

Opinion

Backward glances take you to places you can't go any more

Sometimes I take glances backward at a different place in time. Back when we called this place where I live Calvert and the name Calvert City seemed, well perhaps a little presumptuous. Turns out it wasn't presumptuous at all, but you have to remember that was then and this is now. The Calvert I remember, was as they used to say, growing like a weed more than 65-years ago. I was an eight-year-old third grader in 1960 and although I didn't know it at the time I was growing up right in the middle of it all.

A few weeks ago, when I was at the ribbon cutting for the new Edward



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

Jones office that is located at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Oak Park Blvd. I saw my old friend Gary Traylor there and he was very kind to tell me how much he enjoyed my columns about old Calvert.

That's when I told Gary that the spot where we

were standing had been my Uncle Tommy Keeling's garage and salvage yard. Before that it had been a part of the farm my great-grandfather owned. The hill where all of that was located was cut away and used to construct the roads that run there. I also told him that an even bigger hill on the back corner of the farm had been completely hauled away. The place has really changed.

Even more recently I talked with some folks about the development along US 62 from its intersection with KY 95 to what was once the Holiday Inn and the Cloverleaf Motel. I told them when I was a kid you could drive at night from

the intersection at US 62 and KY 95 to those two motels an only see one porch light at night. Now there are thousands of lights along that stretch of highway. That is quite a change by any measure.

I went to school at the old Calvert school that until 1954 had been a high school. It was combined with Gilbertsville, Sharpe, and Briensburg. A new North Marshall High School was built out on KY 95. North Marshall was only a high school for 20-years before Marshall County High School was built. That was a lot of change in just two decades. Next year MCHS will be 50-years old.

I can tell you that de-

spite it happening over 50-years ago there are still people here, who to this day, feel the loss of their high school and dread the potential for the loss of the elementary school we have left.

When I was a kid, I was a patron of the library local people formed in the rear of the old Methodist Church. I would walk to the church from school and turn in the book I check out the day before and get another to read that night. That library is the fore-runner and nexus for the wonderful library we have here today.

Calvert has all kinds of special places for me and special memories. There is a culvert under 5th Avenue that drains

the ditch from Memorial Park. As a child, I fished in the hole of water that formed at the downstream side of the culvert and caught little brim that were so starved you could see their innards.

Calvert was a place of hundreds of adventures for me when I was a child. It was a place of dogs and frogs, baseball and rabbit hunting. I can remember viewing a partial eclipse of the sun through pieces of broken smoked glass with my granddaddy and sledding down Draffen Schmidt's front yard.

There are so many other places and things we used to have and now we don't. No matter how much I miss them they aren't coming back.



Our View

People have a right to know about business incentives

Most states, Kentucky included, doesn't reveal the subsidies they give to data center projects. At first the coming of data centers appears to be great for the communities they come to, but that thought is now under review. Data centers burn through huge amounts of electricity and people in other states have learned that in bitter cold winter there may not be enough electricity. Data centers are also huge users of water, which of course causes questions about who gets the water when it is in short supply?

We need openness in government and if our state is providing financial incentives to data centers or for that matter any other business, the people ought to know about it.

We are fully supportive of bringing businesses and more better paying jobs to our community and every community, but we also have a right to know what businesses and how those businesses may affect us and whether or not we are paying for something that may not be in the best interest of the people that live here.

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Letters to the editor policy

The Lake News welcomes and encourages original letters to the editor about issues of community interest. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less. Letters must be signed and contain the name and address of the author. The Lake News reserves the right to edit letters. The Lake News also reserves the right to reject letters for publication.

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Wreaths and Swags and Ribbons and Bows

I must confess my level of self-control is beginning to wane as I see more and more of my neighbors take down their Halloween decor and put out their Christmas light displays. As I see the twinkling lights and Turkey Day draws near, I am ever so tempted to get started. I find myself questioning if it would really be so bad if I just went ahead and pulled out the boxes of decorations so we're ready. The stores are ready and scouting teaches us to always be prepared after all.

The large chain grocery stores near my



By Emily Morrison

house already have fresh evergreen swags and wreaths out for sale. I just love fresh door decor. Live cedar and pine feel extra festive. One establishment has chosen to go with a more mod-

ern, edgier twist to their seasonal greenery. I approve of the gold accents, but there are no big red bows. I have given these greenery options a good look over several times because I just could not believe my eyes. Instead of cheery red Christmas bows they are festooned with stingy loopy black ribbon.

I don't mind a New Year's color combo of black with silver and gold, but for Christmas? How do we celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior with black bows? I could even go with a liturgically inspired Ad-

vent purple, but black? Is the Grinch on their buying team? What could possess someone to think black ribbons on Christmas door hangings were a good idea?

My gracious, only two things will come of these wreaths. They will be purchased and the bows will be swapped out before hanging. Or some household's hearts will receive extra blessings this season. I personally feel called to pull out my extensive stash of ribbon just to be on the safe side in case any of my friends or neighbors find themselves in need.

Lions vs. tigers, which animal would win?

L. Frank Baum, author of "The Wizard of Oz," also wrote a short story called "The Cowardly Lion and the Hungry Tiger," in which the lion and tiger compare their fierceness. Which of them would be more brutal in battle?

That's an interesting question. Much like the nation-wide pirates vs. ninjas controversy, this question should be asked: In a battle between a lion and a tiger, which animal would win?

Well, tigers generally weigh more than lions. (Male tigers can reach as much as 660 pounds. Male lions usually weigh in at just under 500 pounds.) Tigers are more muscular and have larger brains than lions. They also have a bite force of more than 1,000 pounds



Tales of Grace
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

per square inch, more than twice that of a lion.

The statistics support tigers, and the few conflicts that have occurred between lions and tigers in captivity have proven it. In 2010, a tiger at a zoo in Turkey entered a lion's exhibit, and with a single swipe, the tiger severed the lion's jugular. At the Bronx Zoo in New

York City, a tiger broke the back of a lion, killing him and claiming the title of King of the Zoo. So, in a battle between a lion and a tiger, the tiger wins, hands down.

Unless they fight in the wild.

Tigers are solitary creatures. They prefer to live and hunt alone. Lions, on the other hand, are social animals. They live and hunt together, defending their territory effectively. So, in the wild, a tiger doesn't want to mess with a lion. A lion comes with a band of brothers.

Like a tiger, one Christian, walking with Jesus, can do battle with the darkness in the world. But it pales in comparison to the force of God's people moving together. We are meant to be lions in the

Kingdom of God. When united (not necessarily in doctrine, but in devotion to God), we are at our strongest. Christians are meant to battle side by side, as a band of brothers.

"We fight violence with peace, hatred with love, and oppression with servanthood. Our greatness is unleashed in the context of community. The Scriptures describe the movement of the church as an unstoppable force. The expansion of God's invisible kingdom is the result of those of us who are passionate followers of Jesus Christ moving together united in heart, mind, and spirit. - Erwin Raphael McManus, "The Barbarian Way"

So, lions vs. tigers? In the Kingdom of God, lions win, hands down.

Improvements in dentistry make most happy

(yes Monti, you can have more than one) or teams you follow.

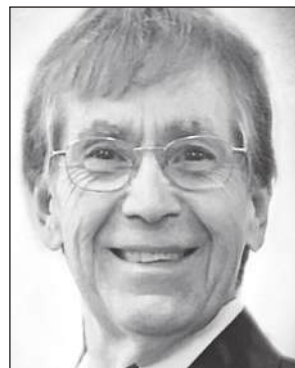
OK, now what do I really tackle to write about. The way things are, I know it won't be about sex, religion or politics for sure.

I've got to have a filling put in a tooth Monday. I took a bite of one French fry and a chunk of my tooth fell off. I think I could go in and have it done without a shot. I have a nephew that has to be sedated to have his teeth cleaned. I always thought that was funny until I've had lots of people tell me they do that also. I've had three teeth filled as preteen without a shot and had two teeth removed with only a shot. That would not have happened at all if I hadn't been trying to be healthy. I was munching on some almonds and cracked

them from the root to the crown. However, it beats the old days when they climbed on your lap and someone held your head as a pair of pliers was shoved into your mouth to extract the tooth. Things have improved.

I was checking my birthday list and it hit me that over the years so many on that list are no longer with us. I'm wishing this fine group today a very Happy Birthday and if you know some of them, reach out to say Happy Birthday. Vanita Cash, Steve Hood, Teresa Jones, Amy Colley, Bill Jordan, Todd Devine, Suzanne Johnston, Terri Telle, Loyd Ford and Jayce Puckett, you all celebrate your special day. Oh yes, eat the cake.

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



My Side of the Fence
By Mike Harrell

snow (ice) than usual. I've been there and done that. I'll take a solid pass.

Speaking of a pass, WKU beat Middle Tennessee Saturday for an 8-2 season so far. MTSU is one of our oldest rivals. I think it is over a hundred years. Saturday, we play LSU. Basketball is off and running. There have been some interesting games all around so far. I'm sure you have a team