

Bluegrass Beacon

America: Conceived in liberty derived from our maker



By Jim Waters

Where does freedom come from anyhow? That's a good question for Kentuckians to ponder as they surfact on hot dogs, slurp down whatever it is they slurp down and "oh" and "ah" mindlessly as fireworks explode above this Fourth of July.

Along with these traditions, why not add to your revelry some education and entertainment that focuses on this question? Watch at least the first episode in a few HBO-produced series on "John Adams," based on David McCullough's recent book on the second president.

revisionsists and perhaps some Darwinists or ACLU lawyers. Many of them, I suppose, would have us believe that our freedom originates in Frankfurt or Washington to protect them. It doesn't. The right to assemble, worship, petition government and write a weekly column like this one didn't even come from Adams and his fellow patriots. In fact, their greatness stems from recognizing themselves as guardians - not givers - of liberty. The truths they sought to protect via the Constitution and its Bill of Rights were indeed, "self-evident."

That quote probably disrupts the psyche of history's

that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Politicians claim to believe this. Their actions often say otherwise. Rather than limiting their role to defending the access of all to grab hold of their God-given liberties and determine their course, too many politicians believe they make the best arbiters of that course. They usurp individual responsibility and take from those who earn and give it to those who refuse to exercise their God-given rights and access freedom's opportunities. Such thinking would have led to tar and feathering in the days of Adams. Just ask the customs officers who tried to force the colonists to unload, buy, drink - and pay

a tax on - British tea. Finally, those colonists dumped that high-tariff bearing tea into the bay, fueling the passion for liberty. Those acts culminated in a ragtag army defeating the world's most powerful political and military superpower. It led to the creation of, as a president born in Kentucky would say, "a new nation, conceived in liberty." Our founders pledged their lives and fortunes to protect and advance the freedom we enjoy today. And they did so - as they noted in the Declaration of Independence - "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence." Yes, the effort expended on July 4 to celebrate the work of these men comes with a lot of bang. But the endeavor in the halls of government to emulate their courage, independence and sacrifice fizzles badly.

— Jim Waters is the director of policy and communications for the Bluegrass Institute, Kentucky's free-market think tank. You can reach him at jwaters@bips.org. You can read previous columns at www.wbips.org.

4th District Report

The Truth about the "Use It or Lose It" Legislation



By Geoff Davis 4th District Congressman

As families and friends gather to celebrate the Fourth of July, the United States is unfortunately no closer to declaring energy independence from foreign oil producers. Throughout June, gas prices broke records as the national average for a gallon of regular unleaded hovered around \$4.08. Instead of following the Republicans' lead and offering real energy solutions, Democrats continue to offer ineffective legislation that does not help American families afford the price at the pump.

cancel a federal energy lease of the leaseholder fails to comply with the Code of Federal Regulations, if the leased territory contains a well capable of producing significant quantities of oil or gas that the leaseholder is not extracting, the lease will be cancelled. Moreover, federal energy leaseholders already operate under a timeline according to United States Code, they must produce oil or natural gas within five years of entering into an offshore lease and ten years of entering into any onshore lease. In fact, 16 years ago, Congressman Rahall and now Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi helped pass an amendment to the Comprehensive National Energy Policy Act

that established the original ten year timeframe for energy production on federal lands. This "Use It or Lose It" legislation stems from the false claim that energy companies are currently "sitting on" leases for 68 million acres of government land and waters. The bill ignores the fact that the process of bringing a new field into production can take years of mapping, testing, drilling and construction. Although a field may be listed as "idle" or "not in production," the company is most likely in the complicated and time-consuming process of

See DAVIS Page 11

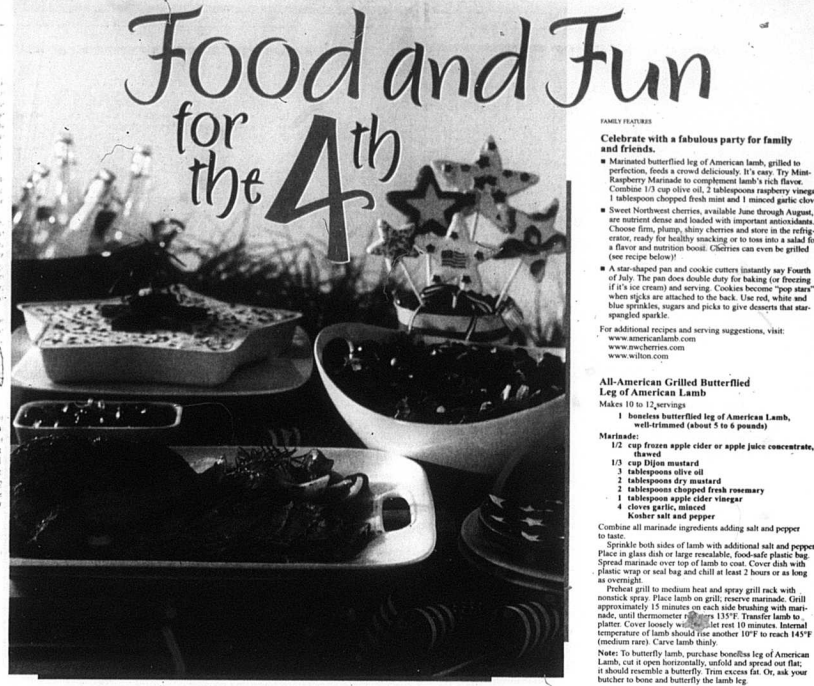
CONGRATULATIONS GRASSHOPPERS!

Tournament Champs. Nicholas County minor league came to an end June 28th with the grasshoppers in tournament domination. I just wanted to say thank you to all the players, coaches and everyone who helped our win minor league this season. You all made it very memorable. Good job to all players in minor league this season. Love and Thanks, Pam Team Lindley

The Kentucky Doll & Toy Museum will be open 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, July 3rd and Friday, July 4th. A SPECIAL EXHIBIT OF MADAME ALEXANDER'S FIRST LADY DOLLS FROM MARTHA WASHINGTON TO MAMIE EISENHOWER WILL BE ON VIEW.

Real estate listings for Mark Mattox. 106 Tureman Ave. \$69,900. 518 E. Main St. \$279,900. 550 N. Broadway. Reduced to \$65,000. 723 Concrete Rd. 378 W. Main Street. NEW LISTING! 145 N. Broadway. Owner/Agent: Mark or Donna Mattox. \$59,500. NEW LISTING! 420 N. Elm St.

BUTLER RECYCLING AND CORE. Copper - Aluminum - Brass - Catalytic Converters Batteries - Transmissions - Stainless Steel. We pay the highest prices for your scrap! Trucks available for pickups call 606-759-8863. ph: 606.759.8863. Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sat 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Closed - Major Holidays. 5148 US HWY 62, Maysville, KY. butlerrecycling@maysvilleky.net



Food and Fun for the 4th. Star-Spangled Black Forest Ice Cream Cake. 4th of July Cherry, Cheesecake & Greens Salad. American Lamb Grilling Guide. Patriotic Pizzazz Cookie Pops. Sizzling Grilled Northwest Cherries. Migdalia's Restaurant & Bar.

Superior Value H & H Sales and Service, LLC. The 5525 is a economical, rugged, compact 2 WD utility tractor with all kinds of style and comfort. \$1,250 Down with approved credit. Call for details.

Migdalia's Restaurant & Bar. 500 Main Street Paris, KY 859-987-0855. Open Tues - Sat, 11-3 for Lunch, 5-9 for Dinner. Closed Sun. & Mon. ** ALL DAY Wednesday - 1/2 priced bottle of wine ** Large Banquet Facilities • ** We do catering!