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C. D. LONG - EDITOR

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Uncommon Sense

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Valentine's Day -Extend Love

Valentine's day is almost here and how many valentines will you have? In elementary school we traded Valentine cards. We actually had a big box and we stuffed it full of valentine cards to our classmates. If we received 20 or 30 valentine cards then we felt good because we had a lot of valentines.

You may or may not receive many cards this year if any at all. Nice cards are expensive as are flowers, candy and dinners. Whether you receive a Valentine card or not doesn't determine the number of people in your life you care about or who care about you.

Some people may determine their self-worth by how many friends they have on social media. Are they really your friends? Possibly you go to church with a lot of people you care about and who care about you. Maybe you still have several family members you are close to and who love you and you love them.

We have so much hate in the world. Political parties are filled



ty News welcomes your comments about current events in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number for verification.

Letters to the Editor should be brief and to

with hate. Many Democrats hate President Donald Trump. Many Republicans hate former President Joe Biden. Some Republicans and Democrats hate each other. Some people hate Elon Musk. Some people hate or love the Philadelphia Eagles.

People hate former husbands, wives, girlfriends and boyfriends.

Hate is obvious in the world. In many of our major cities there is a murder every day. Too often more than one.

0What does hate accomplish? It's a very negative emotion that has negative results. Someone often gets hurt where hate is involved. Hate hurts the hater. Hate does not create a spring of well-being and joy. Hate cuts deep within us and your body doesn't' react positively to this long-term dark emotion.

There is a line of demarcation. The Jewish people who had loved ones raped and murdered by Hamas don't feel loving toward Hamas. The citizens of Ukraine don't feel loving toward Putin and Russia. We surely understand their feelings.

Yet, somehow and some way in this life we have to find a way to rise above and to soar higher. It's not always easy to love, but love covers a multitude of sins.

I don't know how Jesus could love me. All my sins put him on the cross. Yet, over and over again, the Bible tells me that God loves me and for what reason? I have done nothing to deserve his love.

Try to show and tell more people you love them. Call some people this week and tell them you love them. Tell some Democrats and Republicans you love them. Tell some sinners you love them. You never know, some of the love you give just might come back to you. When Mary anointed Jesus in the Bible, the entire house could smell the perfume. Jesus had the perfume all over him, but Mary also had the perfume all over her. Love anoints others but often we end up anointed as much as the ones to whom we extended love.

Seeking safety of higher ground, Kentucky builds new homes on its abandoned mountaintop mines

Kentucky families looking for respite from repeated flooding look to make mountaintop mines their new home. "In 2022, apocalyptic flooding swept across eastern Kentucky," reports Austyn Gaffney of The New York Times. "Now, instead of rebuilding in the floodplain, the state is permanently lifting residents onto safer land."

Kentucky is two years into an \$800 million plan to reinvent long stretches of barren land left behind from mountaintop strip mining into neighborhoods perched away from valley flooding. "Seven communities across four counties have been designed for 665 brand-new properties," Gaffney writes. "Fourteen houses have been completed and about a dozen people have moved into two communities."

Kentucky isn't the only state exploring climate migration. It has "already reached places like Louisiana, where lowlying communities like the Isle de Jean Charles are being forcibly abandoned," Gaffney explains. The state's mountaintop relocation approach "is the largest known housing project on reclaimed mine sites in the

Reflections of a Country Editor Continue From Page 1

goose neck above the Aubrey's Red A Dairy Feed Sign.

Inside the store the local farmers would discuss all the local news about cattle prices, their crops or whatever happened to come on their minds. There was usually a game of checkers being played on a hand drawn checker board with pop bottle lids being used for "men". One player turned his lids right side up and the other turned his upside down. When you got a king you put one cap on top of another. It worked quite well.

The women usually gathered in the afternoons to make whatever grocery purchases they might need, and to catch up on the latest happenings. Talk about their gardens, or their children or grand children. They might talk about a new recipe or a quilt pattern they had seen in a magazine.

Betore ending this article, I must describe one of Uncle Delmer's sandwiches. After working his sawmill all day he would come into the store, open the wrapper on a Moonpie, place a slice of balogna on it, and then smear yellow mustard on the bologna. This was washed down with a "big 'RC Cola. I kid you not. These are the fond memories of the good old days. Sometime I will tell you of some of the not so fond memories of the good old days. That is for another article. C. D. Long



Coal mining can leave land with a "lunar surface" atmosphere. (Adobe Stock photo)

country."

Strip-mined mountaintops offer the safety of higher elevation and flat ground for construction. "Mark Arnold, a landscape architect who designed five of the high-ground sites...plans to incorporate the place-based culture of floodplain communities," Gaffney writes. "His vision — small clusters of houses, eventually enveloped by reforested land — would emphasize the importance of family and neighborliness."

Even with the benefits the new community offers, some

residents may find it hard to leave the land their families have lived on for generations. "It can be difficult to adjust to life on higher ground," Gaffney reports. "But residents want to escape future floods and keep their families safe."

-Ky. Institute for Rural Journalism

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Representative Timmy Truett

Lawmakers Return To Frankfort For Part Two of Session

Feb. 10— Lawmakers returned to Frankfort on February 4 to resume the 2025 Regular Session and got right to work filing several bills, meeting with constituents, and attending committee meetings.

The biggest victory of the week was the Senate passage of legislation that will make Kentucky more competitive by lowering the state's individual income tax to 3.5 percent as of January 2026. This measure is the next step in the legislature's efforts to leave more money in the pockets of Kentuckians, empowering them to save, invest, and spend in ways that benefit their own communities. This measure not only helps Kentuckians, but also strengthens Kentucky's economic competitiveness, making it an even more attractive place to work.

A lower income tax fosters growth, creates jobs, and to share that the bill was signed into law just a day after the House and Senate sent it to the Governor's desk. We were, of course, prepared to override another veto if necessary.

As session continues, I look forward to discussing the legislation we are working on, especially how it will help bring about change throughout the Commonwealth. I wanted to take some time to inform you about some of the bills passed out of committee.

Teacher Red Tape Reduction Act: Members of the House Education Committee approved HB 48, which would remove burdensome administrative policies and standards that take a teacher's time away from the students in the classroom. This measure would standardize professional development schedules, reduce the frequency of summative evaluations, and remove unnecessary requirements set by the Kentucky Department of Education to give teachers more time to focus on instruction. Landon's Law/Choking Safety in Schools: Another bill passed by committee this week was HB 44, also known as Landon's Law. The measure would require schools to train staff to use anti-choking devices if they have purchased the equipment. Qualified staff would also receive instruction on the proper technique of the Heimlich maneuver. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that schools have anti-choking devices to improve student safety and comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition, the anti-choking device

manufacturer LifeVac provides schools with a free choking rescue device upon request This device is registered and regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Individual Liberty: HB 27 also passed committee this week, which would clarify existing law on planned communities to prohibit all homeowner associations from banning political yard signs. The bill maintains the authority of associations to regulate size and duration of political yard signs, while primarily protecting the first amendment rights of homeowners.

Protecting Elections: House Elections, Constitutional Amendments, and Intergovernmental Affairs approved legislation, HB 45, aimed at bringing consistency in election laws banning foreign nationals from attempting to influence our elections via donations and political advertising. Foreign nationals are already banned from donating to influence candidate elections, and this law would extend that ban to proposed ballot measures, like the constitutional amendments that were on our November ballot. Celebrating Kentucky's Rich History: Members of the House State Government Committee approved HB 313, which would designate the month of June as "Kentucky History Month.".. As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Richard.White@kylegislature.gov.

the point, no more than 500 words. The News reserves the right to edit (or reject) all letters submitted for publication.

Letters should be mailed to: The Wolfe County News P.O. Box. 129 Campton, Ky. 41301

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor or guest editorials are not necessarily those of the publisher.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Kentucky River Area Development District located in Hazard, Kentucky, is seeking a highly qualified environmental consultant to implement and oversee our recently awarded USEPA Brownfield Assessment grant that will include three primary target areas including the City of Beattyville, the City of Jackson and the City of Whitesburg. Qualified firms must be licensed in the state of Kentucky and be able to start work within three weeks of award.

An RFP packet containing information about the project and criteria that will be used to select the consulting firm may be obtained by contacting the Associate Director of Community and Economic Development, Ms. Jennifer McIntosh at Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD) by phone 606-436-3158 or email jennifer@kradd.org.

Statements of Proposals from interested environmental consultant firms will be accepted only until 4:00 p.m., Wednesday April 16, 2025. Statements of Proposals must be submitted to: Kentucky River Area Development District Attn: Ms. Jennifer McIntosh, C/O KRADD EPA Cleanup Grant, 941 North Main Street, Hazard KY 41701. Questions must be submitted two-weeks (14 day) prior to the submission deadline, by email directly to KRADD. Responses to questions will be provided to consultants, if requested by email.

The solicitation for Statements of Proposals is being conducted to fulfill state/federal funding agency procurement requirements. KRADD is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages responses from all qualified firms. Large, Small, and Disadvantaged firms, including but not limited to Women Owned Business and Minority Owned Business, are encouraged to apply.

ensures that our state remains on a path toward sustained prosperity. HB 1 continues the House Majority's efforts to eliminate the individual income tax entirely. In 2018, the General Assembly first acted to decrease the individual income tax rate from 6 percent to 5 percent, which resulted in historic economic growth, as well as record job creation and state revenue. Lawmakers passed legislation HB 8 22RS that lays the groundwork to eliminate the individual income tax entirely but includes preset triggers that must be met before the legislature can move to decrease the tax in half a percentage point increments. These triggers essentially hold funding for state programs and agencies harmless. I am pleased



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