

Opinion

Everyone has a right to their day in court, well sometimes

Most of the time here in the United States we have a legal thing known as habeas corpus. I will spare you from a lot of legalistic definitions and just tell you that habeas corpus is the part of our law that keeps the government from just grabbing you up by the nape of the neck and throwing you into jail, forever if they want, without a trial. This protection is extended to you and me and whether you like it or not it is also supposed to apply to plane loads of illegal immigrants. Why?

Well let's go back in time for a little bit. Before, during and after the Civil War things weren't nearly as happy as we are now. Prior to the war the Union Army round-



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

ed up about 100 men in Kentucky who they believed to be southern sympathizers, and with out a trial deported them to Canada. The only difference between now and then was the Yankees didn't have planes at the time.

Canada is a fair distance from Kentucky

but it wasn't further enough away to keep those Kentuckians from coming home. Unfortunately, there were other roundups and after the war started, men in Kentucky, who were believed to be southern sympathizers, were taken into custody and put in Union prisons. They were held without a trial, some of them were still in custody after the war was over. Some of them died in prison and never made it home at all. This is one of the more telling tales about America at the time of the Civil War and the details of these happenings were retold in the written narrative of the PBS Documentary "The Civil War" by Ken Burns.

During the Civil War, as hard as it is to believe, President Abraham Lincoln, suspended habeas corpus.

The founders of this nation had seen, and were well aware of, the abuses against our people by the British army and legal system. The court system and our laws are slanted in the favor of the persons charged with crimes in order to protect the innocent. We believe it is better to protect the rights of the innocent even if that means the guilty get off the hook. Our laws and our court system are there to protect all of us from abuse by the government. This is so you can't be locked up in a disease infected

prison ship until you die, like hundreds of men did during the American Revolutionary War.

The court system and the force of our laws are what allow us to live as free people. The judiciary in the United States is what stands between us and those in power.

Over the last few weeks, we have seen how the current administration is ignoring court orders and pushing false narratives. When the top law enforcement officer in the United States says that a federal judge does not have a right to ask questions, we have a serious problem. Federal judges do have a right to ask questions and even more than that, they have a responsibility to

ask questions. They have a responsibility to rein in renegade public officials and office holders. They have a responsibility to enforce the law and to protect the rest of us from administrative excesses.

Right now, some of the members of the U.S. House of Representatives are trying to forward legislation to limit the power of federal judges because their most recent rulings have been going against the Trump Administration. Apparently, it is okay to change the rules in Congress when you can't win in court. Unfortunate as it may seem, things can get a lot worse before they get better.



Our View

It is a big deal and it does hurt us

It is no big deal and it didn't hurt anything. That is the message coming out of Washington Tuesday after President Donald Trump's national security adviser, Mike Waltz in on the hot seat after someone on his staff added the Atlantic's editor-in-chief Jeffery Goldberg to a private and apparently unsecured high-level chat on a messaging application where plans for a military attack in Yemen were being discussed.

Both Waltz and Secretary of defense Pete Hegseth were included on the chat, along with several other individuals.

Well, certainly it is a big deal, particularly since this massive breach of national security comes from the very person and staff who are supposed to be in charge of national security. What else have they let pass by? Information coming out of these offices can seriously impact our military and our country in many, many ways. Congress should demand immediate change in the national security adviser and anyone who had anything to do with this totally preventable release of classified data. They probably won't.

This is a serious failure and a breach of security that demands further investigation by Congress. We can not continue to allow failures like this to go unchecked. The potential for great harm to our country is too great.

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Letters to the editor policy

The Lake News welcomes and encourages original letters to the editor about issues of community interest. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less. Letters must be signed and contain the name and address of the author. The Lake News reserves the right to edit letters. The Lake News also reserves the right to reject letters for publication.

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Schedule your to bes along with your to dos

My parents and I have reached the phase of life in which we schedule doctors' appointments along with a side of fun. My mother started this practice when I was small. In the summer, because teachers can only make well visits in the summer, in addition to a checkup with the pediatrician we would also do something special, just for fun. Sometimes we would see a play at the Market House Theater. Sometimes it was a trip to McDonald's, complete with a Happy Meal toy. It always made the day a little more tolerable.

Following my mom-



By Emily Morrison

ma's initial cancer treatment, when the reality of thorough and routine medical appointments set in, we started co-scheduling fun as much as possible. Whenever I can take a day off of work and she has an appointment in Nashville,

we make a day of it.

Monday was such a day. Momma had an appointment in my neck of the woods. Daddy drove them down. I did my best to help them get lost between buildings on the specified medical campus. Before, between and after appointments we found ways to have a good time.

First and foremost is always a lunch. Momma and I introduced Daddy to the Snow White, in Lebanon, TN. The Snow White is a traditional drive-in restaurant complete with car hops, menu written on the windows, and real cherry

Coke made with maraschino cherries and lots of juice straight from the jar. You just can't beat a good burger basket and a real cherry Coke while sitting at a chrome table. This is the kind of thing that brings a little extra sparkle in your day.

Our days are often filled with burdensome tasks. All too often the to dos out weigh the to bes. We need to take time to be happy. To be joyful. To be grateful. To be loved. Remember to schedule in your to bes along with your to dos. I promise it makes for a lot more fun.

When we walk the path that leads to Jesus

"A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble." - Charles Spurgeon

My father-in-law was born in 1930 in Cerra Gordo, Tennessee. He had many stories of growing up on a farm in rural Tennessee, and if you sat for a while at his kitchen table, he would tell them all to you.

Born with a natural ability to understand how things work, his hands were always set to the task of fixing them. As a child, he repaired things around the farm. As a man, he worked to build a family, repairing toys, minibikes, stereos, and guitar amplifiers along the way. I knew him as



Tales of Grace
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

a grandfather when his hands mostly reached to set a grandchild in his lap.

From beginning to end, no matter what his hands were set to do, my father-in-law's eyes were on the Lord. He didn't use a lot of words to talk about his faith, but as the prophet Micah wrote, he acted justly, showed mercy, and walked in humble fellowship with God.

Two weeks ago, my

father-in-law's journey took him out of this world and into the next one. But the touch of his hands and the essence of his heart are still with us. His smile remains in our memories. The quiet strength he displayed as he walked with God is remembered by those who watched his journey. So much of him continues on with us.

The next months will be hard. I will mourn my father-in-law. But I will be comforted by the knowledge that his life was well lived. The steps of his journey steadily moved him closer to Jesus. He carved his name on many hearts while he was here. Mine is one of them. There is no better epitaph.

We live, and then we die. It is the way of life on Earth. Each of God's people walks their own path,

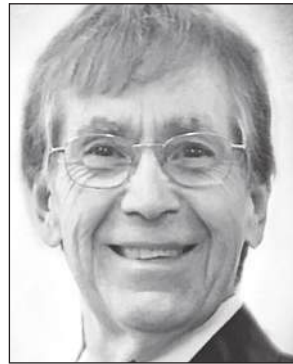
sometimes stumbling and sometimes skipping, but steadily moving closer to Jesus. And when a person's path through this world ends, those behind them step forward. The family and friends who knew their love and felt the warmth of the Light in them step forward to continue the journey. Each of them living in the love and ways of Jesus. Each of them carving their name on the hearts of those they love.

My father-in-law no longer walks in this world, but my husband and I will step forward to continue where he left off. Our children and grandchildren will follow behind us. Each generation will continue the spiritual journey of those who came before them. It is the way of the Kingdom of God.

Spring allergies and April Fools go hand in hand

Before I could start writing and whine about the weather, they put us under a tornado watch. Seriously? This really is not what I had in mind for Spring weather. I guess it's just part of the package. I hope Trent gets the night off because of nothing to do. I only hope for brighter and calmer days ahead.

This is kind of a big deal for me with this column. It is the 600th that I have had the privilege to write. My niece says it is my homework for Sunday night. She told her daughter that poor uncle Mike has to write a 500-word theme each week-end. Well, I never thought of it like homework, that might change how I feel. On more than one occasion it definitely has been



My Side of the Fence
By Mike Harrell

a challenge to think of something worth sharing (stop it, I can hear you) with you that you might enjoy, get a laugh or learn something. Just so you know, 600 columns are 11 and half years. Time flies.

Walking around the yard I see lots of flowers in bloom. The red buds are out and the peony are up and going strong.

I'm interested to see if my banana tree survived. Not holding out much hope for that after near zero on several nights. Did you notice how all of a sudden the pear trees popped out? I do have friends that really do not enjoy this time of year. It has something to do with breathing.

Back when I was still an active teach, I got sick. I knew what it was, bronchitis. This was something I would get every couple of years. I'd been doing this since childhood. I knew the drill. I went to the doctor and just decided to skip the usual and just said I've got it again so just give me my antibiotic and I'll be on my way. "Nope," he said, and after a couple of tests he asked if I had ever

had an allergy. Of course I said no. Well, he says, "you have one now." Just another blessing of living in the Ohio River Valley.

Watch out! It is April Fool's time again. I was going to tell you the history of this great holiday, but I figure you have probably heard it before.

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Elizabeth Barrett, Jessilyn Colburn, Mark Wells, Emily Hood, Cleo Suttles, Linda Dillon, Marlene Travis and Zella Rowe. You all know the drill, celebrate your day and eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. John Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. Keith Couch and Mr. & Mrs. Mitch Lampkins. Have a great day.

Stay safe, stay well and as always, stay in touch.