

## We only get a few swings at the ball, they need to count

The value of time, how do we calculate it? All of us know we have only been gifted so much of it, but in the beginning of our lives we tend to think that we have so much time left in our lives that we can ignore the clock ticking. Now the advance of time has shown me the pure folly of thinking like that. I had friends who didn't make it out of their twenties and others whose time on Earth came to a close just as they were able to see beyond tomorrow. Now that I sometimes have to shake the hour glass a little to get all the sand to go down, I have a better understanding



**Northwest Passage**  
By Loyd Ford

for how precious time is to each of us. It causes some of us to get a little stingier with how we want to spend our time and who we spending it with.

It is a really good idea for everyone to take

time out and consider just how it is we want to spend our time. Doing nothing isn't a crime, it may be just what some people need to make sense out of a crazy world that sometimes seems to be doing its best to rob us of our sanity. Being busy and productive may be the best for some people. The need to accomplish something is good for all of us but I don't think it is a requirement for the best use of our time.

The best use of time may be different for each of us. I haven't heard anyone say it in quite a while but when I was younger, I used to hear people say we need

to take time out to smell the roses. I think that is good advice, but there is also personal value in being busy too. I have this one retired friend that is always on the go, traveling the world. This friend sees new places every few days and has interaction with people who live all over the world. That is a pretty amazing way to spend retirement.

What we want to get out of life is different for each of us. The path I still haven't walked may never be attractive to other people. It just could be that each of us need to find that path of no regrets. I also think we need to do our best

to be the person that sees their glass as being half full instead of half empty. That may be a tall order for some of us. Life does have a way of being a little rougher on some of us than it is others.

I have a few ideas that are different from other people. I don't view wealth as an accumulation of money. Personal wealth to me are the things that populate our lives that makes us happy. Sometimes that can be a cherished memory or the anticipation of making a new cherished memory. I came to terms a long time ago with the reality that I no longer had time

to make old friends. The best I can do now is do the best I can to make some good new friends and appreciate even more the old friends I still have.

I have no idea why I felt compelled to write about these sentiments or even if what I have had to say will really matter, but I hope it will. How we use our time and how easily it slips away from each of us is something we need to carry with us all the time. We only get a few swings at the ball. We need to make every one of them count.



## Our View

### Decent homes are a key to a livable community

There are two important numbers we would like to share with our readers this week. Here in Calvert City, it is estimated that our population is now growing by two percent annually. That is frankly a somewhat less than modest number, but it is far better than the decline that was predicted only a few short years ago.

The second number we would like to share is a projected four percent decline in rental housing for Calvert City, which means our housing shortage will not only continue but get worse.

Most of the homes now in Calvert City were built in the 1960s and 1970s. When 2030 gets here, and it is only four years away, most of the homes in Calvert City will be 70 or more years old.

These numbers show us that we need more new homes and we need a plan to keep the homes we have now in good repair. Compared to most other nearby communities the homes and streets in Calvert City look very good. Don't we want to keep it that way?

The news about homes in Calvert City certainly isn't all bad there has been a gentle increase in new home construction and for the most part these new homes are very nice additions to our community.

There is just one more set of figures we would like to share with you. Just over 60 percent of the homes in Calvert City are owned by the people who live in them. Nearly 40 percent of the homes in Calvert City are rental homes. At one time approximately 86 percent of the homes in Calvert City were owned by the families that lived in them.

Decent housing is a key to having a community in which everyone would like to live. We need to pay attention to that.

## No matter our struggles Easter Is coming

This Lent has been heavy. The world is broken. War is spreading. Governments are failing. Families are struggling. People's hearts are weary. The burden of it all feels too great.

I stumbled upon a much-needed reminder on social media last week. It was a message I needed to hear and share. Easter is coming. Nothing can stop it. Not



By Emily Morrison

geopolitical turmoil. Not illness or even death. Easter will still happen even if you can't find a "Yellow Ribbon" ham at the grocery store. Nothing can stop Easter.

That message, 'no matter what happens Easter will still take place on Sunday, April 5, 2026,' gave me hope and soothed my soul. We are loved by a great and powerful God. He has already

arranged for our salvation. No injury, death or loss can change the fact that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the grave. It's an amazing love, indeed.

We are surrounded by struggles. But there is no grief so great that can negate God's love for us. No, things are not right. But the world's wrong will never outweigh His greatest right.

## Genesis 15, a prequel to the story of Easter

Before Jesus on Earth, before the cross, before the Easter morning resurrection, God wrote another story on the pages of history. The main characters were God Himself and a man named Abram.

When this story began, God and Abram had just returned from a mission to rescue Abram's nephew. They had worked well together. Abram had supplied 318 men from his household as soldiers. God had supplied the victory.

As they were reveling in the success of their mission, God inserted a twist in the plot of His saga on Earth. Rather than leaving Abram with a nice parting gift, like the rainbow He had painted for Noah, God decided to stay with Abram and treat him like family. He prom-



**Tales of Grace**  
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

ised to become a vigilant guardian and a generous benefactor. With this new relationship, Abram would receive God's protection from his enemies and gifts of God's riches. These would include descendants as numerous as the stars.

Abram believed that God would supply what He promised. And, in effect, he asked, "Can we shake on it?" But the

handshake had not yet come to be. In Abram's time and place, a serious agreement was sealed with a blood covenant.

A blood covenant was a sacred agreement that bound two people together until death and was then passed on to the next generation. The ritual required that animals be killed, cut in half, and laid on the ground with a path between the pieces. When the blood of the animals covered the ground, God and Abram would walk between the carcasses and meet in the middle to promise fidelity to each other. By walking the path of blood, each of them would declare that if they broke the covenant, they would become like the animals that were sacrificed. The crisis of the story

happens here because God knew that the blood covenant would seal His promises to Abram. But, He also knew that should Abram or Abram's children break their promises to Him, the covenant would require their deaths.

So, God put Abram to sleep. He walked the path of blood to seal His promise to Abram. And then, He turned around and walked the blood path again in Abram's place. If any of Abram's family broke the blood covenant, someone would die. But it would not be Abram or any of his descendants, including those who were later adopted into his family.

Someone would die, but it would not be us. This story begins in the 15th chapter of Genesis and ends at Calvary.

## Easter traditions that have changed over time

I started to make an April Fools' Day joke, but I can't top Mother Nature. First, it is warm and pretty, then it is warm and wet, next it is cold and wet, she does have a warped sense of humor.

My Dogwoods were budding (now full bloom) and I thought to myself I needed to write about this because my prediction was that the Dogwoods would be bloomed out and nearly done before the Paducah Dogwood Trail even started. Apparently, they felt the same since they moved it up a week. Mother Nature keeps on at our expense.

But then Bracketology is like that also. I told you I always picked Arizona to go deep but they always disappointed me. That one year I just said no, and did not pick them past their first game (usual spot they disap-



**My Side of the Fence**  
By Mike Harrell

pointed me) they went on and won it all. I didn't even fill out a bracket this year and guess who is in the Final Four!

This is a busy week. April Fools' Day, Pass-over starts, Good Friday, Easter and all that goes with them. You may be busy this week. Those of you that do Easter, do you still do a ham? I know some people that have switched to tacos. Remember all those Easter egg hunts? Now it is

plastic eggs with candy and even money inside. I am so old I remember when it was a dyed hard-boiled egg with just the yoke inside.

A few weeks ago I wrote about music. The various kinds, what I liked, and asked what kind you liked. Well, I have heard from several of you. I said being the last child whose older siblings were products of the 50's I was exposed to many kinds of musical taste. I did pop but swayed towards the Big Band sound and then moved on to Classical. I know. How did that happen? Rebellion? Who knows. Anyway, this week on "Reels" I saw a guy who asked our thoughts of a new piece of music he had just composed. He said they are still making classical music and his did overwhelmingly sound classical. There

were several in the comments that said they thought classical music was from an earlier time period, not now. What do you think?

Happy Birthday greetings are extended this week to Andy Todd, John Ford, Novie Mason, Joe Owen, Sally Hood, Melinda Colburn, Mark Prince, Evan Lents, Marlene Travis, Kaye Travis, Kellie Harrell, James Knoth, Lindsey Smith and Cathy Hart. I hope you all get to celebrate your day the way you like, but remember, eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary congrats go out to Mr. & Mrs. Mitch Lampkins and to Mr. & Mrs. John Purdue. Celebrate your day, (dinner for two?) but with cake no matter how many are around the table.

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

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