

Give Donald Trump credit. He is doing what he said he would do

Headline the Wall Street Journal: "The dumbest trade war ever". I couldn't have said it better. President Donald J. Trump's on and off, and perhaps on-again trade war with our nearest neighbors isn't baffling at all. It fits perfectly with a disjointed self-affirming view of the world in which he lives.

Now, that being said, I must be completely forthcoming and tell you that a 25 percent tariff on goods coming out of Canada would be painful and potentially totally toxic for this newspaper and hundreds of other newspapers in the United States. I and my fellow newspaper publishers are against a tariff on Canada or Mexico. Oh, by the way, if you work at any of the manufacturing facilities in the Calvert City industrial



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

complex you might ought to check and see how much the firm you work for depends on products shipped in from Mexico and Canada.

Most of the newsprint and newspaper printing plates used by newspapers in the United States come from Canada. The numbers that have been shared with me from other

newspaper people is that a 25 percent tariff on Canadian newsprint would increase the price of newsprint at least \$150 per ton. Most traditional print newspapers are already under a lot of economic stress and something like this could result in many of them pulling the plug on a printed paper.

When you take the dumbest trade war ever and couple it with the crappiest, most expensive postal service we have ever had, the two combine into a situation that threatens your ability to operate your business, no matter how much you want too.

President Trump's bull in a China shop, late night plan of government so far reminds me of throwing noodles against the wall to see what sticks.

This practice of creating a problem, generating near pandemonium then switching gears, backing off and declaring victory is self-defeating, but we have to put up with four more years of the same silliness.

It is silliness, unfortunately it isn't anything to laugh about. It will take decades for us to repair the damage the President has already inflicted on our relationship with Canada, Mexico and Panama. In case you are wondering, the Canadians do not want to become a part of the United States. They let us know that when they didn't sign on to it in 1776 when we invaded Canadian territory.

Kentucky in particular will suffer if President Trump decides to enforce a tariff on Canada in 30

days. Doubtlessly one of Kentucky's biggest exports to Canada, bourbon whiskey will not be welcome. President Trump has already said there would be some pain because of the tariffs which of course is much different than the inflation busting rhetoric he was dishing out during the campaign.

The first weeks of the new Trump presidency have generated such a dazzling array of daffy ideas, including annexing Greenland, re-taking the Panama Canal, firing everybody in the FBI, doing away with a half dozen or more government agencies and turning over all the government's financial information to someone with zero accountability to anyone.

Finally, the President's

response to the crash between a commercial jet and a military helicopter over the Potomac River in Washington D.C. was hard to watch. He was unable to simply offer his condolences and say something to help those most affected find solace. Instead, he could not resist the opportunity to assign blame with out having any facts at hand. He went into full bash mode blaming DEI and the former administration. Even if what he was saying was true, and it wasn't, it wasn't the place or time to say it.

This isn't over, we are in for at least four years of Donald Trump being Donald Trump. I will give him credit for this, he is doing what he said he was going to do, be a dictator on day one.

Our View

Kentucky doesn't need nicotine

It is troubling to know that after all the years of education and literally mountains of effort from government and community organization still 17 percent of the people in Kentucky still smoke. The national average is 11 percent. Worse yet five percent of the high school students in the state smoke and almost 20 percent use e-cigarettes. It is also estimated that smoking cost the state more than \$2 billion every year in health-care costs.

We are in a nicotine prison and we can't seem to get out. The prison gets lots of help from lobbyist that represent the tobacco and e-cigarette industry. The legislature has in the past been non-supportive of initiatives to curb smoking. Dollars speak loudest.

Kentucky must kick the smoking and nicotine habit. It is literally killing us and our children.

The is both a sad and cruel situation. Nicotine is an addictive drug that has punished Americans for centuries. It is time to put better deterrents in place.

We don't need the costs and most importantly we don't need the deaths connected to our state's nicotine use.

Minding Our Ps and Qs with a heart of love

One of the things that has set the south apart from other regions of the United States is our adherence to and almost zealous indoctrination of social norms. We practice, teach and observe niceties that keep us all moving along through discord and harmony alike. Issued alongside the standard southern toddle uniform of monogrammed or smocked bubble suit, giant hair bow and little john john shoes, we are taught to say, "Please," "Thank you," "Yes, Ma'am/Sir" and to apologize for almost everything that could possibly inconvenience someone else.

I appreciate this stan-



By Emily Morrison

dard of behavior. Taking extra care to be courteous to others is necessary to developing relationships and influencing the world for good. I expect my own children to Ma'am and Sir and mind their Ps and Qs.

Alas, not every part of our country or the world

observes such linguistic niceties. I have friends from California who don't even consider Ma'am or Sir in her personal usage or that of children. I have another friend from New York. In her native land people take offense as if they are being disparaged with an ageist slur when Ma'am or Sir is used.

As much as I would like to see our regional approach to polite address be adopted nationwide, I realize that is neither realistic nor reasonable. The intent of our gentle ways of speaking to one another is to be intentionally thoughtful and courteous. We are just supposed to apply our niceties on au-

topilot. We need to think about how those we come into contact with feel and what they need. We need to achieve the highest level of socially southern by being radically hospitable.

Leaning on the teachings of our Lord we must welcome the foreigner. We must feed the hungry. We must tend the sick. We must cover the naked. We can talk pretty while we do all of these things. If we are really minding our Ps and Qs, we are doing it with a heart of love and a mind full of grace. Let's keep the social speech alive and continue to pass it down, and let's do it better than it's been done before with intention.

It is God's goodness that leads to repentance

I have gone to church for over half a century and participated in so many scripture studies my Bible looks like color-coded doodle art. And yet, I consistently find things in the Old and New Testaments that I have not heard or seen before. I assume that is the Holy Spirit saying, "Hey, girl! Look at this." or, "Listen, child! Let me teach you about that."

As I was studying Romans this week, I found something new in the second chapter. "Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?" (Romans 2:4, NLT)

As I researched, I found this statement about Romans 2:4 in a commentary called Barnes Notes on the New Testament.



Tales of Grace
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

"The mercy and forbearance of God are constant. The manifestations of his goodness come in every form; in the sun, and light, and air; in the rain, the stream, the dew-drop; in food, and raiment, and home; in friends, and liberty, and protection; in health, and workplace; and in the gospel of Christ, and the offers of life; and in all these ways God is appealing to his creatures each moment, setting be-

fore them the evils of ingratitude, and beseeching them to turn and live."

Psalm 19 says creation declares the glory of God. I have known and been delighted by that knowledge for a long time. Until this week, I had not heard anyone say that the goodness of creation and the blessings of life beg mankind to turn, in gratitude, toward God.

However, that makes sense to me. Those of us who walk with God do see Him in the sun's light. His Spirit comes to us in the whisper of a summer breeze and the power of a hard rain. Our hearts are thankful for the food in our homes and the friends who gather with us. Our minds are enlightened by the words of Jesus. Our souls worship when the Holy Spirit gives us life. Sin loses its luster when those things call to you.

Barnes continued with this statement, "And from this passage, we cannot but remark, that the most effectual preaching is what sets before people most of the goodness of God."

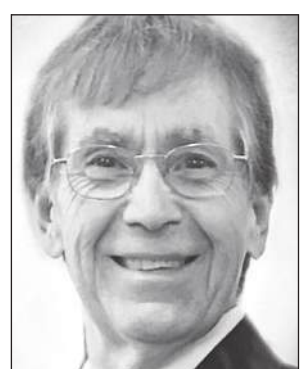
The most effective preaching is what sets before people the goodness of God. What an exciting thought! Unless they have the gift of evangelism, most Christians struggle to talk about sin, repentance, and salvation. But those of us who walk with God find it easy to talk about His goodness. It falls naturally into our conversations.

So, let's speak that to the world. Let's talk about the goodness of God. In whatever way we know it. In all the places we find it. His kindness, tolerance, and patience will be our message to those around us. His Spirit will beg them to turn and live.

Stuff you didn't know, you didn't know

Well today (Sunday) has been really nice for the beginning of February. Funny thing is every day this week that I absolutely have to go someplace it is supposed to be raining. Then the rain stops and winter returns. I'm sure much to the dismay of five varieties of flowers in my yard. They seem to think it is spring, even seven degrees didn't stop them. I met some folks traveling home from Florida. They said it was 50-60 degrees until the day they left then it got to 80. Of course, 50-60 is going to seem tropical compared to extreme northern Illinois.

Do you remember a while back I asked what you called several things? Well, I've had several other suggestions to try on



My Side of the Fence
By Mike Harrell

you. You know you are a product of your environment? Right!

So let's begin. Is it fireflies or lighting bugs? If you are from here, it is bugs. When you clean out your garage and have a sale, is it a yard sale, garage sale, tag sale, yard sale, rummage sale or is it something else? After I

finish writing this, I have a trash bag to take out for Monday pickup. Do I put it in a garbage can or is it a trash can?

I remember as a little kid on vacation I would put my arm out the car window and signal for the driver to honk their horn. So, were they driving an eighteen-wheeler, tractor trailer or was it a semi/semi truck? By the way, they honked most of the time.

In school when you were thirsty and wanted a drink (I didn't realize this was a question) did you go to the drinking fountain, bubbler or water fountain. I know which one I went to and it certainly wasn't a bubbler.

In gym class what were those shoes you wore called? Of course they are

not just for gym anymore. So, did you call them gym shoes, sneakers, tennis shoes and if you are from Hawaii, it appears they just call them shoes.

Let's end with the number of syllables in caramel. Is it 2 or 3? And I don't even want to know how you pronounce "caramel".

Another year, and you guessed it, I didn't watch the Super Bowl. I am open to a super party however. Happy Birthday to Andy Lyles, Paul Owen, Sharon Lents, Cathy Johnson, Kimberly Woods, Brad Siegfried, Paula Hill, Patsy Steele, Kimberly Bell and Jim Skelton. Enjoy your day and eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Travis.

Stay safe, stay well and as always, stay in touch.

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