

Time for some late winter pruning

BY JENEEN WICHE

I love warm February days. A beautiful February day can set into motion some very productive late winter chores. It feels good to get some good old-fashioned garden clean up done as I anticipate another growing season. Optimism abounds this time of the year!

Late winter is a good time to prune because the tree or woody ornamental is essentially dormant. Late February is ideal because this is the point in the season when many plants are close to coming out of dormancy; their juices are beginning to flow and a particular enzyme in some species allows for the plant to heal-over pruning wounds a little more efficiently. Not to mention the fact that insects are emerging from the places they sought winter protection (in our dogwoods, white pines, fringe trees, orchards or the like) instead of looking for easy entries into trees with fresh cuts. Do you get the logic?

It looks like we are seeing a warming trend and that our harsh winter weather is behind us, but Mother Nature is not known for her obedience. We want trees to be dormant for ideal pruning conditions. If you set to the task of pruning any of your woody ornamentals in the next several weeks, however, make sure that you prune only those that bloom in the summer and fall. If you prune spring bloomers like lilacs, you will remove the buds that have already set on the plant. You want to prune spring bloomers right after they have finished blooming. Prune out dead wood of all plant material, regardless. Insects and disease love dead wood and you open your tree or ornamental up to infestation if you don't remove it.

Pruning helps trees stay healthy by removing any dead or diseased wood; and

by thinning branches out you increase the amount of air circulation and light that filters through the tree. Aesthetically, pruning allows us to sculpt our trees to the desired shape and maintain their size.

Prune out branches that grow inward or those that are rubbing against other branches. Limbs that get in the way of riding lawn mowers as you mow around the tree should be removed because if you damage these limbs during mowing it will open the tree up to disease. Limbing-up trees as they grow helps the tree maintain a vase shape and is a relatively easy chore if you keep up on it every other year or so.

When making a pruning cut, arborists recommend that you leave the branch collar because this collar actually forms a protective barrier against insects and disease. The branch collar is the small, raised area on the trunk of the tree from which each branch emerges. These collars are obvious especially after a tree has healed. Look to other professionally pruned trees for what this healing effect looks like. You will see a circular, raised and rounded type of scar that neatly forms around where a branch has been removed.

For larger limbs that need to be removed with a hand saw or chain saw here is an important tip. When you make your first cut do so from the underside and only cut about halfway through the limb. Make your second cut about an inch out from here, leaving about 8 inches of the limb left. Now that the majority of the limb is removed you can safely make your final cut up to the branch collar. If you make only one cut you risk the limb falling on you or the bark ripping down the trunk from the underside of the cut. This has happened to most of us at least once and, again, it opens the tree up to insects and disease.

Newspapers heartbeat of our communities

BY JANE ASHLEY PACE
GUEST WRITER

Every county in Kentucky has one local business that has been there longer than any other, most more than a century — while some are even closing in on two centuries.

In many of these counties, that business is the local newspaper.

I manage two of those local newspapers. The Oldham Era which is looking forward to celebrating our 150th anniversary next year. The Henry County Local has been publishing 168 proud years and counting. I also assist regionally with 13 other area newspapers with similar tenures.

Newspapers are the heartbeat of every community in Kentucky. We exist to inform, to raise awareness, to build community, to be the voice of those that can't always speak for themselves, to cover local government and hold local officials accountable, to help local businesses grow, to enact change, to celebrate achievements and to archive our community's history.

Our founding fathers felt so strongly about the importance of newspapers and the role we play in communities that we are the only profession explicitly named in the Constitution of the United States of America.

There are three ways in which newspapers have effectively carried out some of our most important roles — covering local government, keeping officials accountable, keeping citizens informed and helping transparency exist: public notices, open meetings and open records.

Without these three in place, knowing how your tax dollars are being spent, what bids are available and being rewarded, what decisions your elected officials are making for you, when meetings are being held and what new ordinances are being considered would not be as easily accessible.

There is currently a bill, HB368, that seeks to remove

legal notices from newspapers and place them on government websites. Websites that are run by the government themselves. What could go possibly go wrong with that?

When a legal ad is placed in a newspaper, it is placed in the local newspaper, dated and cannot be changed after the fact. In addition, it is placed on a website managed by the Kentucky Press Association where all legal notices in Kentucky can be found easily — kypublicnotices.com.

HB368 seeks to have entities including county and city governments place public notices on their own websites. Yet many have only one employee, if any, and can't even keep their current websites updated. I found one city website in my area that hadn't been updated with meetings or ordinances since 2020. Two others had very little information, none of the council members listed were current and the monthly meeting time was wrong.

Officials have said they would create their own statewide website for all notices. I would argue they are going to spend a lot more money creating a website we already have created and maintained successfully. Right now, paid legal notices are a very small part of county and city budgets — only 0.16%.

So why change? Is this what is really best for the community?

In counties of 80,000 or more a bill was passed in Kentucky to change the rules of public notices due to the cost of the larger newspapers. Yet, many of those counties, including Boone, Campbell, Fayette, Kenton, Madison and Warren, have decided that newspapers are still the best way to get their notices out and have continued to place them in newspapers despite the change.

Regardless of the county size, public notices should be posted by a third party, and with a newspaper in almost every county (and statewide website already in place) it just makes

good, common sense.

Besides the concerns I've already addressed, while legal notices are not the only revenue that keep newspapers going — it is a part of it, and some smaller, rural counties could lose their local newspaper if this bill is passed.

A community without a local newspaper is a community without a heartbeat, and countless studies have shown in news desserts across this country that there will be negative, long-term effects for the community.

No, it is not the job of the legislature to keep newspapers running but why are they so against doing something that maintains transparency and at the same time, would hurt some of the oldest local businesses in this state?

I'm not blind to the criticism of the media. I was trained that a journalist is to cover the facts and to try and keep any biases out. I think your local newspapers do a pretty darn good job at still doing that. We have editorial pages that are open for opinions to be shared and topics to be discussed but they are clearly labeled and kept separate from the news content.

Your local newspaper employees are not pushing an agenda. We are actively involved and serving in our communities. We live, work, play and volunteer right alongside our community members. We take our role very seriously and that includes publishing public notices.

Any bill that seeks to change how public notices are handled or diminishes public meetings or public records, is going to be harmful to the community, and your local newspaper, in the long run. I urge you to stand up with your local newspaper and help us keep these three in place.

Jane Ashley Pace is the publisher of the Oldham Era and Henry County Local, regional advertising manager for Paxton Media and the 2024 president of the Kentucky Press Association.

CROSSWORD

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15						16			17		
	18				19	20			21		
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25	26	27	28	29							
30							31				
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		45	46								
47	48				49			50	51	52	53
55					56				57		
59					60				61		
62					63				64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Greek mythological figure

5. Small amount

8. Play a role

11. River in Georgia and Alabama

13. Water in the solid state

14. Ancient Greek sophist

15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste

16. Fleece

17. Writer/actress Dunham

18. Behave in a way that belittles

20. Comedienne Gasteyer

21. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire

22. Conceits

25. Slowed down

30. Nourishment

31. Midway between east and southeast
32. Fights

33. Comedienne Tyler

38. Standing operating procedure

41. Locks

43. Old

45. Song sung to one's lover

47. Whale ship captain

49. Moved quickly on foot

50. Volcanic craters

55. Large musical instrument

56. Liquefied natural gas

57. Ethiopian town

59. Not closed

60. A team's best pitcher

61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

62. Disfigure

63. Prefix denoting "in a"

64. Sleep

CLUES DOWN

1. S. American plant

2. Soul and calypso song

3. Fruit of the service tree

4. Continent

5. Albania's capital

6. Poisonous plant

7. Argues

8. Assists

9. Town in Galilee

10. Russian leader

12. Promotional materials

14. Wings

19. Not odd

23. Expression of creativity

24. Conceptualize

25. A digital tape recording of sound

26. Peyton's little brother

27. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)

28. Difference in potential
29. Owner

34. I (German)

35. Chinese conception of poetry

36. The world of the dead

37. Sign language

39. Coincide

40. Religious observance

41. Confined condition (abbr.)

42. Polite interruption sound

44. Texas ballplayer

45. Type of sword

46. Abba __, Israeli politician

47. Basic unit of a chemical element

48. Native American people in California

51. Swiss river

52. Hebrew calendar month

53. Easily swindled person

54. One point south of southwest

58. Small island (British)

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			3					
7			2		9	5		
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	9		8			6		
		1	9				8	
5	2							
3			5			7		

Level: Advanced

SOLUTIONS

T	S	E	R		R	E	P		R	V	M
I	B	B	V	R		E	C	V		N	E
V	M	U	D	V		G	N	T		V	B
	S	R	V	V	M		N	V	R	B	V
						D	V	N	E	R	E
L	L	I	H	E	H	L	R	E	V	O	
S	E	H	C	L	V	L		P	O	S	
V	H	S	I	V							
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						S	E	I	L	I	N
R	V	L	T	V		V	N	V		E	S
V	N	E	L		B	O	R			D	I
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T	C	V			D	V	T			V	S

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1	3	9	5	7	8	2	6	4
6	7	2	4	9	1	5	3	8
8	4	5	6	3	2	9	1	7
4	9	8	2	6	3	7	5	1
7	5	6	8	1	4	3	9	2
2	1	3	7	5	9	4	8	6

KIDS' CORNER



Children are born with 20 of these, which will increase to 32 as they age.

Answer: Teeth

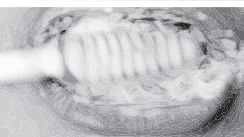


TARTAR

a hard deposit that forms on the teeth



English: Dental
Spanish: Dental
Italian: Dentale
French: Dentaire
German: Zahn



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Brushing teeth



It is important to visit the dentist at least twice per year for a thorough dental cleaning and examination of the mouth.

