

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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Coordinating a community plan for growth

By **JEFF JOBE**
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The end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019 is a time of reflection, a time to take pride in all the great things we have achieved as a nation, state, region, and community. But we must also look ahead and be realistic about the challenges that remain and the opportunities they present.

While most experts believe the economy is fundamentally strong, for us here at home we need to be honest with ourselves; we have not seen the growth others have and we need to coordinate a plan to make it happen.

Elections are over and those re-elected can stop pretending all is good. For those newly elected they can now prove to those who supported them that they have what it takes. Now is the time for us all to come together and cooperate for the good of our community.

I say cooperate because this is the absolute most important aspect of leadership. Too many times, we have community leaders spend as much time behind closed doors than they do in open session. I have been covering community news and editing it for decades and I assure you that little good is done in closed sessions and even less for the good of us all if details are not known in advance.

Now is the time for an unified and open team approach to growing our region as a whole. Each city and county should have citizen groups organized to communicate with existing industry, tourism and others who focus on new local initiatives for bringing business and creating incentives for those already here to expand, or upgrade their community appeal.

Nobody should expect for all this to be done in a single one-hour monthly meeting. The official not worthy of leadership will not understand the importance of delegation and will be intimidated by others wanting to help their community.

A few weeks ago it became so very clear to me that even though we may not always agree on politics and yes we do have extreme diverse opinions; that when it comes to local initiatives we should be able to put aside these differences for the good of community.

Glasses have been a blessing for me

By **JUNE B. RICE**
Jobe News Network Contributor

When I was in seventh grade I got so I could not read the words on the blackboard where, at that time (before any kind of duplicator was in use) the teacher would write the test questions and information she wanted us to write down and learn. My parents took me to an eye doctor and I got my first pair of glasses. I could still read without glasses, but I was surprised that I could see individual leaves on the trees instead of just a big green blob.

This opened a new world to me, as I could see the blackboard, see details at the movies (television had not made its appearance at that time) and I put on my glasses first thing in the morning, I never lost my glasses. My nearsightedness progressed until I had my rimless glasses and a plastic-rimmed pair in case I broke my glasses. By that time I was in college, and my roommate, Jennie Foster, also wore plastic-rimmed glasses. One day she was pol-



JOB FOR KENTUCKY
with Jeff Jobe

This realization came about when Barren County Circuit Clerk Krissie Fields reached out to our newspaper, the Glasgow Daily Times, Royce Radio and Commonwealth Broadcasting asking for help in coordinating a political forum.

For the first time, I sat in the same room with each of these long serving community media groups as contributors to community rather than historians documenting the meeting. We established rules and a plan for a political forum; we secured questions from our supporters and brought them together. We met a couple times on our own and I enjoyed the experience.

The Glasgow-Barren County Chamber chose not to participate for some reason so Fields asked us to pick up the slack and we did. By coordinating this effort, we were in agreement on the approach and I believe having us working together helped assure fairness for participants.

South Central Kentucky has been good to our company and the families who make it up and I am offering our services to help promote, coordinate or hit the ground running in 2019 in anyway and work with anyone who wants to serve our communities in an open and honest manner.

We can't afford to go back to the failing closed door practices that has us falling behind communities our size a decade ago.

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.

ishing her fingernails with a pretty bright red color. She was tempted to paint the rims of her glasses, but chickened out.

I said, "You can paint my spare glasses. I haven't needed to wear them anyhow." She did, and I put them on. This was 1948 and one was supposed to make glasses as inconspicuous as possible. I got so many compliments that I wore them all the time instead of my "good" glasses. First thing I knew, I had more boyfriends than I had ever had before!

When I notified the person who was going to meet my bus when I traveled to Waterman, Illinois, to interview for a job, I told them I would be wearing red glasses. The school secretary later told me that bit of information caused the Board of Education some concern! I got the job anyhow, and for years I wore those red glasses.

I had some wine-colored rims on partly-rimless glasses that Dr. Joe Conley, my optometrist for sixty years in Paintsville, prescribed after I had cataract surgery in the nineties. I liked those glasses, and the bifocals helped me to read the written word. No longer could I read without glasses, and they told me I would never

Letter to the Editor


Volunteers for Leah Carter recovery


I can't explain the feeling yesterday when I heard the call across the radio that the search was over. Relief, sadness, thankful, a flood of emotions, that it was over, and Leah could be with her family to help them through their closure and healing. Barren Co Rescue Swiftwater and Dive Team extends their heartfelt sympathy to the family of Leah Carter.


It is overwhelming to look back on the hundreds of volunteers we crossed paths with since New Years Eve. Volunteers and agencies from the community, surrounding counties, across the great state of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana. I wish I had a way to personally thank each of you. You reaffirm the goodness and selflessness that is alive in the hearts of people across our great country. I am so grateful to know you are there. It is hard to envision the manpower, personnel in the water, on the banks, in the fields, working dogs, on 4 wheelers, horseback, drones, helicopters, Incident Command with the incredible task of directing and controlling the chaos that comes from such a massive event as this, the maps across the wall of the creeks and rivers all the way to the lake, marking each section, directing team leads to their search areas. The businesses and amazing people who prepared food for hundreds, and stood by to make sure everyone had what they needed. The farmers who opened their fences so we could access the creek and river bottoms. To the farmer who left the keys in his tractor yesterday sending us a message to use it if we needed it to get our boat and equipment to the water. To the 4 wheeler who showed up with hot coffee when our guys had been in the water for hours, how do you say thank you. I hope and pray in the months and years to come that Leah's family can find comfort somehow in the outpour of love shown by so many and that through Leah's story, lives will be saved. Rest In Peace Leah Carter.

Anita May, Barren Co. Rescue Swiftwater and Dive Team, Deputy Director Barren Co. Emergency Management

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have to change the prescription.

I still have to go to the eye doctor twice a year, as I have macular degeneration, the dry kind. Three or four years ago, I decided I wanted to get a new pair of glasses, and I did, but the only frames I liked were black ones. When I got them and put them on, I thought they looked awful! So I did not wear them at all. They got lost and I did not wear them at all for three years. I found them when I moved, and by that time, daughter Cathy had dark purple-rimmed glasses. I noticed on television that all the famous people have black rimmed glasses! I had been on the vanguard of a trend, and hadn't realized it! I now proudly wear my black-rimmed glasses, along with the rest of the herd.

I don't remember ever being teased because I had glasses. I wouldn't have cared if I had. I loved being able to see clearly what everybody else was seeing, and though my eyesight is failing, I am so glad I can still see well enough, with glasses and a magnifying glass, to read a book or a magazine, or anything else I need to read.

My glasses have been a great blessing to me since I was 12 years old!