

Opinion

You can't expect things to change if you don't do your part

You have probably heard we have an election coming up, next Tuesday. Well not just Tuesday. Early voting begins in Kentucky tomorrow morning, October 29, 2026. If you would like to vote early you can drive over to Benton, to H.H. Lovett Park and vote in the Joe Creason Center. I have done it in the past and it is quick and easy to do.

I strongly recommend that everyone go and cast their vote. Things aren't so good now in the United States for a lot of people. You can't expect things to change if you don't do your part to make change happen.

While there is a lot of focus on the battle for control of the U.S. Congress and the changes that could possibly result from that, it is important to remember we have several local offices on the ballot too. The race for mayor in Calvert City and Benton is getting notice in Marshall County along with the races for judge executive and the county commissioners. The same is true for Grand Rivers and Livingston County. Contested races for



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

local political offices are a good thing because it is a lot more likely that a broader range of issues and concerns will receive attention that they would not receive if local offices were not contested.

It looks like a change is on its way in Washington, but I am one of those people who has learned not to make predictions about things that can be so uncertain. I can't think of anything more uncertain than today's political climate.

However, I will say this, I do believe there are many wrongs that could and should be righted in the next Congress. I also have a concern for things going too far in the other direction. We need to get back

to the middle and not take giant swings to the right and then to the left. I believe there are a lot of people in this country who want things to stay a lot closer to the middle politically. I believe that is where the most of us want things to be.

The other thing that needs to change is getting politics cleaned up. I feel certain there are good candidates who chose not to get into politics because it is so nasty. We have to get campaign finance reform that greatly curtails who can donate

and how much they can donate to political campaigns. When people are dumping hundreds of millions of dollars into political campaigns they drown out the voices of regular people. So much money is being poured into political campaigns today the real talking points are being suppressed.

One of the other things I would like to see happen is age limits being imposed on federal offices. Remember I am an old geezer myself. I don't think anyone who is older than 75-years

of age should hold the offices of President, Senator, Congressman or Congresswoman or sit on the bench of the Supreme Court. We have seen members of both political parties hanging on in office when it was obvious they should not be in that position.

I strongly encourage everyone to vote and when the final results come in, I want everyone to respect those results. In Kentucky we have a very safe and secure election system. You can have confidence in the election process

in Kentucky. The people working the polling stations are committed to safe, secure and fair elections.

Americans will be paying attention to the outcome of the election next Tuesday night. The country will be looking to see who will control the U.S. House and the Senate. I would like to hope the election will be respected, whatever the outcome. But honestly the storm winds are already blowing on that and I do not see an easy time ahead for our country.

Reclaiming time and taking a slower pace



By Emily Morrison

field. Important lessons have been learned. As much as some of us hate running in the moment, we do like the payoff on the court. The one sport

per season rule is just good sense, and there is crying in baseball. There are especially tears when you care. All in all, we did have fun, but we are tired.

It's time to reclaim our time. Rest and recuperation are necessary. The early dark forces us to step back and take things at a slower pace.

I spend an awful lot of time thinking about time. I wonder about how much we have and how we use it. With each advance of technology, humanity is gifted new

pockets of free time. But how do we use those minutes? Somehow, I'm not sure we are making the most of them watching cat videos. As the single youth sport season approaches, I must ask how I plan to use my time. My nine-year-old is planning more baseball practice in the off season. Maybe that's not a bad idea. Spending time doing what you love with the people you love is probably the best way to take full advantage of the time we have.



Our View

Be counted go VOTE

Early voting in Kentucky begins tomorrow, Thursday, October 29, 2026. Registered voters can begin voting tomorrow in Marshall County at the Joe Creason Building in Benton's H.H. Lovett Park. We encourage everyone to make their voice heard and vote.

Everyone's vote matters, further than that, every person eligible to vote should be registered to vote and vote in every election in which they are qualified to do so.

The right to vote in this country came a very high price and each of us have a life-long obligation to vote and make our democracy work. Voting is a right and an obligation.

If you can't vote early this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, then vote on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Make your voice heard.

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The Lake News

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Kentucky Press Association Member

My grandfather was a giant of a man. At least that's how I remember him.

He wasn't overweight. And he wasn't unusually tall. But he was broad-shouldered and sturdy, with a big presence. He had a gentle, intelligent twinkle in his eye and a kindness for everyone. Those who knew him looked up to him, whatever their height.

He smelled of cigars, and when I crawled into his lap, I did too. Once there, odds were that he and I would sing his favorite folk song. "Froggie went a-courtin' and he did ride, uh-huh. Froggie went a-courtin' and he did ride, uh-huh. Froggie went a-courtin' and he did ride, uh-huh. Froggie went a-courtin' and he did ride, a sword and a pistol by his side, uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh."



Tales of Grace
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

Granddaddy, the youngest of 12 children, grew up in Bee Spring, Kentucky. Recently, I went to see his homeplace. The family church and cemetery were there, built on land his father donated.

I spent much of the afternoon in the cemetery, reading the tombstones there. Mitchell, a farmer and preacher, was my great-grandfather. Rose,

his wife, gave birth to 15 children and raised 12 of them along with a few extras who came to them as orphans. Many of Rose and Mitchell's children were also in the cemetery, including Roe, who died the day he was born.

Those were the people who came before me. The ones who taught my grandfather to be kind and gentle. The ones who taught him the folk songs he taught to me. For those reasons and the genes we share, they are my people. I never met them, but we are connected by the roots that run through family. And by the faith that has been passed from generation to generation.

I don't know how it is that the Holy Spirit joins together the people of God. But I know He

does. He joins us across distance and through time. Today, I stand in the kingdom of God on earth and, although I can't see them, Mitchell and Rose are here with me. And, somehow, their faith supports mine just as mine will, somehow, give strength to the faith of my great-grandchildren.

Someday, maybe we will know how it works. Maybe we will get to see the cloud of witnesses that are cheering us on. Wouldn't that be a hoot and a half? To meet them? To hear their stories? To join with their voices in songs of praise?

(By the way, my personal cloud of witnesses will also know every verse of "Froggie Went a Courtin'")

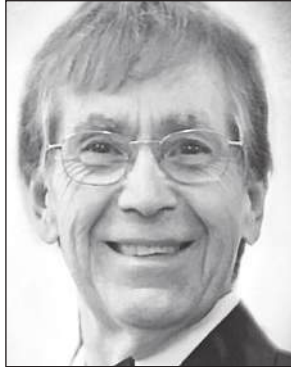
Uh-huh.

Will this winter be similar to any in the past?

As I sit here this beautiful Sunday, I'm thinking that something is about to happen. Oh yes! Halloween and of course the ending of daylight savings time once again (I think) and I have heard something about an election. Since my move I have fewer things I can vote on. I'm hoping everything goes off without any problems. That includes getting to church at the correct time Sunday.

I had to laugh when I saw the forecast for Halloween. Being a retired teacher I do remember many of my colleagues praying for rain. I do remember one year it snowed and that was a little different, probably not this year. Weather around here is kind of strange at the best of times.

The biggest weather



My Side of the Fence
By Mike Harrell

event that happened here isn't even considered today, because there is no one alive to remember it. In the winter of 1917, it got cold. How cold you ask? Well, the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers froze solid. I can only guess that the Cumberland did likewise. The only reason I can remember this is because I have seen pictures of people at the foot of Broadway

in Paducah walking out on the frozen Ohio. Plus, I was told on more than one occasion by my father how he drove a Model T car across the Tennessee River, at the ferry crossing to Livingston County.

Now when we think about big weather events of course the tornados in recent history come to mind, but the 1937 flood is still a biggie. Even if those who can remember it are getting less and less every year. I don't want anyone to panic but the year before the 1937 flood was almost like this year, hot, cold, wet and dry. I don't think we will be seeing a cow on the second-floor porch in Paducah, but you never know.

Hey! UK did it again and are #1 in the SEC. That is a great achievement. Go Cats! That's for

you Barbara. Now you might have two reasons to pass out.

Be on watch for witches, ghouls, ghosts, and whatever super hero is all the go this season. Have fun Trick or Treating and enjoy all your loot, but not all at once.

I want to wish these fine people a fantastic Birthday. You know this day only comes once a year. Take time to celebrate and reflect on it. So, to Alison Prince, Donna Smith, Jerry Devine, Austin Smith, Sarah Hicks, Jane Sills, and Nita Pursley have a great day and of course, eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Kris Noles. It is your special day, celebrate and cake wouldn't hurt.

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

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