

# EDITORIAL AND COMMENTS

Truth will prevail.  
 "For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known."  
 Luke 12:2

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 Free birthday listings, classifieds and community events can be recorded by calling 270-384-0059 after business hours or verbally given to a customer service representative during business hours at 270-384-9454.

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**EDITORIAL POLICY**  
 The Adair County Community Voice encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. They will be published on a first-received, first-published basis. All letters must contain the signature, address and telephone number of the writer. We reserve the right to edit and reject any letter. Letters must not contain material that is deemed offensive or libelous by the Voice. We reserve the right to limit the frequency of published letters by any individual. Letters of endorsement for candidates will be published up until the issue prior to any election. Any letter making allegations against someone will be held until the other party has the opportunity to respond within the same publication. Letters should be clearly identified as letters to the editor and mailed to Editor, The Adair County Community Voice, P.O. Box 159, Columbia, KY 42728 or emailed to snburton@duo-county.com.

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 The Adair County Community Voice strives for accuracy when reporting the news. If you see an error, please contact the newsroom at 270-384-9454, and the error will be corrected as soon as possible.

...That we may glorify the Father  
 John 15:7-8 and John 14:12-14.

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## One Voice Sharon Burton

### Journalism matters

This week is National Newspaper Week, and our industry is encouraging newspapers across the land to remind our readers that "Journalism Matters. Now More than Ever."

I tend to disagree that journalism matters now more than ever. I think it has always mattered. The industry is on the defensive, however, and part of that comes from the barrage of accusations of "fake news" and a president who said he considers 80 percent of the press to be the "enemy of the people."

In all of the articles I have read concerning National Newspaper Week, I have yet to see anyone in the industry admit that we do have problems with bias and misinformation. Let me first say that I do think we have some housecleaning we need to do. There have been inaccurate stories in several large newspapers across the country and there is plenty of one-sided news on television every single day.

There are also, however, a whole lot of hard-working, honest journalists out there covering the news and doing everything they can to ask the hard questions and be a watchdog for the people.

Journalism is important, but it is also imperfect. I grew up during the time of Watergate and the great work of Washington

Journalism may not be done perfectly, but this nation would be ill served were journalism not allowed, encouraged, and supported by our citizens.

Post journalists Woodward and Bernstein. I always saw journalists as the good guys who used newsprint to protect the everyday citizen from the tyranny of corrupt public officials.

I still hold that to be true, but I have also come to recognize that we cannot get tunnel vision in the search for wrongdoing. We pick and choose which "wrongs" we will go after, because believe me, there are plenty to choose from, so we must always ask ourselves if we are prioritizing our search for truth in a way that benefits one agenda over another.

Mostly, I think journalism today reflects and is even contributing to the polarization of our nation. I see reporters sharing opinion pieces and making comments that

add to the distrust that is running rampant, especially online in social media. Between 24-hour so-called news channels and social media, it's difficult to tell where the real journalism ends and editorial comments begin.

With all that said, however, I want to return to my original statement. Journalism matters, and it has always mattered. From national news coverage to local sports photos, it all matters.

Freedom of the press is imperative to a free society. You help preserve democracy when you subscribe to a newspaper that invests in investigative news coverage and watchdog journalism. Our nation has long recognized the importance of a free press, a right preserved in our Constitution and reinforced in Kentucky with important open meetings and open records laws.

Journalism may not be done perfectly, but this nation would be ill served were journalism not allowed, encouraged, and supported by our citizens. Thank you, readers of the Community Voice, for supporting our efforts with your subscription. Like others, we are not perfect but we do strive for excellence. We are passionate about our community and the role that journalism plays as a recorder of history, a supporter and a watchdog for our citizens.

### How to contact local officials

**U.S. Congress**  
 Sen. Rand Paul: 202-224-4343  
 Bowling Green office: 270-782-8303  
 Website: paul.senate.gov

Sen. Mitch McConnell: 202-224-2541  
 Email: senator@mcconnell.senate.gov  
 Website: mcconnell.senate.gov

Rep. James Comer: 202-225-3115  
 Tompkinsville Office  
 Phone: 270-487-9509  
 Toll Free Number: 1-800-328-5629

**Kentucky General Assembly**  
 Sen. Max Wise  
 Capitol: 502-564-2450 ext. 200  
 Email: max.wise@lrc.ky.gov

Rep. John "Bam" Carney  
 Capitol: 502-564-8100, ext 708  
 Home: 270-403-7980  
 Email: john.carney@lrc.ky.gov

**Governor**  
 Gov. Matt Bevin  
 502-564-2611

**Adair County Fiscal Court**  
 Judge Executive Mike Stephens: 384-4703  
 Email: acjudge1@duo-county.com

**Magistrates**  
 District 1—Harold Burton: 384-1439  
 District 2—Daryl Flatt: 634-1033  
 District 3—Sammy Baker: 378-6496  
 District 4—Perry Reeder: 634-3234  
 District 5—Billy Coffey: 250-4449  
 District 6—Greg Caldwell: 384-0370  
 District 7—Terry Hadley: 384-4083

**Adair County Constables**  
 District 1 – William Troutwine: 385-9597  
 District 2 – Shannon Rowe: 634-2345  
 District 3 – Robert Loy: 378-6001  
 District 4 – Ed Wigal: 378-5086  
 District 5 – Tim Bottoms: 378-2339  
 District 6 – Jason Rector: 634-2171  
 District 7 – Joe Collins: 378-1597

**City of Columbia**  
 Mayor Curtis Hardwick: 384-2501  
 Email: mayor@cityofcolumbiaky.com

**City Council**  
 Craig Dean: 384-5961  
 Mark Harris: 634-2542  
 Linda Waggenner: 384-3979  
 Craig Lasley: 384-6144  
 Ronald P. Rogers: 384-5069  
 Pam Hoots: 250-7010

**Adair County Board of Education**  
 Superintendent Dr. Pamela Stephens:  
 270-384-2476

**Board Members**  
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 Daniel Adams: 634-4394  
 George Payne: 250-9273  
 Lisa Burton: 384-3140  
 Terry Harvey: 378-6477

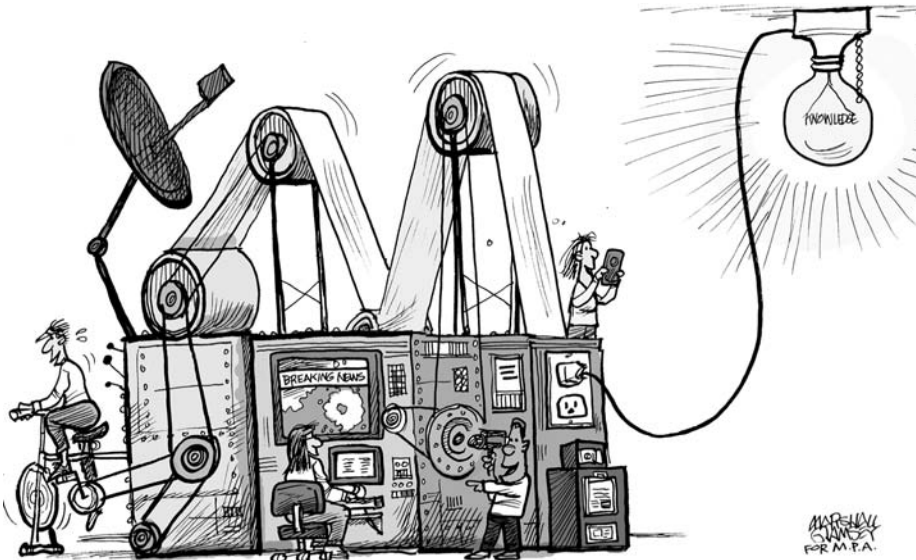
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

**First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, U.S. Constitution**

### SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

**Adair County Community Voice**  
 Attn: Sharon Burton  
 P.O. Box 159  
 Columbia, KY 42728  
 or snburton@adairvoice.com

Letters to the editor are encouraged. They must be original and include the name, address and daytime telephone number of the writer. The editor reserves the right to condense and/or reject any letter and to limit frequent writers. The opinions expressed in the letters to the editor and other editorials are those of the writers and do not reflect the views of the Adair County Community Voice. Businesses and individuals will not be listed in "thank you" letters. Discounted "happy ads" are available by calling 270-384-9454 or visiting our office at 316 Public Sq.

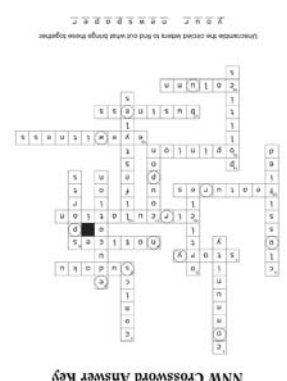


### National Newspaper Week Crossword

1. friendly neighbors  
 2. upright entertainers  
 3. the three R's  
 4. secret knowledge  
 5. a, an or the  
 9. competitive play  
 11. shopper's friend  
 12. "champagne wishes and caviar dreams"  
 14. pundit's bread and butter

6. numbers all in a row  
 7. from floor to ceiling  
 8. becomes aware  
 10. library desk  
 13. cinema offerings  
 15. court's statement  
 16. observer  
 17. daily occupation  
 18. rank and file formation

Unscramble the circled letters to find out what brings these together.



MEMBER OF:

