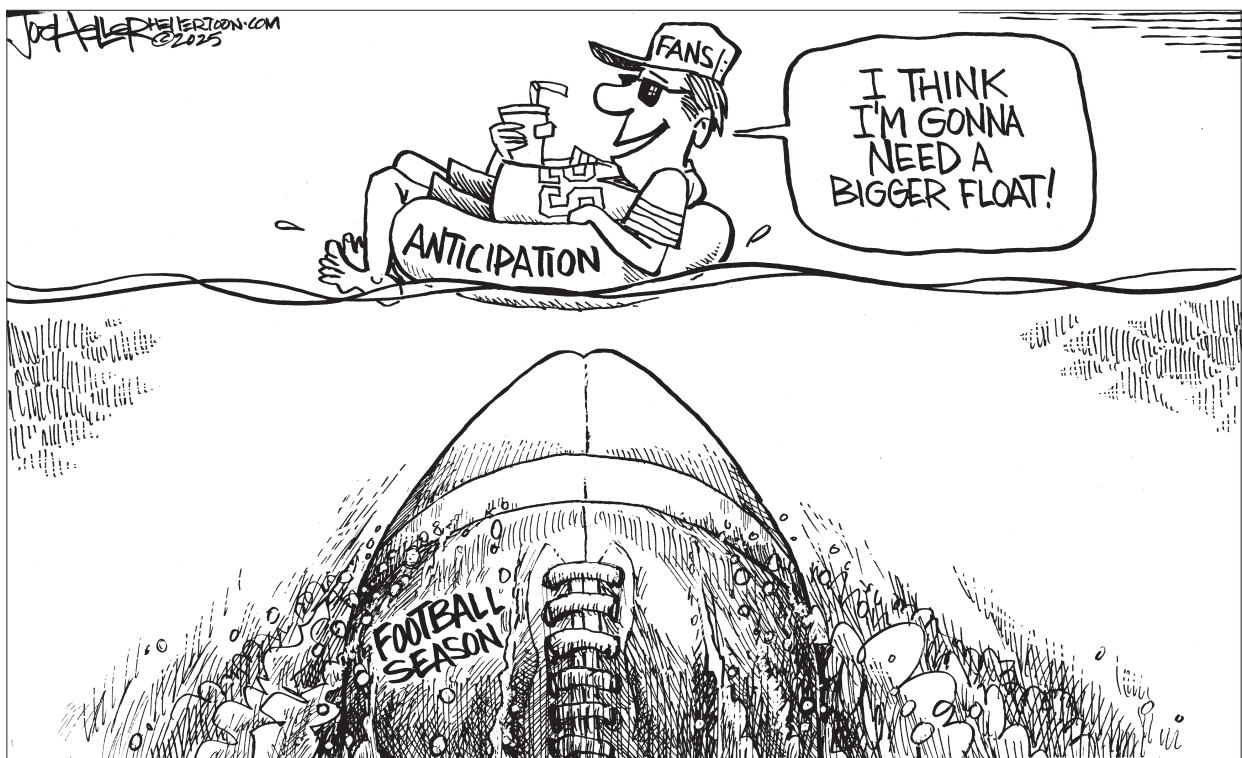


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OPINION

The opinions of writers on this page are not necessarily those of the newspaper, or management. We encourage our readers to share their views for publication. Thanks so much for choosing the Barren County Progress.

August 20, 2025



Thinking Past Tomorrow Little Things, Big Things

I recently had the chance to reflect and reminisce with several friends over the history of our friendships.

Some of the friendships are relatively new, having developed over the last few years, while others span a decade or more of shared memories.

It has been interesting to me to think about our friendship “origin stories,” and then how we’ve managed to remain friends through all of life’s ups and downs.

Sometimes it was a big thing that connected us, like a trip to Europe with mostly strangers who then all became friends, or joining a weekly hiking group one summer and finding a best friend there.

In other cases it was church ball, my kid’s preschool teacher, a fellow singer in a



Maria Hopkin-Fulton
CCN Columnist

women’s choir, or my sister asking me to help out her friend who happened to live close and was battling cancer.

It was usually some sort of shared experience or shared interest that brought us together, but it took something extra to turn a connection into a friendship.

It took little things.

Exchanging numbers, emails, or social media accounts.

Quick messages to say hello.

Invitations to each other’s homes for a meal, or to watch a

show together in our pajamas.

And now?

Those little things have turned out to be some of the most cherished treasures in my life.

Sharing your life with people in a vulnerable way is no small thing.

Allowing yourself to be seen and loved regardless of perceived flaws or mistakes is big.

Having trusted friends to call on for support, advice, and reciprocal giving/receiving is one way of being wealthy.

In South Africa they

speak the Zulu language, and instead of saying “Hello,” they say, “Sawubona,” which means “I see you.”

The response one will hear to that is, “Yebo, sawubona,” meaning, “I see you seeing me.”

How beautiful is that?

Because we can’t really love a person unless we’re willing to see them, not for who we want them to be, but for who they are.

And how can we allow people to love the real us unless we are showing up that way, ready to be seen?

Big things like deep friendships can sometimes feel out of reach in the moment, but if we realize that it’s the little things that become big over time, then it’s easier to build, brick by brick, something beautiful.

LICENSES, *Continued from Page A1*

According to numerous sources, breaking stories, and confirmed by Governor Andy Beshear’s office, there is indeed an investigation that has taken place and almost 2,000 licenses have been revoked.

Beshear would not confirm that illegal immigrants were being allowed to secure the licenses specifically, but said in a statement, “KYTC immediately contacted law enforcement who are engaged in a criminal investigation, and it includes multiple offices that are both state and federal,” Beshear said. “The revoked credentials, if used, would not work at an airport, would be flagged if pulled over at a traffic stop. We are committed to getting all of the facts into holding anybody who violated the law accountable.”

The reference to airports would imply the issuing of “REAL ID” because they are now required to fly between states—a federal mandate and program. Something news sources seem to be missing. As well as, until the investigation, these licenses would be a form of identification needed to vote.

Melissa Moorman has been identified as the “whistleblower.” She is a former clerk at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), and has filed a lawsuit claiming that her bringing the “Pay to ID” scam to the attention of her superiors is why she was terminated.

Moorman worked at the KYTC from October 2022 until her dismissal in January 2025, a short time after she claims to have made others aware of the scam in the fall of 2024.

The lawsuit, filed in April by Moorman, alleges she was required to share her login information with other employees during her more than two years working at the Nia Center in Louisville.

Any of us who have attempted to secure an in-person meeting at any of the 120 offices now consolidated into 33 regional offices are aware of how difficult it has been. I know of examples where people have tried for weeks to schedule a meeting within 40 miles with no success.

I have spoken with legislators and numerous circuit clerks, with no advice other than to advise friends to drive to one and get in line. Those doing this can’t show up without an appointment and you can’t make an appointment at these offices. They must go online and wait until one becomes available weeks out.

The Kentucky Legislature needs to demand a full investigation of this possible federal crime, and if being done, simply firing people is not acceptable. Indictments need to follow.

Not long ago, our most liberal Democrat legislators were introducing and trying to pass new laws allowing illegal immigrants to drive in Kentucky. I always enjoy hearing them defend putting legislation in place rewarding individuals breaking our laws instead of supporting law enforcement in doing their jobs.

For such an alleged scheme to go on for months is a nasty black eye for Kentucky and will assuredly show up in Governor Beshear’s run for the Democratic nomination to run for President in 2028.

* Melissa Moorman has requested that communication go through her attorney, Abigail V. Lewis, a Louisville attorney with the firm Adams Landenwich Lay. We will update readers on this story as they are made available from the Governor’s office or Moorman’s attorney.

Send your letters
to the editor to:

Letter to
the Editor

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CAVE CITY COUNCIL

Tax Rates & Council Compensation Set

Katrina England. Jobe Publishing, Inc.

The Cave City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 11. Councilmembers Beverly Ford, Denny Doyle, Andrew Bagshaw, Clifton Parsley, Leticia Cline, and Ronald Coffey were present, along with Mayor Dwayne Hatcher.

New Business

By a 5–1 vote, the council approved the 2025 property tax rate at 13.4-cents per \$100 of assessed value, which was the higher of the two options the council considered. Councilmember Cline,

who proposed her support for the lower compensating rate due to assessed property values increasing, was not in favor of the rate.

Councilmembers also unanimously approved the first reading of Ordinance 25-11-8a, which adjusts compensation for elected officials based on cost-of-living increases. The changes will take effect with the next term following the upcoming general election.

In a separate action, the council established new salaries for elected officials effective



▲ Photo | Katrina England, JPI

Andrew Bagshaw (right) attended his first meeting as the newly appointed council member for the Cave City Council. He was sworn in before the meeting began. Also pictured is Councilmembers Beverly Ford and Denny Doyle.

January 1, 2027, setting the mayor’s salary at \$40,000 annually and councilmember compensation at \$150

per regular session meeting.

COUNCIL,
Continued on Page A5