

OPINION Editorial Bond's Broadcast

Have you thanked a cop today? Local law enforcement officers have been going the extra mile and putting forth the extra effort in several combined and independent investigations that will prove beneficial in the short, and long term, for the citizens of Nicholas County.

The acts of vandalism perpetrated on Christmas night, especially the senseless acts of vandalism that occurred inside the Carlisle Cemetery, were more than just a black eye to the citizens of Nicholas County. They were more than just a black eye to the citizens of Nicholas County. They were more than just a black eye to the citizens of Nicholas County.

No method to the madness that left one monument toppling and another standing tall. Carlisle Police Chief William Denton instantly recognized the significance of the crime and asked for the assistance of other law enforcement agencies.

They were eager to help and through the combined efforts of all, arrests were soon made. The positive working relationship between city, county and state law enforcement officials appears to be strengthening every day.

That's a very good thing. City, county and state law enforcement officers have of ten told staff members of The Mercury that most crimes, in one way or another, are drug related.

While this one may not have been, the task of winning the War on Drugs is akin to baiting out the ocean in many regards, with the demand for illegal substances compelling citizens from all walks of life to engage in the lucrative black market activities associated with the illegal sale of drugs.

Economic opportunities are scarce for many Nicholas Countians and that fact only intensifies the lure of easy money associated with the black market sale of illegal substances. Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett and Deputy Benie Buckler have initiated several drug investigations that have led to arrests and the removal of vast quantities of illegal substances from our streets and neighborhoods.

The same can be said of the officers of the Carlisle Police Department. The same can be said of the officers of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department. The same can be said of the troopers and detectives of the Dry Ridge Post of the Kentucky State Police.

The Kentucky State Police has also fielded a Drug Enforcement Special Investigations Unit (DESU). Officers with the Gateway/Bufallo Trace Narcotics Task Force continue, in many cases, to be the front line troops on the War on Drugs, and it was through their officers, working closely with Kentucky State Police and DESU officers, that led to the most recent drug arrests to appear within the confines of this week's Mercury.

Has a corner been reached? Yes, it has been. And it has been made possible through the combined efforts of our city, county and state law enforcement officers. When these men and women put on their uniforms and prepare for work each day they don't just put their names on the line.

They don't just put their reputations on the line. They put their lives on the line. Being a policeman can be a thankless job. The hours are long, the pay is not lucrative and the stress and risks associated with the work they do can often be deadly.

We want to take this time to express our thanks for the commitment and cooperation of our city, county and state law enforcement officers who have demonstrated their dedication to our community.

Thank you. **Mark Bond**, Publisher/Editor; **Bob Bond**, Creative Manager; **Melissa Mitchell**, Office Manager; **Charles Mattox**, News Editor; **Christa Jennings**, Marketing Consultant.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Carlisle Mercury welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be typed and double-spaced on one side of the paper. Enclosed letters will not be published. Please include a return address. Publication of letters and their contents is at the discretion of the editor and is not guaranteed.

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We need help from the Kentucky General Assembly. This would include the governor's office, our U.S. Representative's office and the Kentucky General Assembly.

We now have a new governor in office. Along with a new governor comes the appointment of new cabinet secretaries and associated support staff.

While over the past four years there have been some funds funneled into the county it just doesn't seem to ever be enough. As the county and city each struggle to balance their budgets year after year it would certainly be beneficial.

Just maintaining the infrastructure of the city and county has become a proposition so costly it stretches the very fiber of the community.

Maintaining fire protection in the city is another major expense. Just maintaining the fire departments and the sheriff's office can be added to the list of necessary budget items.

Couple these expenses with what it takes to provide an education to the children of the county and it would be a tall order for any one person to take on.

I read Jim Waters column in the Mercury and I am not sure I am on the same side of the political fence on most issues, especially when it comes to funding education.

He is not totally in disagreement with him when he discusses education. I also am not confident the

tenants of the No Child Left Behind act will allow an apple to be compared to an orange. This will remain to be seen, but I think it's time to take a whole look at the cost of this continuing litany of unfunded mandates.

In my life I have been surrounded by people who are educators. My aunt, whom I spent more than half of my school life with as a teacher, she taught English and Latin, along with many other courses during her career.

My mother taught nursing at St. Mary's Hospital and was also director of government trying to solve every problem in the private sector; however this is not the private sector.

Jim told me his solution to most of the problems in our schools is to cut funding. This will solve the problems we have.

We have already cut out so much money from our schools and eliminated things maybe we need to have in order to survive financially.

We have nearly every class cut out of our schools and we are still trying to raise money just to be able to have the things they need.

It takes far more money to run a school than it did even 20 years ago, much less when I went to school. I am not sure we can eliminate the state or national standards that which is one of Jim's suggestions. I don't believe it will

work as long as we fill the classrooms the way we do. Many classrooms in our county are filled to capacity with students. The cost to just transport students inside the county is astronomical.

With stagnant tax revenues there's not a lot available in the budget. And there's nothing going to change that.

To build new schools, districts have to increase tax rates. It's just what it is going to take.

To maintain city and county services there is going to come a day when there is nothing left to cut out of the budget.

Oh, sure, there's plenty out there who will say that the agencies waste money here or money there, but if the expenditure happens to come a day when there is nothing left to cut out of the budget.

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Steve's Report

Last week, when I wrote about my mom's cancer, the column's focus was my reaction to the news and how I had to get used to the idea that my parents won't be around forever.

There is a natural, self-inflicted quality to the sorrowing process. We tend to think of tragedy in terms of what we have lost and how it changes our lives.

Over time, however, we eventually manage to crawl our way out of our grief and start thinking about the future. So it is only fitting that I write about the remaining, more important part of the storm.

There is a natural tendency to fear the unknown, especially when they find out they have cancer, the disease he or she is in control. The cancer decides whether you live or die.

As time passed and the lump did not go away, she started to grow concerned. But that's not enough to get Mom to go to the doctor.

She has to confide with all the family members first so everyone can tell her she needs to go to get it checked out.

Even if she gets the same advice from everyone, she still waits until at least half of us call her back and ask her if she's been to the doctor yet.

Part of this comes from experience. So many times in the past when Mom has been sick, she's been playing and her words can't be taken seriously.

I hope that each and every one of you find a love more deep than words some day. I really would, but there's nothing wrong with her and made her feel like she's wasting time and money trying to get something done.

So it didn't help this time when the doctor told her the lump was probably just a bowel obstruction and prescribed more fiber and a laxative. This made Mom even more reluctant to go back to the doctor and suggest that maybe he ought to take the lump a little more seriously.

The specialist examined Mom and sent her to get a CT scan with contrast. Contrast dye is used to make things show up better. Dad made an appointment for early November when the results came back.

Travelled down from Winchester to Paris recently. I had not one of the prettiest views in the world. Dad made an appointment for early November when the results came back.

Watched Louisville Bengals play Marquette recently. They won it all the time tournament title ring around. You can't keep team coach by Rick Pitino, down for too long. Wonder if they will play in Paris.

My friend says there is no need for us to thank him for this valuable information. He's doing it as a public service. Those who enjoy boozing can find interesting ways to

Fourth District Report

ments by our educators that demonstrated their commitment to strengthening education and fostering a spirit of learning in their classrooms.

I am very pleased that Blossard, who was named the 2007 American Star of Teaching in Kentucky, this prestigious honor is presented to one teacher in each of our State and recognizes her outstanding commitment to her students and to teaching.

Across the Fourth District, many students have participated in Congress in the Classroom. Congress in the Classroom is a program designed to bring Congress and the legislative process to life for students.

While my generation had to settle for the School House, I got to go to Congress. Several months ago, I was visiting a classroom when a student asked me about our nation's energy policy and how we can develop energy in the Arctic.

Keeping things secret gave Mom the chance to develop her battle plans - to finish gathering facts about the disease, how to treat it, and to decide how she wanted to proceed.

Finally, Mom was ready for the final stage: Declaration of war. Only after she had drawn up the battle plans was Mom ready to rally the troops - to call in family and friends.

Now, instead of being a helpless cancer victim, Mom is a mighty General, ready to fight and defeat her cancer. Now, when family and friends are called in, instead of taking over control, they re-supply ammunition - provide additional strength to keep the fight going strong.

I thank Mom for allowing me to share this with you in the hope that her experience may be of some benefit to others who find themselves in a similar struggle.

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parents for talking to them about the issues that will impact their lives for years to come. If you are interested in arranging a congressional visit to your school or classroom, please contact my office at (859) 426-0080.

Additionally, if your school or family is planning to visit our nation's Capitol, please contact me at (202) 225-3465 if you are planning to visit our nation's Capitol and we will do everything we can to assist with making your trip educational and enjoyable.

My office offers a wide range of services to help better educate the Fourth District students of all ages about Washington, D.C. and the federal government.

I encourage you to visit my website at www.groffadviser.com to find more information on legislative visits, visiting Washington, D.C. and applying for internships and military service academy nominations.

Any faster and we'd have to install a drive-thru window. Our tax professionals will help you get more money back, as fast as possible, and with less hassle.

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