

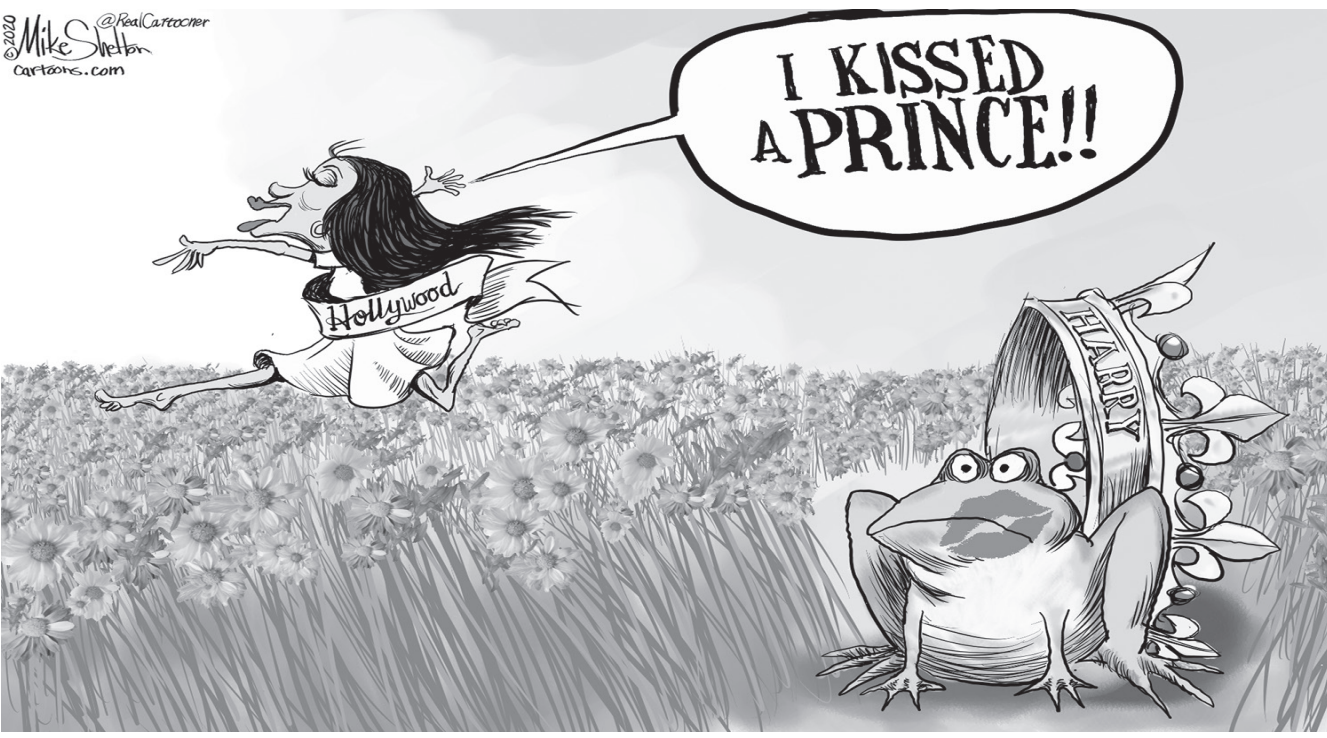
Editorial & Opinions ENOUGH

The Mission Statement of Jobe Publishing, Inc.

"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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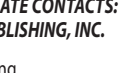
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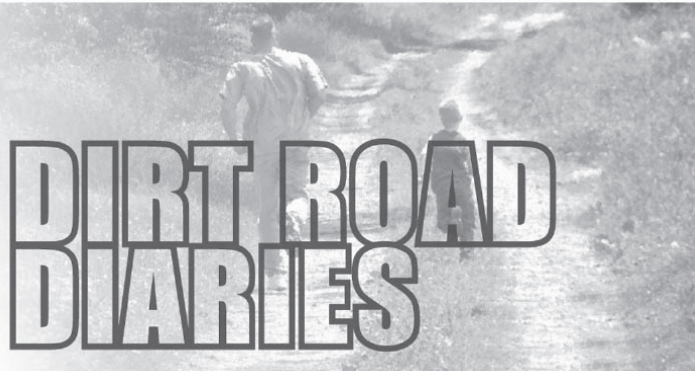
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By CLINTON POWELL
Jobe Publishing
Columnist

Question of the Day

My older brother, Steve, occasionally texts me this phrase followed by some subject from our past, usually some event that happened in our youth. He usually is trying to remember all of the details, but can't quite put it all together. Between the two of us, we often meld enough of our memories together that we reach a consensus of how said event unfolded. There are some occasions I have to use a certain gameshow's "phone a friend" option, which in our case might be a family member or possibly a childhood friend from our old neighborhood. Regardless of how we resolve it or how long it takes, I'm like a pit bull, I can't put it down until we are both satisfied we have successfully put it all together or we have exhausted all of our options.

One recent "question of the day" had us reminiscing about our Harwood Street neighborhood from the '50's and '60's. Those memories are most often focused around all the boys who grew up with us and were our "partners in crime" when we inevitably got into some kind of mischief, however there was a girl or two as well. As we recalled those wondrous summer days and nights playing games such as Annie Over and Kick The Can (most often in and around Steve Riddle's parent's house), my brother remembered a girl, who was closer to his age, who played right along with us rambunctious boys. After pondering a bit, memories came flooding back (funny how that happens) and it was as if it was just yesterday. I excitedly texted my brother back "she was a Pruitt, her name was Linda!" He concurred with my conclusion (I often wonder if he's just testing my memory, already knowing the answer) and added "she was always very kind to me. I wonder whatever happened to her?" That was exactly how I felt and the "pit bull" in me was awakened as I began my quest.

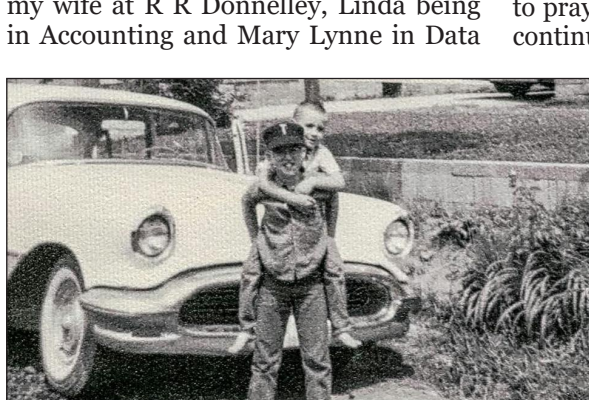
I was Facebook friends with Terri Pruitt who had been in the teenage girl's Sunday School Class my Mom taught many years later, she had even been at Mom's house for sleepovers with the class. Terri told me that Linda Pruitt (now Thomas) is her aunt and this gave my search a starting point. Using that tidbit of information, I found Linda through Facebook and have much enjoyed renewing old ties. While we were "catching up" I was surprised to find she had worked with my wife at R R Donnelley, Linda being in Accounting and Mary Lynne in Data

Processing...it is a small world after all.

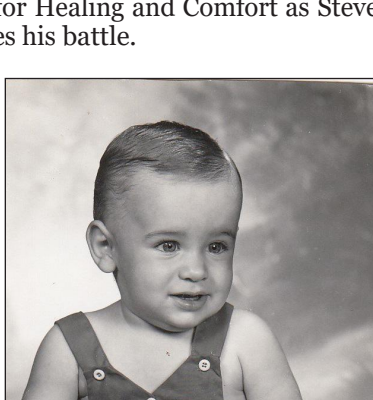
I reminded Linda of a story my Mom used to tell, of which, I have no memory as I was just a toddler. It seems I escaped from our house and took off down the street wearing nothing but a diaper (I was probably trying to catch my older brother who I followed around like a shadow). Apparently, Linda found me somewhere down the street, naked as a jay bird, my diaper lost somewhere in my wake. Seems I was streaking long before it was popularized in the Ray Stevens song "The Streak." In any event, Linda graciously corralled me and escorted me back home to my very thankful Mom.

Linda admitted she was very much a tomboy in her youth, often joining us for our adventures at the old rock quarry and playing those outdoor games that just seemed to center in and around Steve Riddle's house. A few years after my run in the buff, I remember during one of those games, I fell in the gravel street, scraping up a knee or elbow (this happened to me so often, I had perpetual healing scabs over multiple parts of my body). As I lay in the street blubbering, the older boys told me "get up, you ain't hurt, just shake it off," for which I can't blame them as it is exactly what we heard from our Dads whenever we stumbled. Linda, on the other hand, helped me to my feet, put her arm around me and walked me to her house, comforting me all the way. She cleaned my scrape, put some kind of ointment on it, with a bandage on the deepest cut that had bled the most. She was so very kind and gentle to this little boy and dried away all those crocodile tears streaming from my eyes. It was no wonder to me to find out she is a caregiver to the elderly (which she admittedly loves) since she retired from RRD.

Linda told me her tomboy days as well as all the sports knowledge she received from both my brother, Steve, and Steve Riddle, came in very handy while she raised three boys of her own. While getting reacquainted with old neighborhood friends, I found out that Steve Riddle, who has been battling terminal cancer for a little more than two years, had a recent down turn. Although he has recovered enough to resume his chemotherapy, the prognosis is not good. I would like to ask anyone who believes in God's Holy Power, to pray for Healing and Comfort as Steve continues his battle.



Big brother, Steve, and me on Harwood St. in front of our '56 Olds.



Me, while the cuteness still masked the mischief.

Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates Surpasses a Record Number

Special to the NEWS-HERALD

The power of YES has resulted in 2019 being a record-breaking year for saving lives around Kentucky. Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA), the organ procurement organization for most of Kentucky, Southern Indiana and Huntington, WV, was able to support the decisions for donation and transplantation of 137 organ donors resulting in 416 organs being transplanted. This was the highest number of organ donors ever for KODA.

Additionally, there were a record-breaking 523 tissue donors who generously healed thousands of lives with their gifts in 2019, representing a 42 percent increase over the previous year. KODA's partner Kentucky Lions Eye Bank also reports 734 cornea donors gave the gift of sight in 2019 resulting in 1,142 corneal transplants.

Julie Bergin, KODA's President, and CEO said 2019 was an extraordinary year of growth for KODA due to the generosity of donor families and more people having joined donor registries in recent years. "Looking back over the past 12 months, we have achieved ambitious goals including rapid growth in employment to support more families than ever before and saving more lives through organ and tissue transplantation," Bergin said. "I am proud to work with such a committed and caring group of people who work tirelessly to honor the gift of donation."

Bergin said that growth in 2019 positions KODA to help more in 2020 and beyond. "There is still much to be done including nearly 113,000 patients still in need of the healing gifts given by organ donors. We will continue to work tirelessly to meet the need."

Among its 137 donors, KODA staff facilitated 35 Donation after Cardiac Death Donors(DCD), nearly double from 2018. In most cases, an organ donor has died from brain death. However, in some cases, the gift of life is possible for a limited time after cardiac death has been pronounced.

The solid partnerships built with 112 hospitals and 3 transplant centers that KODA serves were essential to reaching an unprecedented number of donations last year. KODA also worked closely with the Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks, Kentucky state legislators and local Coroners to ensure continued success of the mission.

Nationally in 2019, 11,870 people gave the lifesaving gift of organ donation upon their death resulting in nearly 40,000 total transplants. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), this made 2019 the 7th straight year of increase in the number of transplants performed.

With the number of people waiting for a transplant far exceeding the organs, tissue, and corneas that are available, the need is great. Tragically 22 people die each day without receiving one. Everyone can register online as a donor to bring hope to those waiting.

If you would like to know more, please contact Shelley Snyder, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships with KODA at 502-322-5401. For more information about organ, tissue and cornea donation or to register as a donor, please visit our website at donatelife.org.

Letter to the Editor

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