

Questions?

In February, a Cleveland resident who volunteers some of his time to the Bradley County Sheriff's Department was involved in an altercation at an area restaurant in which it is alleged that he flashed some sort of law enforcement identification. Later, questions were asked at a county commission meeting intending to clarify what connection this person had with the Sheriff's Department and what, if any, liability the county had.

This paper tried unsuccessfully to find out exactly who was granted special deputy status under former Sheriff, Dan Gilley, when we received reports that law enforcement badges were being used as get-out-of-jail-free-cards by the politically well connected.

Spurred on by the recent ruckus, we this time asked Sheriff Tim Gobble for a list which was supplied almost immediately. According to

this information the man in question was not given deputy status, did not have a badge and was not authorized to carry a firearm. He did volunteer his time to the sheriff without pay and did not have access to sensitive law enforcement information.

There are 36 civilian Reserve Deputies in good standing upon completion of required training by December 2008, (40 hours). There are 13 Special Deputies in good standing upon completion of required training by December, 2008, and also 9 volunteers without law enforcement powers. These are Bradley County Senior Visitation Program Volunteers and Jail Chaplains. The person prompting commission questions was not on any of the lists.

The People News inquiries revealed other interesting information about those non-professionals who are granted law enforcement powers. It appears that there is no law requiring that reserve, auxiliary, part-time or temporary deputy sheriffs be bonded. It seems that it is left to the discretion of the sheriff and the county legislative body (commission,) although, Tennessee Code Annotated, 39-17-1315 refers to bonded and sworn deputy sheriffs being authorized to carry a handgun.

T.C.A. § 8-8-303c says that no person may serve as a special deputy unless that person proves to the appointing sheriff financial responsibility by evidence of a corporate surety bond or insurance policy of no less than \$50,000. This provision is to protect third par-

ties who may be injured by a special deputy. Although, the sheriff or the county are immune from suit, damages can be awarded against the special deputy.

It must be remembered that trained volunteers donate countless hours in service to the community saving the taxpayer and supporting professional law enforcement. These volunteers almost never cause liability to the sheriff or the county but occasionally law enforcement powers are authorized for people not adequately trained or mature enough to hold that power.

From the information supplied by Sheriff Gobble it seems that policy is in place to safeguard the public from unauthorized people holding law enforcement powers. However, unless those flouting the system by mas-

querading as police officers are held to task, confidence in the system breaks down.

That's what I think. What do you think?

Want a free airport?

Hidden in the consent agenda of the February 25 Cleveland City Council meeting was authorization for the Cleveland Municipal Airport Authority to receive a grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation in the amount of \$958,500 for phase two environmental permitting and engineering services with a local match of \$106,500 deposited with the state.

I think I have this straight, we are talking over a million dollars for what? Permits and services. Not a gleaming new airport. This

is about the zillionth time I have heard the need for local money to bolster grants that achieve little or nothing in terms of a real airport. The citizens of Bradley County were promised a new airport at no cost, yet local money is continually being funneled to a sham authority for an airport that is not needed and still exists only on paper.

Every time local money is used the excuse is it will be paid back when the old airport property is sold. Hardwick Field is owned by the taxpayer, so therefore it is local money.

Also, Resolution 2008-10, dated February 11, 2008, requests federal assistance from Congressman Zach Wamp for an airport.

Wouldn't it be wise to identify guaranteed funding before local money is frittered away on an airport that is supposed to be free?

As the saying goes; if it sounds too good to be true.

That's what I think. What do you think?

What is a 'billion'?

The following was sent to The People News by a reader.

The next time you hear a politician use the word 'billion' in a casual manner, think about whether you want the 'politician' spending your tax money. A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into some perspective in one of its releases.

A. A billion seconds ago it was 1959.

B. A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.

C. A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.

D. A billion days ago no-one walked on the earth on two

feet.

E. A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes, at the rate our government is spending it.

While this thought is still fresh in our brain, let's take a look at New Orleans It's amazing what you can learn with some simple division.

Louisiana Senator, Mary Landrieu (D), is asking the Congress for \$250 BILLION to rebuild New Orleans. Interesting number, what does it mean?

A. Well, if you are one of 484,674 residents of New Orleans (every man, woman, child), you each get \$516,528, (over half a million dollars.)

B. Or, if you have one of the 188,251 homes in New Orleans, your home gets

\$1,329,787.

C. Or, if you are a family of four, your family gets \$2,066,012, (yes, over \$2 million.)

And why do you think our government can even consider a proposition? Because none of the taxes listed below existed a hundred years ago.

Accounts Receivable Tax
Building Permit Tax
CDL License Tax
Cigarette Tax
Corporate Income Tax
Dog License Tax
Federal Income Tax
Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA)
Fishing License Tax
Food License Tax
Fuel Permit Tax
Gasoline Tax
Hunting License Tax

Inheritance Tax
Inventory Tax
IRS Interest Charges (tax on top of tax),
IRS Penalties (tax on top of tax),
Liquor Tax,
Luxury Tax,
Marriage License Tax,
Medicare Tax,
Property Tax,
Real Estate Tax,
Service charge taxes,
Social Security Tax,
Road Usage Tax (Truckers),
Sales Taxes,
Recreational Vehicle Tax,

School Tax,
State Income Tax,
State Unemployment Tax (SUTA),
Telephone Federal Exercise Tax,
Telephone Federal Universal Service Fee Tax,
Telephone Federal, State and Local Surcharge Tax,
Telephone Minimum Usage Surcharge Tax,
Telephone Recurring and Non-recurring Charges Tax,
Telephone State and Local Tax,
Telephone Usage Charge

Tax,
Utility Tax,
Vehicle License Registration Tax,
Vehicle Sales Tax,
Watercraft Registration Tax,
Well Permit Tax,
Workers Compensation Tax.
100 years ago, our nation was the most prosperous in the world. We had absolutely no national debt, had the largest middle class on earth, and Mom stayed home to raise the kids.
What happened?

Do You Support Our Troops?

Saying you do is easy but words don't always get heard.

Cleveland teenager, Kaylee Radzysinski has found a way that your support can be heard loud and clear. She created a program called Tunes 4 The Troops.

Kaylee, a Naval Sea Cadet discovered that our Military Armed Forces have access to computers but crave American entertainment. After donating several CDs of her own she no longer listened to, she realized that others in the community may also wish to donate discs.

If you have any new or used CDs, DVDs or Books on CD you no longer need, help Kaylee Radzysinski say a big "Thank You" to our troops by donating them to Tunes 4 The Troops

For information call 472-4078

Drop-Off Locations

- Armed Forces Recruiting Offices, 1300 25th Street
- Award Realty
- Bradley Bookkeeping 129 Keith Street
- Bradley County Courthouse Room 206
- Circuit Court Clerk's Office
- Cleveland City Mayor, Tom Rowland's Office
- Cleveland High School
- Country Squire Homes, 167 S Lee Hwy.
- Dick's Graphics, 801 20th St.
- DQ Grill & Chill, 275 Paul Huff Pkwy
- National Guard Armory 4185 Dalton Pike
- Southern Heritage Bank (all locations)

Public Announcement

Calling all Bachman Memorial Home Alumni!

If you were at Bachman between 1950 and 1985, contact us about the upcoming reunion March 28-29, 2008.

Also, visit the new alumni pages on our website www.bachmanacademy.org

Keep in touch and stay informed!

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