Views expressed on this page are those of the author alone and not necessarily endorsed by this newspaper.

The Times Journal

OPINION

November 24, 2022

Giving Thanks

By Jeff Jobe
Community Publisher

Family. Friends. Health. Those are just some of the things members of the communities we serve share as being most thankful with us each Thanksgiving. And we at Jobe Publishing absolutely agree. We are also so very thankful for our amazing employee family, our advertisers, and subscribers who help us make community news possible.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank all of you for your support, and the opportunity to have served as community publisher for 25-years.

We have accomplished some amazing milestones in the past two decades and because of those traditions and your support, Jobe Publishing Newspaper Division is among Kentucky's fastest growing. With the single purchase in 1998 of a small weekly newspaper we have grown to now own and publish eight of our own countywide legal publications. We also house a commercial operation to printing and distribute hundreds of thousands of printed items throughout the nation each year. Nobody can come close to what we do for you and it is because of your support.

You helped us print and distribute 499 veterans to honor them and their families this past Veterans Day and because of you we are comfortable we will be distributing thousands of Santa letters in a few weeks. We smile when the US Post Office delivers Santa letters to us at the newspaper.

Of course it is only natural that I get the credit or the blame for the work we do at each of our community newspapers and I certainly accept it. But let me be perfectly honest; there is a very good chance that my work was done long before your newspaper or advertisement was delivered to your mailbox. Without a doubt the fact I am most thankful for at this point in my career is to have a team in place who helps me get some rest and time off for family from time to time.

We have a management team in place who do their jobs and do it well. They don't step inside any community, they simply provide support in printing, designing, distributing and billing as needed. All else is done locally unless they need me and I am there.

I will stand beside, in front of or behind truth as needed.

We are so very thankful that we have each of our offices managed by local people who care about promoting the communities in which they live. I'm thankful to have each employee as a friend and dozens of other coaches, parents, pastors and involved individuals who help us cover our news.

If you have a story you believe would be of interest to the community in which you live then call any of our local offices in Allen, Barren, Butler, Cumberland, Edmonson, Hart, Metcalfe or Russell County and let them help you share it.

As a young man in this industry I was fortunate to come in at a unique time, a time of pagination, full color print, computer to plate printing and online readers. This intimidated the older newsmen of that time but I embraced it and it has helped us survive. With each new development comes new opportunities and I am very excited at what the future will bring.

No matter who you are, where you are from or what you have to offer, if it is good for our community, this local newspaper will help you tell our world.

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.sckentucky.com

Watch for Utility Scams

Nov. 16, marks the seventh annual Utility Scams Awareness Day when Louisville Gas and Electric Company, Kentucky Utilities Company and Old Dominion Power Company join fellow utilities to raise awareness about common scams and how to avoid them. As the holiday season approaches, scammers will oftentimes try to take advantage of consumers' busier schedules this time of year.

"Our primary concern is for the safety and well-being of our customers when we learn someone's been contacted by a scam. Unfortunately, scam attempts are becoming more sophisticated, and they can occur more frequently this time of year," said Eileen Saunders, LG&E and KU vice president-Customer Services. "The most powerful way to stop a scammer is to recognize the telltale signs of a scam."

Tips to P-R-O-T-E-C-T

LG&E, KU and ODP encourage customers to follow the below tips on how to recognize a scam, what to do if you suspect you've been contacted and how to verify official communications from your utility.

Personal information is protected: LG&E, KU and ODP will never contact customers and demand credit or debit card numbers, checking account information or other personal information.

Remember you have bill payment options: LG&E, KU and ODP will never require using a prepaid debit/gift card or ask a customer to transfer money to a third-party app. The utilities offer a variety of convenient options to make it easier for customers to pay their bill, including through our official mobile app, online, in person, by phone or by mail.

Observe intimidation tactics: Scammers will resort to using intimidation tactics. This may include threatening service disconnection if a payment isn't received within a very short amount of time. They may even pull information they've found publicly available online to make themselves sound more credible. If you observe these types of tactics, end the interaction right away and do not provide any information. LG&E, KU and ODP will never demand an immediate payment or threaten service disconnection.

Take your time: As part of their intimidation tactics, scammers may pressure customers to act quickly. Stop, slow down and end the interaction. Contact your utility directly through our official contact channels to confirm any official communications and the status of your most current bill.

Enlist the help of law enforcement: Customers who suspect they have been victims of fraud, or who feel threatened during contact with scammers, should report it to their local police department and contact their utility. LG&E, KU and ODP work year-round with local law enforcement agencies investigating these types of crimes.

Check with your utility if you're suspicious: Customers who receive a suspicious live phone call, email, text message, letter or in-person visit should contact their utility directly to verify official communications or in-person service visits. LG&E residential customers should call 502-589-1444 (outside Louisville at 1-800-331-7370); KU/ODP residential customers should call 1-800-981-0600.

Track and save your utility's official contact channels: Keep on hand your utility's official phone numbers, website address and other contact channels. Scammers may attempt to "spoof" – or mask over – a utility's phone number, call from a different phone number or ask the customer to "press 1" to collect personal or payment information. Likewise, note down any phone numbers or other contact information provided by the scammer; this information is very important when reporting the scam to local law enforcement and your utility.

In-person appointments and services

LG&E, KU and ODP encourage customers to always obtain positive identification if someone appears at their door stating they are there on any company's behalf. The utilities' employees and contractors will always carry an authentic company ID badge that shows the LG&E, KU and ODP logos, the person's name and a color photograph.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your Letter to the Editor to

The Times Journal, P.O. Box 190 • Russell Springs, KY 42629

or email: editor@russellcountynewspapers.com