

# Opinion

## Calvert City is the kind of place you can make special memories

Every first weekend in December Calvert City oozes with Christmas spirit. The tree lighting on Friday night, a massive Christmas bazaar on Saturday and the 66th Annual Lions club Christmas Parade on Saturday do a lot more than merely check off all the boxes for a really great Christmas kickoff. These events let us know who we really are and that our small town really matters to us.

I have not been to every single Lion's Club Christmas Parade but I have been to most of them, including the first one in 1960. I was in the third grade. It was a big deal everyone came to see it. The parade route went up Railroad Avenue to Aspen Street, later the parade started out on Hwy. 95 and proceeded to Railroad Avenue, then the line-up was reversed and began at the railroad tracks on Main Street and headed to 5th Ave-



Northwest Passage  
By Loyd Ford

nue and then to the Civic Center. Now it begins at the intersection of Main and 5th Avenue and goes all the way to the intersection of 5th and Oak Park. The parade was huge this year and the line-up stretched along Main Street. Originally the parade wasn't always on the first Saturday in December but the Lions soon settled on that date and kept it going.

The Lions Club Christmas Parade really has always been one of the key events and traditions by and for the people of not

just Calvert City but also for the many different communities that surround Calvert.

The Calvert City Tree Lighting began in the late 1970s in front of Calvert City Hall where a tree had been planted and was decorated by the city. Calvert City Fire Department held an open house after the tree lighting and fed everybody cookies. Then one summer during a drought the tree died, but was replaced. The new tree lasted for a few years but it succumbed to something and the tree lighting was moved to Memorial Park.

Now all these years later the Tree Lighting has grown into something really big, the crowd there Friday was a Fourth of July size crowd, and if they wanted, they could get cookies. The current tree is something I don't think any one at those early events could have imagined. It is pretty wonderful, especially when the mayor flips the switch and all those lights come on.

There were inflatables, jazz music, a fantastic combined choir from Calvert City Elementary School and North Marshall Middle School. Santa and Mrs. Claus

and their kangaroo were there too. The weather was perfect, just the right amount of cold to set the scene for Christmas.

I confess I did not get to all four locations for the Christmas Bazaar Saturday. The first weekend in December is a collision of way too many things going on and sometimes I can't get my need to be places to match my ability to get to all those places. The desire is there but too many old body parts just can't get everything up to speed.

This past weekend gives people like me, who love Calvert City, a big dose of Christmas

happiness. The Christmas parade is really connected to my childhood here and the tree lighting reminds me of when my children were small. This year my son brought my six-year-old granddaughter to both the tree lighting and the Christmas Parade. He wanted her to enjoy them like he did when he was a child.

Calvert City is the kind of small town where with minimal effort someone can make wonderful memories every season of the year, not just Christmas. That is part of what makes Calvert City special for me.



## Our View

### What is going on is wrong and we all know it

Until most recently two, of many, rights included in the Constitution were the right to trial for someone charged with a crime, regardless of who they were and no matter how heinous the crime was they were accused of having done, and if you were born here, you were a natural American citizen. The current administration in the White house does not accept those two rights enshrined in our highest legal document.

For the record this newspaper does believe that all defendants have a right to a trial. For our government or our military to summarily execute people with out a trial is wrong. We believe if they can do it to them, they can do it to us.

None of us were able to chose where we were born. If our government arbitrarily decide to strip citizenship from people who were born here, we believe they will broaden that to be able to strip citizenship from anyone who was born here regardless of their parents' citizenship or immigration status.

It is up to us to stand up and say these views are wrong and the actions that have been taken on the high seas is against what we as Americans stand for. The immigration system needs a complete overhaul; we can no longer not speak out against the actions that are being committed against people because of the color of their skin or nationality. Natural born American citizens are being swept up in immigration raids and it is being treated by the administration as if being grabbed by ICE is a minor inconvenience. It isn't.

What is going on is wrong and we all know it.

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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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## Retirement plans built on jingle bells

It's the most wonderful time of the year. Burl Ives' voice has become part of our household atmosphere as our son, Easton, watches Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer on repeat. Ribbons and twinkling lights have been affixed to every stationary object. Our attire is festive too.

You know you've been a school teacher for the better part of twenty years when you have a go-to Mrs. Claus outfit. I was pretty excited as I got ready for "Flannel Day" at school this week. To make things a little extra fun we have a different holiday themed day for the last 12



By Emily Morrison

days before Winter Break. Last year, I scored a long Christmas plaid flannel skirt. It was the Goodwill find of the year! I've been waiting to pull it out all year long. Yes, teachers typically have a whole

section of their closet dedicated to clothing items they only wear once a year for special dress up days. I paired my new-to-me flannel skirt with a high-necked white blouse, a chunky black belt and black boots to match. When I commented that I looked like Mrs. Claus my thirteen-year-old, Vivienne, laughed and said, "You're not wrong!" We had quite the chuckle.

As entertaining as my holiday fashion was, I think I have stumbled upon a legitimate retirement scheme. I've got somewhere between fifteen and twenty teaching

years to go. Being a Mrs. Claus personality could be my next career path. I already have bullet points ready for my resume. I can support parents as they implement positive incentives at home. I can help build a climate of kindness. This school counselor gig has me prepared. I can bake too! Plus, I have the outfit.

My husband, Chris, has often joked he wants Santa Claus' job. Now we can be a package deal! What could be better than bringing others joy? This may shape up to be our very own holly jolly retirement plan.

## First Christmas brings new kind of king

When Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip traveled to the United States for a six-day trip in 2018, their luggage weighed in at over three tons. The queen, alone, came with baggage that equaled the weight of 20 baby elephants.

Every time the queen traveled, she packed three outfit changes a day, as well as an all-black ensemble in case of a sudden death. She carried at least one diamond tiara, an assortment of hats, and 50 pairs of white gloves. (They got soiled when she shook hands, and soiled gloves would never do.)

She traveled with gifts for her hosts, photos of her family members, her favorite tea and teapot, scones and Dundee Cake to eat with her tea, bags



Tales of Grace  
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

of blood matching her blood type, homeopathic medicines, and a hot water bottle to warm her sheets at night. These are the trappings of royalty.

At the time of Jesus's birth, King Herod knew the privileges of royalty. Herod wanted to live in a house on a hill, so he built a small mountain a few miles from the town of Bethlehem and put a pal-

ace on it. Called Herodium, the palace consisted of four seven-story towers, a bathhouse, courtyards, a Roman theatre, banquet rooms, and living quarters, all extravagantly furnished with mosaic floors and elaborate frescoes. The historian, Josephus, wrote about the Herodium, "Within it are costly royal apartments made for security and for ornament at the same time."

At the foot of the palace was a huge artificial pool, more than twice the area of a modern Olympic swimming pool, and deep enough to accommodate pleasure boats. An aqueduct brought water to the palace from a spring nearly four miles away.

Sitting high on a man-made hill, Herod's grand palace would have been in view when a different

king was born in Bethlehem. Two kings. Two kingdoms. One being the antithesis of the other.

While the king of Judea reveled in royal privilege, the King of Heaven set aside the ultimate power of Godhood to take the role of a servant. He stepped into flesh to be born in a stable, surrounded by what only poverty could provide. The King of all that was and is and will ever be stripped Himself of divinity and came to mankind with nothing of earthly value.

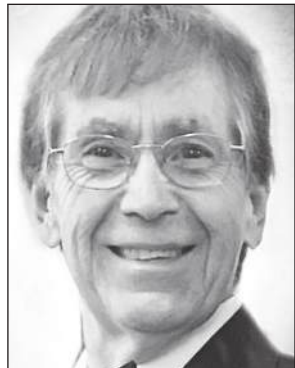
If Jesus came to reveal God to us, then what do we learn about God from that first Christmas? The first Christmas declares, in the shadow of Herodium's decadence, that God embodies humility and self-sacrifice.

## Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree

Weather update (well as of Sunday night), today should at least be close to normal but still too cold for me. However, this weekend is thinking it is January or February. I guess I'll just relax in a nice fleece throw (only wish I had fleece pj's) and reflect on my Christmas tree.

This week I have been reading about trees, well really Christmas trees. Some things I knew, some were a surprise and some I don't know if I ever cared about.

Germany is credited with the whole Christmas tree thing. The best glass tree ornaments came from Germany before the war. The first Christmas tree in America is because of a Hessian (German) soldier captured at the Battle of Bennington in Vermont, in 1776. He apparently stayed and for the next 14 years worked on the farm of Samuel Denslow in



My Side of the Fence  
By Mike Harrell

Windsor Locks, Connecticut. While there Henrick Roddmore put up and decorated a Christmas tree in the Denslow home every year.

Just down the road (sort of) in New York City, in 1851, Mark Carr opened the first Christmas tree lot with two loads of trees he got in the Catskill Mountains. I bet they didn't cost \$300 a pop.

Moving on, an associate of Thomas Edison tried to figure how to sell more lights and came up with the "bright" idea of a

string of lights for a tree. So, 31 years after the first Christmas tree lot in New York City, they could now replace those candles with electric lights. I bet there were some who said that candles would never be replaced.

Franklin Pierce, in 1859 put up a tree in the White House. It is questionable if this was an official White House Christmas tree. In 1889, Benjamin Harrison put one up. For some reason because he put it in the Second Floor Oval Room, it is considered to be "official".

Calvin Coolidge was known as "Silent Cal", but he was far from silent when he stood on the White House lawn and made a speech at the first National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. If you were in Paducah recently you may have seen the official Christmas tree pass through.

In 1895, just 13 years after those electric lights

were invented, Grover & Frances Cleveland blew out the last candles on the White House Christmas tree and plugged her in.

I hope you got to enjoy the lighting of Calvert's Christmas tree and all the other activities of the weekend. Hang on, Christmas is rushing here faster than a speeding freight train.

Happy Hanukkah to all who celebrate.

Birthday greetings are sent this week to: Lori Lichtenberg, Leon Hall, Jack Telle, Aaron Story, Leslie Stevenson, Bruce Lyles, Diane Quayle, Penny Cunningham, Lance Phelps, Susan McCain, Ron Morgan, Linda Hayden and Joy Farris. Celebrate your special day. Oh yes, eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. James Wells. Celebrate your day and you can have cake also.

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