OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

On Saturday, Feb 9, 2008 the Nicholas Co. Diabetic Coalition held the Sweetheart Ball at the Carnico Club near Carlisle. It was the 3rd annual Ball and it was very well attended. The members of the Nicholas Co. Diabetic Coalition sponsor the Ball every year in order to raise funds to aid Nicholas Countians who are diabetic and unable to afford diabetic and unable to afford diabetic medicines and/or supplies. The coalition is made up of only a small number of people from the community whose main goal is to help those diabetics who qualify and are in need of assistance. The members are made up of local business people, employees of the Nicholas Co. Health Center and a few community volunteers.

The Nicholas Co. Diabetic Coalition would like to thank all those who participated by attending, volunteering, donating and many other way in order to make this years ball the most well attended of all. It is true that there were more people attending than expected so extra tables had to be set up so everyone could be accommodated and those people did not seem to mind. Since the event was held in a public restaurant/bar some who were there having dinner decided to join the dance also. There were many people who bought tickets at the door or donated money to the fund.

Thanks to the staff at Carnico Club and the band, everyone there had plenty to eat and plenty of entertainment. As usual there were finger foods and tea/coffee provided as part of the ticket price. A photo opportunity was offered to customers form Jay Morford of Thunder Studios with all proceeds donated to the Caner Coalition. Since it was at a public place there were other foods and drinks there of participants chose to partake. Al those who attended acted responsible and most enjoyed themselves tremendously.

In summary we are a small community with a large goal to aid those who need assistance. Since the Coalition has been established we have been able to help approximately a dozen people per year. These funds come from the Sweetheart Ball and other activities that we do year round. Mind you we are small in number so well need to work together in order to make it a successful organization. All of our member try to do what is needed whenever it is needed. Thanks again. Hope to see you next year supporting our worthy cause.

Sincerely,
Kathy Rainey, RN
Pres of the Nicholas Co. Diabetic Coalition

Editor,

While Congress and President Bush recently completed work on an economic stimulus package for America, farm interests have been pushing for another type of economic boost knows as "The Farm Bill".

Sometimes mischaracterized as a subsidy program for large-scale corporate farms, the nation's farm policy actually goes a long way toward providing a sense of economic stability in rural communities. And it does so with a broad reach.

About two-thirds of the spending in the farm bill is allocated for nutrition programs like food stamps. The measure also provides funding for a wide variety of research, conservation, and renewable energy and trade programs.

The commodity title, the section providing income support to farm families when market prices are low, is only a small part

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The Carlisle Mercury

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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.

We have exciting new developments at our house this week. On Thursday, Analise took her first two steps by herself. Since then, every time we try to get her to walk without holding our hands she gets so excited she topples over. It is so very cute to watch.

She also makes us run all over the house so she can hold on to our fingers to help her walk better. She gets pretty angry when we are ready to stop, as she usually isn't.

She loves to cruise all over the house using those walking toys that stand up and have wheels. They really are a great invention. One that we have even converts down into a mini-bike for them to ride when they can figure out how to make it go forward.

Then, on Saturday, Antonio took on the walking adventure and is doing pretty good at it. He took five steps to Ben from me. We were both so amazed. He had tried to take a couple on Friday and it seemed like he was starting to figure it out.

He is still pretty wobbly at it, but he will give it a try. He usually gives up pretty quick and then takes off crawling. And man, can he crawl fast. No wonder he is taking his time learning to walk...he is too slow at that!

Antonio is also a climber. I'm not sure what we are going to do when he gets another inch taller. He can already reach pretty far onto the kitchen table when he is on his tippy-toes.

He can climb onto the recliner and onto the couch. He scares me because he likes to stand up on the couch to see out the window. I am so afraid he is going to lose his balance and fall off backwards to the floor and hurt himself.

He climbs into the new toy box that Ben built and he climbs onto the spare bed we have in the office. I just know that once he gets a little bit taller he is going to be climbing out of his crib.

I don't want to move them to big kid beds before they are ready, but I have a feeling it is going to be sooner than we would like. Especially if he starts climbing in and out of his crib. I don't want him to get hurt.

-ABV-

Easter Sunday was nice. We had Ben's parents over for breakfast. Then we hunted Easter eggs in the front yard. The babies were so cute. They would crawl over to an egg, put it in their basket then dump it out and put the basket on their head.

It happened that way every time they found a new egg. It was so much fun to watch. I just can't believe how big they are getting.

That afternoon we went to Ben's parents house for lunch. It was so good and the twins really enjoyed it. They ate more than they have eaten in quite a while. And, as a reward got a cookie afterward.

Later in the evening, my climber decided he wanted to climb into the exersaucer to play.

He climbed in all by himself, the only mistake was he had both legs in one whole. It was pretty funny. He had a huge grin on his face like he was so proud of what he had accomplished.

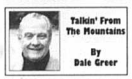
I don't know what I will do when they both start walking/running. I guess I will probably need to purchase some new running shoes and I will be in the best shape of my life, just trying to keep up with them.

Until next week, make it a great one!

-Amy

Talkin' From The Mountains

Rants and Raves



Received any of the vicious E-mails the conservatives are sending out? If you've ever been on a Republican, Conservative or Neocon web site, or donated to the Republican Party, I bet you're getting them. I get them because Republican friends forward them to me (good Republicans who are confused or disgusted by them)

You know the Emails I'm talking about. They make claims such as: Hillary and Bill are going to get a special pension; Barrack is a Muslim; Barrack hates America so much he won't put his hand over his heart when he says the Pledge of Allegiance; Hillary has an illegitimate baby by one of Bill's former cabinet members—vicious nonsense like that.

The people who track such things report that all of the Emails are untrue. All of them!

Good rule of thumb: Don't believe the Emails if they say "undisclosed recipient." The creeps who send out that garbage are too cowardly to sign their names.

Treat Emails like anonymous phone calls. I doubt that any of you would talk to anyone on the phone who wouldn't reveal their name. You'd hang up. Unsigned Emails are no different. Erase them.

*

Want to know if what you read and hear about candidates is true? Go to factcheck.org or snopes. Both are very credible.

*

Speaking of lies: George W. Bush went on the radio to explain to the American people why he vetoed a bill that would stop our nation from torturing people. He said, "it would take away one of the most valuable tools in the war on terror—the CIA program to detain and question key terrorist leaders and operatives."

Absolute lie! Nothing in the bill shut down the CIA Interrogation program. It simply required U.S. interrogators to follow the rules contained in the U.S. Army Field Manual. In other words, it called for our nation to follow the rules of humanity and common decency.

Another outrageous lie from Bush to allow torture, yet a small percentage of people want to continue to argue that Bush and his bunch are good Christians. Lying? Torture? What Bible are they reading?

In defense of the lies and corruption by the Republican Administration, Republicans say, "well, Democrats have sleazebags too." They sure do. Ex-New York Governor and Democrat Elliot Spitzer is a sleaze-bag, liar, and hypocrite!

The fact that Democrats have creeps like Spitzer, however, does not excuse Bush's actions, or the actions of Republican members of Congress who continue to back the Bush Administration—including John McCain.

McCain's support of Bush and his promise to carry on Bush's Iraq policy and his tax cuts for the rich is especially troublesome. If McCain wins the Presidency, do we get 4 more years of the same? That's what McCain is promising.

*

Have you noticed that more and more truckers are speeding, tail-gating and generally driving reckless? Why is that?

Are trucking firms doing less screening of the people they hire? Giving them less training?

Amazingly, many of truckers drive recklessly even if there's a number on the back of the rig to call and report bad driving. Make the call!

I emphasize tail-gaiting because it takes a loaded tractor trailer truck traveling 70 miles an hour over 500 feet to to stop. In other words, if you have to apply your brakes, the tail-gaiting rig behind you is definitely going to run right over top of your car.

Truckers might as well be holding a loaded gun to your head when they ride your bumper. It's extremely dangerous—especially for you. The trucker has a much better chance of surviving when he or she crushes your car and kills you and your family.

Hey, you good truck drivers out there (and you are in the majority), why don't you do more self-policing and help get these uncaring, rude and dangerous morons off the road? That goes for trucking firms too—the bad ones are ruining the reputation of your industry.

*

Multi-level/Matrix marketing schemes are cropping up again in our area. As someone who went to the top level (Executive Director) and made money in Excel which was one of the most famous, all I have to say is beware!

And don't believe all the tales of thousands of dollars a month. Guarantee you most of the stories are untrue or greatly exaggerated.

If you check the leaders out, you'll find that many of them have been in and out of bunches of MLM plans. They begin a business, take the initial money rolling in from the people who sign up, let the plan die, wait awhile and then start another one. Beware!

*

We'd better wake up and do something about global warming before we destroy this little ship we are twirling around in space on.

Every nation in the world has recognized the seriousness of global warming except for the United States. Please look at a candidate's stand and voting record on environmental issues before you pull the lever for them.

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 and talk show host. He can be reached via email at, ddgreer@roadrunner.com

Fourth District Report

FISA Modernization

Thirty-five days ago, on February 12, the Senate acted in a bipartisan fashion to modernize our laws and ensure that our intelligence services have the tools they need to protect America. Thirty days ago, on February 16, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) that provides these tools expired because the Democratic Leadership in the House failed to act on the Senate's compromise bill.

Much to my dismay, on March 14, the Democrats in charge of Congress adjourned the House for the second time since the FISA modernization expired without enacting a solution. As a result, the United States government is unable to fully use its intelligence capabilities in the fight to protect the American people against terrorism.

Late last week, the Democratic Leadership offered a bill as a show piece. However, the Senate and the Bush Administration have both indicated that the House Democrats' proposal is dead on arrival. If two of the three decision makers indicate a proposal is unacceptable, then it is unlikely to ever become law.

This is an example of the House Democratic Leadership's unwillingness to work in a bipartisan or even bicameral fashion, even when the majority of Congress is in agreement. Over a month ago, the Senate passed a bill with a bipartisan majority of 68-29. The Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Democratic Senator Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, described the bill this way: "What people have to understand around here is that [without this legislation] the quality of the intelligence we are going to be receiving is going to be downgraded" (Floor Remarks, 02/14/2008).

The House of Representatives has held 101 recorded votes since the Senate passed its bipartisan measure. The House has voted on everything from renaming post-offices to congratulating sports teams, but the Democratic Leadership has been unwilling to schedule a single vote on the Senate bill. Besides winning approval from sixty-eight Senators, the Senate FISA bill has been endorsed by a bipartisan group of twenty-five State Attorneys General. In an open letter to the House Leadership, they described the bill as "critical to the national security of the United States."

FISA is designed to ensure that our intelligence services can monitor the foreign communications of suspected terrorist targets overseas. In addition, it adds necessary liability protections for third parties who assist in the intelligence gathering process. The original drafters of FISA could not have envisioned the development of cell phones, computers, the internet and e-mail. These technological achievements have created gaps in our intelligence law. FISA must be modernized to fill-in those gaps.

It has been thirty-five days since the Senate acted. America has been unnecessarily vulnerable for thirty of those days. Due to the Democrats' adjournment, the intelligence tool box will have been locked for a total of forty-three days when the House reconvenes on March 31. It is urgent that the House act in an immediate, bipartisan manner to restore the full capability of our intelligence officials to track and monitor foreign terrorists.

OPINION

Bluegrass Beacon

Bogus bills trick cash-strapped Kentuckians

The federal Treasury Department holds more faith in the ability of Americans to identify counterfeit currency than many Frankfort politicians hold in Kentuckians to determine if their hard-earned money gets spent wisely.

Banks start getting the redesigned $5 bills from the Federal Reserve this week. The bills come with a new color scheme, two watermarks and alternating background patterns. U.S. Treasurer Anna Escobeda Cabral recently said that the new "fiver" allows the public to provide "the first line of defense" against counterfeiters. The Treasury department pulled out of circulation approximately $120 million in funny money last year.

"It's a matter of holding up this bill to the light and looking for the two watermarks," Cabral said.

Now, imagine the benefit that Kentuckians could derive from holding up "to the light" counterfeit bills put into circulation during this legislative session. Imagine how many counterfeiters they could catch and how many bad bills they could pull out of circulation.

The TV commercial would go this way: "Bad spending bills passed into law: millions. Bad spending bills spiked by the public: priceless."

Maybe the Bluegrass Institute should create a deck of playing cards carrying the faces of "counterfeiters" the way the Bush administration singled out bad guys after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

A Kentuckian drawing the "Ace of Spades" in that deck might turn up House Bill 262. The original bill offered tax relief for lemurs, an endangered species found primarily in Madagascar and its nearby islands.

Kentuckians cannot legally buy or sell an endangered species such as a lemur, yet legislative leaders want to offer someone doing that a tax break.

Even an amateur sleuth quickly realizes this bill uses the lemur as a ruse. The amended version of the bill threatens another endangered-species – Kentuckians who can survive the lack of political and economic leadership that results in high taxes and low personal incomes.

Passage of HB 262, which is being escorted through the Legislature by budget chairman Rep. Harry Moberly Jr. and his collectivist cronies, would result in $800 million in new taxes for Kentuckians.

It includes a 25-cent per-pack tax increase on cigarettes, raises taxes on other tobacco products, extends the 6-percent sales tax to five additional services, and makes state's temporary 1.4-cent-gas tax permanent.

Other lawmakers outside of Moberly's big-spending club should hold this bill "up to the light." They could provide a great first line of defense against taxpayers being ripped off by a bogus bill.

Add to that the "Ace of Clubs" – casino gambling.

Despite the well-intentioned beliefs of Gov. Steve Beshear, casino gambling doesn't equate to $500 million in new money for the state. Instead, it "clubs" low-income and quickly addicted Kentuckians into pouring money into slot machines instead of their families.

In the 1970s, The Chicago Sun-Times bought a run-down bar in order to expose corruption throughout the city's courts and business-inspection offices. They named it "The Mirage Tavern" because it was not what it appeared to be. Enter HB 769 from Rep. Don Pasley.

It would create a Web site that seemingly helps Kentuckians track public spending. But this bill would only require details on expenditures of more than $100,000.

Shocking? Hardly. Recall that the aforementioned Moberly is a leading architect of Frankfort's secret budget meetings. He serves as a co-sponsor for Pasley's bogus bill. So far, the bill maintains its original signature – to "appear" as an oasis where tax-burdened Kentuckians can see how their money gets spent.

Meanwhile, the "real" government transparency bill comes from Rep. Jim DeCesare. His "Taxpayer Transparency Act," HB 105, requires posting details on any expenditure more than $5,000. Taxpayers could hold all but the smallest invoices up to the light and determine their legitimacy.

This exemplifies the difference between "accountability" and "counterfeitability."

— 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. You can read previously published columns at www.bipps.org.

LETTERS
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of the cost, but has a significant effect. With this safety net eliminated some of the instability and uncertainty in farm income, farmers can obtain operating capital even during the bad times. The multiplier effect to the non-farm sector bolsters the economic base of rural America.

The slight injection of this safety net into the farm economy spurs investment in new technologies on the farm and development in rural communities. And most importantly, it allows farmers to continue to provide Americans with an affordable and high-quality food supply. Indeed, the farm bill is policy that touches all of us by sustaining the world's best food system. Without it, Americans almost certainly would have to spend more of their incomes on food, leaving them with fewer resources for other necessities.

To those who have bought into the assertion that farm subsidies are welfare for well-to-do farmers, please consider this: According to U.S. Department of Agri-

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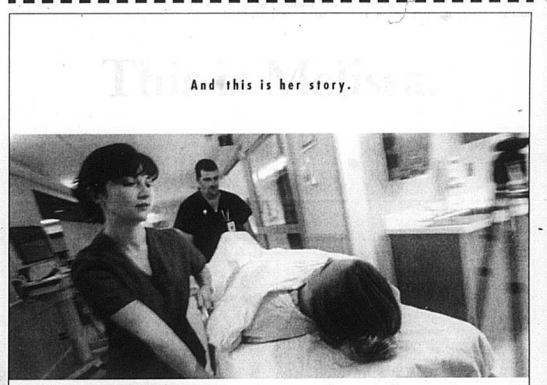

As a nurse at Harrison Memorial Hospital's new Emergency Department, Melissa has the unique ability to make quick, effective treatment decisions with a level head that calms frightened patients.

Part of her experience lies in her years as a nurse. The other comes from being a mom of two kids herself. Melissa knows that choosing the right treatment is just as important as keeping family members informed. At Harrison Memorial Hospital, we believe constant communication in a time of crisis is crucial. New video technology allows our entire Emergency Department staff to monitor patients' progress at a glance and read digital radiology images almost instantly.

How long it's gonna take to be seen by a doctor is the last thing you need to worry about when an emergency strikes. That's why we offer an Emergency Department wait time that's half the national average.

Harrison Memorial Hospital's new Emergency Department. Melissa and friends are standing by for your next crisis.

Tell us your story.

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