

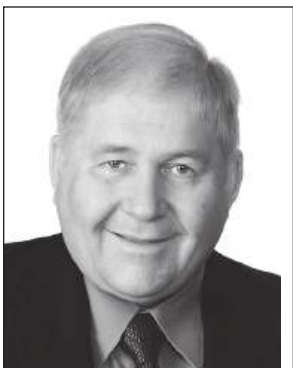
Opinion

Attack on the Department of Education will cost our kids

The United State Supreme Court moved Monday to let the Trump administration move forward with massive layoffs at the Department of Education. Those layoffs are expected to drastically reduce the Department of Education's ability to function. Some people are happy about that.

For sometime it has been disturbing to me to find that so many people have such negative feelings about higher education, as if somehow, they have been slighted by others receiving student loans for higher education or that they have been somehow been unfairly treated because they did not obtain or pursue a college degree.

I can attest to the fact that people also try to degrade people who have college degrees,



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

certainly, in long past times, I can remember having the minor slur of "college boy" being tossed in my direction. Once I met a man who possessed a doctorate in agriculture who did not want me to include that information about him in a story I was doing on his farming operation. He said his neighbors would think he was uppity if there was any

reference to his educational achievement. So, I just kept it to the point about the massive blackberries he was raising on a 10-acre plot on his family farm.

I was lucky to get to go to college. I did it on a federal student loan that took me 10-years to repay. But Uncle Sam got it all back including interest.

The difference between then and now is how much it costs to go to college. In the fall of 1970, I believe my tuition for that semester was about \$153. That kind of money won't get anyone through the door of higher education today. Things have changed.

One of the things that have changed is the percentage of the cost of operating state universities in Kentucky paid by the state has

decreased. The state has focused funding more on public schools instead of universities and that means kids that go to college have to pay more. They must borrow more money and it is a lot harder to pay those school loans off.

There is a much greater focus today on vocational education. Skilled crafts people can make a lot of money and that is a good thing. We need those people in our workforce. But there is also another looming complication, artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence, isn't happening in the future it is happening right now. Devices being used for diagnostics in the medical field is moving testing out of the medical labs and into the examination rooms. There are devices

that can determine key things about a patient in a matter of minutes, without any other lab work. The jobs of thousands of medical technicians may become victim to AI.

I expect the more anyone makes in the medical field the more likely AI has their jobs in its sights. The medical field isn't the only industry that will feel the changes brought by artificial intelligence. Anything that can be weighed, measured or counted will be targeted first and then AI will move forward into interpersonal diagnostics.

So, what does all this mean? First if people want to keep on eating regular and have a roof over their heads they will be forced to continually re-educate themselves and re-train themselves.

Most importantly people will have to focus on being more personal. The thing we have over the robots is we are people and I believe that people are going to want to have interactions with other people, not a computer that has been taught to fake it.

We need education, we need high education because it focuses on teaching people how to learn, and we need the department of education because it focuses on teacher training, educational support services and financing for people who must borrow money to go to school. This destruction of the Department of Education is a huge mistake and our kids are going to pay for it.



Our View

What is the price of growth?

The construction of the Marshall Yards gaming facility in Calvert City has already brought significant changes to the intersection of US 62 and I-24 in Calvert City. Work on the \$50 plus million project is at a high pace now. The facility is expected to be operational by early 2026.

Right now, the Calvert City Council has approved the first vote on longer operating hours for the Churchill Downs owned gaming facility. The current version of the ordinance will allow for alcohol to be served by the drink until 2 a.m. Currently liquor by the drink stops at 12 midnight. It will take a second vote before the measure can become law.

This issue is just one of many that are certain to rise up in the future. Calvert City is going to grow, particularly in the areas closest to the Marshall Yards operation. The council discussed the serving hours questioned with careful consideration for the community and each other. The choice for 2 a.m. instead of 3 a.m., which was the requested time was a compromise.

Calvert City may in many instances still be a small town, but it faces big town issues. There is always a price for growth. There will be a conflict of views, compromise is the price that is to be paid for growth.

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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

Flooring project grows new tasks

This summer, I decided I was finally going to tackle the challenge of getting the worn-out developer selected carpet replaced in our living and dining room. I have visions of the kitchen and living spaces being all of one consistent flooring. This required ensuring the same laminate installed in the back half of my house is still available. This laminate is not to my preference. Its slick, glossy finish shows every damp paw print and coffee splatter. This laminate was put in the kitchen and family room following a water leak that ruined my beautiful textured laminate. I loved that flooring. It had my back. It didn't advertise that we are a family of slob. Alas, it was no longer available when the water leak occurred. So, we will be getting bright, cheerful laminate that is really shiny.

Initiating this home improvement adventure required scheduling measurement appointments, coordinating with the sales personnel, setting up online accounts,



By Emily Morrison

confirming quotes, consulting the husband, cleaning the house for the measurement team, and the usual fretting of making any purchase that involves three or more places to the left of the decimal point.

Sure enough with this many steps there have been hiccups along the way. For instance, in the midst of trying to get things prepared for my family to attend my uncle's funeral and our old dog attempting to die on us the measurement guy showed up early. Not something trivial like five minutes early. He showed up three hours early. I wasn't ready yet. Well, I was dressed, caffeinated and on my fourth or fifth

task of the day. But my house was not. Undergarments were hanging off of the arm chair where the laundry was being sorted and folded. What's worse, they were mine! Oh the humiliation. But, I needed those floors measured. So, I held my head up high and said, "It's a wreck in here. I thought you were coming this afternoon, but come on in. Don't mind the mop bucket." I was getting things done! Checking boxes off my list. It almost made up for the fact that a random, twenty something, young man saw my brassiere dangling off the side of the armchair. Almost.

Later, down the chain of events that led to what would have been the only sales purchase, I noticed the measurements of the front room seemed off. I had a sneaking suspicion that the entryway area had not been included. Sure enough they weren't. I had been so flustered that I had signed off on the measurements without being sure that area had been includ-

ed. I really thought I asked about that before I signed off on the measurements, but I was so flustered I wasn't thinking clearly. So, the measurement man had to be sent out again. This time during the appointment window, right before the vet came to put our old dog down. I have now made a second purchase with anxiety inducing place values.

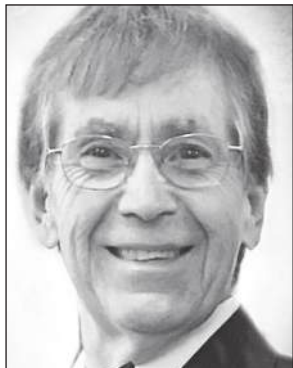
But the real kicker is this matching laminate might not come in until October. This was supposed to be a summer project. Now I'm going to have to figure out how to have the house clean, furniture out of the way, and an adult present on site during the school year.

This little debacle has put me in a philosophical mood. Life is full of tasks, steps if you will. If there isn't a misstep there is a next step. Once you stop making steps you just stop. So, we might as well keep on putting one foot in front of the other and see where it all leads us.

Let's visit cowboys in the Wild, Wild West

Speaking of the weather, well you knew I would, something interesting happened today (Sunday). I left the gym about 2:30 and since I hadn't eaten, I went to McDonald's (there's a surprise). When leaving I stood outside talking to one of the employees. I started home and remembered something I needed at Food Giant. As I turned off of 5th Avenue and up the drive, I thought they must have had a water leak or washed off the parking lot. Well one reason for this conclusion was the street and library side were not wet. However, as I was parking, I looked towards the gym and that lot was just as wet. It had rained on this side of the street but not the other. When I left for home I didn't get far when everything was wet. Funny how it rains in spots.

What do you know about "The Wild, Wild



My Side of the Fence
By Mike Harrell

West"? I have to admit that my early exposure to it was from "Gun-smoke" and "Bonanza" among others. My father and big brother loved them. There was always a Louis L'Amour paperback on a table. Do you remember the opening of Gunsmoke? Matt Dillon and some cowboy in a face off in the middle of the street in a quick draw contest.

That was not actually the normal. They had some pretty restrictive gun laws and the most restrictive were in

Tombstone, Deadwood and Dodge. Dodge even had a large sign the said, "The Carrying of Firearms is Strictly Prohibited". In reality, you would drop your gun off in Matt's office and get a token. When you left town you would return the token and retrieve your gun.

In fact, there were just 1.5 gun deaths per cattle season, far less than in eastern towns. These rules were much stricter than what is in place today. I think that Matt would be shocked today.

Another shocker was that most cowboys didn't wear a gun. It tended to get in the way while riding. You remember all those cowboys? Picture them. One in four cowboys were African-Americans. The number of Mexican cowboys were even more. Plus, there were a large number of Native American cowboys. Cowboys didn't tend to last longer

than seven years. It was really hard work and \$30-\$40 a month didn't build a very large 401.

You know that little pocket in that larger front pocket in your jeans was put there for cowboys to protect their pocket watches. Did you ever cuff your jeans? Cowboys started this as a place to put their tobacco, cigarettes and coins. I've barely touched the Old West, maybe more later.

Several birthday greetings go out today to Linda Howard, Adam Evans, Philip Madison, Vicki Madison, David Madison, K.T Sills, Marty Schuett, Glenda Arant, Julie Hart, Linda Van Steenberger, Faith Audas, Jennifer Hightower, LaDonna Knoth and Billy Harrell. Eat the cake, if there is enough for this group.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Mark Prince.

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

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