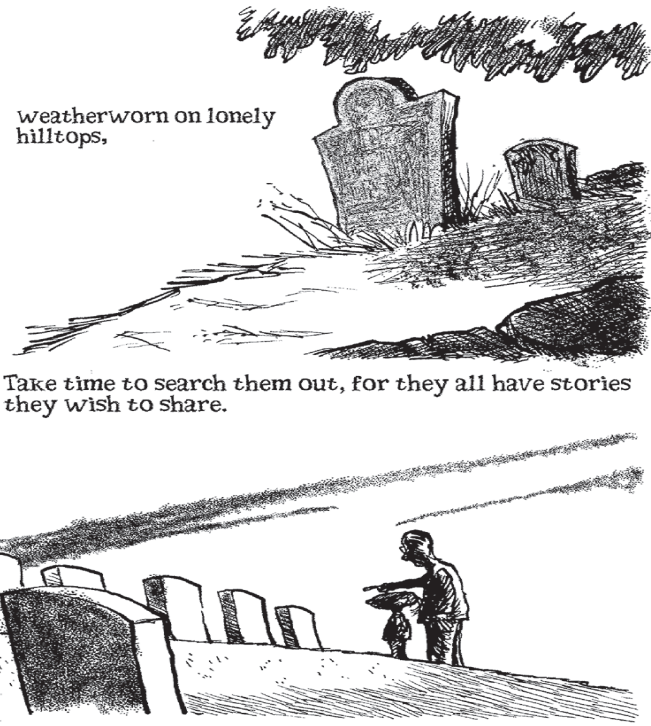
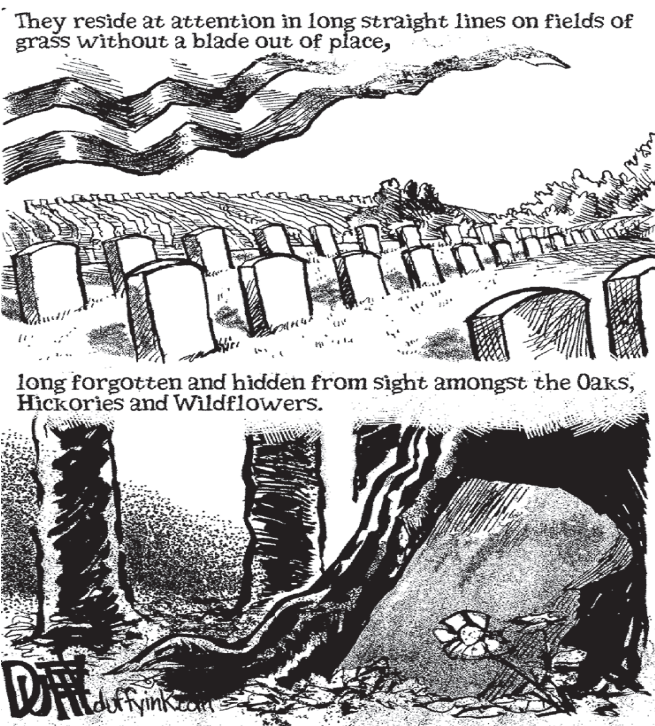


# Editorial & Opinions ENOUGH

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*"Create an interactive environment that facilitates debate among readers on issues concerning them," Jeff Jobe, 1998*  
*"Because you have stood with us in the past; we commit to never allow pressures to stop us from standing for you today," Jeff Jobe, 2010*



Views expressed on this page are those of the author alone and not necessarily endorsed by this newspaper.

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## Making memories when old meets new

What's better than a new business coming to the county? A knew business that celebrates the old days, and refurbishes the old and makes it new again.

When I was a kid, there were a few old-fashioned country stores dotted along the back roads and highways of Southcentral Kentucky. The country store of my youth was in Sulphur Lick, Kentucky, and called Mrs. Leamon's Grocery; So you can imagine my excitement when I learned that it was reopening its doors as the Sulphur Lick Store.

Some of the fondest memories were made in that old store.

In the summer, it was a treat to get a Flintstone's orange push-ups pop or ice cream sandwich from the ice chest. The small tidbit of something from the candy counter was relished in any season, and in the winter people of all ages still huddled around a potbellied wood stove. I recall standing near its warmth after being snowed in for several days and the ice and snow dripping from my mittens before I selected something from the old wooden shelves. If I close my eyes in recollection, I can still taste the bologna sandwiches made to order, and the bowls of pinto beans and cornbread.

## Letter to the Editor Response to: "Speaking of Jobs"

Thank you for your article, "Speaking of Jobs", in the May 16th issue of the news. I found it very refreshing as you mentioned topics usually discussed only in closed circles. And I couldn't agree more with your statement in the last paragraph of this not being a simple problem with a simple answer. In my opinion, what I would like to see is a hard core group of Monroe County representatives coming together as a "think tank" who would consider and ponder the long term vision for the county. Not just one or two or even five years, but 10 to 50 years down the road. What is the image you have of Monroe County in 2065? And how do we get there? I don't believe it starts with big grandiose ideas but rather in incremental steps. And granted, many steps in that direction Have Been Taken. Walmart coming to Tompkinsville which draws customers from all around. A new Justice Center,

If you needed some paper towels, you could get them there. If you needed a few nails to finish a project you could get those, too.

I remember once my mother's mop handle broke, and sure enough we found a replacement at Mrs. Leamon's Grocery. It was always our first stop, because it was the closest.

My earliest memories of there began at the age of three or four, and I am happy to say I carry them with me still.

Now that my own son is four, I have certainly had moments of sorrow as many of the places I relished in my booth are gone, and I can't take him back there to share those same memories. The country stores like Mrs. Leamon's in Sulphur Lick, and Wilkey Smith's in Summer Shade have all but been forgotten by most and it's a different world.

With that said, I tip my hat to the family who refurbished and opened the old Sulphur Lick Grocery again.

I understand that they also have a selection of home decor and farmhouse style items, and it is great addition which echoes the old while ringing in the new.

I can't wait to take my son there for a sandwich, or to get an ice cream on a hot summer day. It's something I'm quite looking forward to. Walking back through the doors after all these years will be bittersweet, but I am certain the sweetness will outweigh the rest.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Richardson  
Coordinator  
Monroe County Economic  
Development, Chamber and Tourism

## So, you're graduating

By **SAM TERRY**  
Managing Editor  
Jobe Publishing Inc.

You're about to join thousands of other Kentucky students in donning graduation robes and mortarboards to be part of the annual rite of passage known as high school graduation. Just as in years past, there will be tears of joy and sighs of relief from parents and grandparents as they watch you move from one phase of life into young adulthood.



There will be commencement speeches filled with glowing remarks about your accomplishments over the past twelve or so years. There will be predictions of incredible success that we hope will become reality. There will be mortarboards tossed into the air in celebration.

And then, reality begins. Those unique headpieces cast skyward will all do the same thing: they will stop in mid-air and, just like the life that is before you, they will return to the earth and land in unexpected places. We like to think we know where our lives will take us but sometimes life has other ideas. We end up in very different places and circumstances than we imagined while that cap was soaring upward.

Most of you have been loved and cared for by your family, friends, teachers, and others. They've held you, kissed your boo-boos, wiped your mouth and your bottom, taught you, coached you, counseled you, driven you, fed you, clothed you, worked through every phase of your ever-changing maturity, and encouraged you. You've been the apple of their eye and the reason they smile when you walk into a room. You are their pride and joy.

We've got a lot of pride in you, too. We've been there and watched you. Your picture was probably in this newspaper as we covered your academic achievements, your ballgames, your plays, your recitals, your science fairs, and more. Now that you're graduating, we look forward to seeing what you do with your life and the paths you'll take as you embark on a new journey.

The reality that begins this week is that your life is probably going to be different than you imagined. Whether you are entering the workforce or continuing your education, you will likely find your boss, your new co-workers, and your college professors will treat you differently than what you've experienced so far.

Without a doubt, you and your classmates were told that you are unique, that you are special, that you will achieve great things. You were possibly told that you are "one in a million." Have you considered that if that statement is true, and with 7.442 billion people on earth, there are more than 7,000 people just like you? If there are over 7,000 special people identical to you, the magnitude of your specialness diminishes rather quickly. That's a reality of life.

It's humbling to realize that even with all of your years of education and nurturing, your education is not finished – it's just entering a new phase. You'll likely discover how little you really know. You'll discover, in time, that your mentors gave you some good advice along the way even if you chose to ignore it. You'll realize that you will make mistakes, you will be disappointed, your heart will be broken, you'll be cut down when you think you've got everything going for you. You will also learn that it's okay because you will learn from those experiences and you will become a more authentic person.

As you move through life, you'll discover that you must pursue life with determination and enthusiasm. Our country was founded on the principle that we are guaranteed the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It's important to remember that you must pursue something rather than wait for it to come to you. Remember to get up and get busy – this world of ours needs you and the best you can give to make it better.

You will learn that there are more important reasons for doing something than because "it will look good on your resume." You will learn that you gain more by doing things that benefit our society and others than you will by selfishly wondering "what do I get out of this?" You will learn that you have two ears and one mouth for a reason and you should use them in that proportion. You will learn that there's nothing better than hard work, passionate play, loyalty, and enthusiasm; you will learn the value of those traits in others. You'll learn the rewards of being as interested in others' success as your own. You will realize that your education never ends, so embrace it daily.

Congratulations. Good luck. Go make extraordinary lives for yourself and others. We're counting on you.

### Graduation Announcements

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Monroe County THE CITIZEN

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