

Could this Moon shot be a jump start into space?

The summer before my senior year in high school the United States landed a man on the Moon. There were subsequent Moon shots and more astronauts on the Moon. I grew up in the throes of the space race and in the summer of 1969, I was completely convinced by now that we would have a colony on Mars and would be well on our way to outer space, the final frontier.

Well obviously, that didn't happen. Artemis II's voyage around the Moon and back to Earth has been a mood lifter. Here in America, we needed a positive note for a change.

The Moon landing in 1969 made quite a difference in the mood of America. The previous summer had been one of riots in the big cities. There was also the quagmire of Vietnam. The 1968 Tet Offensive undercut the narrative being presented about



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

the War in Vietnam and soured the country on the war, our military leadership and in particular the government. But the Moon landing, at least for a little while reminded us that our country could accomplish really big things, that no other country in the world could accomplish.

When I watched the rocket engines fire up and lift Artemis II toward the heavens I felt a renewed sense of accomplishment in America. With the

level of discontent and disagreement in the country right now for at least, for some of us to put that aside and put together a successful Moon shot is really a staggering achievement. Something for all of us to be proud of, and to be reminded that despite all of the things that are working against normalcy in this country we still have people who work together to accomplish really great things. Space travel, going to the Moon, is an extraordinary and great thing. The folks at NASA make it look easy, but this is something that is very difficult.

The plan now is to go back to the Moon with

the plan of building a Moon base that will be the launch point for future space adventures. Of course, that isn't all the plan because that base will most certainly be militarized. It is a counter measure for an expected Chinese base to be built in the future. The Moon is a great place to launch space craft due to it having less gravity. That same fact makes it a great place to fire rockets at Earth too. So, the space race is not so much about doing things for the good of humanity any more.

Space travel is sometimes compared to the voyages of discovery from Europe to the

Americas. Frankly as difficult as it was to sail in wooden ships across the ocean to the New World it still doesn't compare to the difficulty of space travel. Yes, tens of thousands of those earliest sailors were lost in a risky voyage across the Atlantic but at least they had a breathable atmosphere and temperatures that allowed for life to exist. Space doesn't have either one, any where in the entire known universe.

Space still calls out to us and I do believe that some day we will finally break down all the barriers to space travel and make the jump across dark voids we really can't imagine

now. The voyages to the new world took a few months and that was a test. The voyages across the unimaginable distances between worlds in space may take multiple life times. Unless we develop new technology that now exists only in movies, the astronauts who begin the trip will be dead for centuries before some of the voyages can be completed.

Still this new Moon shot could be that new jumpstart into space. I hope so. I thought I would have seen it before now. I know we can do it and after all these decades I still hope we will find it in us to get back into space.

Be careful making your own sauce, buy the jar

My Grandmother Ruth made great spaghetti sauce. It was rich and hearty. Her sauce had depth not frequently found in other sauces. I believe the secret came from two ingredients, celery and cream of mushroom soup. To top it all off dry Parmesan would not do. At Ruthie's, house cheddar cheese adorned our heaps of spaghetti.

This set a high expectation for me regarding home cooked spaghetti sauce requirements. I came to believe that



By Emily Morrison

there was no excuse for pre-made jarred sauce from the grocery store. I would often go without spaghetti at all because I simply didn't have the

time. I was missing the point. We needed to eat. Some nights you have to set unrealistic expectations aside, get the job done and feed your family.

I haven't just done this with spaghetti sauce. I've done this with Halloween costumes. I've done this with party decorations. I've done this with lesson plans and worksheets. I've managed to turn teaching and homemaking alike into martyrdom.

The goal wasn't to become the patron saint of

spaghetti sauce. Somewhere along the way I thought perfection was the goal. The goal was keeping my family's hearts and stomachs nourished. As it turns out that can be accomplished in all sorts of ways. We tend to make things harder on ourselves than they need to be. Give yourself grace, buy the jarred sauce when you need to. Life is full of enough problems, don't create extra ones by complicating something as simple as dinner.

Our View

First Amendment protects everyone

"President Donald Trump has threatened to jail journalists at the media outlet that first reported a second airman missing following the shoot-down of an American Jet fighter in Iran on Friday," according to NBC News. As if that were illegal, it isn't. Journalist are protected by a document President Trump routinely ignores, the United States Constitution.

The irony in President Trump's charges is the amount of information he regularly doles out himself that previous Commander-in-Chiefs would never have uttered. But the President likes to brag.

This isn't the first time there have been complaints about what journalist report during times of war. The claims of threats to national security or putting soldiers in harm's way always get pulled out and waved in front of an aggrieved crowd.

However, objective thinkers in the past have always pointed out that if a journalist with very limited resources can learn about and report something of this nature, the same information is very likely already in the hands of a foreign government that has many more operatives and much more money to gather information. In other words, if something is in the newspaper it is best to bet on a foreign intelligence service having the information long before it finds its way into the papers.

For journalist to be effective at what they do must be able to keep their sources secret. This is a key to a free press; it is a right guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. Fortunately, there are still people who will stand up to a bully and write the truth.

The First Amendment protects journalists, and you.

Finding God's goodness in an Easter egg hunt

Last weekend, in yards across the country, children gathered to celebrate Easter. Not with solemnity and reverent worship, but with anticipation, laughter, and baskets decorated with chicks and ducks.

At Easter egg hunts when I was a kid, we filled our baskets with real eggs, hard-boiled and dyed in vinegar and dry coloring. This method could be less than ideal on rainy Easter weekends when we were forced to hide the eggs inside. By early Summer, the eggs that were hidden a little too well had left a pungent smell of sulphur in our couch cushions and underwear drawers.

Now Easter eggs are plastic and have no odor. But they are hollow and



Tales of Grace
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

filled with enough chocolate to have the kids sugared up and swinging from porch fans in a matter of minutes. They come with their own set of problems.

Last week, I watched three of my grandchildren and a gaggle of other kids hunt for those eggs. The older kids' eggs were hidden well. Their color barely peeked

through bushes and rock beds. That was not so for the younger ones. Their eggs were lying on the grass in vibrant color, as if God had broken a rainbow into pieces and dropped them in my daughter's yard for the tots to find. And appropriately, this reminded me of the resurrection we just celebrated.

With the spiritual life provided by Jesus, God is no longer hidden from view, only showing a bit of Himself here and there. Like the eggs waiting conspicuously for my grandchildren, God is now in full view to eyes that see with the Spirit of resurrection. His goodness is spread before us in a vibrant display of hope. His promises of new creation in our world and in our hearts

lie on our paths, waiting to be claimed.

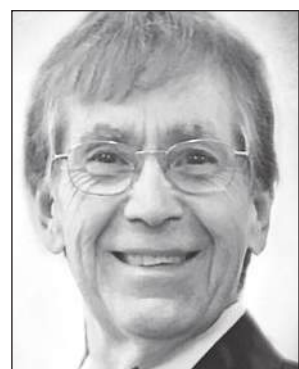
All this because, as Paul writes in the second chapter of Ephesians, God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to new life in the resurrection of Jesus. Now, being in union with Jesus, we, who used to be far away and saw only shadows of God from a distance, have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Now the Spirit of God gives us the ability to see Him in vibrant color.

So, with the celebration of Easter still prominent in our minds, let's take our baskets into the world and pick up the goodness of God we find there.

Happy belated birthday and let me explain why

Good Wednesday to you. Finally, the temperature is getting closer to my age. I know people this last week that turned on their A/C. I did not do that, nor did I turn off my heat. The central heat wasn't going to run with temps like we had, even with my patio door open. However, Sunday morning the heat kicked on and my Easter outfit consisted of a sweater.

I know some of you are going to find this just almost impossible to believe, but I made a mistake in last week's column. When I put birthdays and anniversaries in the column, I have several sources to check, if you hadn't sent me info on a loved one. One of the sources being the 2017 Lyon's Club calendar. I believe it was their last one. I don't put names from it in the column unless I know them



My Side of the Fence
By Mike Harrell

and that they are still with us, so many of them are not. Anyway, when I flipped the page from March to April, I actually flipped it to May. The first week in May people were on my list while the first week of April people got left out. So, if it was your birthday in the first week of this month...Happy Belated Birthday.

I came across some interesting things last week that I thought I would share. Among them was

that Bach wrote over 1,000 pieces of music. He also had 20 children, and I'm guessing no spare time.

I also saw a list of English Age Titles. It starts with age 0-1 as an infant. Moving on up the list (way up) I found me. I have now passed Senior Adult to be classified as Elderly. I never saw that coming. That puts eleven stages behind me and only three ahead of me. I thought that is probably not happening, but then I realized that within 5 blocks of me I either have known or still know people in the next three groups. I think it is probably the water.

Did you know daffodils (March flowers) are not native to North America? They were most likely brought here by English colonists, but they were not native to England either. When the Romans

conquered the Brits, a tradition they brought with them was to place a daffodil bulb on the grave of a fallen Roman soldier. Thus, they spread across England. Spring is so much nicer because of their tradition.

Let's see if I can get this right this time. Very Happy Birthday greetings are extended this week to Maddie Traylor, Ann Beth, David Elliott, Joyce Gamble, Trace Babcock, Jan Lampkins, Jade Wilson, Kyle Greenwell, Jennifer Ross and Arthur Neel. Celebrate your special day and eat the cake.

Also, Happy Anniversary greetings are sent out to Mr. & Mrs. Joe Burrus. You can celebrate with cake also.

Hope to see lots of Tater Day pictures.

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

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Loyd W. Ford-----Editor & Publisher
Teresa J. Ford-----Publisher
Emily Morrison-----Staff
Mary Larson-----Staff
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