

# Opinion

## Kentucky's economy stands to be one of the worst hit by tariffs

NBC News just released a new poll showing that 57 percent of the public believes we soon will be, or are already in a recession, that is up from just 40 percent in March. The news coming out of Washington isn't doing much to project optimism for Americans.

Since the new Presidential administration took over there has been a lot of news to digest. There isn't enough room on this page to list every country that hasn't received threats of tariffs, or a list of products that soon will be substantially more costly. We have learned that Kentucky's economy is likely to be the most affected by tariffs because products we ship out of the country, and prod-



**Northwest Passage**  
By Loyd Ford

ucts that are shipped into our state, take up a larger chunk of our economy compared to other states. The true cost for Kentuckians won't be known for months down the road but it is coming.

Perhaps I shouldn't be surprised but "non-citizen arrivals by plane dropping nearly 10% in March com-

pared to the previous year. The decline is starting to show up in oil-demand data, according to J.P. Morgan. Travel to the U.S. fell 11.6% in March from the year before, according to the International Trade Administration." You have probably already heard the Canadians are not very happy with us and the sentiment is apparently growing. According to Barron's "And car trips by Canadians to the U.S. fell 32% in March, after dropping 23% in February. Goldman Sachs has estimated that the drop in tourism could reduce GDP by as much as 0.3%, or about \$90 billion, in a worst-case scenario."

Moving past the tariff goof up, we don't want to fail to make a few com-

ments about the number of pink slips the Federal government is handing out. The Federal government is the largest employers in the country and using the chainsaw method of government workforce reduction has draw backs for all of us. It is obvious that the only goal was cutting hundreds of thousands of jobs, without consideration for how important those positions were critical operations of the government.

It is probably a joyful noise to some but some critics of the cuts point to the Internal Revenue Service and say so many positions have been eliminated there that the agency is operating like a zombie.

I don't know who said it

first but there is a famous quote that says the difference between a recession and a depression, is that a recession is when your neighbor loses their job and a depression is when you lose your job. It is beginning to look like we are going to have some dismal economic figures to look at soon.

For the past several years the US and Kentucky have had historically low unemployment rates of between four and five percent. So low in fact we rarely post full length stories about unemployment and mostly use occasional stories that include the low unemployment rates in background information. That doesn't mean I have forgotten the astronomi-

cally high unemployment rates our county and our state suffered under in the mid-1980s. In those early years when we first began publishing The Lake News, Marshall County's employment rate once was 21 percent. It stayed in the high teens for several years. We printed the unemployment figures for the county and state when we received them each month from the state. I hope we never see those kinds of unemployment numbers ever again.

Right now, I fit in with the majority of people and I don't have very good feelings about how things are going, nor do I anticipate things are going to get better soon. That isn't really a good place to be.



## Our View

### Redevelopment makes good sense

There are two strong moves in Benton and Calvert City to redevelop and revitalize portions of those two communities with the aim of bringing more visitors and building up the tourism industry. The latest are the efforts to form a historic district in Calvert City and to upgrade Benton's memorial plaza and dedicate it to first responders and create a focal point for community activities. Realizing these goals will take a lot of effort and cash money.

The plan for Benton has a projected cost of more than \$600,000 and while there are no current estimates for cost of the Calvert City project, it too will come at a cost. But as one speaker noted during the Benton city council meeting on Monday night there has been little change in the landscape around the lake in decades. Certainly, we agree we need a face lift.

In both instances the areas in Calvert City and in Benton already offer all the infrastructure needed. There is no need to develop another spot. Redeveloping these areas that already have water, sewer, electric power and paved streets makes good economic sense. Bringing clean tourism dollars to our communities makes good sense too. We need to get started.

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## The Lake News

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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

## Ready for some leafy greens and tropicals

There are some pretty nice advantages to a late April Easter. Not shivering in punky weather during your family photo op being a highlight. Trees and bushes leafing out and blooming is another plus. Granted, chocolate doesn't hold up too long while converting in plastic eggs out on the lawn quite as long. But it's so nice to have Easter and know that brighter, longer days truly have arrived. The symbolism is perfect.

Now that we are fully in both Eastertide and spring it is time for bright colors, white shoes and big bold tropical plants. I can't



By Emily Morrison

help myself. I know I don't need to buy plants I have no chance of keeping alive over winter. My success rate strongly indicates that I should stick with hardy local native species. I can do wonders with tall phlox and purple cone flowers.

## Looking for the people who are just like me

Several years ago, I bought a subscription to a magazine that promised its readers a more structured, sophisticated life. The magazine was full of organizational tips, and I decided it was just what I needed.

I got my first issue of the magazine within a few weeks. The cover looked good. "No More Clutter" in big, black letters was followed by "Get Organized, Stay Organized," "Bug-bite Remedies" and "5 Minute Summer Hair." Wow! No mess in my house, no frizz in my hair, no scratched-up mosquito bites to draw attention to the spider veins in my legs. That was JUST what I needed! I was beginning to think I would very much like this magazine. Until I got to page 23.

On page 23, the magazine editors had printed organizing ideas sent to them by other subscribers and readers, other people



**Tales of Grace**  
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

like me who were hoping to add organization and elegance to their lives. I read: "When my daughters were little, I would put together complete outfits, down to the hair clips, place them in large plastic bags, then stock their dressers." "I organized all my tablecloths by length and hung them on flocked hangers." "The narrow spice racks I installed inside my pan-

try doors hold approximately 75 spices, from A(achiote) to Z(za'atar).

At that point, I was bewildered. Who are these people?!

Who are the people who have time to organize their children's clothes, including hair bows, and place them in bags to be arranged in drawers? When my kids were at home, I dressed them in anything I could find that was clean. If that plan failed, I pulled something out of the laundry hamper, shook out the wrinkles, and sniffed the armpits. If my eyes didn't water, it was good to go.

How can women own so many tablecloths they have to organize them by length to find one? Why would anyone flock a hanger? And what kind of person knows what achiote and za'atar are?

At that point, I realized that those women are not

somehow sunlight, soil and plants make me think I have unlimited time, talent and treasury. It's just not a place I should go unsupervised.

In leu of going to the garden center before school is out, I'm opting to wear the colors and the greens. My wardrobe is luau ready. It's the next best thing to buying plants. Leafy greens are a necessary component to a healthy lifestyle. I have to get them one way or another. There's just something about palm fronds that makes everything feel good. I think we all could use some big leafy greens.

like me. They are not like me at all.

And what about the women who live a life of dignified gentility, who never leave the house without makeup and have a closet dedicated to Kentucky Derby hats? They are really not like me.

And the women who carry themselves with assurance and make a place for themselves in the world of impressive careers? They are sooo not like me!

And the women from the North? And those who have pink hair? And the ones with dark skin? And the ones who spend \$10 on a cup of coffee? And those who have strong political views? And the ones who like to watch "The Bachelorette"? They are not like me.

Unless they love Jesus. And if they love Jesus, they are just like me.

## The wonders of nature and beautiful colors

What a beautiful Easter Sunday. I have so enjoyed sitting on the patio. Yes, today was a shorts and T-shirt weather day. I've often said that if I didn't visit McDonald's like I usually do today and Mother's Day I would be there if I wasn't there anyway. Those two days are days that people who never eat out, do. Yep, they want to treat mom and MickyD's isn't on the treat list. Thus, it is one of the few restaurants that are not crowded with lines waiting. After church and lunch I decided to go to the gym. Well, it seems that if you don't want a crowded gym, Easter is your day. I was there two hours. In that time three other people came in. I had one hour of just me.

As I was on the patio, I was taking in the won-



**My Side of the Fence**  
By Mike Harrell

ders of nature. I love the greens of spring. The many flowers that are in bloom and of course, the sky. I was just appreciating the beauty of nature when I remembered an acquaintance from college. Bless his heart, he was colorblind. They now have glasses for colorblind people so they can see colors. I've seen several videos of young people

getting a pair and their reactions of seeing color for the first time. Makes you want to cry. I wonder if my friend ever got a pair. It is almost always males that have this problem.

Most people have three color receptors that allow us to see about a million different colors. Some women, and it is just women, have four receptors that let them see 100 million different colors. I'd hate to be the clerk at the paint store when she comes in.

Some fun facts about colors include night vision that uses green because we see more shades of green than anything else. Do you eat Fruit Loops? I was never a fan. All those different colors did nothing for the taste, they all taste the same. I guess they are just Chee-

rios dressed up. Do you remember the "horse of many colors" in the Wizard of Oz? They used lemon, cherry and grape Jell-O for the colors. The horse kept licking it off.

It is Arbor Day this week, plant a tree.

Several Birthday greetings are going out this week. Glad I'm not buying stamps. Drew Collins, Jordan Dickerson, Mike Spissinger, Emilie Shemwell, J. C. Wells, April Sledd, Lisa Threatt, Gunnar Johnson, Lee Watson (the younger), Angela Pomnitz, Brian Audrus, Brady Ross, Kierston Hayden-Ross and Candy Greene. Celebrate your day and eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Joe Newman. Celebrate your special day.

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