Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

We are asking for your support in our efforts to raise the pay of Kentucky State Trooper to a level comparable with those of surrounding State's Troopers, as well as, city and county Police Officers.

When compared to surrounding states, a Kentucky State Trooper is the lowest paid, an officer who has worked for the Kentucky State Police for less than five years earns less than officers in many municipalities in the Commonwealth.

We have young Troopers who are leaving the State Police because of financial difficulties who would otherwise have been career employees.

We at times are a training agency for other Police Department who recruit our young men and women by offering them lateral transfers at a higher salary.

Many counties rely on the Kentucky State Police as their only law enforcement. Some of the young Troopers who respond to your needs qualify for government assistance.

We have been there for you on many occasions and we are now asking for your help. Please contact your local Legislator and voice your support for a pay raise for the Kentucky State Police by calling 1-800-365-9002.

Thank You,
Kentucky State Police
Professional Association

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BRANSON, MISSOURI VACATION TOUR
From Carlisle - June 24 - 28

A super-exciting vacation tour to Branson, Missouri, now known as the "New Capitol of Country Music", has been completely arranged by Richard Jett Tours, for June 24 - 28. The Tour will leave from the courthouse parking lot, in Carlisle on Monday morning, June 24, and return June 28. Nicholas Countians are invited to join the fun and good-times.

The tour will include a tram ride up the famous Gateway Arch and the Western Movement Museum, in St. Louis; tickets to several spectacular country music shows in Branson, transportation in ultra-modern 46- passenger busses, four nights lodging in good motels, and a few good surprises! For complete details on this and many other low-cost but fun-packed vacations, please call 606-668-6650, or write Richard Jett Tours, P.O. Box 396, Campton, Ky. 41301

Dear Editor;

What can we expect from children of today and tomorrow? Children of the nineties and on into the twenty-first century will be just what we, as parents and their role models, help them become.

We need to teach them, at an early age, to respect their teachers, parents, law enforcement officials, and others. We need to teach our children the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" and "Love thy neighbor as thyself". How we, as parents, conduct our daily lives and how we treat others, must be an example by which to teach our children.

As the father of five and the grandfather of thirteen, I learned several things that helped me in raising my family. Loving abundantly; disciplining constructively when needed; spending time with my children; teaching my children right from wrong; developing mutual respect; listening to my children and offering guidance; fostering independence and expecting a few mistakes to be made along the way; being consistent with rules and limits; and being reasonable in my expectations, helped me become a better parent.

I read an article recently that asked the question, "should we revert to the 50's style of raising children or continue with today's methods?" It's a controversial question. Certainly children of the 50's did not face the problems children of today have. They did not have to deal with drugs and alcohol on the 'level children do today. Sex and violence was not a part of our daily lives as it is now, in the movies and on television, the music they listen to, and the magazines they read. I have heard it said, "we have a geration of children raising themselves." I fear, in far too many cases, this is true.

As the parents of five, my wife and I were actively involved in our children's lives. We tried to set an example by being involved, as a family, in our church, with our children's school activities, and with their daily lives in general. There may have been times when they were growing up that we were a source of embarrassment to them; always being involved in their activities, acting as chaperones, and setting curfews and restrictions on where they could and could not go. It was not always easy at times to keep up with their hectic schedules, but we did our best. My wife and I believe it paid off and if you asked my children now that they are grown with families of their own, I think they would agree.

I would like to encourage all young parents of today to take an active part in your children's lives. Spend as much time with them as possible, attend the church of your choice as a family, discipline them when needed, teach they right from wrong; and above all else, love them unconditionally.

Our children are our lives. What we believe and have taught them will be carried on by them into the future.

Sincerely, Ray Stoess,
Executive Director, KY Sheriffs' Boys and Girls Ranch, P.O. Box 57, Gilbertsville, KY 42044, phone 502-362-8660.

Student writings from the Middle School

This was written as a letter to a friend after the seventh grade spent a day at the 4-H Camp for Environmental Day.

Dear Sarah,

I haven't seen you in a long time! How's seventh grade? The school year sure has flown by for me! I like my teachers! Also, band has kept me busy. Last weekend, October the tenth, I didn't have regular classes at all! The whole seventh grade went to an environmental day camp at the 4-H Center in Nicholas County. I participated in many enjoyable activities, such as a serpentarium presentation, a challenge course, and even a cooking class! Though the most enjoyable activity was the Birds of Prey presentation!

A resident of Lexington, Carol Reynolds, brought all different kinds of birds to show the seventh grade! Have you ever seen a falcon? Well, I sure have! Afalcon's body is approximately the size of my fist. The falcon's wings, on the inside, have small, black spots all over them. Did you know that a small falcon can split a duck in half? It surely can! Ms. Reynolds also brought a vulture with a broken wing, the wing cannot be fixed. It will never be released into the wild, because it will never be able to fly again. Did you know that birds are very well protected? Well they are. One man was fined about $500.00 for plucking one feather of a rare bird's wing. Sarah, if you ever see a bird, try to help it, don't go out of your way to hurt it.

Overall, my day was great! I missed all of my classes! I definately hope we go to the environmental day camp next year, too!

Sincerely,
Alex Wilson

Focus

The following is an editorial opinion concerning the salaries of "Kentucky's Finest," The Kentucky State Police.

You may have noticed in last week's issue of The Carlisle Mercury a letter to the editor addressing this matter. It has been re-printed in this issue strictly for the reader's convenience.

After reading the letter, I began to wonder what drives a person to want to become an officer with the KSP.

I would like to note at this point that this writer's opinion, it certainly isn't the pay.

The latest statistics show that a probationary trooper's (a trooper on the job less than one year) yearly pay is barely over $21,000 while probationary troopers in neighboring states such as, Illinois and Ohio, is well above that. Probationary troopers in Ohio make $26,000 per year and Illinois probationary troopers gross is just over $27,000.00 in a year.

These figures, as shocking as they may be, were not quite as disturbing as the fact that most police officers employed by in-state municipalities for a period of less than five years, such as Boone Police Dept. and the Northern Ky. Airport Police Dept., gross anywhere from $31,000.00 to just over $32,200.00 per year.

Other facts I found very upsetting were that you must work 20 years with the KSP to make what troopers in bordering states or officers with in-state municipalities make within five.

What I found most disturbing was the fact that a trooper takes home less than 50 percent of their gross pay. Not only are the usual income taxes and social security withheld but also a percentage for family insurance, retirement, Kentucky State Police Professional Association dues and the legal fund.

In the past two years the state Police hired 157 new officers. During the same amount of time the state police lost 166 officers.

The total cost to select and train a cadet class of 60 to be $1,100, 098.80. It seems to me that if that much money is invested into training the officers, then we should invest a little more into keeping them on the force.

After all these officers are out there protecting our safety and allowing us a much more comfortable way of life. Shouldn't they be compensated as such?

I welcome your thoughts and opinions on this matter. Please write: The Carlisle Mercury, P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311.

OPINION

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SATURDAY MARCH 16

	WSAZ 3	WCHS 8	WCPO 9	WVAH 11	WOWK 13	WLEX 18	WKYT 27	WTVQ 36	KET	TBS	ESPN	WGN	USA
7 AM	News	Concern	TBA	Monster	News	News		Turtles	Sesame		Sportsctr	Char-	Paid
30		Point		Globe				Sambo	Street		Fishin'	People	Paid
8 AM	Today	Paw	Turtles	Sandogs			Today	Scott			Outdoors	Farm Rpt	Paid
30		Free Willy	Tattoo	Rangers				Simon	Free Willy		Scooby	Business	Paid
9 AM		Bump	Aladdin	Kidsmag/				Aladdin	Bump		Sat Morn	Paid	Paid
30		Rubbers	Turtles	Rider				Turtles	Fudge		Walk-		Chld
10 AM	Donovan	Hyper-	The Mask	Sister	The Mask	Fresh	Fresh	The Mask	Rabbit		Sportsctr	Motor Wk	Fishing
30	Landers	Active	Toon	X-Men	Toon	Prince	Prince	Toon	Redsox		Auto	Fishing	Mania
11 AM	Sneed's	Bugs & T	Newly	Sonic	In Know	Fishin		Fats-Cat	High Q		Racing	Racing	Fighter
30	Fishing	Bugs & T	Newly	Lou	Dreams			Hi-Q	Kerr			Paid	Extrs
12 PM	Paid	Paid	College	Movie	Movie			College	Auto		Racing	Paid	Fighter
30	Fishing	Paid	Basket-	She's	Weekend			Basket-	Business		Amazing		Dragon
1 PM	Paid	Paid	ball ^	Out of	Paid			ball ^	Paid		Animal	Paid	St.
30	Fishing	Paid		Control					Olympic		Actors		Patrick's
2 PM	U.S.	Olympic	College	Movie	College			College	U.S.	College	Fam	Movie	Day
30	Olympic	Trials	ball	Summer	Basket-			Basket-	Olympic	Basket-	Feud	Parade	Parade
3 PM	Trials			School	ball			ball	Trials	ball	PBA	Sun	
30		PGA									Bowling		
4 PM	PGA	Golf		Star Trek				College		College		Movie	Movie
30	Golf	Wide	College		Wrestling	Basket-					Wide		Sixteen
5 PM	Bay Hill	World of	Basket-			ball		Bay Hill		Basket-	World of	Carly	Candles
30	Invit.	Sports	ball					Invit.		ball	Sports	Simon	
6 PM	News	News		Deep				News			News		Movie
30	Paid	Paid		Space 9							Great		Brg
7 PM	Fortune	High	College	Star Trek:	College			College		College		Baywatch	
30	Cash	School	Basket-	Voyager	Basket-			Basket-		Basket-		Pen-	
8 PM	Mad-Tv	Basket-	ball		ball			ball		ball		form-	
30	Shores	ball		Cops									
9 PM	Hope-	Movie:	Touched	Movie:	Movie:			Touched				Movie:	
30	HomeOn	The	Angel	Wanted	Babylon			Angel				The	
10 PM	Sisters	Texas	Texas	Texas				Texas				Rockford	
30		Ranger	Ranger	Ranger				Ranger				Files	
11 PM	News	News		And TV				And TV					
30	Saturday	Baywatch	Cash	Cash				Cash					
12 AM	Night	Live	College	Night	Sand			Night					
30	Live	Outerlim	Basket-	Rescue				Island					

	Jetsons	Flintstn.	Sesame	Sesame	Sesame	Sesame	Sesame	Sesame	Sesame	Sesame	Sesame	Sesame	Sesame
	Gilligan	Bewitch	Street	Street	Street	Street	Street	Street	Street	Street	Street	Street	Street
	Senior	Beast	Puzzle	Puzzle	Puzzle	Puzzle	Puzzle	Puzzle	Puzzle	Puzzle	Puzzle	Puzzle	Puzzle
	Griffith		Gilligan	Gilligan	Gilligan	Gilligan	Gilligan	Gilligan	Gilligan	Gilligan	Gilligan	Gilligan	Gilligan
	Body	Little	Bewitch	Bewitch	Bewitch	Bewitch	Bewitch	Bewitch	Bewitch	Bewitch	Bewitch	Bewitch	Bewitch
	Doctor	House	Senior	Senior	Senior	Senior	Senior	Senior	Senior	Senior	Senior	Senior	Senior
	Mallock		Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith
		The Mole	Mallock	Mallock	Mallock	Mallock	Mallock	Mallock	Mallock	Mallock	Mallock	Mallock	Mallock
	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-	Sport-
	scenter	scenter	scenter	scenter	scenter	scenter	scenter	scenter	scenter	scenter	scenter	scenter	scenter
	Court TV	Murder	Court TV	Court TV	Court TV	Court TV	Court TV	Court TV	Court TV	Court TV	Court TV	Court TV	Court TV
	Griffith	Wrote	Murder	Murder	Murder	Murder	Murder	Murder	Murder	Murder	Murder	Murder	Murder
	Charles a	Magnum,	Charles a	Charles a	Charles a	Charles a	Charles a	Charles a	Charles a	Charles a	Charles a	Charles a	Charles a
	Bergin	P.I.	Bergin	Bergin	Bergin	Bergin	Bergin	Bergin	Bergin	Bergin	Bergin	Bergin	Bergin
	Geraldo	Quantum	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo
		Leap											
	Geraldo	Connect	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo	Geraldo
	Warner	PGA	Warner	Warner	Warner	Warner	Warner	Warner	Warner	Warner	Warner	Warner	Warner
	Bros.	Golf	Bros.	Bros.	Bros.	Bros.	Bros.	Bros.	Bros.	Bros.	Bros.	Bros.	Bros.
	Fam. Mat.	Bay Hill	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.
	Up Close	Invit.	Up Close	Up Close	Up Close	Up Close	Up Close	Up Close	Up Close	Up Close	Up Close	Up Close	Up Close
	Saved-	Golf	Saved-	Saved-	Saved-	Saved-	Saved-	Saved-	Saved-	Saved-	Saved-	Saved-	Saved-
	Bell		Smith	Smith	Smith	Smith	Smith	Smith	Smith	Smith	Smith	Smith	Smith