

Editorial

Nicholas County can do better! For want of a nail the kingdom was lost, according to an old English saying, and for want of a tree limb the cherry tree fell. Now, as never, now is the time to set up a new tree limb. In an emotional, knee-jerk reaction, members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court decreed earlier this month to never again allow carnival rides to set up on the courthouse lawn during the Blackberry Festival. The decision was made after a tree limb was sawed from one of the ancient oak trees that adorn the courthouse lawn, by a carnival ride employee. (See last week's Carlisle Mercury for details.) The tree survived. The Blackberry Festival may not survive.

Inside sources say the limb cutting was the straw that broke the festival's back. Regardless, decisions that directly affect and impact the larger public (especially in such a traditional way) should not be made on whim, nor should they be made without seeking public input, or giving local citizens the opportunity to be heard regarding the subject before a decision is made. The members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court appear to be civic-minded, leaders who are decent, protectors and enforcers of local democracy.

But this was not their best moment. Not by a long shot. So what is the status of the Blackberry Festival? No one seems to know for sure, except to say that regardless of anything else, the days of youngsters riding carnival rides in the shadow of the majestic Nicholas County Courthouse are a mere memory from this day forward. It was inevitable, but what was not inevitable was the

The Carlisle Mercury

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Head Bond: Marilyn Bond
Publisher/Editor: Christine Mangert
Office Manager: Becky Tucker
Marketing Consultant: Beth Bond

Chiefs: Matt News Editor: Cecil Bond
Creative Staff: Matt News Editor: Cecil Bond

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Mailing address: P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311
Phone: 289-5418
Email for news: editor@carlislemercury.com
Email for advertising: advertising@carlislemercury.com

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OPINION

Bond's Broadcast

It has been an exciting week for this particular paper. Sadie Jo came home last weekend, and while momma Beth was working diligently at the house, papa got some quality time with the newest grandchild, the baby who has gone from having one grandchild in January to now having four in July.

Sadie and the twins have added lots of excitement to our household. Sitting in my regular holding Sadie Jo (yes she will use both names when being referred by papa) I have found a certain peace. It's not unlike the enjoyment of holding Evan, Antonio and Analise, but I didn't get the chance to hold any of them when they were as young as Sadie Jo.

In this case had a chance on the day she was born and has a calming effect on me. I will also openly admit that there probably have been some sound sleep when I lowered my head and planted a tiny little kiss on her forehead as she smiled.

Now you can take that anyway you want - I take it as a real smile for her papa. In addition, to a new baby in the house, I have also had the pleasure of having my mother-in-law spend some time with me and my wife.

Veloz Viewpoints

Greetings from Nevada! I hope you are all having a great week. By the time this column runs in the paper, I will officially be finished working full-time. I can't begin to tell you how excited I am. I write this on Monday. I have today and tomorrow left and then I'm done. It is such a great feeling. I hate leaving the babes this morning and I hate getting home and only having an hour of them being awake before they are ready for bed. This is making to be a great change.

I know what I'm doing the right decision. That isn't to say it isn't going to be tough financially for a little while, while we are adjusting to a smaller income. But I know we will make it just fine.

It is also getting closer and closer for the time for us to come to Kentucky for a visit. I am also getting very excited about that. I'm a little nervous about how the babes will do in the crib as it will be during their bedtime and they are rather used to being laid in the crib to go to sleep. I'm not sure how they will handle having

Takin' From The Mountains

I watched "The Hustler" again recently. In the 1961 film, Jackie Gleason played infamous pool shark, Minnesota Fats. Paul Newman played Fast Eddie Felson, the guy who competed against "Fats" for big stakes.

Part of the movie took place in Louisville, and there was a sequel with Paul Newman and Louisville native, Tom Cruise called The Color Of Money.

Minnesota Fats was the character in Walter Tevis' book "The Hustler." It was also the moniker used by infamous professional pool player and entertainer, Rudolph Wanderone, Junior. Kids know about Minnesota Fats Wanderone from the Sega Mega Drive/Genesis game, "Minnesota Fats: Pool Legend." Wanderone claimed the character in the book and movie was based on him. The author denied it, but Fast Eddie Parker, who Newman's character in the movie was based upon, backed up Wanderone's story. Fast Eddie said he told the author about Wanderone and he believed he was indeed the inspiration.

she first came when the baby was born last week. I took her home last week and while Mommy Beth was working to get her Sunday to stay a few more days.

Now let me be totally honest, there was a lot of people in mind who had Mar-ilyn in their heads, which of course really makes me happy as well.

And in all fairness I have to add there are probably many mother-in-laws who would not want to spend an hour and a half in the car in the other direction.

I have to say this about Lois my mother-in-law, especially meaningful for Lois. She was my step-mother's name, which of course would make Sadie her great-grandmother's namesake.

After his initial enrollment, he notified CMS that he had changed his mind and enrolled in a different Part D plan, electing this time to pay the premium directly.

They are not growing most of their 3-6 month clothes and ready to move into the 6-9 month size.

Some of the smaller ones are being used for the "don't" when it is late and you are trying to put the babies to bed.

And, I can't wait to meet my new little one, Sadie Jo. It will be a fun visit, the first with all the babies together and Evan. I can't wait to see how he reacts to having three little ones in his life. I think he will definitely be a great time!

Until next week, make it a great one!

slum pool halls in cities all over America. "He was using the movie The Hustler, didn't you?" asked Mosconi. "I was the advisor on that movie. It was a real piece. Believe me, hundreds of thousands of dollars are won in pool halls, not only in cities like Louisville, but in little towns like my town. Once in a while, they'll hit big and make a small fortune, but America bet they'll lose it back real quick, or throw it away on some drug or woman."

In 1984, television staged a one game seven-ball match between the great pool player Willie Mosconi and John Maddox. The match was played in Louisville, and it was a real strategy was to beat Mosconi.

"I'll make the 7 ball on the 13th," Fats said, "and then Fats would hang around in

OPINION

Fourth District Report

4th District Report
By Geoff Davis
4th District Congressman

His changes were accepted by the system. However, when the plan took effect, Mr. Szaifeld discovered that the premium for his initial election was established from his Social Security check in addition to his having to pay the premium for the new plan he had chosen. For three months, Mr. Szaifeld attempted to solve these problems directly with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA), without success.

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They've only added to it. Indeed, what was Fletcher's call for a special session of the General Assembly is not a classic example of waste by taxpayers' money. For his gubernatorial proposal, he has personally opened to casino gambling, but he has personally try to use the issue to protect himself as the protector of old-fashioned, down home, Christian values and Beshear as an agent of the devil.

Such devious and deceitful tactics should make the Governor ashamed of himself, but it's obvious, by the way he continues to portray himself as the victim of a political witchhunt in the merit-system hiring scandal, that Fletcher and his aides may go beyond shame.

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 once every three to six months.

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's why most dental insurance plans cover at least two recare appointments a year. Insurance companies know from experience that regular recare is a great long-term investment in your health.

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repeatedly told that it was someone else's problem or that the problem was fixed, when, in fact, it was not. Even more galling was the fact that the first plan provider confirmed that they stopped receiving payments from SSA in April 2006. SSA was able to stop paying the provider for a service that was never delivered that within 600 months, but was not able to stop withholding premiums from Mr. Szaifeld, even after ten months. This is not only unacceptable, it is outrageous.

But, perhaps what's most unacceptable, is that Mr. Szaifeld is not alone. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have experienced similar problems related to their Part D premiums. For

several years, mesmerized by the tumbling dice and the spinning wheels, except for their wagering on the river, nobody knows how many Indiana schools have been helped by Kentucky dollars.

The casino won't reveal, probably because they don't know, exactly how much of their revenue comes from Kentucky. But take a stroll through the parking lot at Caesar's or Bellera and check how many Kentucky license plates you see.

For gamblers, it's not just that casino gambling will create new gamblers. The gamblers already are there, in every county, playing the lottery. The gamblers al-

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He has the facts on his side, and the facts always should prevail over fear and ignorance, the two very bad conditions that exist in Kentucky to unacceptably high degree and that Fletcher and his supporters will cynically try to exploit, again, in their quest to make sure that politics always trumps policy.

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sees casino gambling as a panacea that will solve Kentucky's economic problems. He only sees it as one way to generate new money for education, health-care, and other pressing needs. He must be clear about that during this fall's campaign.

He also must be conservative in his estimates of how much new revenue the casino will generate, and specify in how the revenue will be used.

It's not true that Beshear favors putting slot machines into every convenience store in the commonwealth. The lottery already owns that franchise. Beshear wants casino gambling licenses to our existing pari-mutuel tracks, and to cities that want it to help promote tourism and economic development. He has stated that money to other states.

It's not true that Beshear

While I am disappointed that this amendment was not ultimately accepted by the full House, I believe that we have called attention to this problem. I am pleased to report that in the coming weeks, I will be meeting with responsible officials from the Social Security Administration to begin a dialogue on identifying solutions to improve service to our constituents.

I want you to know that I will keep fighting in Congress to hold the government accountable to those that it serves. We can, and must, do better.

If you experience a problem with your benefits from a federal agency, please call my office at (859) 426-0680.

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