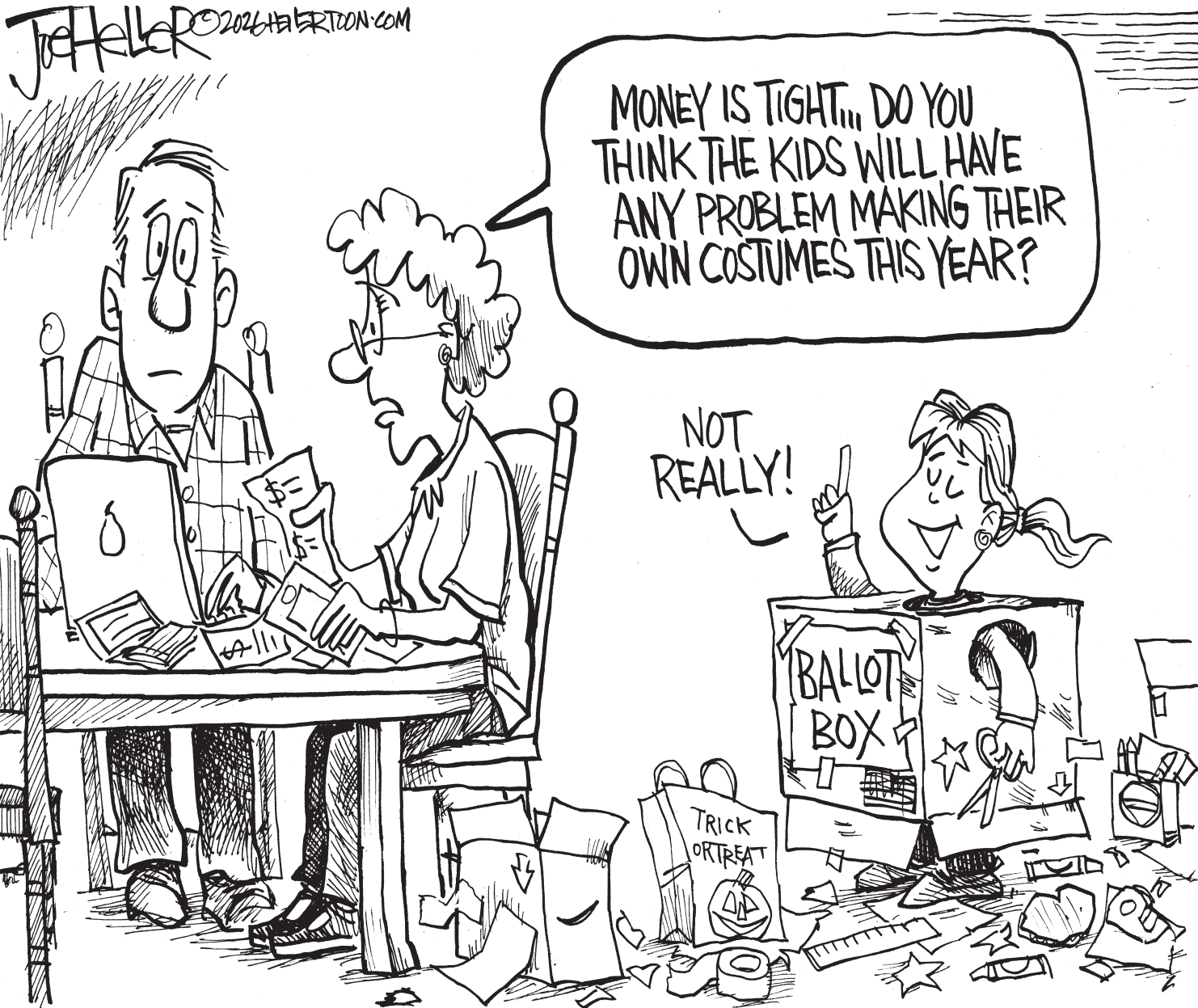


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The Herald News

OPINION

October 14, 2026



Letter to the Editor Mercy, Justice, and Protecting the Innocent

The tragic killing of Kentucky State Police Trooper Hayden Phillips should cause us to ask a difficult question: How many innocent people must suffer before we seriously address the danger posed by repeat violent offenders?

I believe government has both a civil and moral responsibility to protect its people and hold those who do evil accountable. Romans 13 teaches that civil authority exists for a purpose—to reward good and restrain evil. Government fails that responsibility when individuals who repeatedly demonstrate violence and disregard for human life are continually returned to society.

There is a difference between someone who makes a mistake, accepts responsibility, and seeks to change and someone who establishes a pattern of violent criminal behavior. A just system must recognize that difference.

I believe in mercy, redemption, rehabilitation, and second chances. But mercy and justice are not opposites. There is a time for mercy, and there is a time for judgment. Compassion for an offender cannot mean indifference toward his future victims.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 warns, “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

Our elected leaders must have the courage to acknowledge this truth, even when activists and political organizations attempt to portray accountability as cruelty. Holding violent criminals accountable is not hatred. Protecting innocent people is not a lack of compassion.

Trooper Phillips’ death should produce more than condolences, lowered flags, and speeches. It should cause Kentucky’s leaders to examine our sentencing, probation, parole, and release policies and ask whether public safety truly comes first.

Mercy has its place. Rehabilitation has its place. Second chances have their place.

But so do judgment, accountability, and the protection of innocent life.

Let this tragedy produce action.

Jason Abston
Edmonton KY.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE |

REPRESENTATIVE AMY NEIGHBORS

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD BY VOTING.

Election Day is an important opportunity for Kentuckians to exercise their right to vote and participate in the democratic process that shapes the future of our communities and our Commonwealth. Whether you are a first-time voter or have participated in elections for decades, one of the most important things you can do is make sure you are informed before casting your ballot.

Voting is more than simply showing up at the polls. It is taking the time to understand who and what is on your ballot, learn about the candidates and issues before you, and make decisions based on the information that matters most to you and your community.

The 2026 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time, and Kentucky law provides that voters who are in line at 6 p.m. are permitted to cast their ballots. Before Election Day, voters should make sure their registration information is current and confirm where they are supposed to vote.

For those who need to vote before Election Day, Kentucky also provides several opportunities for absentee and early in-person voting. Eligible voters may cast their ballots during Excused In-person Absentee Voting from October 21-23 and October 26-28. Voters who do not qualify for excused absentee voting will have the opportunity to vote early from October 29-31 during In-Person No-Excuse Absentee Voting. Voters who wish to vote by mail must request an

absentee ballot by October 20.

The deadline to register to vote for the General Election is 4 p.m. local time on October 5. If you have recently moved, changed your name, or otherwise need to update your voter registration, make sure your information is accurate before the registration deadline. You can use the voter services provided by the Kentucky Secretary of State and State Board of Elections to verify your registration and find your polling location. Voters should also review Kentucky’s voter identification requirements before heading to the polls.

Check your voter registration by clicking: <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/VIC/>

Find your polling location by visiting: <https://elect.ky.gov/Voters/Pages/Polling-Locations.aspx>.

View the 2026 Election Calendar by clicking: <https://elect.ky.gov/Resources/Pages/Election-Calendar.aspx>.

The Kentucky Secretary of State and State Board of Elections provide voters with the tools they need to prepare, including information about voter registration, election deadlines, polling locations, absentee voting, sample ballots and other election information.

It is important to know what races and issues are on your ballot before you vote. You do not have to vote in every race, but reviewing your

ballot in advance allows you to make informed decisions about the races and issues before you. The Kentucky State Board of Elections website allows voters to review a sample ballot. A sample ballot can help voters familiarize themselves with the races and questions they will encounter before they arrive at the polls.

You can view the sample ballot for your county by visiting <https://web.sos.ky.gov/electionballots/>.

Our communities are strongest when citizens take an active role in the democratic process and take the time to understand the choices before them. I encourage every eligible Kentucky voter to make a plan to participate in this year’s election. Check your registration, know your polling location, review your ballot, and research the candidates and issues that will appear before you. Whether you vote on Election Day or take advantage of Kentucky’s early voting options, taking the time to be informed helps ensure you are prepared to make your voice heard. Your vote is an opportunity to help shape the direction of your community and our Commonwealth. This November, exercise your right to vote, participate in our democracy, and make your vote an informed one.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Neighbors@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature’s website at legislature.ky.gov.

-CHAMBER CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE

W. Lytle, Jr., Retired, Ken Childers, Kim Shirley Smith, Clay and Janice Turner, and Bill & Chris Lagermann continue to leave an indelible mark on this community. Their volunteerism and service are examples for younger Metcalfe County Residents to emulate.

This year marks the 32nd consecutive year the Edmonton-Metcalfe County Chamber of Commerce has sought nominations from the public for this prestigious award. The Chamber Coleman Award Selection Committee

will choose the Annual Jim C. Coleman Community Service Award Winner.

You do not have to be a member of the Edmonton-Metcalfe County Chamber of Commerce to nominate a person for this award. The nomination form may be taken from

our website, www.metcalfechamber.com, email, metchamb@outlook.com, the chamber Facebook page, from the *Edmonton Herald* Newspaper, or stop by the chamber office to pick up an application. Nominations will be accepted until Monday, November 2nd, 2026, close of business.

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.