OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

To every Nicholas County resident who became a member during KET's recent TeleFund 2007, please accept my sincere thanks. I say this on behalf of Kentuckiana of all ages who will benefit from your gift, which helps KET continue to broadcast its entertaining and educational line-up.

If you haven't yet given your support, you can call 1-800-866-0366 or pledge online at www.ket.org/support. Your support of KET will help you, your family and your fellow citizens be more informed, inspired and empowered.

Sincerely,

Martha Taylor
KET Friends Board

Editor,

I am a concerned parent and fan. Recently there was a meeting called for Little League Baseball Coaches (all but one). The meeting was about kicking another coach out of the league, Togie Hughes, my cousin, and a coach for 16 years to many fine young baseball players. At the time of the meeting he was not even contacted. He has suffered a heart attack and is in need of a heat transplant in the very near future. No coach had even called him to tell him he was voted out by a unanimous 6-0 vote. After his hospitalization a parent called to inform him not a coach or even the league president. That goes to show that they are not very stand-up adults. We all make mistakes, and our lives are not perfect, but we are not to be the judge, God is. Before we look at faults of others look out ourselves first. Togie gave 16 years to coach other people children not one of his own; this shows a devoted coach.

Pam King
Carlisle

Bluegrass Beacon

'Engineered to last' beyond its time!

Bluegrass Beacon

By Jim Waters

Who says nostalgia isn't a good enough reason to bail out a struggling automaker?

Those who understand sound economics – especially the time-tested principle of "creative destruction," that's who.

Unfortunately, that doesn't include most of the state lawmakers in Frankfort, who consistently have it backwards when struggling operations like Ford Motor Company come looking for the PIN to the Automated Taxpayer Machine in the Capitol.

Gabby Bruno, Ford's government affairs manager, soberly warned Louisville politicians of grave consequences unless the state pays off the company to keep jobs in the state. If not, Ford will pick up its marbles – two Louisville plants – and go home, or, more likely, to another state.

I'm scratchin' my head. This company lost $12.7 billion last year, and yet it paid millions of dollars in bonuses to executives, and then when the labor union complained, it gave all Ford workers a bonus. Yet a recent survey indicated less than half of Ford workers expressed confidence in the company's long-term success.

But not one single lawmaker voted against House Bill 536, which rewards this company's failure by authorizing withdrawal of $8 million from "surplus" funds for "training grants" to prop up Ford.

Curiously, Bruno, criticized Kentucky's economic development policy for being "more focused on job creation or about profit,"

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The Carlisle Mercury

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Carlisle Mercury welcomes letters to the editor.

Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for confirmation. Unconfirmed letters will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Phone numbers are not published. We reserve the right to deny publication of letters and to edit letters for content.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Monday.

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Veloz Viewpoints

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

Well, it has been six weeks since the babies arrived. They are getting more and more beautiful every day. I love them both so much. I love holding them and giving them squeezes all the time.

My poor little girl has a runny nose right now. No fever and everything is clear, but she is having a real hard time breathing. I feel so bad for her. I wish I could make it all better. She isn't really fussy or anything, but she sounds so miserable when she is trying to sleep in the crib.

She has spent a lot of time sleeping propped up on me so she can breathe a little easier. I haven't been sleeping that well, mainly because I am too concerned that I will roll over on her. I know, I know, but I still haven't been able to allow myself to fall into a deep sleep when I'm holding her.

Veloz Viewpoints

By Amy Bond Veloz

Antonio is doing great. He is smiling more and, so far, he hasn't caught her little cold, or whatever is wrong with Analise. They both look so peaceful when they are asleep. I know I have said it before, but I could watch them sleep for hours.

In other news, the weather out here has been so beautiful. The tulips we planted last fall are starting to come up. I can't wait until they bloom, they will look gorgeous I'm sure. Also, this weekend, Ben replanted grass in our back yard. I know when most of you read this you will laugh about having to plant grass, when in Kentucky you have it everywhere. But, considering we live in the desert, there isn't a lot of it around here.

He spent part of Saturday and most of Sunday outside working on the yard. He tilled up the ground to help the grass seed take. Did I mention this will be our third attempt at planting grass? The first time it would have taken, but we didn't have the fence up yet and the rabbits ate it all before it could get a chance to come in.

The second time we tried, we had our fence up, which is chain link fence with slats in it helping it to be privacy fencing. That time we tried it was in the fall and the sun was in a different position casting shade on the grass. It probably would have come in that time, but we watered it a little too much and the shaded area stayed wet.

It stayed too wet and it didn't come in, in the shade. This time, we have learned from our mistakes...hopefully! We aren't over watering it. We have put up a temporary fence to keep the dogs off the grass that Champ can't jump over like last time. It is almost spring, so the part of the yard that is shaded is becoming smaller and smaller. We are planting Kentucky Bluegrass.

I can't wait for it to come in. It will make the backyard look so much nicer. We have been working on our landscaping since we moved in to the house almost two years ago. Ben curbed around the grass. We have curb in the front yard, which we will eventually plant grass in too.

We are going to be making sidewalks all the way around the house and are going to expand our back patio with some pavers and an above ground fire pit. I will keep you posted on how our yard turns out. And I will also keep you posted on how the babies are doing. Hopefully by next week, Analise is feeling much better and I will be able to update you on how well they are growing.

Until next week, make it a great one!

Amy

Steve's Report

When was the last time you witnessed a miracle? I haven't heard about anyone parting the Red Sea lately. In this age of hearing aids, eye transplants, and even artificial limbs the deaf can hear, the blind can see, and the lame can walk. It makes it easier for us to forget about faith – to believe that the age of miracles has passed.

Maybe this will change your mind:

I drive a 1979 Fiat Spider, or rather, I used to drive a 1979 Fiat Spider until the front end suspension became too loose to be safe. Additionally, the salty air in Hawaii has not been kind to my little car. There are rust holes forming along the wheel arches and on the rocker panels beneath either door.

Although I have already purchased all the parts necessary to repair and restore the Fiat, I just don't have the time to do the work right now. In the meantime, I needed reliable transportation to get me back and forth from work. We had gotten a bigger income tax return than expected, so we decided to use the extra money to buy another car.

Steve's Report

By Steve Scalf

Shopping for cars is a lot of fun, but if you're like me, it can get dangerous. What started out as a reliable, used pickup truck quickly turned into a brand new 2007 Toyota Tacoma 4x4 with the 4-door cab and the extended-length bed. Those car dealers are tricky. You go in there knowing you can only afford to spend a certain amount, and then they start talking rebates and low percentage rates on financing. Before you realize it, you're thinking, "Well, now that you put it that way, I guess I really can afford a $30,000 truck!"

But somewhere in the back of my head, I heard that little voice of warning, telling me, "Now is not the time. You are about to start building a house. Do NOT increase your debt."

Dang it! That little voice is such a spoil-sport – it never lets me have any fun. And even though I didn't want to hear it, I knew the voice was right. It's so annoying. So instead of bringing home a bright, shiny truck, I ordered in the door, pouting. I complained to Cindy, "I couldn't do it. My stupid conscience wouldn't let me."

The next morning, we were eating breakfast when I got an idea. "Cindy, let's head over to Hickam Air Force Base and check out the used car lot there."

There was a large selection of cars that day, but nothing that really jumped out at us – especially nothing with a price low enough to really grab our attention. Then in the middle of the back row, we found a little, white 4-door sedan – a 2000 Kia with only 48,000 miles on it, going for only $2,200. We called the owner and he said he would be over to meet us in 10 minutes.

After he arrived, the owner explained why he was selling it at about half the Blue Book price. He was leaving the island that week and was desperate to sell it. I checked over the car. It was mechanically sound: no leaks, good clutch, brakes, and tires, and an incredibly cold air conditioner. I offered him $2,000 but told him he could keep the car until the day he left. "Sold!" As he drove off, I commented to Cindy, "Man! That was easy."

On the way home, Cindy told me that while I was test driving the car, the owner confessed to her that he hadn't registered to have the car on the lot and that really wasn't supposed to be there. During breakfast that morning he realized he wouldn't need the car until the afternoon, and told his wife, "I'm going to leave the car at the used car lot this morning to see what happens." Oddly, he came up with this idea at almost the exact same time I was telling Cindy we ought to check out that same lot. The car had been on the lot less than 30 minutes when we called.

I couldn't stop thinking about how things had worked out. And then that little voice started talking again: "When it's time to leave Hawaii, you'll probably be able to get your money back out of this car, as well as the Honda Katie drives. And because you're

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Talkin' From The Mountains

More Thoughts

Talkin' From The Mountains

By Dale Greer

I was in church in Morehead. The preacher said in his sermon that "a friendly smile and a wave across a room might save the life of someone who is lonely or depressed."

I later saw the preacher at the local gas station, he stood right next to me, looked over and looked away without speaking. When I spoke to him, I got a scowl and a grunt that obviously meant, "Leave me alone." Can you spell hypocrite, Reverend?

Could hypocrisy be one reason our kids don't listen to us?

I'm for a long jail term for anyone who mistreats an animal. Someone mean enough to abuse or kill a helpless animal would do the same to a human.

President Bush says troops will come home when Iraq enjoys the same freedoms Americans have. Good! If Bush takes away just one more of our rights, the war will be over!

Actually, we just received a part of one of our rights back. Bush has agreed to quit listening in on our phone calls. Since he never pays attention to anything we say or want him to do, why did he want to know what we were saying anyway?

I tried to call a company I do business with. A computer answered and told me that "serving me" was the company's top priority.

The computer then told me that it would be 20 minutes before my call could be answered by a human. Wonder what the wait would be if service to me was not the top priority?

Why is there so much controversy over aliens in our school who can't speak English? Our President can't speak English!

If I could only get one thing across to my students, it would be that if anyone asks you to do anything that is unethical or illegal, then you no longer owe that person your loyalty whether it be your boss, your military leader, your minister, rabbi, priest, teacher, college President, U.S. President—. You owe no one your loyalty if they ask you to toss away the most important possession you have—your integrity.

I think immoral husbands, unfaithful wives, and divorce are a much bigger threat to the sanctity of marriage than gay couples being allowed to be united in a civil ceremony.

Poetic Justice. The courts ruled that the state of Missouri had to allow the Ku Klux Klan to participate in its "Adopt A Highway" program to keep roads clean. Missouri gave in, let the Klansmen start picking up trash along the road, and then renamed the Klan stretch, "The Rosa Parks Highway." Way to go Missouri!

Why did Al Gore even think about running for President again? If we had wanted him to be President, we would have elected him the last time he ran. Wait a minute! We did elect him President the last time he ran!

I'm more worried about being old, crippled and sick than I am about dying, but I'll stick it out whatever happens. Suicide is not an option. God decides how long he wants us here, and we need to let Him decide when we leave.

It amazes me that a professor's relationship with his students and his ability to teach doesn't matter much when it comes to raises and recognition at most colleges and universities. Want recognition and merit pay? Forget the students and get on the committee for the President's Christmas party.

President Bush promised the American people that everyone who was involved in the leaking of the CIA spy's name would be dealt with. At Scooter Libby's trial, it was disclosed that Bush's top aide, Karl Rove leaked the spy's name to a reporter. And now it has been revealed that Rove was involved in the unethical firing of US Attorneys. When is Rove going to be dealt with, President Bush? Could the answer be never? Anybody believe Bush didn't know what Rove was up to all along? Anybody else sick of all the corruption?

I would like to remind all elected officials that when they took the oath of office, they did not swear allegiance to the Bible, they swore allegiance to the constitution. If politicians are more interested in religion than politics, they should resign and become ministers. There are doggone good reasons for separation of church and state.

I had a thought. Maybe next Valentine's Day instead of being alone with my wife, perhaps we should go spend the day with someone who is not fortunate enough to have anyone to be their Valentine.

Patriotism is wonderful. Nationalism is dangerous. Let's tear off our car bumper stickers that say "God Bless America" and replace them with stickers that say "God Bless All Nations."

**** Dale Greer is a member of the faculty at Morehead State University. He has an expansive background in media including award winning reporting and stints as a major television anchor. He can be reached via email at, ddgreer@adelphia.net.**

OPINION

Fourth District Report

Funding Troop Operations, Not a Spending Spree

4th District Report

By Geoff Davis
4th District Congressman

In the coming weeks Congress will consider a bill that should provide important funding for our troops on the battlefield. But instead, the House leadership seems more interested in playing politics with the funding for our troops.

No matter your opinion on the war in Iraq, we can all agree that funding for our troops on the frontlines should be the one and only priority when considering emergency spending legislation that will support their operations. Establishing artificial benchmarks and timetables for results hinder our troops and commanders on the ground when they are not based on sound military principles. The emergency supplemental funding bill as currently proposed puts our troops in jeopardy and puts Congress in charge of managing the war – all at an enormous cost to American taxpayers.

Having spoken with numerous soldiers and commanders, I can tell you that the one thing we need to do is provide our troops with flexibility in the field. What works in one Shia neighborhood may not work in a Sunni area. The terrorist insurgents in Iraq are unlike any other threat that our military has ever faced. Combating this enemy requires patience, diligence and the ability to adapt in ever-changing circumstances. But this resolution begs the question, what will Congress be deciding next week– what block in Baghdad to target?

Last week, Paul Morin, National Commander of the American Legion, one of our nation's most prominent veterans' organizations, sent a letter to Speaker Pelosi criticizing her for leading the bill with billions in unrelated spending.

In a statement Morin said, "This is an attempt to implement a congressional strategy by imposing timelines for the withdrawal of military personnel from combat zones through a 'slow bleed' process by eventually reducing military funding...Thank God there was no mandated timetable after the Battle of the Bulge or Iwo Jima.

Thank God there was no mandated withdrawal or imposed exit strategy at Valley Forge or our Country would have lost the American Revolution." As a member of the American Legion myself, I agree with National Commander Morin.

Republican Leader John Boehner stated, "We shouldn't be putting this unnecessary spending on the backs of our soldiers." I couldn't agree more.

I will urge my colleagues in Congress to demand funding legislation that provides security for our troops on the battlefield and allows them to complete their mission with no strings attached and without blatantly wasting taxpayer dollars just to secure votes for a plan that ties the hands of our commanders on the ground.

BEACON

Continued from Page 4

as reported in the Courier-Journal.

Dumb me. All this time, I've thought that's what economic development is all about.

She twisted the Louisville political-delegation's arms to near fractures, saying, in essence: "If you don't act now, we may be gone." The legislators rolled over faster than an old Explorer.

There's a better way.

The "creative-destruction" approach demands Ford ride on its own four wheels or end up on display in some automotive museum. Otherwise, what are the politicians going to do when Toyota comes calling?

Ford may have been the company that, coined the phrase "engineered to last." But it's not companies with an entitlement mentality that thrive in a free-market economy based on competitive innovation. Rather, by limiting the heavy hand of government in the marketplace, the founders of our nation's economy engineered the marketage of hard-working taxpayers by treating fading companies as victims in need of rescue.

–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@bipps.org.

Carlisle Cemetery Notice

It's getting near to our growing and mowing season. Please help us by removing all artificial flowers, except those in approved containers by April 1, 2007. All unapproved flowers left after that time will be removed by Cemetery personnel. We should also bring to your attention that all glass and ceramic objects and all wind chimes should be removed at this time.

Jurisdiction **Carlisle Cemetery Board of Directors**

Published in The Carlisle Mercury, March 21 and March 28, 2007.

Dan Boren [D-OK], a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said, "Democrats have struggled to find a compromise that can satisfy both liberals who oppose any funding for the military effort and conservatives who do not want to unduly restrict the commander in chief." So, in an attempt to make the Democratic leadership's proposal more enticing, it is estimated that an additional $20 billion in funding, completely unrelated to the security of our troops and their operations, has been added to the emergency supplemental legislation. It has been widely reported that the legislation earmarks $25 million for spinach, $74 million for peanut storage costs and $100 million for citrus producers - just to name a few of the projects in this bill that have nothing to do with the war.

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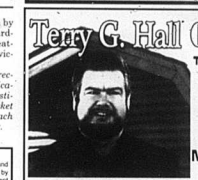

Terry will be at Mt.Zion Christian Church on Saturday March 24th

There will be a carry-in meal provided by the church at 5:00 p.m. and a concert will follow.

Everyone welcome.

For more information call

(859) 289-3131 or 588-1987

got doubts?

- Do you really know why you believe what you believe?
- Do you have questions about the relevance of organized church?
- Are you unconvinced that a miracle really happened at Easter?

Join us at Indian Creek Christian Church on Easter Sunday Morning. We hope to answer some of your questions. We are located in Cynthiana, 5 miles out Millersburg Road, at the corner of Wails Road. Services at 8:30 and 11:00 am. For further information, go to our website - www.IndianCreekChurch.org or call 234-5223.

Today's Menu:

Thursday March 22, 2007
Turkey & Dressing
Sweet Potatoes
Broccoli Casserole
Mashed Potatoes

Friday March 23, 2007
Fish
Salisbury Steak
Macaroni & Cheese
Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes

Wednesday March 26, 2007
Hot Brown
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Macaroni & Tomatoes

Tuesday March 27, 2007
Ribs
Mashed Potatoes
Brown Beans
Fried Potatoes

Monday March 28, 2007
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