

# Opinion

## We are marking another anniversary, thanks for your support

On average in the United States today the average length of time a small business operates if they are successful is 8.5 years and only 20 percent of small successful businesses make it for as long as 20 years. Generally, start-up businesses fail within five years of opening their doors.

If you are reading this column in The Lake News on our publication date of May 28, 2025 you will be reading it on the day we finish our 41st year in operation. Which is remarkable in many ways. First the Lake News is one of only a handful of print newspapers in Kentucky that is a sole proprietorship or owned by a single individual. This being the beginning of our 42nd year in operation frankly is beyond my ability to fully take



Northwest Passage  
By Loyd Ford

in. One thing is for sure we are still here and have made it to this point because we have received the continuing support of our community for decades and the support of many individuals over all of these years. We could not have made it to this point without that support. Thanks.

Over the past 41 years there have been many different people to

work here on our staff. Our staff today is much smaller, I think that is true of almost every business in the news media, but we could not make this newspaper happen with out our staff. Thank goodness they put up with me.

I opened The Lake News on May 29, 1984 at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Main Street in the front of the former Draffen's Department Store, in Calvert City. We had a telephone but no air conditioning. We had cameras but not darkroom to develop film or make prints. We had Compugraphic typesetters that worked on a schedule of their own making.

There was no internet and fax machines were the height of local technology. Occasionally

we would have to send a fax of an advertisement proof to out-of-town firms in Louisville or Lexington mostly. To do that we would take a copy of the ad to one of the banks and pay them to send the fax. They charged three bucks to do that. Few businesses had copy machines and if we needed to make a copy, we would have to go to one of the banks for that too.

Despite all the drawbacks of the pre-computer and pre-internet period, I have to admit sometimes I miss those days. At the same time, it took long grinding hours to do the production work back then. I can remember spending three hours or more, late at night, developing black and white film and black and white photos to put

in that week's issue of the paper. Sometimes the darkroom would be sweltering hot by the time I was finished.

We used bulk Tri-X 35mm film that came in 100-foot-long rolls. We easily used 1200 or more feet of film, probably more every year. By the time we converted to all digital cameras we had used and processed miles of black and white film. There was a loss in that conversion. The black and white film and prints are much more permanent than digital. If black and white prints are processed correctly and stored correctly, they should not change appreciably in 300 or so years.

There have been more changes over the past 41-years than I can count. There have been

numerous changes in elected officials locally and nationally. Many changes in community leaders, school officials, businesses and churches have come to pass as well.

We have lost so many community leaders over this time. But people have stepped up to fill those voids and worked just a hard to keep things going. I have found there is an ebb and flow in a community just like the tides in the oceans. Changes come, that is part of what we cover.

I just wanted to share with you this anniversary of ours and let you know that we appreciate your support and that we are privileged to have this role in our community. Thanks for everything.

## Our View

### We need changes

There are three things our country's political environment needs to truly turn the power back to the people. They are term limits, age limits for holding elected office and campaign finance reform.

Term limits would certainly help to keep elected positions to be truly held by people who are first committed to serving their constituents, and help to reduce the possibility of elected officials turning their position into the family business.

Age limits would not always make sure we have people serving in office that are physically capable of holding elected office, but having reasonable age limits like 75 years and out would certainly reduce the possibility of disabilities that naturally come with age. Some folks don't know when it is time to go and having age limits would make the decision for them. The number of very elderly people serving in elected positions, particularly in the Congress of the United States is very concerning.

Finally, the slipperiest beast in politics today is the lack of campaign finance reform. We have a right to the most qualified people we can elect to public office, not the candidates who are willing to take any amount of money from any source as long as they can do it an get elected.

There have got to be limits on money flowing into political campaigns. No one gives the amount of money that is being pumped into days political campaigns because they like someone. These big dollar donors expect something in return.

Many of the problems with the current environment in our country today can be traced back to relentless political attacks fueled by millions of dollars from people who have an ax to grind. We need to shut the flow of money off and set a reasonable length of time for political campaigns. The divisiveness goes on for months and years here while in some countries it is over in a matter of weeks.

We need changes, term limits, age limits and shutting off the pipeline of money is an imperative.

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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

## Attention to detail always gets me in the end

They say the Devil is in the details. I tend to agree. I am a big picture person. I actually enjoy crafting vision and mission statements. I like brainstorming and idea generating. It's the process that bogs me down. I don't like to dot i's and cross t's. Tedium is not my thing.

This aversion to minutiae has definitely led to some avoidable inconveniences in life. Over the past year, my Saturday and Sunday mornings have been filled with course work for my Ed.S. degree. The American Psychological Association and I have diametrically opposed positions on the importance of commas, italics, and the font and point of page numbers. I firmly believe that content overrides format. But



By Emily Morrison

alas I have to refer to my trifold laminated APA guide to get the job done and turned in by 11:59 pm every Sunday night. I don't like it. I don't like it one bit. So, I put it off to the weekend, wedged between ball games, practices, performances, chores, and church. You can imagine the detail devised meltdowns. On more than one occasion I have managed to finish an assignment and not

properly submit it to the online platform correctly. There is no escaping the details!

Again, this morning I found myself in yet another avoidable stress inducing situation caused by details. Yesterday, we went out and ran errands around town. There were boxes of clothes and toys to be donated. There was a prescription to be picked up from the pharmacy. There was a music practice to go to. It was an easy trip to our destinations highlighted by a celebratory trip to a ridiculously overpriced coffee shop chain. We came home and everyone was happy. We were happy until this morning, when I couldn't find the prescription. I retraced my steps. I double checked cabinets and purse pockets. Finally,

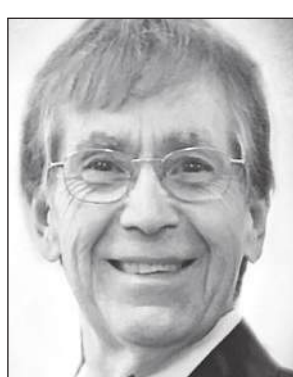
I realized a dumpster dive in the backyard was warranted. There in yesterday's kitchen trash right next to the matching brown bags from the coffee shop was the prescription bottle still safely stapled within its own paper sack.

I've always put off anything tedious. I like to tell myself my best work is born of anxiety and the pressure of a deadline. This mentality only compounds my attention deficit fueled procrastination approach to task completion. Maybe, I need to reconsider this approach. I'm not going to start singing the praises of APA formatting any time soon. That's simply asking too much of me. But I may try to be more mindful when chucking pharmacy bags in the trash.

## Interesting tidbits starting with the letter H

I don't even want to talk about the weather. But you know I will. For me it is not only cold, it is wet. What a perfect holiday weekend. I attended the Arts and Craft show at the dam. I almost didn't go because of the rain forecast. Apparently, they had heard it also. This year it was located inside the convention center. Looking forward to Saturday and beyond cause it's looking more like June. After all, today (Sunday) was 13 degrees below our average temperature.

Normally I don't have much to say about college sports this time of year. However, I have to mention that Murray State won the Missouri Valley Conference championship in baseball and just up the road, WKU won the Conference USA championship in baseball. I know Western's pitcher is from Paducah



My Side of the Fence  
By Mike Harrell

and I would imagine that Murray has some local talent also. Best of luck in the NCAA tourney!

If you check out my picture you will notice that my name is there. I ran across some interesting things concerning the letter H. Well, none of it has anything to do with my name but the H.

The average hummingbird weighs about 3 grams. Now consider the nickel coin comes in at 4.5 grams. In the UK horses must have a pass-

port. Where are they going? I do drive a Honda. I know it was named after the guy that started the company. In Japanese, Honda means "main rice field". Heroine was originally used as cough medicine.

What we call hashtag actually is called the octothorps. Well, I can pronounce hashtag. McDonald's first menu item was hotdogs, not hamburgers. In 1904 in the St. Louis World's Fair the hotdog and hamburger were first introduced. About 30 years later in Louisville the first cheeseburger made its appearance. I think I may be needing a snack.

With all the talk lately about the Pope, it was interesting that Pope Benedict XVI did not have his driver's license, but he did have his helicopter pilot's license. He flew his own helicopter while Pope.

Do you know what the widest state is? Hint, it's not Texas. It is Hawaii. From the last island to the first it is 1,500 miles.

Of course I have to mention your heart. During your lifetime it pumps about 1.5 million barrels of blood. That is enough to fill about 200 railroad tank cars. That train would be about 2 miles long.

Happy Birthday greetings to Billy Sewell, Amanda Joyce, Ronda Evans, Silas Traylor, Donna Driver, Marilyn Thompson, Bub Johnson and Brent Puckett. You know the rules, eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to Dr. & Mrs. Rick Cocker and Mr. & Mrs. Greg Northcutt. Celebrate your day.

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

## Letters to the Editor

may be submitted by email to: news@thelakenews.com or mailed to: The Lake News, P.O. Box 498, Calvert City, KY 42029. All letters must be submitted with Name, City, State and Phone Number. Letters limited to less than 250 words.

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