

Be An Encourager

By Tommy Druen

We've all been there. You're in a public restroom and you go to dry your hands under an automatic dryer. The thing roars to life like a jet engine and, in the minute you stand there moving your hands, you wonder if your eardrums are going to survive the experience. You don't know if you're still in a restroom or suddenly in a Maxell tape commercial.

It's annoying, sure. But it's one of those minor irritations we all just accept without question. I've been doing it for decades. Never once did I think to complain or investigate or do anything but grimace and wait for it to be over. That's what we do, right? We accept the world as it is, right or wrong, and move on with our lives.

Unless you're Nora Keegan.

Back in 2015, Nora was a fifth grader in Calgary, Canada. Every time she used the hand dryer at her school, her ears would ring afterward. She noticed something else too. Her classmates were covering their ears when the machine kicked on. Even if they had noticed, most kids would have shrugged this off. Nora decided to do something about it.

With the science fair approaching, Nora grabbed a decibel meter and convinced her parents to drive her to public restrooms around

Calgary. You can picture this nine-year-old girl in a bathroom holding what looks like a radar gun, measuring the noise at each dryer. She steps up to each dryer like an OSHA inspector on a mission, with adults glancing over trying to figure out what she's doing.

She measured the noise at 18 inches, the industry standard distance. Then she measured again at 12 inches, because she wisely knew that, because of shorter arms, kids would have to stand closer to reach the dryer.

What she found was alarming. Many of these hand dryers registered over 100 decibels. To put that in perspective, that's louder than a lawnmower and almost the same as a leaf blower. Health experts consistently say that adults should wear hearing protection when around anything over 85 decibels to prevent hearing loss. And that's for adults, not children with developing ears.

Nora presented her findings at the science fair. She got third place. Most people would have been disheartened and moved on to some other facet of their life. Not Nora. She buckled down on the topic.

The next year, she presented further findings and won first place at the science fair. By 7th grade, she was experimenting with air filters to create muf-

flers for the machines. At 13, her research was published in Paediatrics and Child Health, a legitimate scientific journal. Then Dyson came calling. She met with their acoustic engineers to discuss quieter hand dryer designs. All before she even started high school!

Many of us think we can't do anything special or make a difference because we weren't born with the right genetics. Talent is rare, yes. But for some things, a lack of talent can be overcome with determination. Determination isn't genetic. You don't have to inherit it. Every single one of us already has it. The only question is whether we're willing to use it. Most of us don't. We're too busy accepting loud hand dryers and a thousand other irritating things we've decided are just the way the world is and will remain.

Nora had determination, and that's what changed everything. Not some rare gift she was born with. Just the stubborn refusal to accept that things had to stay the way they are.

There's a quote from Edward Everett Hale that I love. "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something."

That's Nora Keegan. She was one person, and a young one at that. But she was determined to do something, and she did it.

Look around your community this week. There's probably a Nora Keegan already there, asking questions the rest of are scared or embarrassed to ask. Pay attention to them. Listen to what they're noticing. Encourage them. Support them. Because that's the person who's going to fix something we've all been accepting for far too long, something that shouldn't be the way it is in the first place.

And if you can't find that person? If you look around and don't see anyone willing to ask those hard questions or challenge what seems universally accepted? Well, maybe it's supposed to be you.

47th Annual Firecracker Run Set For Saturday

The City of Sebree will sponsor the community's 47th Firecracker Run on July 4, at Sebree Springs Park.

This year's races will include a 10K race starting at 7:00 a.m. with the 5K set to start at 8:30. The one mile fun run will immediately follow the 5K.

Participants in the 10 and 5K races will receive a t-shirt while those running in the fun run will receive a medal.

The event will feature trophies for the first and second place winners in each age group. The 10 K is divided into six age groups and the 5K has seven age groups. A male and female overall winner will also be recognized in both races.

Runners may enter online at www.runsignup.com or by submitting a paper entry form to the City of Sebree, PO Box 245, Sebree, KY 42455. The fees for entry are listed on the entry form.

For additional information, contact Bob Hardison at 270-635-8829.

Computer timing will be by To The Finish LLC.

Deaths And Funerals

Norman Dickerson, Jr.

Norman Edward "Chip" Dickerson, Jr., 63, of Dawson Springs, Kentucky died on Saturday, June 20 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, Kentucky.

He was born in Henderson, Kentucky on March 30, 1963 to the late Norman Edward Dickerson, Sr. and Erma Sue Hicks Dickerson.

Chip was raised in Onton before moving to Florida. He retired from Blueridge GA in 2024. He enjoyed the



outdoors, including the beach, boating, and hunting, and he loved spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Chip is survived by

three children, Amber (Josh) Hamilton of Madisonville, Brittany (Austin) Stewart of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Matthew (Anna) Dickerson of Kansas City, Kansas; a sister, Lisa (Dave) Bruce of Dawson Springs; and seven grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made to Onton Cemetery, 471 State Route 147, Slaughters, KY 42456.

Tomblinson Funeral Home, Sebree Chapel, handled arrangements.

NOTICE TO WEBSTER COUNTY TAXPAYERS

Valerie Newell, Webster County Clerk pursuant to KRS 424.130, announces that the 2025 Delinquent Real Property and 2024 Oil bills (Certificates of Delinquency) will be published in the Sebree Banner on July 8th, 2026. The list of Certificates of Delinquency is also available for public inspection during the hours of Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm at the County Clerk's office located at 25 US Hwy 41-A S Dixon, KY 42409. This list may also be inspected on the County Clerk's website. The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the website is www.webstercountyclerk.ky.gov. The tax sale will be held on August 5th, 2026 beginning at 10 am. All interested participants must register with the County Clerk's office by the close of business on July 27th, 2026. Please contact the County Clerk's office or access the website if you need additional information about the tax sale registration process, the required registration fee or the deposit amounts that will be needed. Taxpayers can continue to pay their delinquent tax bills to the County Clerk's office anytime prior to the tax sale. **Please Note: All payments must be received in the County Clerk's office prior to the tax sale date listed in this advertisement. Payments received after the tax sale has been conducted will be returned without exception.** Some delinquencies – although they have been advertised – will be excluded from the tax sale in accordance with the provisions of KRS 134.504(10)(b). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Clerk's office at 270.639.7006.