

ak Ridge Tpk. #281,  
Ridge, TN 37830

Office Address:  
18 Mitchell Rd.  
Ridge, TN 37830

ns need to be turned in no later than noon on  
t week's paper.  
; deadline is noon on Tuesday.

r is a free weekly publication. Each  
printed and distributed to more than  
: Oak Ridge.

## YOU CAN FIND US

18 Oak Ridge Tpk. ackson Square armacy	and Garden Center 100 Dresden Road • Oak Ridge Animal Shelter
1 Jackson Square oane State College	395 Belgrade Road • Wal-Mart (both main entrances)
1 Briarcliff Ave. he Convention & sitors Bureau	395 Belgrade Road • Jefferson Drug Store
2 S. Tulane Ave. ak Ridge Nat'l Lab	22 N. Jefferson Circle • Big Ed's Pizza
the Valley Road riends' Sewing Center	101 Broadway Ave. • United Grocery Outlet
3 New York Ave. ethodist Medical nter (near the ICU)	1990 Oak Ridge Turnpike
1 Oak Ridge Tpk. Anderson's	• The Crafter's Brew
11top Market 1 N. Illinois Ave.	201 Jackson Square • Larry's Antiques
Harvest Buffet Rest. 50 Oak Ridge Tpk.	394 Warehouse Road • Bleu Hound Grille
Bowling Center 6 S. Illinois Ave.	80 E. Tennessee Ave. • Oak Ridge Playhouse
cience Applications ernational Corp.	27 E. Tennessee Ave. • Mr. K's Used Books & CD's
1 Laboratory Road El Cantarito	374 S. Illinois Ave. • Nixon's Deli
1 S. Tulane Ave. Oak Ridge Feed	378 S. Illinois Ave.

...e relieved.  
rips to the bathroom are per-  
mitted as long as the stand-in  
returns promptly to reclaim ter-  
ritory. A visitor to the Congres-  
sional halls might easily mistake  
these people for idlers, vagrants,  
protesters, slackers or job seek-  
ers rather than working profes-  
sionals playing a waiting game.

Sure, there should be a more effi-  
cient way to assign meeting room  
spaces by advance ticketing. Per-  
haps the American spirit of democ-

• Wait in traffic. I here's a two-  
mile stretch of road I traverse on  
my way home that's usually a  
parking lot. I'm always tempted  
to get out, stop at a restaurant,  
get a cup of coffee, read a news-  
paper, do a crossword puzzle,  
maybe answer some e-mail, start  
a novel and maybe learn German.  
I'd pay someone \$15 an hour to  
just sit in my car.

• Listen to a speech. I often get  
stuck listening to sermons, fu-  
neral orations, retirement roasts,

mortality, and learning how shea  
30 pounds in two weeks by eat-  
ing parsley and Icelandic fish oil,  
I'd give away half my groceries  
just to get out of there.

• Wait in a physician's office.  
People have died waiting to see  
physicians. They have been  
found dead in office chairs days  
after their scheduled appoint-  
ments. It makes sense to hire  
someone to wait it out for you,  
with extra payment in case there  
are any shots.

because the staffer has to be ca-  
pable of talking about nothing for  
several days, but the rewards are  
substantial.

So it makes sense that some  
people are renting their time so  
other people don't have to waste  
theirs. In a hurry up and wait  
world, waiting ought to be the  
next growth industry.

Paul Ashdown is a teacher and  
journalist, and author of several  
books.

# Another take on the Three Bends land tract

Ellen Smith was partly right in  
her column last week on the  
Three Bends area  
(Solway, Freels and  
Gallaher Bends).  
Former DOE Secretary  
Bill Richardson did  
surprise the city with  
his temporary gift of  
3,000 acres of precious  
public property to the  
TWRA (Tennessee  
Wildlife Resources  
Agency).



David Coffey  
Guest Column

But that kind of sur-  
prise is the worst public policy.  
How can the city ever plan for  
a successful future if major  
transfers are made without pub-  
lic discussion and vetting by  
elected officials?

Now let the proper discussion

begin. Is it environmentally cor-  
rect to have thousands of cars  
drive through a game  
preserve to reach  
many of the key jobs  
of the city? Or should  
those working at Oak  
Ridge National Labo-  
ratory have nearby  
choice residential  
lakeside homes to  
choose from?

Good city planning  
minimizes travel dis-  
tances from homes to  
work. This 1) avoids traffic con-  
gestion; 2) minimizes traffic air  
pollution; 3) reduces traffic ac-  
cidents; 4) saves employees  
time; 5) saves gas consump-  
tion; 6) requires less road build-  
ing; 7) saves public and private

money.

Need I go on?

During my service on the Ten-  
nessee Advisory Commission  
on Intergovernmental Rela-  
tions, we were advised that cit-  
ies must plan better to keep  
jobs, residences and shopping  
close. Nothing else controls  
wasteful traffic congestion.

While it is enticing to with-  
hold the Three Bend area for  
wildlife, it is clearly not good  
conservation. Rather, it is  
wasteful, foolishly wasteful.

Consider too, the many distin-  
guished scientists and profes-  
sional managers who rush ev-  
ery day from Oak Ridge to their  
homes in neighboring lakeside  
communities. These sterling  
personalities are mostly lost to

the community.

They are less likely to partici-  
pate in the Playhouse, the Sym-  
phony Orchestra, the library,  
civic clubs, etc. It is easy to list  
dozens who have made this  
choice since attractive lakeside  
residences are not available  
here. Keeping these here could  
be the most valuable benefit of  
better using the Three Bends  
area.

Properly developed, the  
Three Bends could become the  
city's most attractive small park  
and upscale residential commu-  
nity. It would be good for ev-  
eryone except hunters. Why not  
provide for them in a more rural  
area?

David Coffey is a former state  
Rep. and local entrepreneur.

## Send us your thoughts; e-mail us with a letter to editor

Letters must be signed: (The  
Oak Ridge Observer will not  
print unsigned letters) and  
must include address and a day  
and evening phone number.  
Phone numbers will not be  
published, but all letters must

be confirmed.

The Oak Ridge Observer re-  
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publish letters without expla-  
nation. Letters may be edited  
for style and content. Please  
note that no letters will be re-

turned to sender, whether they  
run or not.

As a general rule, letters  
printed in other publications  
will not be published in The Oak  
Ridge Observer.

Though all letters will not be

printed, we appreciate our read-  
ers who send in their thoughts.  
Short, sharp letters are most  
likely to run. (No more than one  
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