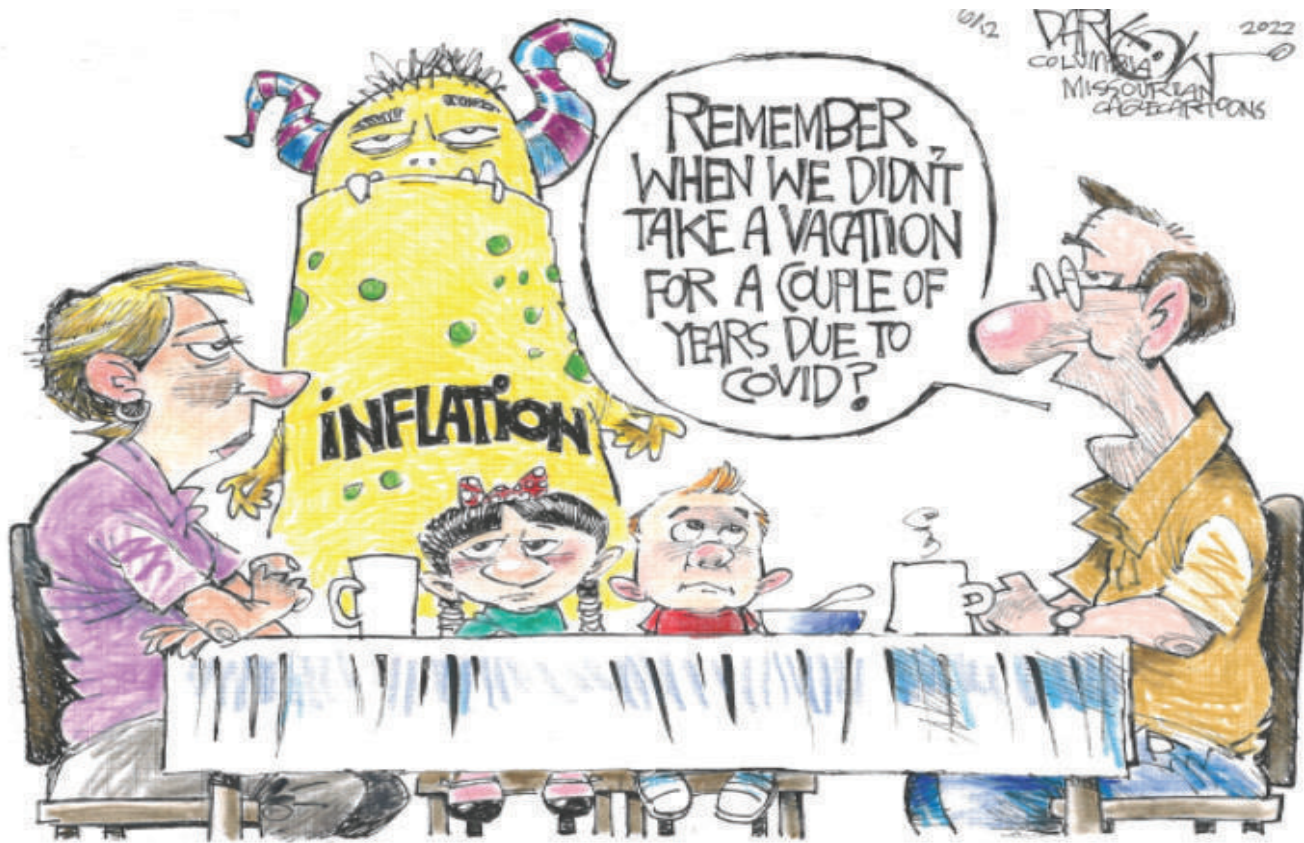


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The Times Journal

# OPINION

July 7, 2022



## It's Time To Clean Up

By John Ferrucci

Hello again, my name is John Ferrucci and in the past I have submitted some short articles that were my intention to get you thinking about a past memory, or maybe some inspiration to help get through the day.

I feel that this article needs to be reposted, I published this on March of 2021.

However, for the past few months of wandering around backroads and hollers something very disturbing has caught our eyes. We see it along Rt 75, along 127 into Liberty. We see it on Rt 80 that runs just past our street.

TRASH, TRASH and more TRASH.

Now I couldn't understand why people with such a beautiful state would deliberately upset the balance of nature by littering the countryside. I see usually the same trash along the roadside and meadow lands. Bottles, soda cans, empty beer boxes and cigarette packs. I couldn't believe people down here would just toss that out their windows.

But one day I discovered just how most of this trash finds its way to the curb. While driving behind a white Silverado at a safe distance when all of a sudden an empty beer box flew out from the back of his truck and grazed my windshield before flying and making its way in the ditch along Rt 80.

Then I came to the realization that some folks use their pickup as if it were a dumpster and just toss that empty soda can in the back. Or when their buddies finish a beer or two they throw it the back bed of the truck.

Now I don't think that normally they would toss it out the window but Hello it's flying out of your truck so that's the same action.

So I'm asking people to please keep a litter bag in your truck and stop using you truck bed as a dumpster. Take a glance along any roadside when you're driving and just look at how this beautiful landscape has turned into a landfill.

Do your part and take a moment to stop with a trash bag and pick up some of it. The next time you pass that same spot if there's trash on it you'll feel offended and maybe even get a bit angry, thinking to yourself "hey I just cleaned up that mess"

GOOD get angry. Come on let's get our home cleaned up, get the pride back into Kentucky.

Comments welcomed, John Ferrucci just a neighbor like you. chefnfly@yahoo.com

## 'American Birthright' a model for Ky standards do-over

By Jim Waters



It's unacceptable if not downright disrespectful, even embarrassing.

Despite a long and proud history of patriotism, Kentucky's public education system has implemented unbearably incomplete and vague social studies standards.

These standards are supposed to include what students should learn about our nation's historical events, including important contributions made by individual Americans.

Here we are, celebrating the annual observance of America's beginning, yet most key players in our country's founding – including Benjamin Franklin and James Madison – aren't even named in Kentucky's standards.

And it's like the unmentioned battles of Lexington (Massachusetts, that is) and Concord – the Revolutionary War's first military engagements – didn't even happen.

You'll search the Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies in vain for any mention of Abraham Lincoln (born here, for goodness' sake!) or of any other president save Washington and

Jefferson.

Also, how can Kentucky's current standards be considered anything but disrespectful of the many brave men and women who have served our nation in the many armed conflicts since World War II which don't garner even a mention?

How can the Korean and Vietnam wars and the more recent conflicts in the Middle East not find a place in standards indicating what we want children to learn about our history?

Even though World War II made the cut, it was in a very general way.

None of the war's key events – not even Pearl Harbor or D-Day – are deemed necessary for Kentucky students to learn about.

Also largely ignored in these standards are some of mankind's most inspiring stories involving research and invention.

Even when an invention like the airplane does get included, you'll search in vain for mention of individual inventors.

Coverage of geography in Kentucky's hollow document is, well, hollow.

There's no reference to Antarctica and only scant mention of South America.

Because the document is almost completely depersonalized, important players in South American history like Simon Bolivar are ignored.

Much more about what's

missing from the current standards is detailed in the Bluegrass Institute's landmark 2020 "Preserving History" report.

Fortunately, the recent release by the National Association of Scholars of new and useful model standards titled "American Birthright" shows it doesn't have to be this way – even when the concern is length.

"American Birthright" in its 149 pages includes far-more helpful factual information about history, geography, civics and economics than Kentucky provides in its verbose 229-page document.

Important themes all students should master – Liberty, Faiths and Nations, Science and Technology, State and Society and Culture and Achievement – are richly covered in the new model.

Should all students learn about Lexington and Concord?

"American Birthright" believes they should.

Should they learn about key founders?

"American Birthright" says "yes."

"American Birthright" also includes more details regarding World War II than just telling teachers that students should "analyze the role of the United States in global compromises and conflicts (such as) World War II," helping teachers out with lists of crucial battles and key players like President Franklin Roosevelt and Nazi tyrant

Adolph Hitler all students should know about.

The new model also includes discussions about assessing students' performances and examples of how writing in these areas is expected to develop as they move through the grades.

Such material is noticeably missing from Kentucky's current standards.

The bottom line: "American Birthright" shows Kentucky can do its standards much better.

There's a unique opportunity right now to make improvements.

The Kentucky Department of Education is assembling teacher groups to review the current social studies standards to add items required by legislation passed during this year's General Assembly.

If those teachers want to get this revision of Kentucky's standards right, they should consider "American Birthright" as a framework to build meaningful, relevant – and respectful – standards for our kids.

Failing to reform these standards will just prolong the disrespect and do our students – and nation – a great disservice.

Jim Waters is president and CEO of the Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions, Kentucky's free-market think tank. Read previous columns at [www.bipps.org](http://www.bipps.org). He can be reached at [jwaters@freedomkentucky.com](mailto:jwaters@freedomkentucky.com) and @bipps on Twitter.

## Continental Refining Company purchases Russell County Oil

Continental Refining Company (CRC) announced it has acquired Russell County Oil, LLC, a bulk fuels provider based in Russell Springs, Kentucky.

The acquisition is part of CRC's continued expansion as it is currently investing an additional \$31.5 million to acquire and install a soybean crushing, biodiesel refining and blending facility at the legacy CRC oil refinery in Somerset, Kentucky.

The purchase was

completed Wednesday, June 29.

The new acquisition includes Russell County Oil's bulk terminal in Russell Springs, along with 200+ active customers to whom it provides bulk fuel and wet fueling services for Russell and surrounding counties in the region.

The company also provides on-site tank solutions for high volume customers.

CRC serves as a fuel

producer and distributor based in Somerset, Kentucky serving customers in Pulaski and the eight surrounding counties.

It officially reopened its fuel distribution and bulk lubricant operations last November, offering on-site fueling for retail, commercial and industrial, construction, agriculture, and residential customers.

CRC has also entered into a marketing agreement to distribute

Phillips 66 bulk lubricants and products. The company offers two types of transport as part of its services – large tanker transport and tank wagon.

Local entrepreneur and Hemisphere Limited CEO Demetrios Haseotes purchased the refinery in 2011, investing over \$71 million updating the facility's crude oil refining capabilities over the years and adding the soybean crushing, biodiesel refining

and blending facilities.

Employment:

CRC will create up to 32 new jobs with an annual payroll of over \$2.65 million (including taxes and benefits) and an average salary range of approximately \$18-20 per hour.

Facility:

CRC is located on 77 acres in the heart of Somerset, KY.

Its revitalization includes the acquisition

and installation of a soybean crushing and biodiesel facility.

CRC's crushing facility will process nearly four million bushels of soybean per year (84 thousand tons) while its biodiesel refining division will generate up to five million gallons per year as planned.

CRC's product terminal will have the ability to distribute over 130 million gallons of product.