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The Herald News

OPINION

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•LANGUAGE

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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 denomination. 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.

Senator Max Wise Named Kentucky Chamber MVP for Pro-Business Leadership

By Dustin R. Isaacs
kylegislature.gov

Senate Majority Floor Leader Max Wise, R-Campbellsville, has been honored by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce as a 2025 MVP for his key role in advancing pro-business legislation during the 2025 Legislative Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

In his inaugural year as Senate majority floor leader, Wise effectively guided significant legislation through the Senate, including measures aimed at enhancing Kentucky's economic competitiveness and workforce development. He presided over the flow of important legislation through the committee process and during Senate floor proceedings.

Among the most consequential legislation was authorization of an additional reduction in the personal income tax rate, which will foster

a more favorable business climate and provide relief to hardworking Kentuckians. As a result of House Bill 1, working Kentuckians personal income tax will decrease from 4 percent to 3.5 percent in January. It will leave approximately \$718 million in the pockets of hard-working Kentuckians and consumers.

Additionally, Wise's leadership helped advance legislation to establish the Kentucky Film Office to grow the state's creative economy (Senate Bill 1), strengthen protections for critical infrastructure like broadband and power systems and also addressing copper theft challenges across the commonwealth (Senate Bill 64), and crack down on unemployment fraud to safeguard taxpayer dollars (Senate Bill 162).

“I'm honored to receive this recognition from the Kentucky Chamber,” said Wise. “It reflects the

legislature's commitment to policies that promote economic growth and opportunity for all Kentuckians. These policies maintain the trajectory the General Assembly has put Kentucky on since at least 2017, and remain a blueprint to our continued economic success.”

Sen. Max Wise, R-Campbellsville, represents the 16th Senate District, including Adair, Allen, Metcalfe, Monroe, and Taylor Counties and eastern Warren County. Wise serves as Senate majority floor leader. He is a member of the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor; Education; and Families and Children.

As part of Senate leadership, Wise also serves on the Legislative Research Commission, the Rules Committee, and the Committee on Committees. He co-chaired the Workforce Attraction and Retention Task Force during the 2024 Interim.

•BUDGET

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discussed. The revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, totals \$1,185,866.65; however, the amount is allotted in three distributions, the first being 60%, equaling \$690,174. The second will be 30%, and the third allotment will be the remaining balance minus 3% set aside for emergencies.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Miller, seconded by Bragg, and in a roll call vote approved.

Edwards requested that the date and time be scheduled for the first reading of the FY 25-26 budget. After a brief discussion, the date of April 29th at 8 a.m. was agreed upon.

The budget transfer and claims were all approved.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

The special called meeting was moved from April 29th to the 30th, and the Metcalfe County fiscal court members gathered to review the FY 25-25 budget. Everyone was present.

After the meeting was called to order by Judge/Executive Larry Wilson, he turned it over to Page Edwards, Treasurer and Fiscal Court Clerk.

Edwards explained that the magistrate's packets had summaries of the revenues and expenditures and the breakdown by fund. Edwards added, “Just went with what you all advised...So shouldn't be any major surprises.”

There were 3 or 4 funds due for deletion due to non-use. Edwards explained, “The only thing that I may go back and add before we have the final reading is the clerks, their document storage fee fund.”

Per the Department for Local Government (DLG), the proposed budget and an estimate of revenue must be presented to the fiscal court by May 1st. This proposed budget can be amended or approved in a first reading. (KRS 68.240) The proposed budget must be presented to the state local finance officer for approval and then returned to the county for the second reading to be held.

“After the first reading, we can still make changes,” stated Edwards, adding that once the second reading is held, it's much harder to change anything.

Magistrate Daniel Bragg made the motion to accept the FY 25-26 Budget. That was seconded by Magistrate Ronnie Miller and the approval vote was unanimous.

With no other business listed on the agenda, the meeting adjourned.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The Edmonton Herald-News welcomes letters to the editor regarding our publications or local issues of importance. Letters should be no more than 300 words; we reserve the right to edit for clarity or length, or to reject letters that are in poor taste or libelous. Writers must include their name and a valid telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will be rejected. Send your letter by email to print@jpinews.com or heraldnews@jpinews.com. Letters can be mailed to or dropped off at any Jobe Publishing office.

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