OPINION

Letters To The Editor

Editor:

Please allow me to convey my sincerest gratitude and appreciation for the support and kindness that my Friends in Nicholas County showed me in this past Primary.

Betty Morford, Bobby Kelly and a host of other wonderful people went beyond the call of duty and honored us with their extra efforts on behalf of the Galbraith/Wireman ticket. This showed in the results and I am forever grateful that we won the battle in my hometown. If we only had one county to win, I will always pick Nicholas over any other.

As to my future plans, I am concentrating on helping Steve Beshear win this fall. He and the party have expressed their appreciation on my remaining the Democrats and I believe he represents a much-needed reform within the Party, so I will do all that I can to get him elected. And if he becomes our next Governor, I will never let him forget that Nicholas County needs some of his attention.

Again, I am so thankful for you all's support and ask you to vote Democrat this Fall.

Sincerely,
Gatewood Galbraith

Editor:

I read that the Nicholas County Fiscal Court is looking to hit property owners with a new tax. This tax will hit property owners with a significant increase on a tax bill that is already too high. Haven't they learned that the downward spiral of this county's dwindling economy will only worsen with this new tax. There is only so much that the productive citizens of this county can bear.

I am a proponent of quality Emergency Medical Services. The problem I have with this county levying an ambulance service taxing district is that the fiscal court has been less than wise in planning and delivering any sort of consistent service. It has been the last item on the budget agenda each year. They've had six different EMS providers in the last dozen years. Somehow we're suppose to think with this new pot of money they'll get their act together but there is no guarantee of this. I predict if the members vote to increase our tax bill, in a few years they will have to increase the rate or start pulling more money from the general fund to subsidize the new tax. Shouldn't they provide us with the details of how they are going to spend this money and who will get it if we're forced to tolerate this tax increase?

Just last year all but one of these court members we're asking to be reelected telling us how they've been good stewards of our county and its budget. Now a few months later we're at a large deficit. They've been sitting on their hands for years when it came to improving the employment out look locally. They've been sitting on their hands when it came to improving quality of life issues so people want to spend money to build, live, and do business here. They been sitting on their hands when it comes to preventing this county from becoming the dumping place for those unproductive citizens that prey on us and cost us money to jail them.

They've finally stopped sitting on their hands long enough to reach into our pockets to grab more of our money. Will they never learn? Will we never learn?

Miles Hughes
Carlisle

Editor,

Last week, the Museum of Ignorance (aka "Creation

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Veloz Viewpoints

Veloz Viewpoints
By Ben Veloz

Greetings from Nevada! I hope you all had a great weekend.

Amy didn't have such a great weekend.

This is her husband, Ben, filling in for her. Amy is spending the remainder of the week resting because of an unfortunate event with her left eye.

Her eye had been starting to bother her for a few days and her vision was getting cloudy.

She decided to schedule an appointment with her eye doctor on Thursday because the cloudiness was not going away.

When the doctor saw her, he told her that she might have a detached retina so he called a specialist in Las Vegas.

The specialist told him that she shouldn't come in that day because it was already late in the afternoon and she would have to go in again the next day if a surgery had to be scheduled.

The doctor's office opened at 8 a.m. so we planned to be there by then in case her eye was as serious as the doctor made it sound.

My dad doesn't work on Fridays so we asked him if he might be able to baby sit. He had already watched the twins for a couple of hours before, but never a whole day.

When my mom relayed the question to him, he responded by saying "do you think I can handle them?" My mom told him that she was 10 minutes away and would leave work if she needed to. He accepted, so we dropped the babies off Friday morning and headed into Las Vegas.

When we reached the doctor's office we waited for some time as there were quite a few other patients showing up that already had scheduled appointments.

When we finally went to the back, the technician that first started examining Amy said she did not think it was a detached retina.

Both of our hopes started to rise with this news and I didn't worry so much. They set up a short video for us to watch while we waited for the doctor.

It showed the surgery procedure performed on patients whose retina was detached. I was only partly watching the video because of the news the technician had given us.

The doctor called us back and began examining Amy's eye. When he was finished he said that unfortunately her retina was detached.

I glanced over at Amy and saw the worry in her eyes, she probably saw the same in mine. He said that it was a surgery he performed and that he would like to take care of it today because he was going into surgery that afternoon.

He told us that there was a 90 percent chance that the surgery would be successful, and that if it were not done she would continue to lose the vision in that eye.

She had no choice but to have the surgery.

The retina is located on the back part of the eye. The doctor compared it to wallpaper falling down.

The retina detached and was hanging in the inner part of her eye just like wallpaper might be hanging down in a room.

He needed to go in to attach it back to where it needed to be and use a laser to help fuse it back in place.

After that he would need to take some of the jelly out of her eye and put an air bubble inside.

The air bubble would put pressure back on the retina to keep it in place from the inside and he would also put a band on the outside of the eye to put pressure on the other side of the retina.

The doctor said he would stay as long as he needed that night to do the surgery for Amy. It was tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m. and she had to complete some testing before she could go into surgery.

When she was finished we had a few hours before we had to be back at the hospital at 5 p.m.

Her office was only five minutes away from the hospital, so I dropped her off there so she could meet with a coworker to discuss some business details for the coming week since she was going to be gone.

I felt bad dropping her off, but she was not able to eat since her surgery was planned and it gave me a chance to get a bite to eat myself.

She was also not able to drink anything either, including water. Since she is still breastfeeding she was especially thirsty.

She actually stopped drinking water at about 10 p.m. on Thursday because the eye doctor told her she needed to stop by midnight to ensure nothing went in her stomach eight hours prior to the surgery if she had to have it.

She could have something to drink and eat that next morning because she didn't actually go into surgery until 7:30 p.m. but by the time we found out she was going into surgery we were within the eight hours.

I waited impatiently in the lobby of the hospital as Amy was getting her surgery.

She had to have a general anesthesia during her surgery, which means that she was put to sleep.

Around 9:30 the doctor came out to tell me that everything went as planned and that she would be in a recovery room until she was awake and feeling okay. I had to stay out in the lobby another hour until a nurse came out to tell me that she was almost ready.

After stopping for some water and a little food we were on our way home. My parents had told me they would keep the babies overnight which was a big relief.

We know that they were in good hands and didn't have to worry about them while we were gone. We finally got home at about 2 a.m. in the morning. Amy had a follow up appointment on that next day.

The doctor took the dressings off of her eye and said that everything looked good.

My parents were a big help and watched the twins again that day while we went back in to the doctor.

We thought they might not be so willing to watch them again after spending so much time with them.

They said that the babies did great and that they were even easier to take care of between the two of them compared to their other grandchild by herself.

Amy now seems to be doing better but the worst part of her recovery is that she has to keep her head tilted down looking at her lap.

The air bubble that the doctor put in her eye is supposed to put pressure on the detached part and can only do so if she is looking down. She has stitches on her eye as well as some sort of band.

The recovery time sounds like it is at least going to be one to two weeks.

I am planning on staying home from work for at least a week to help Amy and to watch the twins.

This weekend definitely went by fast and we didn't expect to be back in the hospital so soon after being there for the birth of the twins.

Amy has another appointment at the end of this week. Hopefully she will be doing well enough to update you herself. Until then, make it a great one.

Ben Veloz

The Carlisle Mercury

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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.

Send letters to:
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Carlisle, KY 40311

Letters may also be e-mailed to: editor@thecarlislemercury.com
However, if e-mail is used, the sender should call 859-289-6425 to confirm that the letter was received.

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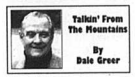
Talkin' From The Mountains

Hollywood
And Alice Lloyd College


Talkin' From The Mountains
By Dale Greer

How did Hollywood producer, actor, host, Ralph Edwards, best known for his show "This Is Your Life," become beloved by the folks in a Kentucky town named for a Robert Browning poem? It's an incredible and heart-warming story:

In 1915, Alice Lloyd, a former journalist from Boston, made her way deep into the mountains of Kentucky by train, mule and flatboat and began a school in a one room cabin.

A benefactor, a mountain man called Humpy Joah, donated land to Miss Lloyd in a holler to start a school to teach the children in his clan.

June Buchanan, a wealthy, well educated young lady from Syracuse, New York, heard about Miss Lloyd's work and decided in 1919 to take the difficult trip into the Kentucky hills to visit Alice Lloyd.

Miss June stayed in the Kentucky mountains for almost a century and helped Alice Lloyd set up the first and only school system in the entire region. The women took no state or federal money and every student—from the first grade through college--worked to earn their education.

It was Miss June who named the little town that grew up around their school system. She chose Pippa Passes in honor of her favorite poem by Robert Browning.

Early on, the women were harassed by some of the local people who didn't like "foreigners" coming into the hills. The term foreigner infuriated Alice Lloyd. She would lock the local people in the eye and inform them that she was no foreigner—that she was from Boston, "the cradle of democracy."

Someone attempted to gun the two "foreign" ladies down. After the shooting incident, the two women set up a meeting with the clans who lived in the hills and hollers near their cabin. They made their case and the people agreed the women could stay if, according to Miss June, they would "agree not to mess with their Freewill Baptist Religion, or their moonshine stills."

Many poor mountain kids taught by Miss Lloyd and Miss June went on to be educated at Ivy league schools—Harvard, Yale—. Some even became Rhodes Scholars. Those who did not leave the mountains were educated at Caney Creek College, founded by Alice Lloyd and Miss June.

Caney Creek College was later renamed Alice Lloyd College. Doctors, lawyers, and even nationally known politicians began emerging from this isolated region of Kentucky. The powerful U.S. Congressman, Carl D. Perkins was an Alice Lloyd product.

In 1955, the school was in financial trouble, and someone got the idea of putting Miss Lloyd on Ralph Edwards' famous TV Sflow, This Is Your Life.

Edwards was fascinated by Alice Lloyd's story and agreed to devote a show to her. Miss Lloyd, an humble woman, would have never agreed to such an appearance because she would have thought she was exploiting the school to get recognition for herself, so benefactors of the school tricked her into going to Los Angeles.

At the end of the show, Edwards asked people to send fifty cents--a dollar--anything they could to help Miss Lloyd continue her work.

In a matter of days, hundreds of thousands of dollars arrived at the tiny post office in Pippa Passes. There were so many mailbags full of money, the students had to form an assembly line to get the money up the steep hill to the school. The school has pictures of the money being handed up the hill in its fabulous pictorial archives of the region.

In 1980, the school celebrated its first four-year graduating class by inviting Ralph Edwards to be the graduation speaker.

I met Edwards at the Lexington airport and drove him to Pippa Passes. It was still a difficult trip over mountain roads in 1980.

I was meeting a film crew at the graduation to shoot more footage for my documentary about the college, a production arranged by my dear friend and Alice Lloyd College benefactor, Grady Nutt, who at the time was nationally known as the Prime Minister of Humor on the popular TV Show, Hee Haw.

Ralph Edwards was a most gracious guest. The multi-millionaire Hollywood star lived for days in one of the rustic cabins on the campus (there were no hotels) and agreed to do whatever was asked of him, including narrating my documentary. He also hosted a special "This Is Your Life Miss June Buchannan" which my crew filmed.

The school later named a facility after Edwards, and the people in the region added him to the list of "foreigners" they loved. Edwards, Miss Lloyd and Miss June have all departed this world, but Edwards is revered in Knott County by those who remember what he did for their college and their region.

I hope the college is keeping Ralph Edwards' memory and his association with the school alive for future generations. He was a good man who truly cared about others.

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

4th District Report
By Geoff Davis
4th District Congressman

Honoring Our Heroes

This week I had the chance to visit with Kentucky veterans as I participated in Memorial Day events throughout the 4th District.

Recently members of the Army Reserve's 478th Engineer Battalion, based in Ashland and Ft. Thomas, were called to active duty. As they prepare to depart to the frontlines, I have been working hard in Congress to ensure that all of our soldiers have the tools they need to accomplish their missions. The House of Representatives recently considered the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 to provide annual funding for the Department of Defense and critical resources for our troops. The bill passed the full House by a vote of 397 to 27.

During the House Armed Services Committee's consideration of this legislation I offered an amendment to provide $72 million to the Army to implement the "Warrior Pay Concept." Currently our men and women in uniform receive hardship duty pay in addition to regular salary when deployed to a combat zone. However, they do not get additional hardship duty pay for cumulative time spent in combat zones. This is a serious shortfall at a time when tens of thousands of our troops, active and reserve, are spending year after year fighting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

My amendment would for the first time allow soldiers to receive hardship duty pay based on cumulative years of service in combat zones. The Army's plan, which my amendment makes a fiscal reality, will allow soldiers to be eligible for up to $1,000 in additional hardship duty pay, based on their rank, years of service and total time spent in combat zones over the course of their careers. In addition, my amendment raises the cap on hardship duty pay from a maximum of $750 to a maximum of $1,500 per month for all branches of the armed forces.

This amendment remained in the version of NDAA that passed the full House with bipartisan support, providing a victory for our service men and women. In the coming weeks, the Senate will consider this important legislation. I hope the Senate will recognize the importance of this provision and that it will remain in the final version agreed upon in Conference and signed into law by the President.

I was deeply disappointed that the Committee failed to include my amendment that would create equity in disability pay for our men and women serving in the National Guard and Reserves. Currently, disability retirement pay is computed differently for reservists than it is for active duty service members. This means that the citizen soldier comes up short. With so many of our reserve units being activated for duty, now is the time to correct this inequity. I will be urging Senators to recognize the sacrifices made by our citizen soldiers by creating equity in disability pay as they prepare to consider this legislation.

As an 11-year Army veteran, I know that Memorial Day is a solemn occasion to honor those who have selflessly answered the call of duty. It is also timely that we recognize the sacrifices of the current generation of soldiers who are serving across the world in defense of our freedom.

Steve's Report

Steve's Report
By Steve Sealf

Have you ever noticed when folks start talking about universal healthcare for the United States, they tend to use Canada as the model? In one of Dale Greer's recent columns, he shared a letter from Linda McGray, a former Carlisle resident who spoke highly of the benefits she received under the Canadian system.

It surely sounds like a wonderful system. Why wouldn't we want a similar system in the United States? After all, the Canadian system has worked out so very well for Ms. McGray.

What's even more amazing is that Canada spends less per citizen for healthcare than the US does, and they are still able to provide free healthcare for everyone.

This is something Hillary Clinton pointed out frequently when she was First Lady, and if elected President vows to implement a similar program here.

Let me say up front: I like the idea of universal healthcare. But before we adopt another country's program, I think we need to look at the program's problems, not just its benefits.

We should also examine how universal healthcare has been managed THIS country.

Canada's healthcare system has been in place for about 40 years now, and has done a pretty good job providing routine healthcare to its citizens – at least until recently. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported that doctor shortages in recent years have led to month-long waitlists for necessary surgeries, and in some provinces waitlists of several years before patients are assigned a family doctor.

One reason Canada's system has lasted this long is the government made it a monopoly. Medical facilities that allowed patients to pay for treatment out-of-pocket were stripped of public funding. Many provinces implemented laws prohibiting private medical insurance for similar services available under the publicly-funded system.

By the way, in 1997 the Clinton administration implemented similar rules to protect Medicare. Doctors that continued to accept private payments from patients enrolled in Medicare were removed from the program and banned from filing Medicare claims for two years.

Perhaps the greatest shortcoming of the Canadian system is that it does very poorly when it comes to funding research and incorporating new technology. Canadian health policy analysts at the Fraser Institute conducted a study of the top 25 countries belonging to the Organization for Economic and Cooperative Development (OECD).

Although Canada ranks a respectable sixth place for the percentage of money spent per capita for healthcare, when it comes to how much Canada spends on high-tech medicine, Canada falls to 19th place, grouped near Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

The study found, "Health technology is not available to Canadians in a quantity

See STEVE'S Page 7

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The Wedco District Health Department is accepting applications for a full time Clinical Nutritionist to work in the Wedco District Health Department, which includes Harrison, Nicholas and Scott counties and Bourbon County for Home Health. This position involves one on one client involvement in the clinic setting or home setting, and community health education programs. This position does require almost daily travel.

Starting salary: $14.78 - 18.61/hour; *salary negotiable with experience.* Benefits and travel reimbursement.

Qualifications for this position are: Bachelors degree from an accredited college or university and be a licensed registered dietitian (L.D.) by the Kentucky State Board of Licensure and Certification as provided in KRS 310.021 or be a Clinical Nutritionist (C.N.) certified by the Kentucky State Board of Licensure and Certification as provided in KRS 310.031.

Applications are available at the Wedco District Administrative Office, 1094 U.S. Highway 27 South, Suite 101, Cynthiana, Kentucky between the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. - Monday through Friday, or a copy can be pulled from our website at www.wedcohealth.org. Resumes cannot be submitted in lieu of application. Criminal record check and interviews are a part of Wedco's selection process. For more information contact Lenora at 859-234-8750.

Completed applications with transcripts and license must be received at the Wedco Administrative Office in Harrison Square by June 14, 2007 at close of business (4:30 p.m.)

The Wedco District Health Department does not discriminate because of age, race, color, national origin, gender or disability. We are an "Equal Opportunity Employer" and comply with all applicable State and Federal employment regulations.

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

Giving your teeth regular checkups is the only way to keep them in tiptop 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. This is why most dental insurance plans cover at least two recare appointments per year. Insurance companies know from experience that regular recare is a great long-term investment in your health.

We encourage you to book your recare appointment well in advance. If you aren't sure when you're due for your next one, 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!

The Staff of Mortenson Family Dental's Carlisle Office (L to R): Tom Vivian, Becky Davis, Dr. Roy Foster, Mary Boggs, Rhonda Sibert and Kayte Land. Not pictured is Dr. Garry Meeks.

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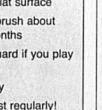

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