

# Opinion

## Camargo mural a win-win for community

It's something that those passing by should be able to enjoy for many years to come! We commend those who worked together to make the new murals painted on the original Camargo Fire Station a reality.

This collaboration/teamwork is one of the things that helps make our community a great place to live, work and play.

Leadership Montgomery County, the Gateway Regional Arts Center, Montgomery County Fire-EMS, the City of Camargo and local artist Steve Jackson deserve huge kudos for their efforts to make this happen.

One mural showcases the first fire engine in the county and the other side features "Welcome to Camargo" artwork.

Fire Chief Mike Mosbey said a mural was something he began thinking about several years ago and it was the perfect opportunity to make it a reality when the Leadership class reached out. The 2023 class had the idea of having a mural painted as part of its community service project.

Local businesses met a donation challenge by the arts center to make the project come to fruition and each of the organizations directly involved in the project also helped by providing funding.

Not only are the murals absolutely stunning, they are painted on a building with great historical significance. Mosbey said the murals tie in the history of the fire dept. and how important

the City of Camargo has been to the dept. over the years.

In addition, he said that firefighters get to park behind the building and see the mural every day. It adds color, brightens people's day and puts everyone in a good mood, the fire chief said.

This project is truly a win-win for our community. Camargo is now brighter thanks to this project!

## Letters to the Editor

### Let's celebrate creativity, bravery and artistry of drag performers

Y'all ... With all the misconceptions and straight up false information I have been seeing expressed in regards to upcoming drag performances (particularly those associated with the upcoming Mt. Sterling Pride) and I need to express my support for the incredible drag performers out there and clarify some of the misconceptions I've seen circulating. The misinformation out there is staggering, with folks accusing drag queens of "grooming" children. This couldn't be further from the truth.

Let's start with a little background: Drag is an art form that dates back centuries, possibly as far back as the time of Shakespeare. It's all about dressing and performing in an exaggeratedly gendered way, often for the purpose of entertainment, like comedy, singing and dancing. Over the years, it's become a staple in the LGBTQ+ community and beyond, largely due to mainstream successes like RuPaul's Drag Race.

The "sexualization" argument doesn't hold water. While some drag queens may wear sheer outfits or use makeup to appear exaggeratedly feminine, drag is not about nudity. It's about performance and self-expression. Sure, some performances can be raunchy, but so can many stand-up comedians and plenty of other entertainers. These types of performances are almost exclusively in adult only spaces such as bars and nightclubs.

Now, should children be exposed to drag? As with any form of entertainment, it's up to parents to decide what's suitable for their kids. There are events like Drag Queen Story Hour specifically designed for children, where drag queens read stories

to engage the young ones and get them interested in reading. If anything, these events are helping promote literacy.

The accusations of "grooming" are a misuse of a term that describes the tactics of actual child abusers. By using this term, opponents of drag are falsely equating it with horrific crimes. There's no evidence to suggest that drag performers are trying to influence kids' sexual orientations or gender identities. In fact, almost all of actual pedophiles are heterosexual white men and are far more likely to be hiding in other places than lurking about your local library for Drag Queen Story Hour.

As for kids who participate in drag, family therapist Amber Trueblood says it's about allowing them to be playful and take risks, without implying any deeper or permanent meaning. As she rightly points out, many parents are OK with their kids dressing up as villains for Halloween, yet don't interpret these costumes as anything more than fun.

I think it's essential that we address these harmful misconceptions and stand up against the threats and false claims being made against the drag community. It's time to celebrate the creativity, bravery and artistry of drag performers rather than letting misleading narratives dominate the conversation. Let's remember that at the end of the day, drag is about self-expression, empowerment and yes, fun.

Nicholas C. Breiner  
Lexington

I was trained by my mother and grandmother to never hate anyone. It took me personally reading and studying the bible to impress this on my life and I can truly say "I do not hate anyone."

This does not mean we can't disagree. But that we should always do so in a calm controlled manner.

I told Mr. Campbell, director of the GRAC, of my experience in the Lions Club in the mid 1970s, and how local opposition to the "Minstrel" show led us to abandon that format in favor of the "Follies," which people now attend and enjoy.

Our show was discriminatory toward black people and could not be accepted. In the same way the drag queen show is discriminatory toward women and cannot be accepted.

There is no good reason to do a bad thing.

Pointing out examples of cross dressing as an excuse is no excuse at all. This show is evil, and should not be performed or attended.

I will protest this show and will be interested to see how many others will also. I hope all opposition is peaceful and controlled.

But, certainly hope people will let their feelings and thoughts be known.

John McCracken  
Mt. Sterling

### Opposed to drag show

I want to express my opposition to the drag queen show to be performed at the GRAC, and to the opinions of those who claim to be Christian, but say they are OK with this vulgar, discriminatory display.

I would suggest that any Christian who is OK with this needs to spend more time studying their bible and less time trying to fit in with the ways of the world.

## Letters can be emailed to news @msadvocate.com



## Down Memory Lane

### Mt. Sterling Advocate

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2013

Charles Scott from American Legion Post 22 played "Taps" at the Memorial Day service at the courthouse.

Harold Staton, a military veteran, saluted during the service.

Victoria Oney received the American Legion Award for Scholastic Excellence at the Montgomery County High School JROTC Cadet Ball. Michael Ratliff received the U.S. Army Recruiting command award. Brian Dunn received the Scottish Rite of Free Masonry award.

James B. Soper, Victoria A. Conyers and Wayne M. Schmitt made the president's list at Western Kentucky University. Andrew J. Hart was named to the dean's list.

Janet Mattingly Johnson and Sarah Blevins were named to Teachers Who Made a Difference.

Jessica Adams was prom Queen at MCHS. Prom King was Ben Doss.

Olivia Richards published her second novella "Secret Blood."

Eli Dion Ingram was born to Scott and Farrah Ingram at Saint Joseph Mount Sterling Hospital.

Kourtney Parker had a single, a double and two runs batted in as Montgomery County knocked Harrison County out of the 10th Region Softball Tournament.

MCHS senior catcher Clay Barton signed with Transylvania University to play baseball.

Wade Craycraft announced he would attend Centre College in Danville to play football.

Barry McCoy with the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife gave a presentation on fishing and wildlife at a Fathers Reading Everyday program.

2003

MCHS student Janeth Davidson was selected for an eight-week research program sponsored by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration.

Pastora Back graduated from Morehead State University while her daughter, Cori, graduated from MCHS.

Three local pilots assisted NASA for three days searching for debris of the Space Shuttle Columbia in Palestine,

Texas. They were Bill Blackford, Nick Marnye and Danny Hill.

Kathy McGuire was the Advocate's Montgomery Neighbor.

Amy Maggard and Amanda Lykins watched fireworks at the MCHS graduation at Cunningham Field. Andrew Sparks was the class valedictorian.

Kim Gessford was a sophomore third baseman on the MCHS softball team.

Michael Roland was a junior on the MCHS baseball team.

MCHS senior Amanda Stull signed to play softball at Berea College.

Todd Duncan bowled a 300-game in the Tuesday Nite Men's League at Sterling Lanes.

Jodi Kay Pernica graduated from the Morehead State University associate nursing program.

Jamie Carol Baxter was awarded a bachelor of health sciences degree from the physical therapy program at the University of Kentucky.

Amber Roby was awarded the W. Harold Green Award in accounting at Wofford College.

Natalie Smallwood was named the recipient of the Roscoe and Sibble Playforth Ward at MSU.

Lisa Antoniou was named the Outstanding Undergraduate Student in grades 5-9 Middle School Education at MSU.

Jennifer Whitton received a Welch Colleague Scholarship to attend the University of Charleston.

Jon Mansfield received a 2003 Law-Related Education Award of Achievement at the annual Law Day at the state capitol.

Douglas Blevins was named president of his fraternity at MSU.

Arthur and Clara Gilvin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Alexandria Jean Caudill was born to Terry and Rhea Jeanette Caudill at Mary Chiles Hospital.

1993

Lt. Col. James A. Bonfield was scheduled to be one of the grand marshals for the Memorial Day parade.

B.D. Wilson Jr. won election as

Montgomery County Judge-Executive.

Cheita Miller was one of the students recognized at the MSU Dept. of Military Science's awards ceremony.

Four-year-old Brandi McClain was one of the preschoolers who sang a medley of songs during the Mt. Sterling Christian School graduation of spring program.

David Shawn Samford and Amy Carole Reeder received the American Legion Americanism Award from Stanley Schwartz during the senior awards ceremony.

Junior soccer standout Kyle Beckham was named to the Kentucky team in the Olympic development program.

Katie Hale and Jarrett Lindon qualified for the state tennis tournament from MCHS.

Former MCHS baseball standout Mike Jackson made the all-conference team for the second year in a row at Union College.

Sophomore Antonio Smith qualified for the state track meet in four events.

MCHS graduate Carroll F. Skidmore Jr. was honored at Berea College for outstanding community service.

Marcus Roberts participated in the egg toss at fifth grade field day. Amanda Ingram competed in the water balloon toss.

Ladonya Malessa Reed made the dean's list with distinction at Duke University.

Bernice Cunningham completed a bible study course at Keas CME Church taught by the Rev. Earl Hudson.

Jeff Byrd was one of the many county residents to participate in the Area 9 Special Olympics at MSU.

Andrea M. Johnson graduated from Kentucky State University with a bachelor of arts degree in child development and family relations.

Amanda Wilson and Jason Willoughby were named queen and king in the 1993 Montgomery County 4-H king and queen contest.