

Editorial & Opinions ENOUGH

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The Coronavirus spreads...

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JEFF JOBE, GROUP PUBLISHER
 jobe@jobeinc.com
 270-590-6625 cell

Staff Directory:
Barren
 Jeff Jobe, Publisher
 progress@jpinews.com
 270-659-2146 office

Jessica Macy, Sales
 Jessicamacy@jpinews.com
 270-590-6628

Thomas Wampler, Sports
 thomas.freelancewriter@gmail.com

Butler
 Carol Hatcher, Office Mgr.
 banner@jpinews.com
 270-526-4151 office

Lynzie Embry, Managing Editor
 sales@jpinews.com
 270-792-4384

Edmonson
 Meredith Warthan, Office Mgr.
 ednews@windstream.net
 270-597-3115 office

Valerie Hunter
 ednews@windstream.net
 270-597-3115 office

Hart
 Jerry Matera, Editor Emeritus
 print@jpinews.com
 270-786-2676 office

Mary Beth Sallee, Reporter
 marybeth@jpinews.com
 270-786-2676 office

Jessica Macy, Sales
 Jessicamacy@jpinews.com
 270-590-6628

Metcalf
 Jennifer Moonsong, General Mgr.
 jupitermoonsong@yahoo.com
 270-670-9233 cell

PJ Martin, Editor
 heraldnews@jpinews.com
 270-432-3291 office

Monroe
 Jennifer Moonsong, General Mgr.
 jupitermoonsong@yahoo.com
 270-670-9233 cell

Russell
 Shelby Maldonado, Office Mgr.
 270-866-3191 office
 270-866-3198 fax
 people@russellcountynewspapers.com

CORPORATE CONTACTS:
JOBE PUBLISHING, INC.

Advertising
 270-786-2676 Office
 print@jpinews.com

Lesia Logsdon, Circulation
 270-786-2676 Office
 lesialogsdon@jpinews.com

Michelle Rowe, Internet/Web
 270-786-2676 Office
 michelle.rowe@jpinews.com

Anissa Meredith, Printing
 270-786-2676 Office
 anissameredith@jpinews.com



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Spring Rituals



By **JENNIFER MOONSONG**
 jupitermoonsong@yahoo.com
 Times-Journal Reporter

Sunday felt a lot like spring.

Fall is my favorite, but spring is a very close second. I love the sensory overload that happens as the earth warmly awakens with all of the sights, sounds and aromas of the season.

Many sources report 2020 as having “the earliest spring in 100 years”, and by all indications, it is true.

The daffodils, known more commonly in these parts as Buttercups, are already flooding roadside gullies, pasture hill-sides and everyplace a house ever stood, in a flurry of yellow blossoms. Looking from a distance, a crimson hue can be seen in the branches as tiny red Maple leaves unfurl into greenness. Centipedes and wildflowers are beginning to move about on the forest floor, beneath last year’s fallen leaves. It’s a beautiful, annual reminder that in the continuing cycles of birth and death, life is eternal.

I have been reading “Daily Rituals: How Artists Work”, and in addition to many other things it has brought to mind how much of life is ritual, and how those rituals are innately tethered to the seasons.

By virtue of how we live today, versus how we used to live generations ago, those rituals may not so closely adhere to the source, but they still exist in some form.

I recall my father talking many times about how his grandmother had certain

rituals that accompanied springtime. Spring cleaning, for example, is still a term commonly used today. It is more of a purging of clutter accumulated through the holiday-laden winter months now, but it still exists.

In the era of my great-grandmother, it was a downright necessity. Homes that used only wood heat, had been closed up through the winter to keep the warm and in and the cold out. Floors were covered with dust and wood chips, walls were sooty, windows, dusty and bleak and curtains were heavy with the weight of wood smoke. Spring cleaning meant finally having days warm enough to open the doors and widows for an “airing out”, to hang the rugs on the clothesline and beat them with wire rug beaters and to take the washboard out on the porch.

My father also spoke often about my great-grandmother’s spring ritual of picking the first dandelion greens, creasy greens, and other wild greens that grow at the first sign of spring, to cook and eat. It was a spring cleaning of sorts for the body, as was the making of dandelion root tea. All of this, decades upon decades ahead of the popular modern day Detox Teas and Body Cleanse products found in every store.

As springs come and go, I hope that we do not only hold onto rituals but take the time to remember the roots of the ritual, so that they do not become hollow pastimes, but actions that tie the human race together, with meaning.

Jennifer Moonsong has been a journalist in South Central Kentucky for 12 years. She serves as the General Manager for the Metcalfe County and Monroe County, and is a regional features writer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Russell County Times-Journal welcomes letters to the editor regarding our publications or local issues of importance. Letters should be no more than 300 words; we reserve the right to edit for clarity or length, or to reject letters that are in poor taste or libelous. Writers must include their name and a valid telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will be rejected. Send your letter by email to jobe@jobeinc.com or mail to or drop off at any Jobe Publishing office.



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Community Meeting Schedules

Russell Springs Council – 2nd Thursday of each month at the municipal room at the City Hall at 6 p.m.

Jamestown Council – 3rd Thursday of each month in the basement of Jamestown City Hall at 6 p.m.

Fiscal Court – 2nd Monday of each month in the Russell County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

School Board – 3rd Monday of each month at various locations at 6 p.m.

Russell County Chamber of Commerce – 3rd Tuesday of each month at various local businesses at 12 noon (CST). Contact the chamber office at (270) 866-4303 for details of this month’s meeting location.

Lake Cumberland Area Development District – Board of Directors – 4th Thursday of every odd numbered month at the Area Development District Office at 11 a.m.

Russell County Health Department Board – Local health board meetings are held annually and occur in February. District board meetings are held quarterly.

Russell County Ambulance Board – 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Russell County Library Board – 2nd Tuesday of each month at Jamestown Library at 5 p.m.

County Extension Office Board – 3 meetings a year, one in September; no time set yet for the remaining meetings. Located at the Extension Office.

Partners In Prevention – 4th Thursday of each month at the Russell County Auditorium/Natorium Complex at 12 noon.

Airport Board – 1st Tuesday of each month at the airport at 5 p.m.

Lake Cumberland Tourist Commission Board – 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Tourist Commission, located at 650 S. Hwy. 127 between Arby’s and Long John Silver’s restaurants, at 12:30 p.m.

County Conservation District – 1st Monday of each month at the district conference room, located at 159 Ferco Way, Jamestown, at 12 noon.

Russell County Industrial Development Authority – 4th Monday of each month at Duo County Telephone, at 8:30 a.m.

A lesson and a blessing



By **MARY BETH SALLEE**
 Times-Journal Reporter
 marybeth@jpinews.com

As I was scrolling through my Facebook memories, a quote popped up from March 2, 2016. Four years ago I shared this quote by Steve Harvey: “All adversity carries a lesson and a blessing.”

Adversity can affect our lives in a variety of ways – hardships and heartbreak, misfortunes and bad luck, setbacks and sufferings. It can be strained relationships between ourselves and family members, financial worries and woes, or even stress and uncertainty at our jobs.

But with adversity always comes a lesson learned. Perhaps we learn to deal with how we react to the hard times. Perhaps we learn that we are stronger than we think, or maybe that we are brave enough to spread our wings, take the leap, and just fly. Other times we come to find that learning the true character of others is the biggest lesson of them all.

There are even adversities that we may face in which we don’t see the lesson at first. Those are the hard ones, the ones that keep us awake at night, the ones that cause us to be easily angered or easily broken. It is these adversities that hang a huge cloud over us, diminishing our hope, and leading us to believe that nothing will ever be the same again.

And perhaps it won’t be. Maybe things change so much that they also change us, making us view things differently or in a new way. But in the midst of it all, even unexpectedly at times, we may just receive the blessing that we’ve been hoping for or the blessing that we never knew we always needed. They may take not come when we want, but those blessings do, in fact, show up in perfect timing.

Mary Beth Sallee resides in Hart County with her husband and son. She works as a reporter for Jobe Publishing.