rookie Chris Johnson. The rookie with the blazing speed impressed watchers first with his ability to pick up, and block, pass rushers and protect the quarterback.

Hall said the backs take their jobs seriously as the quarterback's last hope if a defender slips past.

"The offensive line, we have one of the best in the league, but the running backs are the last

line to the quarterback, and we take pride on protecting the quarterback. We only have the two sacks. We practiced that every day. That's one of the most practiced drills during camp is taking on blocks from linebackers and pass rush defense. We take pride in that," Hall said.

Jacksonville sacked Vince Young in the opener before he hurt his left knee. Cincinnati got to Kerry Collins once in the second game. The NFL record for fewest sacks allowed in a season is seven by the 1988 Miami Dolphins, and the then-Houston Oilers gave up 17 in 1978 before the league started counting sacks as a statistic in 1982.

Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy said the Titans have been helped by not trailing late and having to the ball throw away. A strong run game helps as well. The Titans are averaging 154.5 yards per game — fourth-best in the NFL — and coming off a franchise-record 332 yards in last week's 34-10 win at Kansas City.

"Teams are having to play the run and when you do throw on third down, you can throw,

get rid of the football. ... It's a combination of their line playing so well," Dungy said. "I've been impressed with how they're playing as a unit, the fact that they're running it so well and the fact that they haven't been in many 'must throw' situations."

Titans coach Jeff Fisher said they don't expect to go the rest of the season without giving up sacks, a streak that could end Monday night when Indianapolis (3-3) visits.

"Certainly that's going to be a huge challenge for us this Monday night with the great job (the Colts) do pressuring the passer," Fisher said.

Notes: Defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch missed a second straight practice with his groin injury. Fisher said Vanden Bosch is working hard inside and they will try to practice before the week ends. "If Kyle's able to play, he'll be fine," Fisher said. Receiver Justin McCareins (hamstring) and linebacker Colin Allred (groin) did not practice. But defensive tackle Tony Brown (ankle) and receiver Justin Gage (right knee) both practiced.



file photo  
**MATT SWORD** has been a leader for Prestonsburg throughout the 2008 football season. The versatile Sword is a proven rusher and receiver for the Blackcats.

## Miners

The East Kentucky-Pittsburgh matchup has developed into one of the CBA's best rivalries. East Kentucky will host Minot on Sunday, Dec. 14 in its home opener. Tip-off for the home opener is slated for 4:05 p.m.

In its final regular-season series, East Kentucky is pitted against defending CBA champion Lawton-Fort Sill.

The month of December is full of intriguing matchups for the Miners. East Kentucky is pitted against Pittsburgh, Minot and Albany during the month of December. The Miners are matched up against Lawton-Fort Sill for the first time in the 2008-09 campaign in January.

East Kentucky will visit Albany Dec. 25 for a Christmas matchup.

"This is going to be an exciting season," Keathley added. "With several Friday and Saturday home games on the schedule, it will give our

organization an opportunity to expose our product to maybe some fans who haven't been able to check us out in the Expo Center."

On February 10, Pittsburgh will host the 25th CBA All-Star Classic in the modern era. The annual CBA All-Star Classic features the Long Distance Shootout, Slam Dunk Competition and the CBA All-Star Game.

East Kentucky Miners season tickets remain on sale. Early Bird specials for season tickets run through Oct. 31. For information on the various season ticket packages, call 606-437-9715.



## EAST KENTUCKY MINERS 2008-09 SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 12	at Pittsburgh 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 14	Minot, 4:05 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 15	Minot, 7:05 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 17	Pittsburgh, 7:35 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20	Minot, 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 21	Minot, 4:05 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 25	at Albany, 7:35 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 26	at Albany, 7:35 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 28	at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 29	at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 2	Albany, 7:35 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 4	Albany, 4:05 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 9	at Lawton-Fort Sill, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 10	at Lawton-Fort Sill, 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 18	at Minot, 2:05 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 19	at Minot, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 24	Lawton-Fort Sill, 7:35 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 25	Lawton-Fort Sill, 7:35 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 30	at Albany, 7:35 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 31	at Albany, 7:35 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 5	Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 10	CBA All-Star Game at Pittsburgh, 7:35 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 13	Albany, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14	Albany, 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 22	at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 27	Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 28	Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Thursday, March 5	at Minot, 7:35 p.m.
Friday, March 6	at Minot, 7:35 p.m.
Sunday, March 8	at Lawton-Fort Sill, 2:05 p.m.
Monday, March 9	at Lawton-Fort Sill, 7:05 p.m.
Thursday, March 12	Lawton-Fort Sill, 7:35 p.m.
Friday, March 13	Lawton-Fort Sill, 7:35 p.m.

## KNOTT COUNTY SPORTSPLEX UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

- Nov. 1-2: YOBA Boys Tournament
- Nov. 8-9: Kentucky BCI Basketball Boys/Girls' Veteran's Memorial
- Nov. 15-16: Thanksgiving Spectacular
- Nov. 28-30: Kentucky BCI Basketball Boys/Girls' Thanksgiving Invitational
- Dec. 6-7: YOBA Boys Tournament
- Dec. 6-7: High School JV/Freshman Tournament
- Dec. 13-14: Mountain Christmas Spectacular
- Dec. 19-21: Kentucky BCI Basketball Boys/Girls Middle School Holiday Classic



# CoT now Car of Today for foreseeable future

by MIKE HARRIS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anyone in the Sprint Cup garage still complaining about the Car of Tomorrow and hoping NASCAR is planning big changes for 2009 can forget about it.

The CoT is now the Car of Today, and it's going to stay that way for the foreseeable future.

"There is no official statement on changes to the new car, but I can say that no changes are planned," NASCAR spokesman Ramsey Poston said. "Over the course of the year, the teams have adjusted to the new car and have a much better understanding for how to set it up and drive it than they did back in February."

"Making changes at this point would likely cause teams to have to further make adjustments to their adjustments and that's not productive."

NASCAR's research and development division began planning and designing the bigger, bulkier CoT shortly after the sport's biggest star, Dale Earnhardt, died in a crash during the 2001 Daytona 500.

It first competed at Bristol in

March 2007 and was used in 16 races that season before running all the races this year — a year earlier than originally planned.

NASCAR's stated intention was to build a safer car that also promoted close racing and helped keep team costs under control by requiring fewer different cars for a variety of race-track configurations. Most of that has been accomplished, but the transition from the old cars hasn't always been smooth.

It's difficult to find the balance on the CoT during the races, and there have been times when Goodyear has failed to come up with a good tire match for the new car. Add in that the CoT is harder to drive and there has been a lot of dissatisfaction bubbling up in Cup.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., who has complained about the handling of the CoT at times, said, "The car is definitely still a work in progress."

"I think ... the car isn't a finished product. Whenever they decide to move forward and evolve and let that car change and become a better race car, we will be ready to do that. But until then, we really don't have a

choice in the matter."

Jimmie Johnson, winner of six races and seemingly well on his way to a record-tying third straight Cup title heading into Sunday's race at Atlanta, got off to a slow start this season as he and crew chief Chad Knaus acknowledged they were having problems figuring the new car out at some tracks.

The difficulties surfaced early in the year. Johnson's team arrived in Las Vegas in March thinking it had a decent setup. He finished 29th after a frustrating day in which the usually consistent Johnson was a nonfactor.

The rest of the season was a series of ups and downs for Johnson, who seems to have found the right combination during the 10-race Chase for the championship.

In August, just before the start of the Chase, Johnson said solving the CoT has been difficult for Knaus, considered one of the top minds in the sport.

"It's been tough for him, and it's been a huge, huge challenge for him," Johnson said. "But more importantly the go-to

moves that we've always had with the old car do not work with the CoT. And to kind of retrain

## NASCAR SPRINT CUP DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jimmie Johnson, 6,073
2. Greg Biffle, 5,924
3. Jeff Burton, 5,921
4. Carl Edwards, 5,875
5. Clint Bowyer, 5,831
6. Kevin Harvick, 5,817
7. Jeff Gordon, 5,798
8. Tony Stewart, 5,735
9. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 5,694
10. Matt Kenseth, 5,665
11. Denny Hamlin, 5,653
12. Kyle Busch, 5,628

(Chad's) brain and look at things in a different way, that is the hardest part for him."

Despite their recent success, Johnson thinks the CoT could be better.

"I think a lot of us have some ideas for changes and we'd like to see them put in. I feel that as the season's gone on, we've all gotten a lot smarter and we've helped the car," he said. "But there still are some things that I feel should be

looked at and considered.

"At least we're putting on good shows. The cars are easier to drive in traffic. ... And the racing is going well on the big tracks. I still think it could be better."

Kasey Kahne, who has won two Cup races this season, said he believes it would be a good idea to let the crew chiefs and team engineers have more input into the development of the new car.

"The car has come a long way from where we were a year ago," Kahne said. "Engineers and crew chiefs could make this a better race car if they're allowed to."

Jeff Burton echoes Kahne, but the veteran driver, third in the season points, said he is fine with NASCAR's current approach to the CoT.

"There has been an effort by NASCAR to minimize the changes the teams are having to deal with because we do have a history of making so many changes that it's very difficult to ever get a center or to get a real base line on what it is that you're dealing with," Burton said. "They used to cut

spoiler heights off. You'd go to a race and they would put a notice out that they were cutting the spoiler height off so all the aerodynamics testing you've done, all the stuff you had done you had to start over. So, in many ways, I'm a proponent of minimizing changes."

"At the same time, I think we have to be careful to say, 'You know what, if something comes up at the right time that we believe will make the car better, we will be open-minded at that,' rather than just saying 'No changes.'"

And, looking down the road, Burton said NASCAR may just be waiting for the teams to have more experience with the new cars before thinking about changes that could cost the teams big money in a bad economy.

"I think that going into 2010 we have to be looking, 'OK, what is it that we can do better without turning the world upside down?' You have to be respectful of when NASCAR makes a small change how big that impacts us in costs and efficiencies and testing."

# In the Pits: Spice up Chase with new points system

by JENNA FRYER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — No offense to Greg Biffle and Carl Edwards, who trail Jimmie Johnson by substantial point deficits yet still think they can win the championship.

Mathematically? Sure.

Realistically? Not a chance.

Just give the Sprint Cup to Jimmie Johnson right now because there's very little chance the two-time defending champion will fold over the season's final month.

Oh, the engine on his No. 48 Chevrolet could certainly fail — maybe even this weekend at Atlanta, where motors are vulnerable over the fast 500 miles. And he could get caught up in a crash just about anywhere.

But in terms of preparation and rising to the occasion, it's rather unlikely that Johnson will give anyone the opportunity to deny him a third consecutive title. Following his victory Sunday at Martinsville Speedway, Johnson extended his lead in the standings to 149 points over Biffle, 152 over Jeff Burton and 198 over Edwards.

It's shaping up to be a run-away, and that's hardly the exciting close to a season NASCAR hoped for when it implemented its 10-race Chase for the championship format.

Launched in 2004 after Matt Kenseth's no-frills run to the title — he won just one race, but notched 25 top-10s en route to the 2003 championship — NASCAR hoped to

devise a playoff system that would draw hype and excitement to the final two months of the season. The idea was to reset after the 26th "regular season" race and give the 10 highest-ranked drivers an equal shot at the title.

But what they came up with isn't exactly the same thing as the New York Giants earning the opportunity to knock off the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl.

The system isn't really a playoff at all — nobody gets eliminated after a "loss" — and it's still points-based over 10 long weeks. A bad start to the Chase could sink a driver deep into the standings, to never recover over the final two months of the season.

That was proven the very first year of the format, when Robby Gordon wrecked Biffle early in the opening Chase race and Tony Stewart and Jeremy Mayfield were collected. Stewart and Mayfield were innocent victims, yet neither recovered to contend for the first Chase title.

It was that very next week that critics of the format began calling for a separate points system. Why, many wondered, aren't the contenders graded on a system just for them? Mayfield finished 35th that day, earning 58 points under the standard scoring system.

It dropped him to 10th in the Chase field (the format wasn't expanded to 12 drivers until last season) and 142 points out of the lead. Just 64 laps into the Chase, his title hopes were ruined: Mayfield

finished last in the Chase that season.

NASCAR's defense back then on not using a separate points system is that a championship is won with consistency, and any driver capable of running near the front for 10 straight weeks is title worthy.

That's absolutely right. But it also sucks all the life out of what the creators had hoped would be a thrilling buildup to a winner-takes-all finale each year in Homestead, Fla.

The truth is, under the standard scoring system, there's been very little on the line by the time the field gets to Homestead.

In fairness, there were five drivers mathematically eligible to win the title in the 2004 season finale. Separated by just 82 points from Kurt Busch at the top to Mark Martin in fifth, anything theoretically could have happened that day.

But it didn't, and Busch finished fifth in the race to lock up the first Chase championship to start a string where the points leader headed into Homestead has won the title in every year of this format.

The 2007 Chase version was decent in that Johnson and teammate Jeff Gordon battled for the title with two near-flawless performances. But when Johnson started his string of four-straight victories late last season, the title was his a week before they rolled into Florida.

The results have had so little mystery, that the last three season-finales were an exercise of the eventual champion

simply staying out of trouble and making it to the finish. Stewart won the 2005 title by finishing 15th at Homestead, while Johnson was ninth and seventh the past two years.

So maybe it's time to revisit a separate scoring system. Not for the sake of fairness, but to pump some life into the Chase and truly create an all-or-nothing finish to the year.

If you scored the contenders on a 1-12 system — 12 points to the highest-finishing Chase driver, one point to the lowest — the current standings actually wouldn't look that much different. Johnson would still be on top, Biffle would be in second, and Denny Hamlin and Kyle Busch would still be bringing up the rear.

But Johnson's lead would be just 10 points over Biffle, while Busch would be within striking distance at 38 points out. Busch is currently 445 points out of the lead and dismissed his title hopes after mechanical failures in the first two Chase races.

That system would still have the bottom drivers in mathematical contention, at least for another week or so, and send at minimum three drivers into the finale with a chance to pull off an upset.

Alas, NASCAR argues that creating a separate points system makes the Chase too contrived, adds too much manipulation to crowning a champion. But isn't that what the creators did simply in inventing the Chase?

# Reaction positive from LMS testing of new Nationwide car

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The progression has begun for the NASCAR Nationwide Series' new car.

Last month, the car made its test debut on the .75-mile track at Richmond International Raceway.

Monday, it made its move to Lowe's Motor Speedway, one of eight 1.5-mile tracks that host the series.

"Things have progressed quite nicely," said Robin Pemberton, NASCAR's vice president of competition. "All of the manufacturers are out there [Monday] with, I think for the most part, the cars the teams used at the test at Richmond last month. It's early yet, but everything's quite favorable. The car turns well in the middle of the corner and they just continue to work on it."

"The teams are fairly happy right now with the way the test has gone for the first half of the first day."

Seven teams representing the series' four manufacturers were on track for Monday's

test — Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates, JD Motorsports, Joe Gibbs Racing, Richard Childress Racing, Roush Fenway Racing (two teams) and Michael Waltrip Racing. All but JGR were at Richmond for the inaugural test.

Pemberton said the number of participating teams was on par with previous tests for the Sprint Cup Series new car. Where six or seven cars may seem to be a low number, numerous drivers have moved between the cars in order to get track time in the new car. At the height of new car testing in the Sprint Cup Series at Michigan International Speedway in 2006, Pemberton noted 12 cars were involved.

Monday's drivers included Bryan Clauson for Ganassi, Joey Logano and Kyle Busch for JGR, Mark Green and Morgan Shepherd for JDM and Stephen Leicht for RCR. Colin Braun, Carl Edwards and David Ragan tested for Roush, while David Reutimann and Josh Wise were on hand for MWR.

"This car feels pretty good.

It's a lot faster than I thought it was going to be," said Edwards, the reigning series champion. "It's a little different than the other cars we ran [at Richmond]. They're two different tracks but the car felt good at both of them."

"It seems like it has a little more front downforce which makes it turn real well. That's good at a place like this where it seems like you can't ever get them to turn. It's nice to have a car that turns like that."

"The body styles are kinda cool on them," Logano said. "I think they're different, [they] look a lot like the street car, which is pretty neat."

Pemberton likes the look of the car as well, but stressed that the manufacturers are far from finished with their work.

"What you see out there is there are some that are fairly generic; none of the manufacturers have submitted their absolute final piece yet. I will have to say that the Dodge looks really nice — it's got a nice pony car look to it. But even that's not their final submission piece."

The Richmond test was the

# Camping World to sponsor NASCAR trucks

by MIKE HARRIS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Camping World will replace Craftsman as the title sponsor for NASCAR's truck series in 2009.

The seven-year deal, thought to be worth between \$5 million and \$7 million annually, was announced Thursday by NASCAR chairman and CEO Brian France and Camping World chairman and CEO Marcus Lemonis.

Camping World sells, rents and services recreational vehicles, as well as trailers and camping accessories. It has been active in NASCAR for several years and is in its first year as the title sponsor for NASCAR's developmental East and West series. The company also has been the title sponsor for several Sprint Cup races and has sponsorship deals with Kevin Harvick Inc. in trucks and NASCAR's Nationwide Series.

Lemonis said the company's sponsorships of the East and West series and KHI's No. 33 truck, driven by Ron Hornaday Jr., will continue through 2009.

The new sponsor is stepping into a series that is very competitive but facing a considerable challenge with both Dodge and Ford announcing within the past two months that their financial support of truck teams would end this season.

"First of all, the series is very healthy," France said.

Still, he noted that the manufacturers involved in NASCAR have been particularly hard hit in the area of truck sales.

"We're obviously affected by that, it's a legitimate issue," France said. "We try to do it anyway. But we'll accelerate the idea of taking even more costs out of the series for the team owners should certain subsidies or certain sponsorships be contracted a bit."

"We'll try to make things as easy on the team owners as possible to sort of get through this headwind of both the economy and the manufacturers going through their related challenges."

The current international economic crisis may also have broader effects on NASCAR.

"We're nervous like everybody else," France said. "We're taking every precaution we can in terms of getting costs out of our system, on behalf of the team owners, on behalf of the track operators. But this is also a time when you can't freeze either. You have to still be aggressive and still push hard on your product, and I know Marcus is doing that in his business and we're doing the same."

Craftsman, a division of Sears, Roebuck and Co., has been the only title sponsor of the series that began in 1995. It announced last fall that 2008 would be its last season as the truck series sponsor.

Lemonis said he spent nine months researching and talking with people before making this latest, and biggest, commitment to NASCAR. He said NASCAR and affiliated programs will now make up 6 percent of Camping World's total marketing scheme.

"It wasn't a matter of a last-minute decision," he said. "It was something that was fairly plotted out. We wanted NASCAR to make a decision that best suited them, which is why in the last 30 days there were a number of candidates they were considering. We were glad that we were given the option and the choice."

Lemonis said he was particularly impressed by the potential for business he saw while visiting the tracks.

"When I looked at the crossover, walking the campgrounds at some of the tracks, looked at the crossover of the number of travel trailers compared to the number of motorhomes, then I looked at the amount of hitching and towing that could go along with the number of trucks that were parked in the parking lot, it just seemed to be a natural fit," he said.

Financial details of the agreement were not announced.



FRANK KIMMEL missed out on claiming the ARCA championship for the first time since 1999.



The Times

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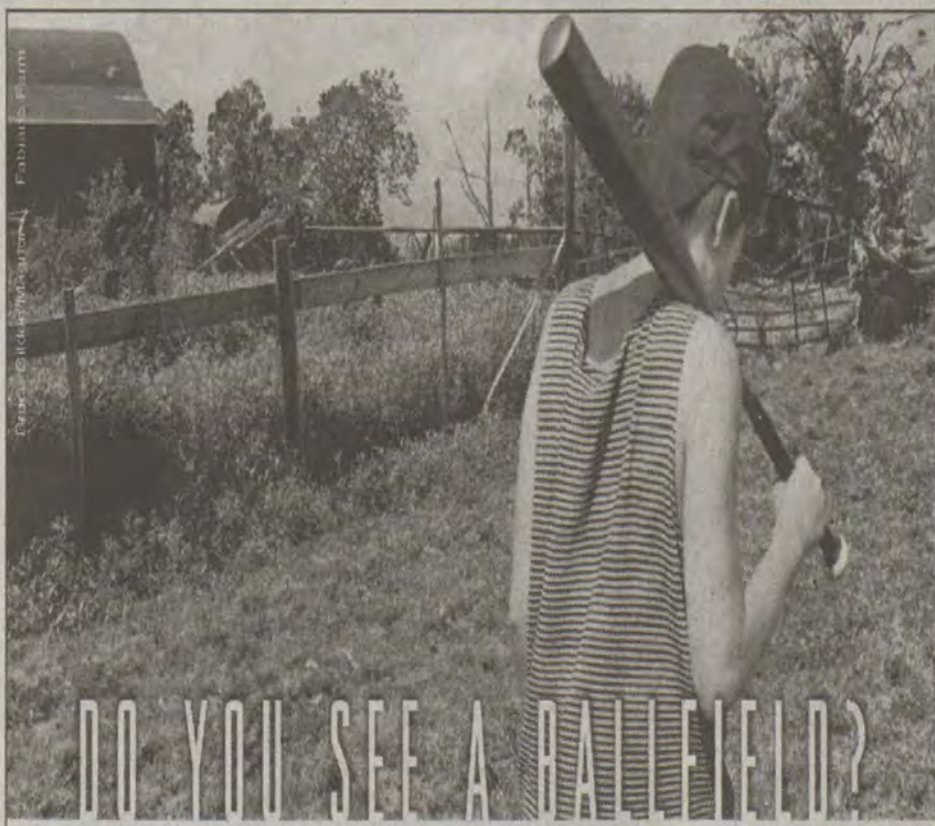
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has petitioned the Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet to declare an area unsuitable for all types of surface coal mining activities, pursuant to 405 KAR Chapter 24.

The petition number is LUM 08-2. The petition area is located in Floyd county and consists of 2,006 acres in and around the Wilson Creek watershed. A Public Hearing will be held on December 1, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Allen Central High School, 442 KY \* Rt. 550, Eastern, Kentucky. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments on the LUM 08-2 petition, pursuant to KRS 350.610 and 405 KAR Chapter 24.

The hearing will be legislative in nature, with no cross-examination of participants. For individuals who do not wish to make public comments, written comments may be submitted to the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources at the time of the hearing, or may be sent directly to the Department at the following address: Ron Mills, Director, Division of Mine Permits, Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, No. 2 Hudson Hollow, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. The comment period ends December 2, 2008. The petition document is on file for review and copying (at cost) at the above address, as well as the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653.

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# Using car as movie theater shouldn't harm battery

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:  
Our 3-year-old son has autism, and one of the things that soothes him is to sit in our 2006 Honda Pilot and watch DVDs on the factory-installed player — while the car is parked in the garage. I was wondering if there is any danger of draining the battery completely; I just turn the key to the first position, and it's usually not on for more than an hour at a time. — Stephanie

TOM: That's absolutely fine, Stephanie. Running the DVD player for an hour with the key in the accessory position shouldn't do any harm to a good battery.

RAY: But if you want to be absolutely worry-free, go to Sears and buy an automatic battery charger. You plug it into the wall and hook it up to the battery. Then the charger monitors the condition of your battery, and automatically charges it back up whenever the voltage drops. When the battery is fully charged, the charger turns itself off and goes back into "monitor" mode.

TOM: Then your little guy can sit there all day if you want him to, and you'll never have to worry about whether the car will start. Good luck, Stephanie.

RAY: Well, I certainly wouldn't do anything until you know whether this new relationship is going to pan out. If it doesn't, then you're all set. You return the hearing aids, and keep driving the Prelude in blissful silence.

TOM: Actually, you may want to keep the hearing aids anyway, and just not wear them when you're driving the car (I'm presuming you have no trouble hearing horns and sirens). Or ask the audiologist to try adjusting them. It might not help a lot, but the advan-

tage of those high-end hearing aids is that they can amplify different types of sounds in different situations.

RAY: But if this IS a long-term relationship, then, like I said, you're out \$25 grand, Alejandro. You have to get the hearing aids. You need to be able to hear everything your lady friend says. You have to be able to listen to music together in the car. You need to not blast her out of the house by blaring "Judge Judy" at volume 11.

TOM: And since the hear-

ing aids have clued you in to what a 10-year-old car really sounds like, you may need to upgrade on the car front, too.

RAY: Here's what I'd recommend. Next year, Honda is coming out with a brand-new hybrid to compete with the Toyota Prius. Getting a hybrid will serve several purposes for you.

TOM: It'll save you a lot of money on gasoline.

RAY: It'll let your new lady know that you're a forward-looking, future-oriented fellow who cares about the environ-

ment and his fellow man.

TOM: And it'll run in electric mode at least some of the time, which is nice and quiet. Good luck on all fronts, Alejandro. We're pulling for you!

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## The most expensive date ever

Dear Tom and Ray:

Perhaps you can help me make a decision. I drive a '98 Honda Prelude, and I've had it since it was new. It has been the best car I've ever owned (I'm 78). It performs flawlessly. I groom it and service it and love it. Recently, I took a drive in the country with a new lady friend. The weather was beautiful, and things were going along swimmingly. I turned on my stereo for a little classical music to enhance our experience. She said, "That's too loud." I looked at her and said, "But it's very low." She replied: "I think you might have some hearing loss and should look into it. I used to work for an audiologist, and it's very common for our hearing to deteriorate as we age." So, I went to a local hearing-aid facility, and to make a long story short, they fit me with a pair on a trial basis. Well, the next time I got into my car, I could hear rattles and squeaks that were very troubling. I took out the hearing aids, and lo and behold, it was quiet again. My dilemma is: Should I spend \$6,000 for hearing aids, or buy a new car and trade in the Prelude? They don't make them anymore, and I'd like to keep it and also the new woman I met. Help! — Alejandro

TOM: Oh, boy, Alejandro. That date may end up costing you \$25 grand!

RAY: There you were, perfectly happy, blissfully unaware of the hundreds of squeaks and rattles emanating from your Prelude, blissfully unaware of your hearing loss. And now you need hearing aids and a new car.

TOM: Whatever you do, don't get your eyes checked. You might decide you need a new girlfriend, too!

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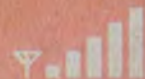
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