

My Thoughts This Week

At the beginning of each new year, we assess our lives and make resolutions to better them. I have never been much for these New Year's resolutions, but I have decided to make a few this year. Only time will tell if I can or will actually follow through.



Jane Reid Kleyn
Editor

First, I'm looking forward to 2022 and what it holds for *The Sun*. I see a great year ahead. We are finally back to full staff at the newspaper office.

We brought Madison Briscoe on board in November as our Sports/News Reporter. She has been exceptional thus far; we have connected well, and I look forward to great things from Madison. Ashley Lyons joined the staff in October as our first student intern.

They will be tremendous assets with my first resolution – I want to bring you even more and better local news and feature stories. With this resolution, I also need your help. You may not believe this, but we don't know everything. We ask that you help us by letting us know about things happening in your part of the county and sharing story ideas with us. Some of our best stories of 2021 came from tips we received from our valued readers. And please don't assume that if you posted something on Facebook that we saw it and know about it.

My second resolution centers around that fact that this is an election year. We strive to keep our personal thoughts and biases about politics out of the paper. I actually keep track of columns on our opinion page to assure a balance of liberal vs conservative opinion pieces. It was recently brought to my attention that some believe stories appearing above the fold tend to favor one side. I have not gone through back issues to see if this has merit or not, but my resolution is to be more aware of placement of political stories going forward. I will continue to watch for bias and make sure it does not appear on our pages. The staff has agreed to work together to keep each other's biases in check as we cover the upcoming elections and candidates. Our opinions

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Communities come together in tornado aftermath



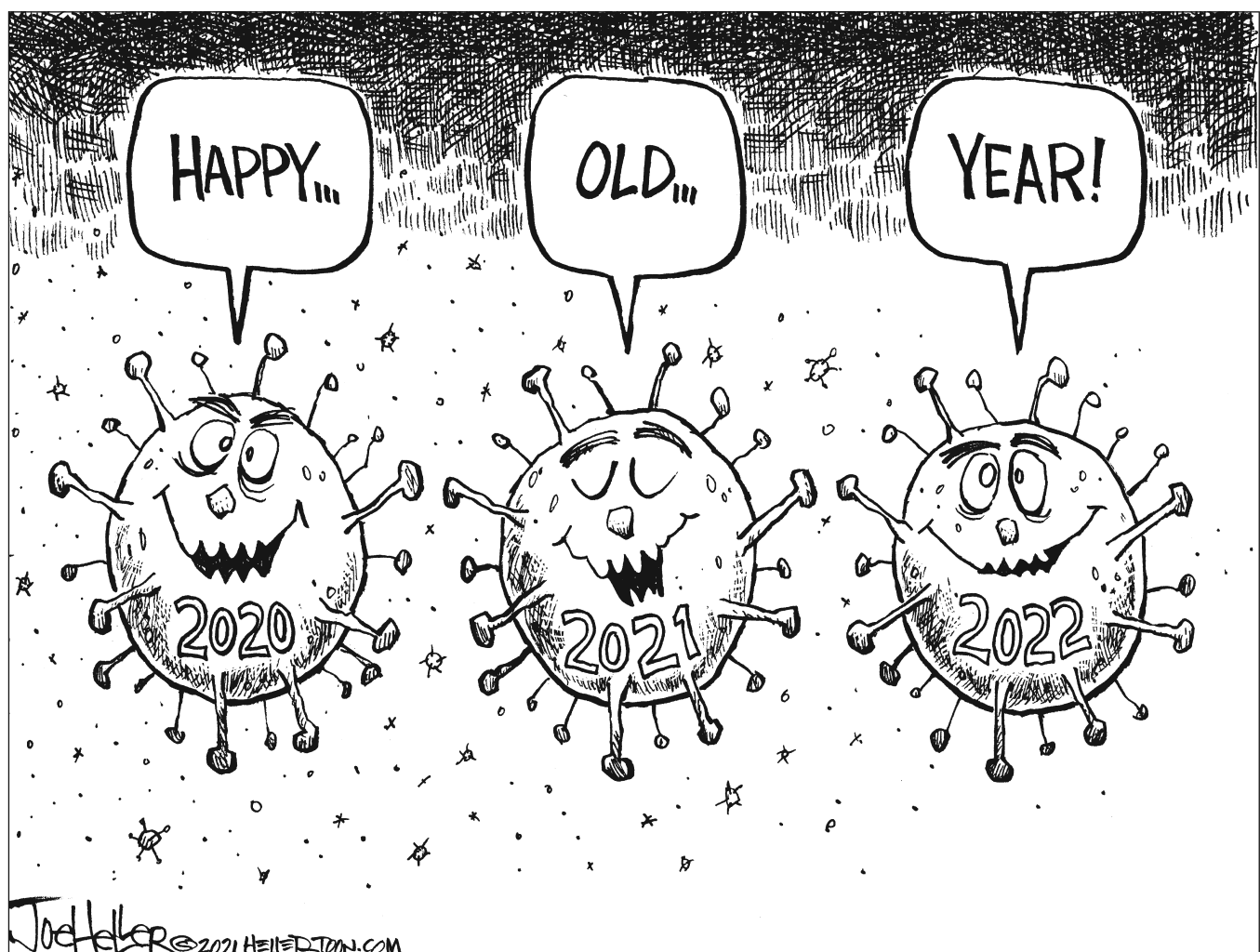
Congressman James Comer

In the wake of the devastating tornadoes which recently hit parts of western and central Kentucky, our commonwealth's resiliency has been tested like never before.

But after a natural disaster that killed 77 Kentuckians, destroyed countless homes and wiped out entire communities, caring citizens have responded with unbelievable compassion. Private charities and individuals have been on the ground cleaning up debris and providing warm meals, in addition to supplying financial and material assistance.

Various Kentucky school districts have sent school buses full of supplies to affected communities. And Americans from

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The twelve days of Christmas

The popular Christmas carol that enumerates a series of gifts given to a "true love" on each of the twelve days following Christmas was written in England in 1780. It's believed to have been published in a children's book to help them learn to memorize, as they continued to say the gifts forward and backward.

The list of the gifts - a partridge, turtle doves,

Sr. Joel Gubler

Ecology



French hens, calling birds, gold rings, geese, swans, maids, ladies, lords, pipers, and drummers - were not actually put into song until 1909.

Although the origins

and meanings of the gifts named are still unknown, it continues to be a popular lively and catchy holiday song sung year after year.

Many believe that Christmas ends on the night of December 25th, but this song reminds us that the season just begins then, and continues until January 6th, the feast of the Epiphany, or Kings Day, which commemorates the

arrival of the three kings in Bethlehem.

I'm not familiar with the traditions in other places, but in New Orleans "Twelfth Night" formally opens the Carnival season with its parties, balls, and parades, and King Cakes are baked and sold by the thousands until Mardi Gras, the day before Ash Wednesday, when all celebrations cease.

Prayers to God

Did everybody get everything they wanted for Christmas?

I hope you got everything that you needed which sometimes is considerably less than what you wanted.

I will be 65 next October. I'm definitely in the "senior citizen" category and rapidly advancing toward the next world. I sure hope I've been good enough to make it to the "good place" after my stay here. But, like some kids, who were wondering if they were on the naughty list waiting for Santa, I too will be doing the same thing when I'm waiting to meet God. The only difference is the con-

sequences are a whole lot more serious for me.

Old age does bring some wisdom that you can't find in books. It's a wisdom that comes from living. When I was young, I saw the world in very black and white terms. Old age has made the black and white a lot more grayer. I no longer say "that will not happen to me or my family" and feel smug when someone is having problems. Now I silently pray "please God don't let that happen to us!!!" My sense of superiority to others that came from a lack of life experiences in my youth was dulled considerably over

the past few decades. Now that is real wisdom.

My prayers to God now are a lot different than my youth. Gone are ridiculous requests for fame and fortune. My hope now is for a life with less drama and a little more peace and quiet. A life where I'm on good terms with all my family, friends and neighbors. I want a time where I recognize people's good points and forget their bad ones. I want a life where I have just enough food to keep me healthy and a house that keeps us warm and snug. Yep, money really isn't everything. There are a lot of rich people that are

Ken Begley

Sun Columnist



totally miserable. My mom always said that if you have enough to put beans on the table then you will be alright!

Sometimes you feel like God has not answered your prayers the way you thought He would. It can leave you disappointed and angry. I'm the same as you. I read a plaque I have mounted on my wall writ-

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And it was Christmas, after all

It seemed like the closer Christmas came this year, the more tenuous it became. I was beginning to think all was well, and then the Omicron variant pounced on us. More than 3,000 Christmas Eve flights were canceled globally. In New York City, the Rockettes canceled their Christmas Spectacular. "Hamilton" and "Aladdin" on Broadway paused performances last week.

This is the second year

David Whitlock

Life Matters



many were not able to make trips to celebrate the holidays with family. It became personal with Lori and me. Our daughter, who lives in New York City, had to cancel her trip home because she contracted Covid.

One of our friends an-

nounced she had Covid, for the second time. It was going to be the first Christmas she could spend with her parents in many years. "It...stinks!" she said.

"Christmas this year has gone to crap!" blurted another friend, whose family Covid had upended Christmas.

Covid seemed to have won, two years in a row.

Then my grandson came over. Because Covid had dampened our plans for

Christmas activities, I was able to listen to him more closely than I perhaps would have. He had seen me baptize a young lady at church the Sunday before, and he had some questions about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Slowly I told him, trying as best I could to explain heavenly truths in an earthly enough manner that he could begin to grasp them.

"It's okay," I said at one

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Letters to the Editor

The Springfield Sun welcomes letters to the Editor on topics of public interest. Timely letters about local topics will receive priority in placement.

The Sun reserves the right to edit for brevity, content and clarity all letters submitted for publication. Below are some guidelines for having your letter published.

- Only original letters will be published and submissions must be clearly labeled as submissions for "Letter to the Editor."

- Please keep letters short and to the point, with a recommended length of 250 words. Letters must include a printed name and signature of the author, as well as address and phone number for our contact purposes. Unsigned letters and ones without contact information will not be published.

- Submissions can be mailed or submitted in person at 108, Progress Avenue, Springfield, Kentucky 40069, or through our website at www.thespringfieldsun.com.

The opinions expressed on this page are not those of The Sun or its staff. They are the views of the individual contributors. All viewpoints are welcome.

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