

## You can count on it this war with Iran isn't over

According to NBC News Iran had 880 pounds, of uranium enriched to 60% before the United States bombed their facility. Now that enriched uranium is not publicly accounted for. Power plants require the radioactive metal to be enriched to only 3%-5%, but 90% is required to build a nuclear warhead.

The Iranians said they weren't building a nuclear weapon. Something tells me they will now. That same NBC story said there were 16 trucks apparently being loaded out at that facility in Iran a day or so before we attacked.

Someone apparently tipped the Iranians off before the attack. Frankly you would have to be pretty bone headed to not start making prepa-



**Northwest Passage**  
By Loyd Ford

rations for an attack on your country if the President of the United States made a public statement that he was going to make a decision about attacking you in a couple of weeks. He didn't wait nor did the Iranians.

They say loose lips sink ships. The guy with the loosest lips ever quite certainly telegraphed this punch.

Frankly this whole mess is far too reminiscent of the "weapons of mass destruction" fable that was used to get us to make war on Iraq.

Despite hunting through every set of couch cushions and every sun scorched pile of mud bricks in Iraq we never found a single weapon of mass destruction, not a single one.

Saddam Hussien was a horrible person and did a lot of evil in the world, but he wasn't the only one, the world is filled with people like him. The thing that turned the green light on for an attack on Iraq was the constant drum beat of weapons of mass destruction.

Our intelligence people said Iran didn't have a nuclear bomb,

Tulsi Gabbert relayed that information and promptly got shut out of the discussion on Iran. President Trump has a history of not accepting information that does not conform to his opinion on any issue, not just Iran.

President Trump has said that Israel and Iran will never attack each other ever again. I would like to say that I am dubious of that notion. But dubious really isn't a strong enough word to truly define my response to that nonsense. These folks have been fighting each other for thousands of years. I don't care how big those bombs were, they cannot touch the level of hatred some of these individuals have for one another. Frankly I don't believe they were

large enough to dissuade Iran from developing nuclear weapons either.

The United States is living under the whims of a fractious leader, someone who trusts undisciplined and ill-informed instinct instead of data generated by experienced professionals. It seems the easy way to be shown the door by the administration is to have a back ground as an experienced professional.

President Trump is in some ways lucky to have Iran around. He was tanking so badly even Fox News started talking about his poll numbers dropping, even on his immigration policies. He did what it took to change the subject. He found war he thought he could win, and maybe

he has won it, I hope so.

However, it is important to remember that Iran supplies Russia with tons of drones, which the Russian use to bomb Ukraine. Uranium that is enriched to 60 percent won't make a nuke, but if you use it to make a dirty bomb, put the bomb in a drone and blow it up in the air you can contaminate a huge area with radiation.

We dropped some really big bombs on Iran. They are not going to forget it. Over the long run those bombs, even if they did make really big craters, won't have any more effect on the policies of Iran than drinking bleach would have had on ending COVID 19. You can count on it this isn't over.



## Our View

### Budget bill looks pretty ugly for KY

The big beautiful bill under consideration by the U.S. Senate has raised concerns from a coalition of healthcare firms that work to provide basic healthcare needs for Kentuckians. You can read the story on page one of this issue.

Some of their key concerns include the loss of Medicare coverage for 200,000 people in Kentucky. They also estimate that 47,000 Kentuckians would lose their marketplace insurance coverage and 53,000 would pay more for the coverage they now have. And finally, the concern they have that affects a wide range of Kentuckians is the expected loss of between 12 thousand and 24,000 healthcare jobs because fewer providers would be able to provide the services they offer now and be able to pay their bills.

President Trump's bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a single vote. So, it is obvious it fails to appeal to everyone, but for different reasons.

Kentucky has a lot of elderly people on fixed incomes, we have a lot of poor people, and many children living below the poverty level. In Calvert City we have just under 20 percent of our children in households living below the poverty level. In Benton just over 20 percent of the children live in households under the poverty level. You can look at almost any kind of health statistic and you will find Kentucky near the bottom of the rankings. This legislation may be a big beautiful bill for someone but it isn't Kentucky.

This bill doesn't do anything to lift people up. No, it springs from the belief that if anyone is poor or in need it is their fault and the government doesn't need to spend money on them. This same logic prevail in this country after the great depression, when people stood in soup lines.

American can do better than this, America has to do better than this.

## Time to muster your flock to stay connected

Gerry Brooks, a principal from Lexington and social media education influencer, shared an important message in May. Educators worry a great deal about the students they are sending home to empty houses at the end of the school year. Communities try to put supports in place for these children over school vacations. Mr. Brooks called on school leaders to remember that we have staff members who are going home to empty houses too. For various reasons, from the death of a spouse to empty nests, our grownups feel



By Emily Morrison

lost without their school family too. He challenged us to get a flock of yard flamingos and put them in one another's yards as a way to stay connected.

You know the great granddaughter of a

woman who painted her house pink and put red plastic roses in her flower bed could not resist this challenge. Flamingos are one of my favorite birds. What's more, my family and I have been the recipients of a plastic yard flamingos flocking that has been the source of countless laughs and happy memories for over twenty years now. I immediately shared this with my principal. Our flocking is imminent.

One of the things I have come to understand is that people need each other. There is a yearning within us for

connection. You can see this in supermarkets, at community gatherings and churches. People light up when they see others they know. My Uncle Jay came home from end-of-life hospice care on Friday. Through the pain of cancer his eyes lit up with recognition and caring for his family. We need one another.

It doesn't matter if you do it with pink plastic flamingos, though I highly recommend you do. Gather your flock. Feed your flock. Enjoy being part of your flock.

## In every life, a little rain really must fall

I see the truth in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's words. Rain must fall. But we would all agree that the amount of rain during the first weeks of June was excessive.

I don't regularly complain about the rain. In fact, I usually like it. There are not many things better than waking in the morning to the sound of rain on the roof or hearing your grandkids giggle as they splash through puddles in their new shoes.

In scripture, rain is often used as a metaphor for divine grace. The hymn "Showers of Blessing," written by Daniel Whittle and sung by churchgoers of my generation, evokes imagery of gentle rain showers refreshing the soul and nourishing spiritual



Tales of Grace  
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

growth.

"There shall be showers of blessing; this is the promise of love. There shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Savior above. Showers of Blessing, showers of blessing we need. Mercy-drops round us are falling. But for the showers we plead."

Storms, on the other hand, are more disturbing, both in reality and

symbolically. Just as a meteorological storm brings thunder, lightning, and strong winds, metaphorical storms represent the turmoils of life. They can signify the confusion, stress, and anxiety people feel when their circumstances threaten disaster.

We thank God for the blessings of rain, but we pray for rescue from the distress of storms. We ask that He calm our storms. And why not? The gospels report that Jesus did it with just three words.

However, the writer of the Psalms suggested that (at least in some circumstances) life's turmoils are orchestrated by God. Sometimes, God brings about the storm that threatens to destroy us.

"Some of you set sail in

big ships; you put to sea to do business in faraway ports. Out at sea, you saw God in action, saw his breathtaking ways with the ocean. With a word, he called up the wind - an ocean storm, towering waves! You shot high in the sky, then the bottom dropped out. Your hearts were stuck in your throats." (Psalm 107:23-26, The Message)

Perhaps God brings about a storm because a good tempest tends to knock us to our knees. I don't have the capacity to understand His reasoning. But this is what I want to teach my children and grandchildren about walking in the rain.

Enjoy the soft showers of blessing. Don't run from the raging storms. God will show Himself in both of them.

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### Letters to the editor policy

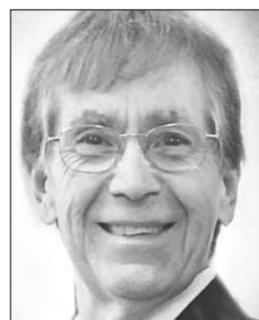
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Kentucky Press Association Member

## Which 'stage' are you now recognized in?

Well, it finally feels like summer. Can you tell? If the heat really bothers you then there is always Glacier National Park & Logan Pass. Lots of snow as I write this. Going-to-the-Sun road is closed until further notice.

Do you remember when Calvert Bank was on Main Street and had the large time and temperature sign? There was a contest every summer as to when the temp would hit 100 degrees. Even with this heat dome over us, it is only the feel like temps that are at 100 or above. Oh, for the good ole days when the weather guy would just say it is going to be in the 90's and hot. No feel like temps. The same thing for the winter with it is going to be in the 20's and cold.



My Side of the Fence  
By Mike Harrell

Whatever it is there is no pleasing everyone.

I just turned on my A/C Friday. I didn't live in an air conditioned home until I bought mine and had it installed. Likewise with A/C in a car, not till I bought one and it was my third one at that. No cruise control until the fourth one.

I shared a chart on

Facebook called the "Stages of Life". You know, it told the ages for a baby, toddler, child, teenager, you get the picture. Over the last several years I had just gotten comfortable being a senior citizen. Nope, it seems for the last six years I progressed past that to become a septuagenarian. Getting that set in my head I suddenly realized if I make it four more years, I will become an octogenarian. I know several in this group ahead of me and several in the next grouping, nonagenarians. Shucks, I even know several centenarians+.

I don't really comment about things going on that I can't change or change other people's minds about, but

as things in the Middle East escalate and seem to be drawing us into a much larger conflict, by the time this issue comes out I hope things will have cooled off. All I can say is I am praying for our nation and the only world we have. I hope you are praying also or at least thinking positive thoughts.

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Jim Provine, James Wells, Judy Davis, Tammy Garrison and Carol Robertson. Celebrate your day and eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kunnecke, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Jordan, Mr. & Mrs. Justin Ross and Mr. & Mrs. Dan Bash. Celebrate and eat cake.

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