

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All Letters To The Editor Must Have Name, Address, Phone Number, And Be Signed To Be Printed In This Column. Only The Name And Town Will Be Printed.

The Tax Man Cometh

Letter to the Editor:

Citizens of Cleveland/Bradley County, do you feel the barrels of those two revolvers in your back? One has a bullet labeled sales tax and the other is labeled property tax. The City Council, who is holding the revolvers, says to you that you get a choice as to which one we shoot you with, either way you're going to get shot. It seems the rationale for your shooting is that the school board and the city have some projects that need funding and since they don't have the money to fund these projects they have cocked their tax pistols and decided to just take the money.

Now, if I understand their rationale rather their irr rationale, they need to extort more taxes because revenue is down. I wonder if they took the next step and asked the simple and obvious question as to why revenue is down? Could it be that revenue is down because people are spending less because they don't have it, or they are fearful of losing their jobs or being laid off, or perhaps because we are in one of the worst economic declines in recent history? Evidently, none of these issues seem to have crossed the mind of the Council, the School Board, or the Chamber of Commerce. They must be operating under the delusion that we all have a goose that lays golden eggs or we all have a money machine that we can just crank out more money to give them for their projects. I'm sure that many of you have projects that you would like to finish or start. A roof that needs repaired, a car that needs to be replaced, or house remodeling that is long overdue. I'm sure that in order to finish your projects that you simply go to your boss and tell him that you have these projects you need to finish, but you don't have the funds so you need an extra fifty dollars a month. Perhaps those of you that are retired, you just call Social Security or your company pension plan and tell them you need more money to finish your projects. They will tell you sorry, but you need to learn to live within your means.

Now I ask you, citizens of Cleveland/Bradley County, why is this so hard for the City Council and the School Board to understand this simple rule of economics that we all have to live by; if you don't have the money, you wait until things get better or you save for it. I suppose the City Council rationalizes why wait, when they have two loaded tax pistols and all they have to do is stick them in the back of their citizens and threaten to shoot. So stick'em up, the tax man cometh!

- Dan Kurbis, Cleveland, TN

Changing Times

Letter to the Editor:

Being born in the late forties, I grew and matured in the early fifties and beginning of the sixties. The times have changed and so have the people.

The morals, beliefs, and the difference between right and wrong. The scriptures tell us they will call evil good and good evil. I have this knowledge of knowing the difference since childhood.

I was taught the difference and I still believe that it is the same. We have moved into a mode of wrong thinking. Actions are proving out to show we have lost something in the times in which we live today.

We are still seeing change, but it is not altogether good change. I am not against total change as long as we do not change our morals and the true difference in right and wrong.

There are new translations of the right and wrong. What my mom taught me as being a young lady and decency was good for her and it sure was good for me. This is one of the differences we are experiencing today. I was taught to dress right and to not expose myself. I was taught to be decent in the presence of my dad and brothers.

In this time and age, nothing is private. Don't get me wrong, there are things that were known as we matured, it was not talked about outwardly as it is now.

There is no privacy, everything is open and exposed. This is not good or healthy for the young ones, neither is the way they are being exposed to the vulgarity of the world we hear and see today.

It is a proven fact we have exposed too much and we see the results, which is not good at all.

- A. Louise Ledford, Cleveland, TN

Library to Close for 2 Weeks

Paul Pullen, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees confirmed that the Cleveland Bradley County Public Library plans to close for two weeks beginning April 20 and ending May 4, 2009.

During that two week period, the Library's collection will be moved out of the existing space and relocated to the new addition so renovation can begin on the existing space.

To ease the inconvenience, patrons will be granted an extended check out period to compensate for the two weeks the Library is closed.

Another brief closing will take place later this year when the books and other items are to be rearranged throughout the expanded library.

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