

Family Is My Measure Of Success

By Becky Greenwell
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Do you know what is exciting about writing a column every week? What keeps me going and wanting me to keep writing?

It is my fans. Not that I receive many actual pieces of fan mail because letters are becoming a thing of the past. Whenever I first started writing, letters would be mailed to the Union County Advocate office while notes found their way to my email inbox.

Nowadays, I get mostly direct feedback from people I run into at Walmart, at church, or the local restaurants. They usually have a favorite column and always mention it. It could be one that touched them in their heart, brought back memories, or just made them laugh on a sad day.

I appreciate every one of those comments because the speaker may have crossed my path during a hectic moment in my own life or on a not so good day and they lifted me up.

When I first start-

ed writing I still had children in elementary school. They were my biggest fans. They put me on a pedestal and raised me to a level with any well-known person they knew and every super hero they admired.

Whenever they were with me when someone mentioned my writing, they glowed.

I didn't think much about it until I read something in my third-grade son's school journal when he had to write about his favorite author. He wrote: "My favorite author is my mom. She's not well-known around the world, but around here everybody knows her. Even my friends at school talk about her and I'm very proud of her."

Around that time, I read a poem by an unknown author in a Dear Abby advice column (remember her?). I cut it out and probably still have it somewhere in a memory box. It said: "You can use most any measure when you're speaking of success. You can measure it in fancy home, expensive car or dress. But the measure of your

real success is the one you cannot spend. It's the way your kids describe you when they're talking to a friend."

That is my success in writing weekly columns.

My children grew up and moved on starting adult lives and careers of their own. Then my grandchildren became the stars in my columns. Every week it was a contest with them vying for the top position in the next week's paper. If I didn't have a column idea by the time they thought I should, they would make suggestions.

Mackey, tell them about the time we.... Remember when I did... tell them all about it. Can we go to the zoo? Then you can write about that. Always ready with ideas.

One year my fourth-grade grandson topped them all. He not only gave me the column idea; he dictated the story for me to write exactly as he told it. After it ran in the newspaper, he invited his famous Mackey, the author, to speak to his class about being a famous writer.

Of course, I showed

up and I read them the story of the Crazy Christmas Cat that got loose in their house and went berserk. I was famous, but not quite as famous as he was in this class of fourth graders.

A few weekends later he was here with one of his buddies and we were talking about all the columns I had written over the years and how many of them were about him.

He commented that very few of them mentioned him by his name. He was famous, but nobody knew it was him. That was just sad.

He asked me when I was going to write a book. If I did then I could reveal his name in all of my columns about him. I told him I already had my books—plural, written. I showed him the bookshelf of three-inch binders in my office.

Then, there were eight binders with the years noted on the spine of each one.

He looked at them and read the years aloud and said, "So I wasn't introduced as a character until the third series?"

Actually, it was the fourth series, but no, not until then. You were in our dreams though.

When my dreams of grandchildren came true another generation of fans was born along with another measure of my success. They all make me proud.

I am well into my 31st series. It was in my fourth series I introduced this grandchild number two, who says he has never been mentioned by name. My biggest fan, now a newly married man who has always given me a huge measure of success, is the one and only Reed Greenwell.

On a side note, I think I may just have to share the story about the Crazy Christmas Cat next week.

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DUSTIN ALVIS, A native of Union County, has spent countless hours working on his body building image in the International Fitness and Bodybuilding federation (IFBB) pro-league. Alvis is a professional in the men's physique category of bodybuilding, AND just two weekends ago, he competed in a pro-show in St. Petersburg, Florida where he won the entire show. Alvis is now qualified to compete at the Olympia in Las Vegas, Nevada in October. The Las Vegas competition is "the Super Bowl of bodybuilding," Alvis says, "and a really big deal from a guy coming from a small town of Henderson," where he now lives. Alvis added that he is the only Olympian in the tristate area. Alvis believes that is he can do this, then it is possible for anyone to fulfill their goals and dreams.

Between You and Me x 2

By Monty Carter

Courtesy and Etiquette

I've been thinking and reflecting on two words this week: courtesy and etiquette. Webster's defines etiquette as: "the conduct or procedure required by good breeding or prescribed by authority to be observed in social or official life." Sounds very formal, doesn't it? Simply put, it means "mind your manners." My generation was raised by the "Builder" generation, those born before 1946. They are also known as the "Silent Generation".

Builders grew up during and on the heels of the Great Depression. Their generation mastered manners, etiquette, and common courtesies. They passed it on to my generation (Boomers), often through painful lessons after we behaved poorly.

This week, a trainee of mine quit after two days of in-field training. Trainees come to us after a full day of orientation by HR. After the second day, I told my boss that the individual would be a great fit for our organization. I missed something because on the third day, he came to work and met with my boss. He returned his badge and stated the reasons he did not think it was the job for him. Onboarding new people is costly for companies. There is a lot that goes into preparing someone for a position, and it is an investment of time and funds for the company. I was confused and disappointed, but I wasn't mad. I was proud of the way he opted to resign in person and explain his reasons to my boss. His actions were quite rare, to say the least.

Most people quit without any notice beyond a text and rarely a phone call. No one does it in person. This took guts compared to the way most people end their jobs at our company. Co-workers all agreed this was exceptional. I have the utmost respect for him and wish him well in his job search. Despite being the norm in the service industry, I cannot understand how people simply don't show up (no contact) or text that they are quitting. If I did this, my 92-year-old mother would come down from Frankfort and spank my 63-year-old bottom. It was the way I was raised. This prompted me to think about everyday things or courtesies that are eroding. Here are some quick examples of them:

- * Always open the door for a lady, children, and the elderly
- * Say please or thank you
- * Give the person in front of you your undivided attention (not on

your phone)

- * Speak the truth in love
- * Criticize in private and praise in public
- * Treat people the way you want to be treated
- * Offer hospitality
- * Be honest in all things
- * Never cheat at golf, cards, or in life
- * Be kind to everyone
- * Practice good listening skills (know when to speak)
- * Wash your hands in the bathroom (41% of men do not, according to a sign in a local hospital)
- * Keep your word
- * Look people in the eye when you speak to them

I'm sure you can add a lot more to this list. Courtesy and etiquette are taught and learned. They are not innate behaviors. We owe our parents a debt, which is why we must pay it forward through our children and grandchildren. Courtesy is lacking in every circle of life. Being neighborly is fading. This comes down to one of the earliest scripture lessons those of us who were raised in Christ-centered homes learned:

"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:9-12)

This is the Golden Rule. Do unto others.....It is not a suggestion from Jesus; it is a command. When we understand how gracious God has been with us (at our worst), we can't help but be the same toward others. Anything less would be hypocritical. I fear the road we are traveling if we don't reclaim this beautiful life message from Jesus. The message and intent of the Golden Rule can also be found in Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Taoism, and many other world religions. It is a central and underlying theme in the practice of common courtesy.

Grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, let's lead the way for succeeding generations. Let's be kind and practice common courtesies before them so they know how to act. The torch has been passed, and we must pay it forward.

Agape, Monty

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 05192025

WHEREAS an annual budget proposal and message has been prepared and delivered to the Uniontown City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Uniontown City Council has reviewed the LGEA and MRA budget proposal and made necessary modifications;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY:

SECTION 1: That the annual budget for LGEA and MRA funds for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 is hereby adopted as follows:

ANNUAL BUDGET FOR LGEA AND MRA FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 20, 2026

Resources Available	LGEA Fund	MRA Fund
Fund Balance		
Carried Forward	\$120,000.00	\$80,000.00
Estimated Revenue	\$50,000.00	\$20,000.00
Total		
Resources Available	\$170,000.00	\$100,000.00

Appropriations

Street Expenditures	\$40,000.00	\$50,000.00
Recreation	\$10,000.00	
Public Safety	\$40,000.00	
Total		
Appropriations	\$90,000.00	\$50,000.00

Estimated Fund Balance At End of Fiscal Year

	\$80,000.00	\$50,000.00
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LaDONNA TAPP, Mayor

City of Uniontown

ATTEST:

Jennifer Buckman, City Clerk

City of Uniontown

-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY

2025-2026 BUDGET

AN ORDINANCE adopting the City of Uniontown, Kentucky annual budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, by estimating revenues and resources and appropriating funds for operation of city government.

WHEREAS, an annual budget proposal and message have been prepared and delivered to the city council; and

WHEREAS, the city council has reviewed such budget proposal and made necessary modifications:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY:

SECTION 1: That the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 is hereby adopted as follows:

Resources Available	General	Special Revenue	Utility
Fund Balance			
Carried Forward (Estimated)	\$450,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00
Estimated Revenue			
General Fund	\$403,350.00		
Special Revenue Fund		\$70,000.00	
Utility Fund			\$536,800.00
Total Revenue	\$853,350.00	\$270,000.00	\$636,800.00
Appropriations			
General Fund	\$403,350.00		
Special Revenue Fund		\$140,000.00	
Utility Fund			\$536,800.00
Total Appropriations	\$403,350.00	\$140,000.00	\$536,800.00
Estimated Available Resources For Next Fiscal Year	\$450,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$100,000.00

LaDONNA TAPP, Mayor

City of Uniontown

ATTEST

JENNIFER BUCKMAN, City Clerk

City of Uniontown