

Your thoughts: This week

Writer disagrees with Coffey's column on Three Bends area

Dear Editor,

Mr. Coffey's letter promoting the development of Three Bends is so full of bogus and misleading reasons for building lakefront homes that it makes one realize just how far the city and the developers will go to get our land.

Mr. Coffey states "good city planning avoids traffic congestion, minimizes traffic air pollution, reduces traffic accidents, saves employees time, saves gas consumption, requires less road building and saves public and private money." This sounds more like arguments for a mass transit system rather than for high end lake homes.

Mr. Coffey states "development of Three Bends would be good for everyone except hunters." I do not need Mr. Coffey to speak for me or my family and friends. We want Three Bends preserved just as Secretary of Interior, Bill Richardson, intended. Apparently, development of Three Bends would be good for the folks that Mr. Coffey represents.

Not one word in Mr. Coffey's letter about this biological oasis in the midst of a rapidly devel-

your paying for medical needs of people without medical insurance.

Bredesen has forced people with serious diseases to choose medicines or living essentials. He has no concept of the predicament he has put thousands of people in. He advocates "Wearing seatbelts saves lives," yet his TennCare decision could "result in lost lives."

He states these people can get medical insurance and discounted or free medicines. The discount is 10 percent; generic is free. Average cost for a diabetic on insulin is \$460 per month since insulin is not generic. Monthly insurance premium for a diabetic ranges from \$141 to \$3,120. Deductible for a \$141 premium is \$3,500, leaving the insured paying all medical costs unless hospitalized. Nobody making \$11 to \$12 per hour can pay the insurance premium; the deductible and the 20 percent co-payment for medicines, doctors and hospital charges; and their monthly bills.

Except for the GRACE OF GOD, you could be in this situation financially and medically. It's our responsibility to keep Bredesen from hurting thousands of people. Every life lost because of his decision is on our hands.

I challenge you to find the truth, get involved, and help these people.

nounced that one of the most ecologically important 1,000 acres on the ORR (Parcel ED-1) would become an industrial park. Chuck Spoons of DOE, according to *The Oak Ridger*, "said that the ED-1 transfer was a 'secretarial decision' with Secretary O'Leary mandating the transfer to CROET." Perhaps elected officials were briefed ahead of time. In any case, we've all seen what a resounding success that venture hasn't been.

Coffey presents several flavors of astounding/bizarre. Perhaps the most puzzling to me, as the former ORNL wildlife management coordinator, is his notion that substantially destroying important wildlife habitat (i.e., shoreline habitat on Solway Bend) would offset existing, unspecified impacts to wildlife elsewhere on the ORR. Coffey says, "Is it environmentally correct to have thousands of cars drive through a game preserve to reach many of the key jobs of the city?" I guess he means ORNL jobs, though the ORR is not a game preserve. Leaving aside that few ORNL personnel could afford the type of houses being contemplated, I do not see how scientists living on Solway is going to substantially change traffic on Bethel Valley Road or Highway 95, or what adverse impacts to wildlife would be deferred. Then, too, there is

oping area. Not one word about the value of the land for recreation, wildlife or research. Mr. Coffey failed to say anything about the fact that ORNL and U.T. conducts classes and have research projects ongoing on this land. Summer biology and ecology classes are conducted for young children. Not anything in Mr. Coffey's letter about the value of this land for endangered birds or about the beautiful Greenway we love to hike on. Not a word about the bird watching and wild flower outings lead by TWRA and ORNL personal or about the Secret City Hikes conducted each year.

Mr. Coffey ask the question: "is it environmentally correct to have thousands of cars drive through a game preserve to reach many of the key jobs in Oak Ridge?" Well, people do not drive through Three Bends since it does not extend North of Bethel Valley Road. People do drive close to its Northern boundary; however, justifying development because of driving through or driving close is a bogus justification for stealing what remains of the Oak Ridge Reservation. If we closed all of the wild life preserves that thousands of cars drive through most of our Eastern U.S. Preserves would be up for development.

Not one word in Mr. Coffey's letter about the thousands of acres of DOE land that has been permanently transferred to the City, CROET, Rarity Ridge, etc.

The Three Bends land was purchased with tax payer's money and it belongs to the people of this country and we do not want it developed into lakefront homes.

Frank Hensley
Oak Ridge

Sue Roddy
Dayton

Coffey's argument for Three Bends astounding, bizarre

Dear Editor,

How many kinds of astounding statements are there? David Coffey's piece in the recent Observer (Sept. 1, 2005) is rich with examples.

There is astounding/incorrect, as when Coffey states that Bill Richardson "temporarily dedicated" the Three Bends area to wildlife. In fact, at the dedication on June 23, 1999, Richardson said, "From today on, 3,000 acres within the Oak Ridge Reservation's [ORR] buffer zone will be committed to the pursuit of conservation and wildlife management." Later, in response to a question, Richardson answered, "It's permanent."

Then there is astounding/forgetful: Coffey seems to have forgotten that, a few years before Richardson's announcement, then Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary sprung one, on the general public at least, when she an-

Coffey's contention that only the hunters would be unhappy over this venture. There are many, many others who would be outraged by development on Solway Bend.

It's time for DOE to put a stop to this foolishness and broker a permanent arrangement. After 25 years in ecological analysis, I thought I'd seen everything. Yet, I am . . . astounded.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. Warren Webb
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Oliver Springs

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