

Standard online reader survey



Q: After failing for the third straight year, what do you think should happen to the TN Ready standardized test given to students?

- End standardized testing -- **62%**
- Give tests on paper only, not online -- **35%**
- Keep trying to make online test work -- **3%**

GUEST EDITORIAL

Let's support products grown in Tennessee

Knowledge is power. That's particularly true when it comes to knowing where the things we eat and drink come from.

Labeling dairy products, fruits and vegetables and meats to let people know where their food comes from and how it is produced is beneficial to both farmers and consumers.

The Tennessee General Assembly took an admittedly small step to meeting that end this month, as well as helping beleaguered dairy producers in our region. Lawmakers have passed legislation that will help state residents find milk produced in Tennessee on their grocery shelves. The bill allows the labeling of "Local Tennessee Milk" for milk actually produced in this state.

The idea is to promote the state's milk industry, which is going through some very troubling times. Passage of the bill comes a month after national dairy company Dean Foods announced it was ending its purchasing contracts with more than 100 dairy farmers nationwide.

"Concern about losing these milk contracts is on every dairy farmer's mind, not only in East Tennessee, but the fear is moving across Tennessee that 'we may be next' in other parts of the state," said state Rep. David Hawk, R-Greeneville, who is one of the sponsors. The legislation puts no

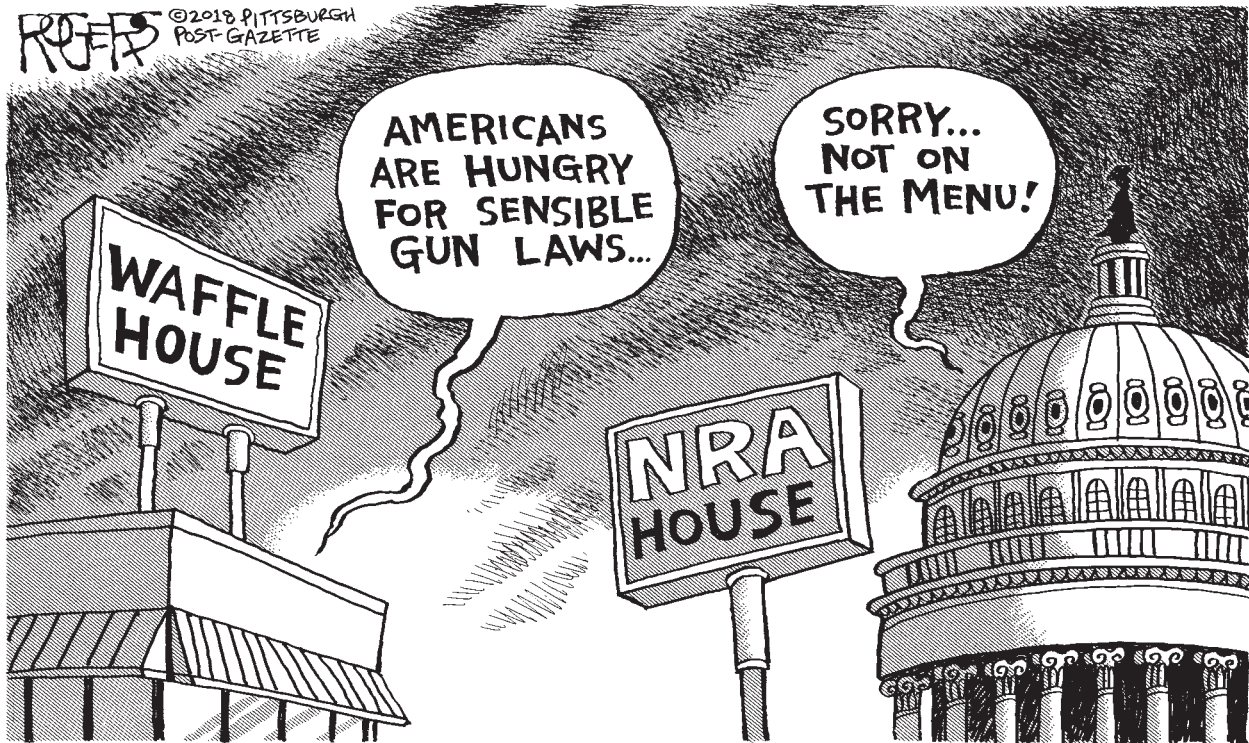
Johnson City Press

mandates on bottlers to label their products, but it is the first step to branding Tennessee milk as the dairy industry has done successfully in states like California and Wisconsin. Milk currently sold in grocery stores does have codes printed near the top of their containers and lids identifying where the milk originated, but consumers have to locate the code and punch it into a website, like whereismymilkfrom.com, to find its location.

Agriculture plays a significant role in Tennessee. That's why talk of a possible trade war with China and other countries over tariffs is disappointing to Tennessee farmers.

Tennessee's top agricultural commodities are soybeans, corn, cattle and greenhouse/nursery products. The state is also a leading producer of tobacco and hardwood in the U.S.

More Tennessee residents are looking to buy meat, vegetables and dairy foods that are produced locally and without growth hormones or preservatives. Consumers should enter into a partnership with farmers in their communities to learn how they grow the fruits and vegetables that end up on their dinner tables.



Comey likely a fruitcake

There have been a lot of questions about why Trump fired James Comey, ever since he announced to NBC's Lester Holt -- incomprehensibly -- that it was his decision, citing, by my count, at least a half-dozen different reasons.

On Sunday night, that question was answered. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Comey for showing the American people why he was so badly in need of firing.

Interviewed on his new book, "A Higher Loyalty," he is on ABC News accusing Trump of hiring prostitutes to urinate on a hotel bed in Moscow:

"I honestly never thought these words would come out of my mouth, but I don't know whether the current president of the United States was with prostitutes peeing on each other in Moscow in 2013. It's possible, but I don't know."

And here he is on ABC accusing Trump of colluding with Russia:

"More words I never thought I'd utter about a president of the United States -- but it's possible (that he is compromised by Russia). It is stunning, and I wish I wasn't saying it, but it's just -- it's the truth. ... It's possible."

And here he is being interviewed by *USA Today* on Russian influence:

"I don't know (if President Trump has been compromised by the Russians). And these are words I never thought would come out of my mouth about an American president, but it's possible."

None of this says anything about the president. It tells us only that Comey has a low opinion of Trump, which I already knew.

But ABC's George Stephanopoulos replied to one of Comey's "it's possible" formulations, saying: "That's stun-

ning. You can't say for certain that the president of the United States is not compromised by the Russians?"

It's not "stunning." It's a sleight of hand. Ask me to give you my odds that Hillary Clinton eats small children for breakfast. IT'S STUNNING! COULTER SAYS 1 PERCENT CHANCE!

Comey says based on his years of experience in "the criminal investigation business," the fact the prostitute story bothered Trump so much suggested it was true.

1) Bringing up the prostitute story a handful of times hardly constitutes a

neurotic fixation. CNN has brought it up 1,583,749,996 times. Trump has brought up the size of his inaugural crowd more.

2) I don't find it particularly suspicious someone

would be obsessed with the one accusation that could do him the most damage. I can see both a guilty man and an innocent man fixating on that story. Comey only sees the guilty man.

Speaking of neurotic obsessions, I couldn't help but notice that Comey is obsessed with telling us how ethical he is. In the ABC interview alone, Comey used the word "truth" 42 times; "honest" 28 times, "ethical" 10 times -- "integrity," "principle" and "moral" at least five times apiece.

That's more than I hear in church on Sunday, and the preacher isn't taking about himself. Comey's talking about himself.

I honestly never thought these words would come out of my mouth, but I don't know whether the former director of the FBI carries 8-by-10 glossies of himself wherever he goes. It's possible. I don't know.

Somebody's got to do it

Driving past a fast-food restaurant today, I spotted a sign out front that said, "FUN JOBS! Apply inside!"

Fun jobs. The sign seemed to contradict something my dad used to say to me at least five times a week when I was a teen: "If it was fun, they wouldn't call it work." His other favorite sayings were, "That bed won't make itself," "That lawn won't mow itself," and the one we always hated to hear, "That fire you kids set in the garage won't go out by itself."

Still, I wonder: What could these "fun jobs" possibly be? Cleaning the restrooms? That's not much fun.

Perhaps that's why so many places have stopped cleaning their restrooms -- it's just not fun. It's, like, a job.

What would be a fun job in a fast-food restaurant?

Microwaving the food sounds fun. But after the first four or five hours, I'll bet teenagers figure out it's not as much fun as playing video games all day long, and then ordering a pizza online when you get hungry. If only they would pay us to play video games. That would be a fun job!

There's not really much of anything in a fast-food restaurant that would qualify as a fun job once you've done it a few hundred thousand times.

Emptying huge bins of trash, mopping floors, policing the parking lot -- not fun, not fun, not fun.

A fun job would be, say, testing sun-tan lotion.

Fifty-thousand a year to start, no experience necessary. That's the kind of place that should have a sign out-

side that says, "FUN JOBS! Apply inside!"

Being the heiress to a hotel fortune is probably a fun job. No wasting time getting a college degree; no bothering with inconvenient job interviews. Just buy a closet full of \$10,000-dresses and you're in business. The great part is that you pick your own hours and you're your own boss. Now that's fun.

The bad news? No paid vacations. Bummer.

Movie stars look like they have lots of fun on the job. Most Hollywood studios could believably post a "FUN JOBS! Apply inside!" sign. No one asks

movie stars to clean the studio parking lot; someone's always fussing with their hair and makeup; they get driven to work in a limousine and they get an entire RV for a dress-

ing room. Best of all, the minimum wage for movies stars is a few million dollars a year.

Here's the perfect first, fun job for a young high school student: cellphone tester. The kids would work on commission. The phone companies would give them a cut of their parents' bill -- say, 15 percent. So if your phone bill is \$100, your high-schooler would only make \$15 that month. But if they can drive your bill up to \$700 or so, they could make a decent amount of cash.

Some of them might even be able to test two phones at a time. They wouldn't have to learn how to make change the way they would at that "fun" fast-food job, and they wouldn't have to wear a uniform. It'd be like hardly working at all. What a fun job!

Contact Jim Mullen at mullen.jim@gmail.com.



Established 1879

Southern Standard

Publication No. 506-840

Patricia Zechman, Publisher
James Clark, Editor

Phyllis Vanatta, Business Manager
Dale Stubbsfield, Circulation Director

Phone: 473-2191
105 College St., McMinnville, TN 37110
FAX: 473-6823
Email: standard@blomand.net
Website: www.southernstandard.com

Copyright Standard Publishing Company,
All Rights Reserved

2018 PRESS MEMBER

A PRIDE WINNING NEWSPAPER

UT-TPA Press Awards 2016



VILLAGE IDIOT

JIM MULLEN

LIVIN' LA VIDA LACY

LACY GARRISON



I'm a fangirl of Drew Barrymore

I'll readily admit I'm a Drew Barrymore fangirl. I adore the films "Ever After" (1998) and "Never Been Kissed" (1999). Both are swoonily romantic. I own them and rewatch them frequently when I need a girly pick-me-up.

In "Ever After," Barrymore stars as Danielle de Barbarac, the idealistic servant girl and the best portrayal of Cinderella, hands down. Her costume in that masquerade scene is my all-time favorite! She shows up in her mother's white gown wearing iridescent wings before uttering reassuring words to herself, "Breathe. Just Breathe."

Now, "Never Been Kissed" gets me on so many levels. For one, Barrymore's character Josie Geller, is a talented copy editor at the *Chicago Sun-Times* who longs to become a reporter. (Sound like anyone you know?) She finally gets her wish, but her assignment is to go undercover at a local high school to report on teens. The prom scene is the absolute best. She reveals her true identity as a reporter after ruining the popular girls' attempts at dumping dog food all over her friend.

"Gibby, Kirstin, Krysten, you will spend your whole lives trying to keep others down because it makes you feel more important, but why her? Let me tell you about this girl she is amazing. I was new here and she befriended me no questions asked. But you, you were only my friends after my brother, Rob, told you to like me. There is a great big world out there and it won't matter if you were the most popu-lar girl, the quarterback of the football team, or the biggest nerd in school. Find out who you are and try not to be afraid of it." Insert raised hands emoji here. Preach, Josie, preach!

In 2014, I bought Barrymore's book "Find It in Everything," which is a collection of photographs she has taken over the past 10 years. These photographs reveal hearts found in everyday situations such as a hole in a shirt or a discarded straw wrapper. It's a delightful little book and has inspired me to be much more observant of my own life.

Barrymore also has an affordable cosmetic line called Flower Beauty. Even though my makeup bag has an assortment of products, I've got several of hers. Right now, I use her Lash Warrior Mascara and Flower Lighten Up! Brightening Concealer Click Pen on the daily. What's more, she gives awesome tutorials real women can follow. You can find Flower Beauty online, at Walmart or Ulta Beauty.

Drew Barrymore just oozes girl power and positivity. I've been following her on Instagram for ages. Recently, I stumbled across Dear Drew, her clothing line, which features a variety of apparel, accessories and jewelry with messages of love and affirmation throughout the designs. My sweet hubby surprised me with the black Everyday Heart Clasp Crossbody Bag and a super cool fanny pack called Women's Tourist for a Day Belt Bag in bright red and blue. I'm so pumped to sport these around town while I'm reporting. Check out her Dear Drew selection on Amazon.

Standard reporter Lacy Garrison can be reached at 473-2191.