

Accurate information can sometimes create new viewpoints

By now I should be used to this, but I am not. I will try to explain it to you as best I can. There are a number of misconceptions and misperceptions about how the news media business works and how people who aspire to be journalists do what they do.

I have been covering news stories since I was in college. I started my first full time real newspaper job in 1974. Lots of things have changed over the last 52-years, especially technology and the social landscape. However, when you take a closer look at what the news media does it is still all about people. We write about many topics but almost immediately the story turns to who is affected by what is happening.

One of the outcomes of writing about what is happening and who is affected by what is happening is an unintended misconception that the writer knows a lot more about what is happening than they actually know. Journalists are supposed to use credible sources like police, government officials, persons with professional standing, members of the business



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

community and people who are eye witnesses. I would like to point out that just because we know these folks or find out who they are doesn't really impart more knowledge on to us. Sometimes what we learn is not much.

Not everyone wants to let information out. Sometimes it is easier for people to do what they do if it isn't the subject of everyday conversation. Not everyone believes in the free flow of information and sometimes there are people who sit on information because that is what they think is best for them.

Sometimes the last person who gets the information the public really needs to know is the newspaper reporter. But it is not from the

want of trying.

There are also those who believe news reporters are always out to get someone or want to make people look bad because it sells newspapers. I have a story for you about this. I can't really remember when it was precisely but it was in 1975 or possibly 1976. I was working for a newspaper in northwest Tennessee and my boss sent me out to take a photo of the new water intake under construction for the town's water department. To get to the construction site I

had to walk down a dirt road to a railroad trestle that over looked the job site. So, I walked out on the trestle to shoot an overhead view of the steel coffer dam. I thought it was a great photo and I didn't think anything about all four walls of the coffer dam being deformed into arches by the pressure of the dirt and water around them. We ran that photo on the front page and as soon as the state regulatory people saw the photo which indicated the coffer dam was in danger of collapse

they rushed to the job site and shut it down. That's when the newspaper office got a call from the contractor and the city. They had no idea I had taken the photo until it appeared on the front page. I didn't realize I had done an expose on the trouble at the construction site until it became one. I still don't know what made me walk out on that railroad trestle and shoot down on the jobsite. If I had just shot a photo of it from the river bank no one would have seen what was really going

on there. It was totally unplanned I just kind of blundered into the situation.

To be honest I don't have time to pick on people in print. I have my hands full just trying to get everything finished by our print deadline.

We are in the business of providing accurate information. Sometimes accurate information allows for the creation of new viewpoints and new understandings. The coffer dam didn't fail but it could have, but it was a new understanding.

Pondering moon phases through ancestors

Any nurse, teacher or public servant can tell you human behavior has a direct correlation to the full moon. The kids go wild. The emergency room is full. First responders are in high demand. There is something too this.

In our ancestors' day when our culture was based on agriculture, life followed the seasons which are counted by the phases of the moon. We planted and reaped by the moon. We cele-



By Emily Morrison

brated and commemorate by them as well. They marked time and helped people define

the world around them. Over time, tradition and lore were rooted in lunar phases as well as science. The mysticism that comes from the awe of God's creation is still rooted in practices today.

I wondered aloud to a friend recently about these July rains. She shared her learning about how when we have an extra lunar phase in the calendar year the seasons are pushed back. According

to this theory, we are still experiencing the last of the spring rains. I have no idea if this is true. However, flooding in mid-July does cause me to wonder. If nothing else, it prompts me to pause and consider the Lord's creation more closely. Taking a moment to observe and ponder is never a bad thing. We might just benefit from a little more moon bathing.



Our View

Good people are doing good things

If you are looking for the good that people have done you can certainly find it in this week's issue of The Lake News. On page one we have a photo and a story about three Calvert City policemen who saved a couple of lives over the past month. On page seven you can read a story about our local chapter of the Knights of Columbus and the work they do in Calvert City. Over the next few weeks, we are planning on printing more stories about people who do good work for their community.

It has been a while since we have had done a lot of these stories. Certainly, we need to do more stories about firms like PACE in Benton that offers much needed services to elderly people who are still able to stay at home.

Our community is full of good people doing their best help others. On of the best examples of this is Veterans Fish Fry sponsored by Calvert City churches last Thursday at First Baptist Church. Veterans eat free and the profits got to the Wounded Warriors organization. They had 79 local veterans to eat a free fish dinner and they raised \$2,539 nearly \$500 more than last year. Go to thelake-news.com to see our photos.

Good people are here, doing good things every day.

Public Notices

Scan the QR Code at right to access Kentucky Public Records. With one quick click you will be directed to a website supported by newspapers all across the state where public notices can be found.



The Lake News

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Letters to the editor policy

The Lake News welcomes and encourages original letters to the editor about issues of community interest. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less. Letters must be signed and contain the name and address of the author. The Lake News reserves the right to edit letters. The Lake News also reserves the right to reject letters for publication.

Kentucky Press Association Member

If you were on trial for being a Christian

"If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

I heard that question on my car radio and reacted with confusion. From both a logical and spiritual point of view, it is an absurd question. If it were possible to prove our Christianity with good deeds, which of them would be admissible as evidence? The ones we begrudge? The ones we fake? The impressive ones that douse us with spiritual pride?

The actual works of God in his children are hidden in the intentions of their hearts. I'm pretty sure that only He can identify them. I certainly



Tales of Grace

By Leigh Ann Northcutt

can't untangle them from the other stuff that resides in me. From my impressions of responsibility. From my need to please. From the bits of my self-righteousness. And from my boatload of pride.

"If you were put on trial for being a Christian,

would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

It seems to me this question and others like it are harmful. They seem reasonable at first, even insightful, and pleasantly religious in a "prove to me you are good enough" kind of way. But they stand on the path to God, and they say to those who would approach, "Stay back! You can't come close. There are things you must do. There are books you must study. There are changes you must make before you can join those who are worthy."

Thankfully, not everyone asks that question. I know many people who stand beside young

Christians and explain the deception in that kind of reasoning. When given the chance, I add my words to theirs.

Don't get caught in the implications of that question. You can't be put on trial. You are safe in the arms of God.

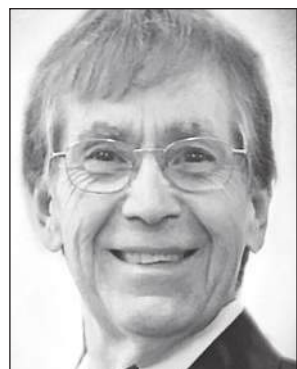
Just walk with Jesus. There is more of God ahead. Don't stop to see if you are accruing good works and don't stop to measure your works against others. If you do, guilt will surely slow you down or, even worse, pride will trip you up.

Hold onto Jesus and keep walking. The only thing that matters about your standing as a Christian is written on the scars in His hands.

Accumulation of trash is not treasure

Rain, Rain go away. I'm pretty sure the drought is over. And when I say go away, I don't mean to have another drought this fall. After a day or two of temperatures my family and friends could kinda live with, I believe the heat is coming back, like today.

Did you watch any of the World Cup? You know all of the those soccer (football) games. I would have liked it if the U.S. had gone deeper, but hey, we did better than in years past. All those visitors couldn't get over the fact that it wasn't even summer and it was so hot. They seemed to have gone into shock on free refills as much as I did when I was over there and couldn't get ice for my drink.



My Side of the Fence
By Mike Harrell

I've ordered three things from Amazon. So far, they delivered two of them, to the business next door and not my house. I expect the next one today. I guess if they can find my house or I have to go next door to get it.

Two of my nieces and great niece are helping me to declutter. I have a gym friend who has volunteered on several oc-

casions to help me, but her idea is to just throw it away. I have resisted for years, but that seems to be the answer. I'm sure our city employees come to my house and say, "Not again."

It is stuff I have (with help) accumulated over the past 55 years. To me it is treasure. In reality it is trash. I just read that every American throws away 7 1/2 pounds of garbage a day. I guess I'm making up for lost time. There is a lot to say about waste. We (the U.S.) with 6% of the world's population produce 40% of its waste. Do you use plastic wrap? The EPA says we use enough to wrap all of Texas, every year. If we put all the solid waste collected in the U.S. in a line of garbage trucks, that line (bet you

thought I was going to say something about the moon), would extend from New York City to Los Angeles more than 100 times.

I just want to say thank you to our city workers. They are exposed to chemical burns, needles, broken glass, (oops) over loaded containers, not to mention dogs, bad weather and the smell. So, thank you again.

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to Linda Howard, KT Sills, Aniston Delargey, Vicki Madison, Phillip Madison, David Madison, Jennifer Hightower, Marty Schuett, Billy Harrell and LaDonna Knoth. Celebrate your day and yes, eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. And Mrs. Mark Prince. Have a great day.

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

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by email to: news@thelakenews.com or mailed to: The Lake News, P.O. Box 498, Calvert City, KY 42029.

All letters must be submitted with Name, City, State and Phone Number. Letters limited to less than 250 words.