

Editorials & Letters

The Publisher's Notebook

Charles A. Myrick
Publisher / Editor



If you don't support journalism, what do you support?

What does it take to get someone to pick up the newspaper these days? For different folks, it's different strokes. For me, there are several reasons I'll pick up a newspaper. At first, the design will catch my eye. I am a designer, first of all. Second, if it's a town I rarely visit, I'll see what's going on. Thirdly, I'll look at the variety of advertisers they work with. And, fourthly, I'll see what kind of journalism they are producing.

Those aren't necessarily my priorities. I'd rather a horrible-looking newspaper do good journalism than a beautiful, eye-pleasing paper publish only fluff to satisfy the powers-that-be.

In a message to a dear friend, I made a point of saying that I know someone very important in our community who does not read the newspaper. In fact, that person not only abstains from engaging in community journalism but may also oppose the idea of a print newspaper. I am finding that more and more, and it usually isn't for the reasons you might think.

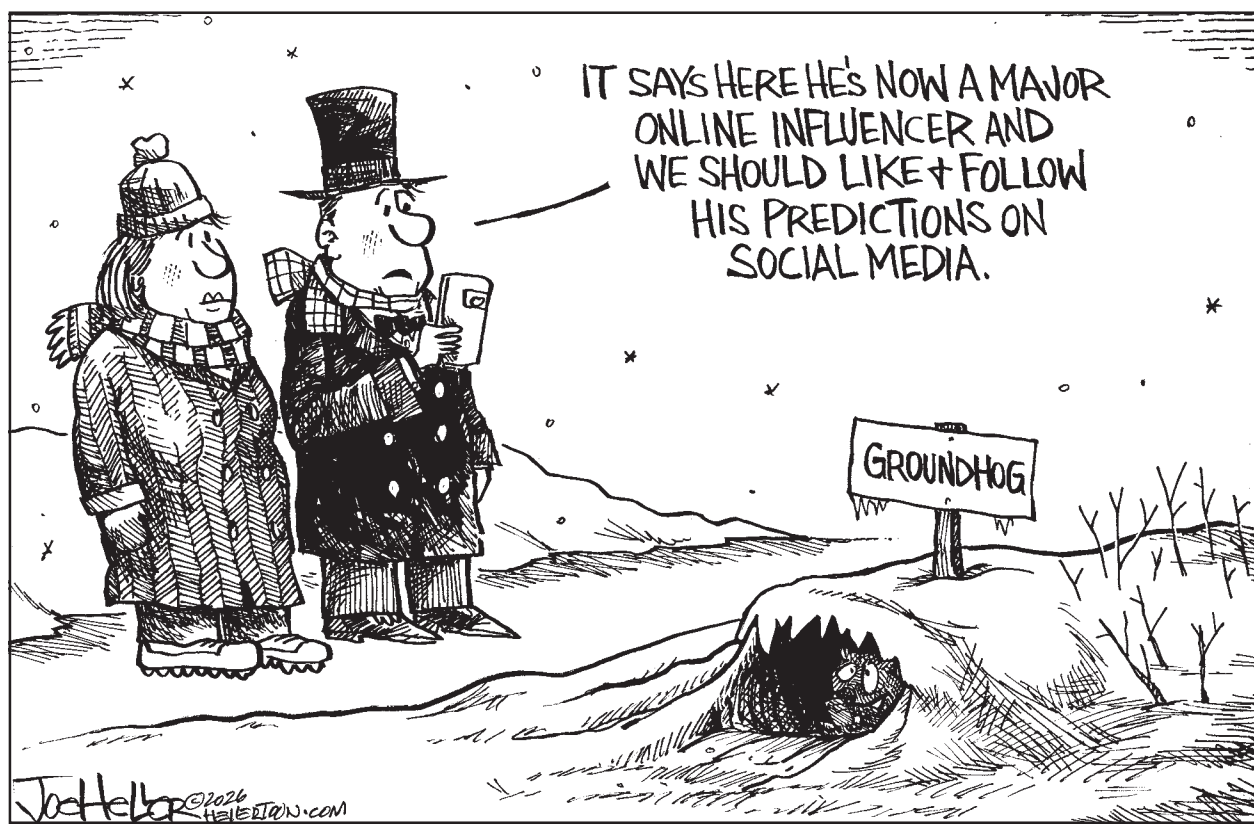
The talking line "print is dead" is an old, boring, tired trope. It's a fiction. Print is different, and in some cities, yes, it has suffocated under the weight of social media, burgeoning print bills, staff salaries, and overhead, pulling every precious advertising dollar it can. You can only cut so much before you run out of blood. While it's true our staff is smaller than it once was, finances don't necessarily dictate that for us. It is a factor, but it isn't the overall deciding factor. "Need" plays a bigger role than "money" does for me. Do I want a couple more staff members to spread out more? Absolutely. Can we afford it? Yes, within reason, we can. Why don't we do it? When I see a need for more news and more pages, we will. We aren't there currently.

It shocks me to no end to learn that the educated, highly regarded elite of our community, especially the hired and elected leadership, do not read a newspaper. They believe Facebook is the end-all, be-all. The reality is they live in a false world. Their version of reality is up there with the legislators we fight every year, who want to strip public notices out of newspapers.

Reading the newspaper is not just about supporting a local business, because it does do that, but it's about showing an interest in the public good; it's about showing you believe in the protection of our precious democracy by supporting the very entity that exists to provide transparency for voters to make informed decisions. If you don't support that, at least, what do you support? Time will tell.

"In the First Amendment, the Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors... Only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government."

— U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, *New York Times v. United States*.



Letters to the Editor

'Prayer on the Square' canceled due to severe winter weather

Because of the severe winter weather this coming weekend, PRAYER ON THE SQUARE WILL BE CANCELED FOR FEBRUARY!! We will hope to reschedule our speaker for March 1st. See you

then! Meanwhile be praying for our community. God has been so merciful!

Rev. Leonard Lester
Barbourville, Ky.

Send us your news! Find various submission forms on our website at mountainadvocate.com or scan this QR code with your phone!



'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.'

Romans 8:28

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

— First Amendment to the United States Constitution

COLUMNIST

What do you do about those pesky nose hairs

"Last night, I yanked out a couple nose hairs just to see if it hurt," a woman told her friends. "Judging by how fast my husband woke up screaming, I'd say the answer is yes."

Curiosity can cause us to do some strange things, I suppose.

Curiosity is a very human trait, even for Jesus' disciples back in the days of his public ministry. For example, they were curious about the end of time, and they would ask Jesus questions about it.

In Matthew 24:37, Jesus told them, "Of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but

Ain't it the Truth

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my Father only."

Just before Jesus returned to heaven, the disciples asked him one final time. He answered in Acts 1:7, telling them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

Down through history certain people, claiming to know something no else does, have set dates for the return of Jesus. And, down through history, they have been wrong.

I was told that a group of local people gathered at their church not long ago because they believed Jesus was coming back on a particular day. Someone had told them so. Well, turns out someone was wrong. Again.

Oh, Jesus is coming. We just won't get a heads up about it.

"Therefore, be ye ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:44).

And Jesus said no one's going to miss his return.

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:27).

If you're curious about Christ's return, you can read more about it in Matthew 24.

And if you're curious about whether it hurts to pull a nose hair, just take that woman's word for it, and leave your poor husband alone.

Reach Roger Alford at 502-514-6857 or rogeralford1@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor Policy



Letters to the Editor should be 200 words or less, and signed by the author. Please include with the letter an address and phone number (for authenticity verifications only, not for publication). All letters and submissions to this newspaper are published at the discretion of the publisher or editorial board. We reserve the right to

not publish a submission for any reason.

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