

OPINION

Bluegrass Beacon

Taking a 'commission' on selling bad ideas

Just like the administration that created it, the blue-ribbon commission studying Kentucky's public pension crisis showed no courage in its final report issued two weeks ago.

Then-Gov. Ernie Fletcher appointed the commission in April to determine how the state should deal with a \$28-billion shortfall in the state-worker retirement accounts.

Buy? Kentuckians didn't need a commission to tell them the system remains in dire straits.

Solutions abound. The political will to enact them does not.

Irresponsible government created the under-funded crisis in the first place. The system paid the price for self-serving politicians.

State employees and their labor bosses howl and jeer while defending the cash benefits by saving the retirement package makes up for relatively low salaries.

Without the benefits, yet, skilled workers would avoid Frankfort like blue-ribbon commissioners avoiding reality.

That's not how the private sector operates, though. For example, the Bowling Green-based Houchens Industries Inc. has grown to become the country's largest employee-owned company.

It attracts quality employees who work before drawing

to attract the best workers while still providing them an adequate retirement plan.

State workers enjoy the benefits of their own retirement or in their own retirement or in real solutions.

State workers erupt whenever lawmakers broach the idea of them moving from the current defined-benefit system - where taxpayers pay the tab - to a defined-contribution plan, which requires workers to help

the ATM - Automated Taxpayers Machine - located in the lobby of the Capitol. And when they get the "insufficient funds" message, they just borrow some more.

After all, it's not like the private sector. If the Houchens of Kentucky don't change their free-spending ways, they go bankrupt. State government? It uses

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Notice is hereby given pursuant to KRS 398.623 that the following Settlements will be overruled 12 months on the 30th day of January, 2008, unless a hearing will be held in the Nicholas District Court when said Settlements shall be approved and recorded unless prior written exceptions have been filed.

Table with columns: DECEDENT/WARD, EXECUTOR, TITLE, NATURE OF ACCOUNT. Includes entries for Joyce Wayne Flynn, Sylvia Wayne Ayres, Debbie Scott McCall, and Gregory Moore Houchens.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to KRS 424.290, "MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED," THE FOLLOWING RACE WILL APPEAR ON ALL THE VOTING MACHINES IN NICHOLAS COUNTY FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION, JANUARY 8, 2008.

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR NICHOLAS COUNTY SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008

INSTRUCTIONS: Mark your choice in this column, turn the SELECT wheel to the desired choice. Press ENTER to mark your choice. When you are finished voting, press CANCEL BALLOT and you will see the voting American flag.

STATE OF KENTUCKY COUNTY OF NICHOLAS 1. Douglas Picholas, Clerk of Nicholas County, Kentucky certify that the above and foregoing is a true, complete and correct copy of the ballot that will appear on the voting machine for the 2008 Special Election.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 72nd Representative District (Unopposed Term) (Vote for One)

95 Saturn, 4 cyl., Auto, 4-Door \$1500

96 Plymouth Voyager, 7 Passenger, 4 door \$1950

96 Volvo, Leather, Sunroof, Heated Seats \$2500

96 Dodge V-6 Bulldog, 34 ton \$500

97 Ford Escort, 4 cyl. Auto, 4 Door \$1900

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Letters to The Editor

The family of Carol Walker Garvin would like to express its deep appreciation and thanks to the people of Carlisle and Nicholas County for their many recent expressions of kindness and support.

Carol loved this community and its history very much and this love was rooted in her many visits as a small child and young adult to her grandparents and other relatives in Carlisle.

She felt a deep sense of appreciation and debt to place and its people that had been so supportive to five generations of her family. There is a wonderful beauty to a life well lived, with many experiences and many places traveled as a loving wife and mother which forms a circle and returns back again to a Kentucky town called Carlisle.

It is so fitting that her final resting place is alongside her past generations and the many other generations of people who were proud to call this place home. This faith carried on the traditions of support and care to our family just as it did to our past generations.

My wife and I have problems with drug abuse in our community. We have had vandalism in the cemetery and other areas. Evidently these issues cannot be addressed because of speeding residents.

Hopefully, we will stamp out those terrible law break-

ing speeders. My fellow residents, be forewarned now that you live in a speed trap city. By all means drive safe.

Wendell O. McKeel

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of the 72nd Kentucky House District for the past nine years. I have met so many wonderful people and many lifelong friends. I thank everyone for their friendship and support.

The 72nd District now looks toward new leadership in Frankfort. I am very pleased to support the Democratic nominee Sannie Overly in the Special Election on January 8th, 2008. Sannie represents our values and understands the concerns and issues of this district. From issues of education to agriculture to tourism to economic growth, Sannie is ready to represent our interests in Frankfort.

I hope you will join me on January 8, to elect Sannie Overly our next 72nd District State Representative. Carolyn Belcher, Former State Representative, Bath County Judge Executive

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The Carlisle Mercury strives

- To be the DOMINANT news source in Nicholas County
To get the story FIRST
To get it right - ACCURATE news reporting
To be FAIR - presenting ALL aspects of an issue

It's Your Hometown. Read all about it.

117 South Locust St. • Carlisle, KY 40311

859-289-6425

Video Shack Trivia

Win a FREE Night's Rental at Video Shack

Matt Groening is the creator of The Simpsons and what other animated TV show?

To win: Be the first person to bring this ad into Video Shack with the correct answer and you will win a FREE night's rental!

Some restrictions apply. See store for details.

Table with columns: DECEDENT/WARD, EXECUTOR, TITLE, APPT. DATE. Includes entries for Lona E. Mitchell, Marion Mae Graves, and James C. Myers.

All persons having claims against the above decedents/wards are notified to file the same, properly proven, with the respective representatives no later than ten months from the date of appointment.

Notice is hereby given that all creditors pursuant to KRS 434.340 that the Nicholas District Court has appointed personal representatives as follows:

Wendell O. McKeel, Nicholas Circuit Clerk

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