

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



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Karma and swimming into 2019

By **JEFF JOBE**
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As I plan to move into the new year I want to take moment and look back at my accomplishments, and challenges of the previous year.

At my age the transgressions I have are from long ago and time has heeled those wounds. This combined with happy and healthy children make it difficult for 2018 to be anything less than a good year.

Without a doubt 2018 was busier than most; with the purchase of two new newspapers, steady growth and on-line demands like never before.

At this point one might think my year was just plain amazing but let me share some insight; it literally almost came to a screeching halt.

I began the year with a commitment to physical fitness and was swimming four days a week at our local YMCA. I had been doing this for well over a year.

One particular morning I parked my car on the square in Glasgow as I had done for 15 years; but on this day it was like no other. When exiting my vehicle, I was looking up the hill at on-coming traffic and there was none. I wasn't crossing in a crosswalk but it felt safe because at 7:30 am there is little traffic and it has a very slow speed around the square.

I crossed the first lane and was waiting in the median for the second lane to clear, when a car hit me from behind. I didn't see or hear anything. The car was driven by a young woman and she felt terrible about hitting me. She apologized profusely explaining that she was rushed and not paying attention.

A witness confirmed my thoughts saying she saw me thrown in the air and come down on the hood of the car. I remember time stopping for a moment as I was on the hood, thinking it was over when yet another vehicle slammed into the rear of this car, throwing me back onto the blacktop.

As I lay on the ground I began to shiver uncontrollably, for some reason it felt as if I was freezing. I was so cold I couldn't speak and my first words were asking for my glasses to only be told they were on my face.

A nice lady sat down on the blacktop and held my head on her lap while a city worker removed his jacket and covered me saying, "hang in there Mr. Jobe you will be fine."

As I lay there all I could think of was that my daughters were at home and would be worried. I tried to stand but it seemed I was too cold and couldn't get balance.

During the ride to the hospital one of the paramedics phoned my daughter Reagan for me, she had already heard I had been hit and was on her way to the hospital.

Seeing her at the hospital and worried upset me. So I did my best to make her laugh, I don't like to see my children worry; I strive to shelter them from this burden as much as possible.

They x-rayed me and performed many tests, gave me pain medicines and then I actually walked out of the hospital. I have now survived being ran over by a boat and a car and lived to tell about it.

All was fine until about 3 am. the following morning when I tried to reposition myself in bed. I thought I was going to die. My entire body locked up with fear of moving because of the pain. I couldn't roll over, stand or even raise my head for days.



JOBE FOR KENTUCKY
with Jeff Jobe

It was determined that I had cracked ribs, and deep bruising with the most culminating on my right side. This began months of physical therapy and treatment and although I have picked up some strange side affects like having three toes numb on my right foot, and lower back pain from time-to-time; I am extremely happy to be where I am today in my recovery and once again beginning to enjoy short swims.

I found humor in my accident and I wasn't alone. A fella who was upset with a news story written by one of my editors seemed to enjoy the fact I had been hurt. So much that he wrote a song about the accident.

His song was written to the tune of Grandma got ran over by a reindeer. It goes something like this; Jeff Jobe got ran over by a Honda, walking into George J's one New Year's Eve. Some don't believe in Karma, but as for me, and (two other names upset with me) we believe.

He never sang for me but it was funny to my friends and even some of my family once they knew I was going to be okay.

This isn't the first ballad or song that has been written and shared to poke fun at me for doing my job. Years earlier there was a, "Ballad of Jeffy". I don't remember the lyrics but they centered around the way I walk because of a boating accident I was involved in as a child.

There is tremendous similarities in the authors. Both were upset that a government friend had been exposed for not complying with state regulations and indirectly this affected their businesses.

When people get to a point where they don't care if they follow the laws or not; ironically they are themselves destined for Karma. I'm not sure exactly what Karma means or if any of us are equipped to judge another man's meaning of life, however for decades I have witnessed life having a way of giving back some of the energy you throw out. Every unethical attack I have seen in my work has far more negative energy coming to roost to the attacker than I ever experienced.

This is why I choose my words so very cautiously. Not in fear of a new ballad, or upsetting people who think rules don't pertain to them; but because I know words can hurt people and I don't want to hurt anyone. If these big government types could ever find honesty within themselves they would admit what I have written is simply truth. Like them I have never been hurt more than an honest critique of my transgressions.

I wish us all a wonderful new year that comes from truth in accepting who we are and I can only hope 2019 will be as good to me and my family as 2018.

Jeff Jobe is founder and CEO of Jobe Publishing, Inc. His commentary reflects his personal views and does not reflect the views of personal or professional associations and affiliations. Reach him at jobe@jobeinc.com. Read his previously published commentary at www.jobeforkentucky.com.

What will 2019 bring?



By **JENNIFER MOONSONG**
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It is undeniable that there is something intriguing and refreshing about the start of a new year. Closely examined, January 1st isn't greatly unlike any other day, but for the way we humans think of it.

Even so, it is a chance to reset the clock and start anew. If goals from the former year did not get accomplished, it is a second chance. If new opportunities come your way, it's a chance to make the best of it.

We don't yet know what 2019 will hold for Monroe County. With some newly elected officials at the helm, I am sure everyone has expectations.

We don't know what the future holds, no, but we do know what assets Monroe County has.

When it comes to arts and humanities, Monroe County is ahead of the curve for a small community of its size and economic standing.

The fitness center is a wonderful asset that few communities have.

Another strength is community organizations and involvement. I've heard it said that when it comes to these organizations, it is the same dozen people involved in each. Some might see that as a negative, but I don't. It says to me that a small town has a dozen dedicated people with its best interest at heart, and that is saying a lot.

Downtown activity is also strong with businesses surviving and striving.

With all of those building blocks in place, I think it is safe to hope for good things in this new year.

What do you all hope to see in 2019?

Immigration issue



By **JERRY MATERA**
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News-Herald Editor Emeritus

Fix immigration! That was a recent commentator's comments on a news show and that's what I believe is the way to go. That \$5 billion would go a long way to addressing the problems we face with this issue, where a wall, in my opinion, would not solve the problem of illegal immigration.

I am not an immigrant. I was born and raised in this country. But, both my parents were immigrants and became naturalized citizens sometime in the 1920's. They raised a family of six children, three of whom graduated from college and the other three retired from years on jobs. My father built a productive business and realized the American dream, a good and productive life in this country and my mother assisted her children to reach their dreams. Neither of them had a formal education, but they both had the drive to accomplish their dreams. They left Italy because they saw more opportunities in this country and they took advantage of them.

Our president wants to cut off aid to several countries which send their people to the U.S. Why do they want to leave their native countries? Can some of the funds we give them be based on issues why their people are not comfortable in their native lands? Five billion dollars will go a long way to helping them solve some of their problems.

There are good, driven people wanting to better their lives and in so doing contribute much by coming to this country and we need them. Let's research and improve our immigration laws to handle these people. Hire more intelligent immigration department people to figure this out. Hire more people on our borders to regulate the immigration flow. Five billion dollars will go a long way for this.

What do you think?

Letter to the Editor Policy

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