

OPINION

Bluegrass Beacon

Hurricane flooded lawmakers with some common sense



By Jim Waters

Opponents of school choice want you to believe that allowing parents to remove their children from failing schools benefits only angry, white, right-wingers intent on destroying public education.

Unfortunately, perception often trumps reality. But things are changing.

In New Orleans, for example, it took a hurricane, but parents now acknowledge the reality that the city's embarrassing public schools have consistently left their children behind.

In 2004, 75 percent of the city's eighth-graders scored "below basic" in reading; two-thirds fell "below basic" in math. Enrollment decreased 15 percent between

ings, leaving water-logged facilities in ruins after the storm.

Many parents, including a significant group of minorities, wanted to provide their children with a better income but couldn't afford private schools. The answer to their dilemma: charter schools, publicly funded schools run the right way.

Students without neighborhood schools destroyed by the storm wouldn't miss a year of school after all. Charter schools rebuilt faster than public schools and spread quicker than water.

Charter schools rebuilt faster than public schools and spread quicker than water. Features one of the most expansive charter-school programs in the country.

Rep. Austin Badon, who both represent New Orleans, get acclaim for the courage to stand up in the aftermath of a hurricane's destruction, and announce that they would no longer accept sub-standard education for students, especially minorities who have, for too long, been left behind by the Crescent City school system.

They expressed unwavering support for charter schools. They also took to the unions and succeeded in passing a \$10-million voucher program allowing 1,500 children from lower-income homes to enroll in private schools.

Handreds of parents lined up last week to apply. Although they're moving into this very cautiously, I believe people are now beginning to see the value of not protecting systems but protecting children," Duplessis said during a recent interview on Louisville's black radio station WLLV-AM.

Protecting children and their future by ensuring access to a good education rather than propping up "the system" represents the good sense that you have, for too long, been left behind by the Crescent City school system.

Meanwhile, as parents waited in line to sign up for vouchers in New Orleans, the teachers' union in Jefferson County, Ky., went to court to challenge a decision by Superintendent Sheldon Berman not to renew contracts of 13 non-tenured teachers for next year.

Berman charged that one high-school teacher, who didn't meet any of her 10 teaching standards last year, also failed to supervise her students, allowing them to throw a trash can and scissors out a classroom window and staged pretend fights.

The union's attorney told the Courier-Journal "This is about the policies that are designed to help teachers become the best they can be. Too bad the lawyers and the union be representatives doesn't seem nearly as concerned about ensuring that the teachers would help students become the best they can be in a district where 19,820 out of 33,809 - 59 percent - of black students tested "below proficient" readers in 2006.

That's not just a perception - for real.

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@bips.org. You can read previously published columns at www.bips.org.

HEAVEN

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ing to bring the knife across the warrior's forehead he saw the second one lunge for a tomahawk. With a quick, strong kick the huge front-runner knocked the second warrior out. When he turned his attention back to the first warrior a bullet ricochet off a nearby tree. Simon looked up the trail from where the shot came and saw several Shawnee muskets leveled directly at him.

With a quick lunge Simon dove behind a tree as bullets struck all around him. He then frantically retrieved his musket and began the reloading process when other shots alerted him to the advance of the Boone party coming up the trail from the opposite direction.

Several volleys were fired before the Shawnee group fled, leaving three horses and the one slain warrior behind. The wounded warrior that Simon had kicked had been dragged away by his friends.

Simon took the one scalp and several of the accoutrements that adorned the Shawnee's body.

It wasn't the first scalp he'd taken, nor the first dead body he'd plundered. After a brief discussion Boone suggested the group return to Fort Boonesborough as quickly as possible. All agreed except Simon, one of his favorite front-runner companions, Alexander Montgomery.

The two were going to try their hand at stealing horses and to take a prisoner from the Paint Creek Village.

The Boone group, which included Jesse Hodge, Pemberton Rollins and John

Hilder, moved south as quickly as they could and made it safely back to Fort Boonesborough, after skirting around a large group of Native Americans encamped at the Lower Blue Licks Spring.

Boone's mission was successful in uncovering the intent of the Shawnees.

Frantic preparations were made inside the fort to meet the adversaries, which Boone estimated outnumbered their own force by nearly 10 to one.

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WEDCO

The Wedco District Health Department is taking applications for a Sr. Support Associate to assist in the Boone County Health Office. This is a full time position working 37.5 hours per week.

Duties include but are not limited to: Assemble complete medical records containing all required data for use in patient registration and establishing a new medical record. Review documentation to ensure completeness and accuracy of demographic information required for various services. Enter the demographic information using the computerized Patient Services Reporting System (PSRS) and Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) system. Maintain patient medical record. Establish master patient index. Assure that the physician orders, lab reports, patient visit reports and other pertinent information is reviewed/updated and filed in the patients medical and billing charts in a timely manner according to HIPAA guidelines. File and/or return medical records prior to follow-up visit or subsequent visit and record fees) obtained from patients, insurance providers, state or federal agencies as permitted for service in the CDP Boone Health System. Prepare routine letters, labels, and other appropriate material. Perform general office duties. Answer phone. Provide general and non-technical information to visiting inquirers to appropriate individual.

Minimum starting salary: \$8,822-10,775 salary negotiable with experience in area. Benefits and travel reimbursement.

Minimum Education, Training, and Experience Requirements: High school diploma or GED. One (1) year of moderately difficult administrative or clerical experience in a medical, hospital, or administrative office environment preparing documents using a computer, operating a phone system to answer calls and referring to appropriate person, computer operation (such as WORD, Excel, Internet), using office equipment (fax, copier, calculator) and maintaining office files, and filing documents. *Additional education (college, vocational school, etc.) in business education or a medically related field may be considered for the required experience on a year for year basis.

Applications are available at the Wedco District Administrative Office, 302 Oakville Avenue, Cynthiana, Kentucky between the hours of 9:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. - Monday through Friday. 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 859-234-3750.

Completed application must be received at the Wedco Administrative Office by August 7, 2008 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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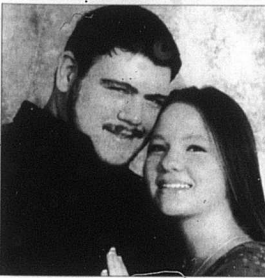
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"Come Join The Fun"

DINING OUT

Engagement

Riggs, Butler to exchange vows



Clinton Riggs and Megan Butler

Keith and Deanna Butler of Hillsboro, Kentucky are proud to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Megan Jo Butler to Clinton Alan Riggs, son of Bernice and Roger Riggs of Carlisle, Kentucky.

Megan is a 2007 graduate of Fleming County High School and is attending Maysville Community and Technical College to become a Registered Nurse. She is currently employed at Johnson Matthes Health Care in Carlisle as a CNA.

Clinton is a 2004 graduate of Nicholas County High School and a 2005 graduate of Nashville Auto Diesel College. He is employed by Hoffman Inc. of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky.

Megan is the granddaughter of Lutie Faye Moorehead, Kentucky and the late Jackie Butler of Ewing, Kentucky. She is also the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Byron Rice of Morehead, Kentucky.

Clinton is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Jilson Robinson of Morehead and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Riggs of Carlisle, Kentucky.

A custom open church wedding is planned for June 27, 2009. Everyone is invited to attend.

Wedding

Wilkins, Brame exchange vows



Candace Wilkins and Ryan Brame

Candace Renee Wilkins, daughter of Carol Wilkins, of Fairfax, VA, and Cliff Wilkins of Richmond, VA, and Ryan Adam Brame, son of George and Debbie Brame of Pulaski, VA were united in marriage June 7, 2008 at The celebrations at The Reservoir overlooking Swift Creek Lake, Richmond, VA.

A reception was held at the Manor House, a plantation style home overlooking Swift Creek Lake. The kuno used to cut the bride and groom's wedding cake belonged to Candace's great-grandmother Edna Carter.

Candace and Ryan are both graduates of Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA. Candace is the granddaughter of Charles and Mary Carter of Middletown, VA. She is the great-granddaughter of the late George and Edna Carter and the late Charles and Nannie Mann of Carlisle, KY. After their honeymoon in Jamaica, they now reside in Richmond, VA.

Anniversary

Robinson's 50th Wedding



Brenda and Jilson Robinson

Jilson and Brenda (Smoot) Robinson of Morehead, KY were guests of honor for their 50th wedding anniversary hosted by their children on July 19, 2008 at Carnizo County Club. They were married 50 years ago on July 19, 1958 by Frank Simons.

Jilson and Brenda are proud parents of five children: Jeffrey (Lisa) Robinson of Bethel, Bernice (Roger) Riggs of Carlisle, Patricia (Steve) Cutsinger of Carlisle, Kirk (Angie) Robinson of Carlisle, and Crystal (Dwight) Gillispie of Carlisle. Brenda and Jilson have ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Jilson and Brenda would like to take this opportunity to thank and express their appreciation to all their friends and family who helped celebrate their memorable occasion. They also would like to thank everyone for all the wonderful gifts and shared memories. They will be cherished forever.

BOTH inside and out

Photography

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