

Despite the ugliness there is hope for love to overpower hate

I confess that I didn't watch the big game. I haven't in years. By this time of year, I am needing a little break from sports, which flood over me from the time school starts in the fall and doesn't slow down until after spring sports. I like to cover high school sports but it is a lot.

I have never been a big fan of professional sports and I have never been able to gain self-fulfillment from watching someone else play a football game. Which I know places me into the minority of humans here in the U.S. I don't have a team, I don't have a professional athlete to root for or need the feeling that since someone else won a game I did too.



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

Since I have actively avoided being one of the millions to watch the big game Sunday, I didn't see the half time show either. But I would like to say it didn't bother me a bit that all the songs were in Spanish. Bad Bunny seems OK; he had a message I can certainly support. On the other

hand, being completely open about my position, I would not watch Kid Rock eat a bale of hay.

The other thing that bothers me just a little is the ignorance of people who do not know the performance had nothing to do with Mexico. Bad Bunny is an American citizen from Puerto Rico. Native born Puerto Ricans are American citizens; they speak Spanish and English. Puerto Rico dirt is the same U.S. dirt as is Kentucky dirt. Puerto Ricans have the same rights as people in Calvert City.

Saying you didn't like the show because you cannot understand Spanish is a little hollow

considering the long list of both Rock and Roll and Country musicians who have had hit songs that included Spanish.

The blow back that has gone on for weeks about Bad Bunny being the featured performer and the songs being in Spanish is just pretty poor. It is the NFL's show and if you don't want to see what they are going to have, you can watch something else. I did. Not in protest of the show or the game. I just wanted to spend my time another way.

The opposition to the Bad Bunny halftime show, questioned whether he was a US citizen and decried the songs

begin sung in Spanish. Frankly that was pathetically veiled racism. This was an example of people going to great length to find something to be unhappy with. Certainly nothing about this protest was in keeping with the First Amendment, which guarantees all U.S. citizens the right to free speech, including those born in Puerto Rico.

There is a lot of ugliness in America today. Ugliness that at one time I thought we had finally removed from the hearts of most people. I was wrong about that. The melting pot in America I was taught about in elementary school exists only under limited conditions.

Conditions that are becoming more and more rare.

Too much of the time, it seems a vocal minority people are rejecting the idea of a multicultural United

States. Fear is giving life to hate.

Bad Bunny's show ended with the message that Love is the only thing stronger than Hate.

I too believe that Love is Stronger than Hate. We are going to have to lean on Love in this country because the level of hate is destroying us. I do believe Hate is being used as a wedge between us so some can stay in power. It is my hope that Love will overpower Hate.

Our View

We are what we post

Last week a racist video showed up again on a Trump White House social media account. It was incredibly crude and most certainly racists. That the White House posted the video the first time is in itself a no longer shocking definition of who is in control at the White House and what they believe is an appropriate point of view in today's world. The rest of us cringe in disbelief.

Now apparently for the second time the White House has taken the post down. Will it show up again. The odds are it will, after all we are what we post.

All of us have done and said things that in retrospect we wish we had not done or said those things. We don't do it a second time. That is the difference. There is no remorse or acceptance of a really bad choice. Refusing to take responsibility for things you are responsible for is a massive character flaw.

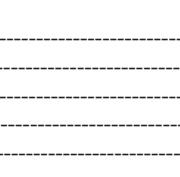
We are what we post. What we say and more importantly what we do matters. It matters even more when people in power do not accept responsibility for what they do and what they force others to do.

We deserve better than this. America deserves better than this.

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The Lake News

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Founded-----May 29, 1984

The Lake News is published by Loyd W. Ford, Owner, 153 East Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 498, Calvert City, Kentucky 42029. Publication number - ISSN - 87503698. Telephone (270) 395-5858. E-mail to news@thelakenews.com Fax number (270) 395-5858. Periodicals postage paid at Calvert City, Kentucky 42029.

Published weekly on Wednesdays. The publishers reserve the right to accept or reject any material submitted for publication.

Subscription rates: Marshall County, Livingston County, Lyon County, Calloway County, Graves County, McCracken County and Trigg County: \$29.95 per year. Elsewhere in Kentucky and out-of-state: \$39.95 per year. Postmaster: Send address changes to: THE LAKE NEWS, P.O. Box 498, Calvert City, Kentucky 42029.

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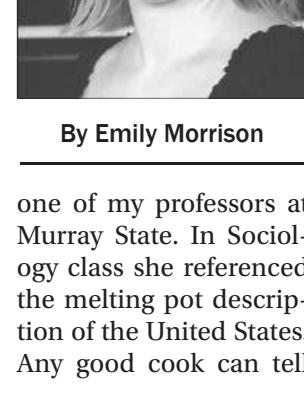
Like a melting pot, togetherness is the answer

I am a firm believer in the power of a sturdy dependable low-tech crockpot. This device is the dinner savior for busy working families. Our days are long, and our nights are busy. We need something to nourish our bellies and souls when we come home. A slow cooked meal is just the thing.

This morning as I plopped stew meat, dumped frozen mixed vegetables, and poured beef broth into my trusty kitchen appliance I was reminded of the words of

you that in a melting pot the characteristics of the ingredients meld and merge to create one new substance. Culture doesn't typically work that way. She explained that the United States is more like beef vegetable soup. There are pockets of meat and a collection of vegetables all floating around in the same broth. Individually they keep most of their individual qualities while making something rich and hearty together.

Life is hard. That's why families need crock pots.



By Emily Morrison

one of my professors at Murray State. In Sociology class she referenced the melting pot description of the United States. Any good cook can tell

Let's all rejoice in the benevolence of God

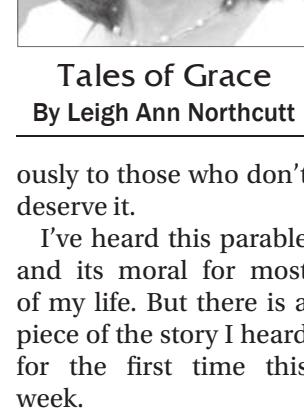
While talking to His disciples, Jesus told a parable about workers in a vineyard.

One morning, a vineyard owner hired workers for his vineyard, agreeing to pay them well for the day's work. At intervals throughout the day, the owner continued to hire men to work in his fields. At the end of the day, some of the men had worked all day. Others had worked only a few hours. The owner paid the same amount to all his workers. The men who had worked for only a short time received the same wage as those who had worked all day.

Moral of the story: In the Kingdom of God, grace and blessings are given to all regardless of their worth or effort. God chooses to give generously to those who don't deserve it.

I've heard this parable and its moral for most of my life. But there is a piece of the story I heard for the first time this week.

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones



Tales of Grace

By Leigh Ann Northcutt

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"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones

hired and going on to the first.' (Matt. 20:8, NIV)

Why pay the last workers first when the unfairness of their compensation was bound to cause a commotion? (And it did. The all-day workers complained that the wages were not fair.) Why not pay the all-day workers first and let them go home?

Perhaps it was because the vineyard owner wanted all his workers to see and know the degree of his generosity.

We know that by telling this parable, Jesus was saying that the Kingdom of God is not fair. It is a place of extravagant generosity and benevolence.

Maybe He was also asking His disciples to see and appreciate that part of God's nature.

Perhaps He is asking

us the same thing. Christians you don't see in church. The ones who don't open their Bibles often or serve much. The ones who came to the family late. The ones who just don't try very hard.

God welcomes them into His kingdom with the same fervor He shows to the most committed among us.

And, perhaps, Jesus asks that we shut our mouths to words of judgment and rejoice in God's generosity to people we think don't deserve it. After all, none of us wants God to judge us on our worth.

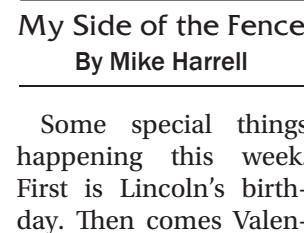
One day, we will all sit down at the Kingdom table together and delight in the fact that God is not fair.

Perhaps He is asking

Photos of warm and sunny places needed

At least it is not sleet, freezing rain or more snow. I don't think I can say more, but I probably will. Today (Sunday) for instance. I left for church wearing sunglasses, exited the church to go to lunch, still in my sunglasses. While I was eating lunch, the sun went away. I then went to the gym and as I was finally returning home, the sun came out. I have friends that keep posting pictures of some really sunny and warm places, that's nice. Please!

I've been watching some of the competition from the Olympics. I thought we were going to be really good in several events, not turning out that way for some. Of course, there always seems to be some kind of scandal happening. Nope, didn't escape it this time either. However, this one was stranger than those in the past.



My Side of the Fence

By Mike Harrell

Some special things happening this week. First is Lincoln's birthday. Then comes Valentine's Day (eat the chocolate, Lent is in 4 days). Next is Susan B. Anthony Day, followed by President's Day, then Carnival (Fat Tuesday) and on the same day is the Lunar New Year. Lots happening. I want to back up a little (history teacher mode kicking in) to Susan B. Anthony Day. Why a day for her?

She championed many

things during her life, like anti-slavery, the temperance movement, but is probably more noted for work for the women's suffrage movement.

In fact, in 1872 she was arrested in her hometown of Rochester, New York for voting in violation of laws that only allowed men to vote. She would not pay the fine, no other action was taken. In 1878 she and Elizabeth Stanton went before Congress and presented their case for the right to vote for women. In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed giving women the right to vote. She became the first female citizen depicted on U.S. coinage, the 1979 dollar coin.

Now I want to back up just a bit. I've mentioned my grandmothers on occasion. I connect them to Susan B. Anthony Day. Why a day for her?

She championed many

for her right to vote. My other grandmother thought that was the husband's duty and to my knowledge never voted.

As mentioned last week I will be missing my 60th annual viewing of a Super Bowl. I guess it's my loss. In reality I'm not a big fan of either team, nor am I a fan of the ticket price. Did you see how much one ticket cost. I could do a lot with that amount of cash.

Birthday greetings go out this week to Stephanie Clark, Evelyn Bolin, Neeta Hale, Curtis McGhee, Anna Hodge, Rhonda Hall, Roger Colburn, Wanda Bullock, Melinda Wilson, J.P. Lovett, Terri Dismore and Debbie Duckett. Celebrate your day and eat the cake, maybe even a King Cake.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Joe Owen. Celebrate your day.

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