

OPINION

Editorial

Paying for or buying votes

Everyone should have the right to vote, even if we can't afford it.

Did you hear the one about how a 2007 federal investigation into illegal vote buying in Bath County ended up costing Nicholas County taxpayers nearly \$10,000 in 2008?

The difference, approximately \$8,500, will be reimbursed from the Nicholas County Fiscal Court's general fund.

The investigation into illegal vote buying in Bath County resulted in federal charges being brought against former Bath Judge-Executive Walter Shurt.

Shurt was found guilty of conspiracy to buy votes, making false statements to a grand jury and obstruction of justice.

Shurt was only one of several county officials questioned and charged and ultimately found guilty in the vote-buying scandal.

They wanted to buy votes-let them buy votes, or at least pay for the costs associated with funding the votes cast during the special election.

Let's face it folks, in northeastern Kentucky, where the general funds of most of the counties are tighter than a banyan trunk, we could use the help.

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The Carlisle Mercury

The Carlisle Mercury (USPS 023-152) is published every Wednesday by The Carlisle Mercury, 117 Locust St., Carlisle, KY 40311.

Member of Kentucky Press Association and the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors.

2007 SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$28.00 for one year in Nicholas County. \$30.00 elsewhere in Kentucky and \$35.00 out of state.

How to Reach Us: Mailing address: P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311. Phone: 859-239-6425. Fax: 859-239-4000.

Headlines: Editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. Advertising copy with proof deadline is 5 p.m. Monday.

PHOTOREPRODUCTION ADVERTISING: Color, black and white and digital photos are all accepted. Digital photos should be submitted in the original format and can be emailed. Old photos will be accepted at any time.

LEGAL ADVERTISING: Form A-14, Size 7x8. Deadline 5 p.m. Monday. All submitted copy must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

The Carlisle Mercury reserves the right to reprint any advertisement in this newspaper. While it is the policy of the paper to print a truthful and accurate account of the news, the publication reserves the right to edit or paraphrase any advertisement for space or readability.

Bond's Broadcast

The tin bon. Christmas brings out the best in most people. It's a time of sharing, a time to rejoice and a time to celebrate the birth of the Savior.

I am glad to admit that there are many who do not celebrate the Christmas beliefs of the holiday, and that is why we have the right to choose and freedom of religion not available to everyone, everywhere.

As we age, at least for me, it makes me think of the things I've put that I can't recall fondly. The holidays always conjure up childhood memories. Of course I have enjoyed raising four children with my wife Marilyn and we now have four grandchildren so our Christmas memories are still very fresh.

I had the pleasure of buying Sadie Jo's first Christmas ornaments, which happened when she was a child's best friend and I was a Christmas tree and labeled with the letter B.

Each week I have to try and do the most efficient in finding column topics. Some are political, some are related to Carlisle and

Christmas Angela program. This is where people help those young people who don't have much of a Christmas without some gifts from the outside.

And this year the Carlisle Post-2007, My Christmas program. That serves even more children and families during the Christmas season.

There are people right here who give to all three of these programs and who are in money or presents or food.

Just this year at The Mercury, we have done articles and pictures concerning the Toys for Tots drive for the Nicholas County Fire Department members.

In addition, Whitaker Bank through the Nicholas County Family Resource Center takes part in the

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Steve's Report

Medicare Open Enrollment Season. If you are 65 years or older, I have some information to share with you about the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Medicare prescription drug benefit. Right now through December 31, 2007, Medicare beneficiaries are permitted to enroll in or make changes to their prescription drug coverage through Medicare Part D.

As your Congressman, I want to make sure that you are equipped with the best information so that you can make informed decisions about your health care. More than 81,000 seniors in Kentucky have prescription drug coverage through Medicare Part D.

This year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have reported that the average monthly premium for our nation's seniors will be \$25. This is significantly lower than the 2008 costs, plan options and scope of benefits.

The "Medicare and You" handbook is available online by visiting: http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/PDF/pdf1000.pdf.

You can also pick-up a hard copy of any of my offices. To locate the office nearest you, please visit www.house.gov/officeidv or call (800) 426-0800.

Additionally, the Kentucky State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides counseling and information to seniors and their families about Medicare in the Commonwealth.

SHIP can assist seniors with understanding their coverage, comparing plans, filling out prescription drug discount program applications and applying for additional benefits.

To speak with a SHIP representative toll free, seniors can call (877) 293-7447. If you are the caregiver for someone who qualifies for Medicare, I encourage you to talk with them about their current prescription drug benefit and ensure that their needs are being met.

There are many resources out there to assist seniors with choosing a plan that fits their needs. If you, or someone you know, are having difficulty with CMS or Medicare prescription drug benefit, don't hesitate to call my office at (609) 426-0800.

Specializing in Women's Health Care. Here for you today... Dr. J. Michael Baird, OB/GYN 5 Linnville Drive, Ste 100 Paris, Kentucky 40361

Dr. Baird accepts most insurance plans and is accepting new patients. Call 859/988-1966 and for all your tomorrows for an appointment.

Remember Your Recare

The importance of regular examinations. Taking good care of your teeth and gums should be a habit. We like to see most of our patients for a checkup at least every three to six months.

We refer to your checkup visit as a reat appointment. A reat dental visit can take up to an hour. Your checkup will normally include a complete cleaning, a fluoride treatment, any required radiographs and a comprehensive dental examination for cavities or other problems.

If there are no problems needing treatment, we probably won't see you again until your next reat appointment.

Giving your teeth regular checkups is the only way to keep them in top shape. Recare visits help to catch dental problems like decay before they turn into painful cavities. Routine dental examinations can detect life-threatening diseases like oral cancer in the early stages when they are most treatable. That is why most dental insurance plans cover at least two reat appointments per year. Insurance companies know from experience that regular reat is a great long-term investment in your oral health.

We encourage you to book your reat appointment well in advance. If you aren't sure when you'll be in for your next, don't delay - give the Carlisle Office of Mortenson Family Dental a call at 289-5418. Good dental habits will help your teeth last a lifetime!

Mortenson Family Dental is proud to sponsor Jennifer Dawn Marcum in the 2008 MISS KENTUCKY TEEN USA pageant. The winner will represent the state of Kentucky in the 2008 MISS TEEN USA pageant!

Everyone deserves a healthy smile.

Don't Forget... Be sure to use your insurance benefits before the end of the year!

MORTENSON Family Dental logo and contact information: 289-5418, 244-9995. Website: www.mortensonfamilydental.com

Fourth District Report

4th District Report by Geoff Davis. 4th District Report by Steve Seal.

Teachers, coaches, even the clergy - to make sure the kids are getting up on the right lessons.

For example, a few Saturdays ago we went Max off with his scout troop to earn his coin collecting merit badge.

He came home a few hours later, all excited, with his hands full of literature for some weird organization, the American Numismatic Association.

"Isn't that just great!" I thought, "I send off my kid to get interested in a new hobby and he goes and fills his mind with propaganda. Who are these Numismatics, anyway? Is that something like Scientology?"

"That," Max replied, "Numismatics is just another word for coin collecting."

Eager to support Max in his new hobby, the next time I went to the store and got a handful of change back, I decided to check through the coins to see how old they were.

Selecting a penny, I held it up so I could take a better look. "This penny must be really old," I thought, "You can barely make out the date."

I tried squinting but couldn't quite make out the numbers. I turned my head a little to the right so I could check it better.

I knew that I would encourage my sons to sign up as well. But parents have to be careful these days. Children are extremely impressionable and there are a lot of people out there who will take advantage of it.

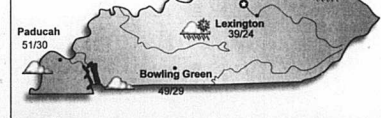
It's not just the commercials, the video games and the Internet that you have to watch out for. To be on the safe side, you need to keep an eye on the adult audience who influence your children.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast table with columns for Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun and weather icons.

We Celebrate Hometown Life

Kentucky At A Glance



Area Cities table listing cities like Bowling Green, Paducah, Louisville, etc. with population and county.

National Cities table listing cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Houston, etc. with population.

UV Index table showing UV index levels (Low, Moderate, High, Very High) and corresponding sun protection advice.

UV Index table with columns for Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun and UV index levels.

Veloz Viewpoints

Greetings from Nevada! I hope you are all having a great week.

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Talkin' From The Mountains

Thoughts Kentucky looked a little better in its loss to powerful North Carolina. Maybe there's some hope. Just in case you extreme UK fans decide you're going to start a campaign to get rid of Gillispie like the campaign against the last coach-fall pageants in the paper, calling for his scalp, nasty messages on his lawn—all that stuff, I have a recommendation for a new coach.

Billy Parker is high on my coach too. Parker pointed out that in 10 years at a school, the coach has more victories averaged 26.2 victories a season on five conference championships, five conference tournament titles, went to the regional finals five times, and won the National Title. Might be a coach who could suit the extreme UK fans. His name is Tubby something-I think the last name is Smith.

There are an average of 350 moose made a year. Why do you shoot the same 4 or 5 over and over again for year on the movie channels?

Why do clothing manufacturers put their logos or their names on the stuff they sell? Or an even better question: why people buy it if companies want to advertise for them, they can pay me.

Our system requires of dollars

babies I make the kiss sound. I put my lips together and make a smacking type noise to describe but I hope you know what I mean. As baby kisses, I said, "Give Mommy and Dad a kiss." And she put her little arms around me and kissed me.

Ben looked at her and asked, "What are you getting her to do that?" We were both pleasantly surprised to see her do the greatest things ever. I even managed to grab the little camera and get her to do it twice before she got tired of performing and just decided to cry for her brother instead.

Analyze absolutely loved the bread. She ate a good amount of pasta too, but she went crazy over the bread. She would grant at me to give her more when she had to sleep for me like I give her. Then, she showed us her new trick.

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