

Waiting for the next shoe to drop

BY BRUCE FLORENCE
COLUMNIST

Washington D.C. is a long way from our little town. The extremes of governing seldom seem to create a whole lot of ruckus for us here. The last time Washington decisions really cut to the core for our town was when Dr. What's His Name brought down the tobacco industry.

Farmers, merchants, sellers and citizens started feeling the pinch pretty soon after the decisions about the industry were finalized. Warehouses stood empty; barn rails held little if any seasoning sticks of green tobacco; and fields, once so vibrant and full, sat empty of a tended crop.

In some ways our town is still working to re-establish a truly vibrant economy based on, more or less a common goal such as we had when we were raising and selling the money crop. We have small industries that seem so often to come for awhile and then go. Shops open and close almost before we can seem to make them a part of our shopping habits.

Things changed and that is almost an immutable fact of life. We did recover to a point, and we are still here and working to grow and thrive.

But recent decisions handed out as if by some dreaded entity today are reaching into the very fiber and heart of our little town. I won't take your time listing all the different ways life is changing in our country. You know most of them and the ones you don't know will become apparent soon enough as we move through the next few months.

There is one, though, that promises to reach into more than our tomorrow, or next month or even the next few years.

One of the principles of a good government is that it is established for the common good of all the people

governed. One of those common goods was the incredibly beneficial results of the Head Start program that reached out to the very youngest of us with hopes and promises of opening the door to a good chance to begin becoming educated on an equal footing with all the other more advantaged children in our town.

Readers of this column can tell stories of success by children who found their way into these early classrooms where the magic of learning was opened up for them—children who for some reason might have needed just a little extra time to get what we used to call a 'runny go' at all the wonders of the world of reading, writing, ciphering and the arts.

I have a very successful grown grandson who benefited from one of those classrooms—just a bit of a 'runny go' that helped him start with all the others.

This town is full of stories just like mine, and there are adults a plenty here living successful lives who got this running start that made a world of difference.

Yet this door is to be closed because someone in authority has decided that the 'common good' for all is no longer a principle of our democracy—that all the children who will someday be the ones who will take charge of our world don't need to have the best chance we can give them to be successful learners in a world that will require all the knowledge they can cram in.

If you find yourself thinking about this loss and wishing it did not have to happen you might want to contact your Washington senators or representatives and let your thoughts be known. Who knows? Your call or letter might be the one that makes enough difference to stop this loss for all of us. It is a sure bet that nothing positive will happen to turn this tide if we do nothing.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
Five Star Rating! Sunday, April 27, 2025 was the grand finale of the local performance of Steel Magnolias. It was definitely worth seeing, as it was obvious there was a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes that had gone into it.

Compliments to director, Becky Smith, producer, Devon Williams, and the entire staff and crew for this most entertaining theatrical play. Next stop, Broadway, New York, New York! Job well done!!

By Leigh Geisler
Local amateur critic

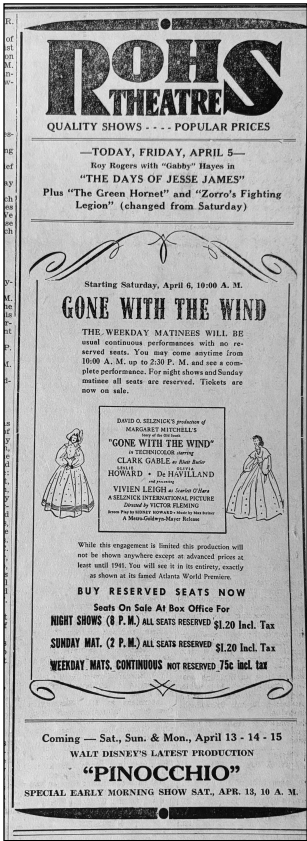
MUSEUM CORNER

MARY GRABLE
CYNTHIANA-HARRISON COUNTY MUSEUM

George Slade was a founding member of the Cynthia-Harrison County Museum's first board of directors. He was a local historian and upon his death left, literally, multiple file cabinets full of folders on various aspects of our local history. He was one of the Museum's biggest cheerleaders until his death. We are reprinting his "Museum Musings" articles each month to reacquaint readers with some of the more little known facts from our past.

MUSEUM MUSING #458

#Log Cabin, Aug. 23, 1902—Bourbon Fiscal Court on Wednesday afternoon unanimously granted a franchise to the Blue Grass Traction Company to build an electric road between Lexington and Paris. Work to begin in thirty days and the road is to be completed in eighteen months. The repair shops and cars sheds will be located at Paris and a fence, separating



Larry Benson

The Cynthia Democrat advertised the April 1940 showings of "Gone with the Wind" at the Rohs Theater.

the pike from the railway, will be built the entire distance. (I remember this traction line quite well.)
#Cynthiana News, Feb.

First rule of good communication is to connect

BY TOMMY DRUEN
COLUMNIST

When the United States entered World War II, it quickly became clear that winning wouldn't depend solely on firepower. It would require something far more subtle: secrecy.

Our military faced a critical vulnerability — not in troops or equipment, but in language. The Axis powers had proven themselves adept at intercepting communications and cracking codes.

It is often said that knowledge is power, but in warfare, information means survival. Allied encryption methods were too slow. Codes were too fragile. What we needed wasn't just security — it was speed and secrecy rolled into one.

The War Department knew it had to try something radically different. Fortunately, America had an asset our adversaries did not — our Indigenous peoples. In 1942, the Marine Corps recruited 29 young Navajo men, fluent in their native tongue, and tasked them with creating an unbreakable code based on their language.

It worked. The Navajo Code Talkers transmitted thousands of vital messages across the Pacific Theater. Not one was ever deciphered.

Other Native nations, including the Comanche, Lakota, and Cree, made similar contributions in Europe. There's a certain poetic justice in that. For generations, Native languages had been suppressed, mocked, or forcibly

erased. But in this moment, that same culture — so often overlooked — helped save the lives of thousands of Americans and win the war.

It's a story I come back to often—because it reminds me how powerful and precious language can be. But I also know how language can exclude just as easily as it can protect. Words matter. Language can divide or unite, conceal or reveal, depending on how and when it's used.

A while back, I read about a seminar offered to professional women, designed to explain the sports metaphors commonly used in corporate America. These were women with advanced degrees from top institutions yet they were lost in meetings, not because of lack of ability but because of how things were being said.

Phrases like “full-court press” or “swing for the fences” seem innocuous if you grew up glued to ESPN. But for others, you might as well be speaking Klingon. It's not about intelligence; it's about access. Intentional or not, language can become a gatekeeper.

And it's not just sports. Every profession, every subculture, every group has its own dialect. Education, law, medicine, IT—they're all full of acronyms and shorthand that turn insiders into a tribe and relegate outsiders to being observers.

But nowhere do I find this dynamic more troubling than in matters of faith.

As a Christian, more specifically a Baptist, I grew up in church, becoming fluent in the vocabulary of my denomi-

nation. Words like “fellowship,” “salvation,” and “communion” feel second nature. But I sometimes wonder how those words sound to someone who's never darkened the door of a sanctuary. Do they land with warmth and clarity — or do they confuse, intimidate, and distance?

Nearly every religion and denomination say they want to be welcoming. And I believe them to be sincere in that sentiment. Yet too often, the language of faith serves as a velvet rope. Not because of what we believe, but because of how we say it.

There's a quote attributed to George Eliot that resonates with me: “The finest language is mostly made up of simple, unimposing words.” It's a truth we'd do well to remember — not only in our pulpits, but in our boardrooms, classrooms, and living rooms.

In times of war, speaking in code can save lives. But in times of peace — or at least, in the day-to-day moments of community and connection — we ought to aim for something else entirely. Not encryption, but invitation. Not mystery, but meaning.

Maybe our challenge today isn't to come up with the perfect words but to strip them down. To stop speaking in riddles when clarity will do. To remember that the first rule of good communication isn't to impress — it's to connect.

Because if our words build walls instead of bridges, then we've forgotten what language is for in the first place.

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

RECOVERY BY ENVIRONMENTAL SURCHARGE OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY’S 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in an April 30, 2025 Application, Kentucky Utilities Company (“KU”) is seeking approval by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) in Case No. 2025-00105, pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 278.183, of an amended compliance plan (“2025 Plan”). (Collectively, KU’s Application and supporting testimony and exhibits are KU’s “tariff filing.”) If approved, KU will begin recovering capital costs associated with a new pollution control facility in the 2025 Plan under KU’s existing Electric Rate Schedule ECR (also known as the Environmental Surcharge tariff) through an increase in the environmental surcharge on customers’ bills beginning in December 2025.

KU filed an application with the Commission on February 28, 2025, in Case No. 2025-00045 seeking approval to construct a selective catalytic reduction system at the Ghent generating station to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, which are a precursor to ozone. In Case No. 2025-00105, KU is seeking an order approving the 2025 Plan to recover the costs of this new pollution control facility through its Environmental Surcharge tariff. This project will help ensure ongoing compliance with regulations issued under the federal Clean Air Act as amended, including the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.

The estimated total capital cost of this new pollution control facility is \$152.3 million. Additionally, KU is requesting recovery of future incremental capital and operation and maintenance expenses associated with this new pollution control facility. KU is also asking to recover the cost of publishing this customer notice through the Environmental Surcharge over 12 months and to have Environmental Surcharge recovery of future Commission-approved administrative expenses, including customer notice costs.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 1 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 0.81% in 2029. Group 1 includes Rate Schedules Residential Service (RS), Residential Time-of-Day Energy Service (RTODE), Residential Time-of-Day Demand Service (RTODD), Volunteer Fire Department Service (VFD), All Electric School (AES), and all Lighting Rates (i.e., LS, RLS, LE, and TE).

RS and VFD customers using 1,085 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.09. RTODE customers using 1,043 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.14. RTODD customers using 987 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.80. AES customers using 25,620 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.30 up to \$24.28. LS and RLS customers could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.12. LE customers using 2,473 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.59. TE customers using 147 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.15.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 2 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 1.10% in 2029. Group 2 includes Rate Schedules General Service (GS), General Time-of-Day Energy Service (GTODE), General Time-of-Day Demand Service (GTODD), Power Service (PS), Time-of-Day Secondary Service (TODS), Time-of-Day Primary Service (TODP), Retail Transmission Service (RTS), Fluctuating Load Service (FLS), and Outdoor Sports Lighting Service (OSL).

GS customers using 1,657 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.03 up to \$2.41. GTODD customers using 19,652 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.31 up to \$25.26. PS-Secondary customers using 30,434 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.39 up to \$32.35. PS-Primary customers using 35,028 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.45 up to \$36.82. TODS customers using 189,538 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$1.54 up to \$126.82. TODP customers using 1,242,574 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$8.25 up to \$678.42. RTS customers using 7,387,224 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$38.91 up to \$3,199.31. FLS-Transmission customers using 44,229,667 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$237.46 up to \$19,525.53. OSL-Secondary customers using 4,627 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.17 up to \$13.87.

The Application described in this Notice is proposed by KU, but the Commission may issue an order resulting in an environmental surcharge for customers other than the environmental surcharge described in this Notice.

Comments regarding KU’s 2025 Plan and Application may be submitted to the Commission through its website or by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

Any person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this Notice, the Commission may take final action on the Application.

Any person may examine KU’s tariff filing at the Commission’s offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Commission’s website at <http://psc.ky.gov> or KU’s website (<http://www.lge-ku.com>) after KU makes its tariff filing on April 30, 2025. KU has requested a deviation from the requirement to make the tariff filing available at its office at One Quality Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. If the Commission denies that request, KU will make the tariff filing available at its office upon request by any person.