

# Opinion

## The ice cream is out there if we will just look for it

I am constantly finding that I am in a struggle with myself. I don't want to become one of those old guys who is always grumping about something. I have always been bothered by the aging process, which includes more negatives than I care to repeat, because it seems like the older men get the greater the likelihood that conditional grumpiness has set in and is getting worse. Well at least that is how I see it.

Sunday night I congratulated myself for avoiding unnecessary grumpiness after I was told for the third time in a year and a half by a young employee that she was sorry but they didn't have any ice cream. I will



**Northwest Passage**  
By Loyd Ford

not name the establishment but I will say that soft serve ice cream is the heart and soul of that particular business.

So, I backed out of the drive thru very carefully and I think respectfully, and instead of focusing

on the negative, searched for the positive in the situation. It came to me like a flash in the night, well yes, it was night so the night part was easy. I turned out onto the street and made a beeline for Draffenville. I thought well it isn't close, but it is, or at least should be, the same ice cream.

Just minutes later we were turning into the drive through that was going to provide us with a wonderful ice cream treat. Or at least that is what should have happened. Instead, I got to talk to another very apologetic young lady who explained that they too did not have ice cream. Their ice cream machine was broken and there would

not be any ice cream until the machine was repaired. So, I have to ask, what are the chances of this?

But there was a flash of sorts in the night. It came in the form of double arches located almost directly across the street. I thought, do I take a chance on a firm made famous for not having a working ice cream machine. But, what did I have to lose. We rolled across the street and what do you know they had ice cream and in particular they had hot fudge sundaes. We got one each and sat in the parking lot spooning it down. It was great and we were loving it.

I really haven't any idea

what the moral is to this story except that it may be a sign from above that I need to stop eating ice cream. Perhaps these events are a testimony about the situation we find ourselves in. Dining out simply isn't the experience it used to be. For some reason our favorite dining spots are failing to meet even the most basic of dining expectations. I don't have a business motto to share on this unexpected turn of events, except to say that ice cream joints shouldn't run out of ice cream. It is counterproductive to their mission.

Now I am not saying that I was a perfect gentleman during the ice cream run,

but I felt I did keep ranting and grumping in check. Although the second stop did push my flabbergast meter into the upper range, I manage to not be rude to the poor young lady who had to tell me they did not have any ice cream. I was tested however.

Sometimes these little strings of deprivation show up at the oddest moments and in places you would never imagine them to be. They are setting us up to be the old man we hope to avoid. It is always easier to grump than to find a solution, but I am witness to the truth that the ice cream is out there if we will just look for it.

## Making some bacon memories at the fair

Recently I attended the Farm to Fork dinner in Benton. My sweet momma was recognized for her work in Grace Garden at First Presbyterian Church in Calvert City. The event was held in the Creason Building. I spent some exciting times in the Creason Building as a child. I won a couple of ribbons at the county fair when I was in elementary school for a pair of shorts I had made after completing the 4H's sewing program. I jokingly told my family being in that building made me feel like I needed to sew something.

Our elementary school will have our information meeting for parents this Thursday night, the opening night of the Wilson County and Tennessee State Fair. This is tough competition. Take home folders and homework just can't stand up to funnel cakes and tilt-o-whirls. I had to acknowledge that the fair is a big deal in our community east of Nashville. My first year teaching in Wilson County I couldn't believe that I had 5th graders coming in bleary eyed and strung out on cotton candy on a Tuesday morning. The kiddos would apologize for yawning through class and explain they had been to the fair the night before. To those who have not been part of fair culture, this is strange. For those who love a good demolition derby next to a demonstration exhibit and some fantastic kettle corn it makes perfect sense.

Each year our schools are asked to set up a display showcasing student work. The school with the best display gets bragging rights for a full year and bonus points if the display goes along with the theme of this year's fair. The 2025 theme is all things pork and pig related. One of our teachers came up with the idea of, "Bacon Memories." Our students have written their favorite school memory from the past year on paper strips of bacon, cut out and arranged for display. A few of us had to question the cultural and religious sensitivity related to asking Muslim students to write on fake bacon and draw pictures of pigs. We decided that an important part of good education is learning about the culture. Here in the American South, we do love us some bacon!

I'm sure we will all be a little more tired and frazzled over the next two weeks. But I also know that children and families will walk away with memories that will stay with them for years. You never know, they too may develop sewing as a conditioned response. We all need to take time for "bacon" memories.

There are people in this city that do not want alcohol sales or a gaming business period. However, we have elections to determine how a community wants issues like alcohol and establishments that serve alcohol treated. In two different elections voters in Calvert City overwhelming approved the sale of alcohol, first as liquor by the drink and second in a local option.

In subsequent community surveys we learned the majority of people living here want more dining and shopping opportunities and more choices in things to do. They want change. I doubt that anyone thought that a gaming facility, that cost \$50 million would come here.

We believe this and future establishments should receive the treatment the majority of the people voted for. There are rules in place already to remove liquor licenses for people who do not follow the rules. After all alcohol permits are renewed annually already.

It is incumbent on the members of the council and the mayor to craft ordinances that will not become the subject of lawsuits. When that happens, the courts tell you how to run the city not the government. The choices made now will tell whether or not the majority sets the course of our community or the few.

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## The Lake News

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Founded-----May 29, 1984

The Lake News is published by Loyd W. Ford, Owner, 153 East Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 498, Calvert City, Kentucky 42029. Publication number - ISSN - 87503698. Telephone (270) 395-5858. E-mail to news@thelakeneews.com Fax number (270) 395-5858. Periodicals postage paid at Calvert City, Kentucky 42029.

Published weekly on Wednesdays. Publication schedule may be altered during holiday weeks. The publishers reserve the right to accept or reject any material submitted for publication.

Subscription rates: Marshall County, Livingston County, Lyon County, Calloway County, Graves County, McCracken County and Trigg County: \$29.95 per year. Elsewhere in Kentucky and out-of-state: \$39.95 per year. Postmaster: Send address changes to: THE LAKE NEWS, P.O. Box 498, Calvert City, Kentucky 42029.

#### 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.

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## Christ in us, the mystery of Christianity

From Moses to Jesus, the Jewish people were forgiven for their sins and granted God's favor by sacrificing animals. God mandated that these sacrifices could only be made in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. When the temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed in 70 AD, the sacrificial system for the atonement of sins could no longer be practiced, and the Jewish people were forced to implement a new method for making themselves acceptable before God.

The Jewish leaders who survived the destruction of Jerusalem developed a new set of practices meant to find favor with God. These practices have become the current standard for Judaism. They include prayer, study of the Jewish scriptures, acts of kindness



**Tales of Grace**  
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

to others, and the observance of Jewish traditions.

Prayer, study of scripture, and acts of kindness sound like Christian practices. In my experience, those are taught as the foundational principles of life with Christ.

So what makes Christianity different from modern-day Judaism? Well, there is the mystery.

"This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing. The mystery is this: Christ is in you, so you can look forward to sharing in God's glory." (Colossians 1:26-27, MSG)

Christ in us. God dwelling in his people. That is the mystery that defines Christianity.

Jesus predicted this mysterious indwelling presence as He spoke to His disciples. "He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth . . . you know him because he lives with you now and will be in you later." (John 14:17, NLT)

What does it mean for

the Spirit of God to be in us? Well, that depends on who you ask. Some Christians will describe God in us as an inner strength that allows them to walk through difficult circumstances. Others will speak of peace, rest, or contentment in the same adversities. Some will mention hearing a voice of guidance. Others try to explain the comfort that holds and sustains them. Most will describe a power within that is more than themselves.

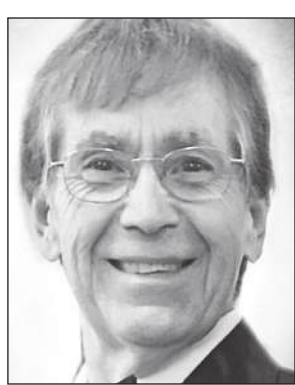
Prayer, study of scripture, and acts of kindness to others. If they don't include the "more," if they come without the mystery, if we practice them without the power of God dwelling within us, perhaps we are missing the life of Christ. Maybe it is not Christianity that we are living.

## Are you a believer, skeptic or just curious?

Weather is getting pretty easy to predict, chance of rain, then warmer, then a cool down. Who knew how easy this is.

Heard from friends this weekend that I hadn't talked to in a while. Well, their number is in MY phone to, so. I did hear from my sweet cousin this weekend. It was nice to hear she survived her 80th birthday. I told her I always appreciated her being older than me, when she said, yes, I am older than you, and so do what your elders say, shut up. We both laughed.

Did any of you go to the Hummingbird Festival in the L.B.L.? I hear there was a large group attending each day. If you are interested in other flying things then you have a chance for something else. I told you about the



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

Edgar Cayce Museum in Hopkinsville, this has nothing to do with that other than it is also occurring in Hopkinsville.

They are having GoblinCom UFO and Paranormal Expo, marking the 70th anniversary of Kentucky's most curious encounters. It is going to be October 17-18 at the Bruce Convention Center. In 1955 the Sutton family

in Kelly, just east of Hopkinsville had one of the most documented and strange close encounters in the U.S. They said their farmhouse was besieged by small, glowing-eyed creatures from another world.

Since then, there have been documentaries, books, podcast and references in other places about this event. Are you a believer, skeptic or just curious?

It will have lots of vendors, speakers and workshops. I only wonder if the History Channel will be there, after all, they write everything off to aliens.

Is it just me or do the oak trees look like they are stressed or maybe an early fall (I don't want to say dying). However, with the strange weather this summer anything is possible.

School is back in session so please be aware of children walking and buses stopping. Have a great year students and teachers.

Birthday wishes go out this week to (note I am saving money on cards and stamps) Phyllis Harrell, Jonell Harrell, Carol Collins, Howard Beth, Beth Sweeney, Jeremy Rowe, Timothy Delargey, David Featherston, Myrian Freeman and Michelle Cocke. Celebrate your special day with friends and family, oh yes, eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to these fine couples, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Quayle, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Howard, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Beth and Mr. & Mrs. David Smith. Celebrate your day!

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