

Opinion

It won't be easy but we must stand up for what is right

There have been great transformative moments in American history. Times that were difficult, unsettling and even threatening. We have the democracy we have today because ordinary people stood up for what is right. The rose-colored glasses of history make things that were very difficult look easy and bloodless. They weren't.

We are in that transformative turmoil now. For the nation we grew up in to survive we must take a stand. We have to put ourselves out there and stand up for what is right. Standing up for the kind of America that takes care of its veterans, children, the poor and elderly should not be difficult but it is. Standing up for relationships our



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

country has built with its allies should not be difficult but it is.

Standing up to those who are in power and are abusing it comes at a price. Those who hold the reins of government do not accept criticism, nor do they willingly relinquish control. Instead, they and their enablers dismiss challenges to

their actions with contempt and disinformation.

Donald Trump said multiple times during the past four years that "tariffs" was a beautiful word. Despite what the President believes about tariffs, there is already plenty of evidence that tariffs are economy killers. The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, passed in 1930, made the Great Depression worse according to historians and economists.

I grew up listening to stories about trying to survive during the depression. I have had people try and explain to me what it was like to not have two-cents to buy a postage stamp. I have listened to stories of humiliation; having to ask for assistance

and have someone from the county come and inspect your home to be sure you really didn't have food for your kids. Seventy-five percent of the voters in Marshall County who voted in the last Presidential election voted for Donald Trump. In my heart I cannot believe that those Marshall County voters who checked the box beside of Donald Trump's name voted for what we are getting now.

It is incumbent on each of us to take a stand and peacefully and respectfully oppose cuts to funding for veterans, children, the elderly and the poor. We must demand a government that is designed to help people and make their lives better.

The President is defiant

about his program of tariffs on almost every country in the world. Tariffs are nothing less than taxes on working people. The cost of the tariff is added on to the cost of the product and the buyer ultimately pays the cost of the tariff. The cost of almost everything will go up.

The idea that tariffs will bring back manufacturing jobs is a myth. Manufacturing has and is replacing humans with robotic devices. No new manufacturing facility will build products like they were built in the 1950s. Everything that can be done robotically will be done robotically.

I can not stand back and not speak out against what is happening in the United States now.

I hope that people who also believe that the current administration is wrong about many things including how our legal system should operate, what government ought to do and not the least how people ought to be treated will stand up and will let our elected officials know they are opposed to the choices the current administration is making.

To paraphrase Sen. Cory Booker the choice we must make is not left or right but right or wrong. We know what is right and what is happening right now in our country and what our country is doing to other nations and to other people is wrong. We must stand up. We must stand for what is right.



Our View

It is time to put people first

Kentucky's house and senate, which is controlled by a Republican super majority passed legislation that ordered changes in Medicare but did not appropriate money to fund those changes. What happens next is uncertain. Gov. Andy Beshear sent a letter to both the Kentucky house and the Kentucky Senate that included a list of 11 bills they passed but chose not to fund including the Medicare legislation, but they took no action. Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, told reporters Beshear is obligated to carry out laws as enacted by the legislature. However, House bill 365 directs the Beshear administration to enact a Medicaid work requirement but prohibits the administration from making any changes in the \$15 billion state budget without getting approval from the General Assembly first.

In the meantime, children and poor people are left to get by the best way they can.

Kentucky can do better than this. It is time to put people first and stop the political bickering. If you aren't going to fund the bills don't pass them. Setting up a political opponent for failure at the expense of children and the poorest of the poor is not why we elect people to represent us in Frankfort.

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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.

Kentucky Press Association Member

Mother Nature wants our houses and to be in charge

Your home is your castle. Homeownership is part of the American dream. Everyone needs a place to call their own. Somehow I absorbed these ideals. Bright of eye and bushy of tail my husband and I purchased our home with the help of a VA loan. We thought we had made it.

Almost 17 years in to this 2,000 square foot commitment, I have come to realize home ownership is not the measure of stability and success I thought it was as a twenty something. Houses are a lot of work. They take time and con-



By Emily Morrison

tinual care. What's more, we the owners are not in control. There is a force greater than our time and bankroll ready to take charge.

That's right, Mother Nature is ready and willing to stage a hostile takeover.

Over the past two weeks, I have taken note of her strategic encroachments. She is not playing nice.

First, there was a nighttime coyote scare while my son and I were walking our dogs. I don't mind coyotes in the theoretical sense. It's when they are in my yard at night that I take issue. Next, a grackle started building a nest in my vinyl vent and managed to find its way inside the space between the walls of my house. The eerie flaps and scratches that accompanied its exploration were enough to set the entire household into uproar. In her

latest escapades, Mother Nature has attempted to blast and flood the mid-south out. She is not playing people. We are out matched.

Any naive sense of self control and accomplishment that I once had about home ownership is gone. I'm just glad to have a house of my own and am just trying to keep it so. I have decided to try and appease Mother Nature in an observance of "No Mow Till May." I'm not sure that it will work, but it's worth a shot. I'm even going to plant some more native plants to further ingratiate myself.

The rain came down and the floods came up

I wrote this article a couple of years ago, and it seems appropriate to run it again this week. In part, because we have all been looking for a dry rock to put our feet on. But also, when the ground around us is saturated and unstable, our souls need a solid place to stand.

On the way home from an afternoon at Mike Miller Park, my four-year-old granddaughter asked to watch the video of "The Berenstain Bears" that runs on a continual loop when she is in my car. I was afraid I would break off the gear stick and stab it in my ear if I heard Papa Bear give one more piece of bad advice, so I suggested we sing instead.

My granddaughter has always liked to sing the song about the wise man and the foolish man. She thinks it is funny when the foolish man's house falls



Tales of Grace
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

flat. That's not exactly the point of the song as it is taught in Sunday School, but I suppose those more profound theological thoughts come at an age older than four.

And there is some truth about wisdom in that simple song.

"The wise man built his house upon the Rock. The wise man built his house upon the Rock. The wise man built his house upon the Rock. And the rain came

tumbling down." When the rain came down and the floods came up, the house built on the Rock stood firm.

I was in Miller Park, later that week, walking the trails and hoping an hour of exercise would drop my weight by 10 or more pounds. While I walked, a song by TobyMac began to play through my earbuds. The song is called "Cornerstone" and is also about the importance of the Rock.

"The sun goes up, the sun comes down. This old world keeps spinnin' 'round. I'm here travelin' down this long and winding road. Seasons come and seasons go. They take me high, then leave me low. But I'm still standin' on the only Rock I know."

At some point, I realized that TobyMac was singing my granddaughter's song. The message is the same. The Rock holds

firm.

But whereas the lyrics of the first song are as simple as childhood, "Cornerstone" is a song that belongs to those who have walked the world for a long time. Those who have seen many suns come up and go down, many seasons come and go. Those whose roads are long and winding, whose steps have taken them to mountaintop highs and lows that led them through their own valley of the shadow of death.

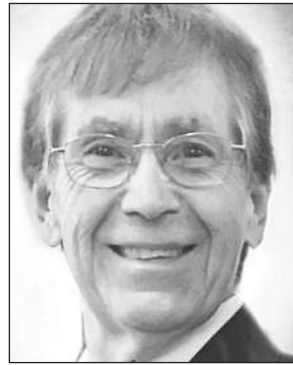
My granddaughter sings because she has been taught the words. And because she likes the hand smack in the middle of the song. That's a fine place to start.

Those of us who have spent our seasons relying on Jesus to keep us standing, sing because it is our story. We are standing on the Rock we know.

April showers, Tater Day and the dreaded Tax Day

Come on Mother Nature, give us a break. I can't believe Friday evening I was sitting in the swing on the patio wearing shorts and a T-shirt. I was watching the first lighting bugs I've seen this year. There were frogs singing their mating songs and was the only sound I heard. Of course, I'm not even going to mention the 15 plus inches of rain and all the flooding. But seriously, yesterday I was not on the patio and was not watching for lighting bugs but possible snowflakes. I didn't even get a haircut, but I was told I needed one, maybe that did it instead of getting one.

Oh, how did your NCAA bracket turn out? I know more sick people than happy ones over the



My Side of the Fence
By Mike Harrell

results, with notable exceptions. There are 46 D1 schools who have never been to the tournament. Several years ago Northwestern (Big 10) went for the first time. I was shocked by that. Well, I've heard it said, "there is always next year."

Tater Day, rain or shine happened. My first Tater Day was when I marched

in the band. That was also the year horses lead the parade. I don't believe there was a straight line in any of the bands. Tater Day, I have always been told, is the oldest festival in the Commonwealth and that is quite the honor. I don't believe I ever saw anyone actually selling sweet potatoes. Have you?

Keeping on the theme of shocking things, for me anyway. This past weekend in a 24-hour period Barkley and Kentucky Dams released a staggering 242,724,000,000 gallons of water. No wonder Paducah shut the gates in the flood wall.

We had Tater Day Monday, but this week need I remind you that this Tuesday is an important day for some people. I

know I hate to be the bearer of such news. So I'll just end here wishing you all a very Happy Tax Day.

As if I can't get any worse, here is a question for you. Why are two pints of strawberries after they are eaten like persons singing? (sorry, I just had to share this one) they are a quart-et (eaten).

Happy Birthday greetings are going out this week to this fine group of people. Callen Cocke, Jennifer Ross, Craig Pidcock, Joyce Gamble, Maddie Traylor and Agnes Ringstaff. I hope you all have a great day of celebration and you do have a chance to "eat the cake".

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