

## “Smart” or just rich enough to lawyer-up? (at the expense of those who can't)

By **Emily Weathers Kennedy**  
Guest Columnist

In this election season, I am baffled why people use welfare recipients as the reason to vote Conservative. In Lawrence County these phrases are common:

“I work for what I have; they are too lazy to work.”

“Look at him/her, always wanting a handout.”

“He (or she) eats steak/drives a nice car/uses a cellphone while taking welfare.”

Except that oftentimes such critical people have also taken Pell Grants themselves, used TennCare for childbirth, or taken advantage of some form of government handout because “it’s there.” So, it’s okay when a smart person uses the system but not so nice when poor people do. This is what is called hypocrisy.

Donald Trump had an “oops” moment during the first debate when Hillary Clinton outed his zero payment of income taxes. He said, “That makes me smart.”

So, folks who struggle to make a living for their families while living modestly should think it’s smart for someone like Trump to live in billion-dollar luxury because he’s savvy enough to take advantage of loopholes in the tax code? The taxes we pay, then, protect his privileged family (the military), provide him transportation routes (roads, infrastructure), educate the masses (his labor force), and keep the economy going while he skips



out on paying people for an honest days’ work. He is an example of corporate welfare at its worst.

According to *Forbes Magazine*, in 2014, “Fortune 500 corporations alone accounted for more than 16,000 subsidy awards, worth \$63 billion – mostly in the form of tax breaks.” This amount would go a long way to offset welfare for the poor and disabled.

Yes, there are abuses in the welfare system. The parents of some of the children who need assistance are probably buying things they shouldn’t with their food stamps. Some people fake disabilities to get assistance. But until any of us go into homes and see for ourselves who is hungry and who is not,

it is not for us to judge. Even then, most religions I know would say that judging others is wrong regardless. Most of us have no idea what being caught in a cycle of poverty and hopelessness does to people.

Some people put their money where their mouths are with regard to breaking the cycle of poverty. It was Bill Clinton who signed the Welfare Reform Bill that moved millions of people off welfare. In 2013, Hillary Clinton was recognized by the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF), for her dedication and contributions to child advocacy. (The CDF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to “champion policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education and a moral and spiritual foundation.”)

Meanwhile Donald Trump was celebrating his good fortune of paying no taxes and beating middle class folks out of their livelihoods because he was smart enough to game the system.

**Emily Weathers Kennedy is a freelance writer, blogger, artist, photo stylist, and decorator. Her work is online and in product catalogs. Emily lives with her husband, 4 dogs, and 1 cat and writes from their farm in Loretto, where she was born and raised.**

## Hillary Clinton and Al Gore campaign together in Miami

Excerpted from the *New York Times*

MIAMI — The guest of honor strolled across the stage — hair slicked back and grayed, no tie — embracing his host, briefly, before looking out on the campaign crowd.

It had been awhile. He opened with something safe. “I understand you’ve got a pretty good women’s volleyball team here,” he said, a bit tepidly, inside a college gymnasium on Tuesday. “So, go Lady Sharks. Is that what you say?”

Al Gore was back.

In a rare return to presidential politics, Mr. Gore, Bill Clinton’s former vice president, joined Hillary Clinton for a 45-minute Democratic call to arms, vacillating between a familiar drawling delivery and the urgency of a seer sent from another era to warn



future generations of prospective doom.

“Your vote really, really, really counts,” he said, from the state synonymous with his excruciating 2000 election loss. “You can consider me as an Exhibit A of that.”

It was a remarkable turn in one of the most consequential, and fraught, relationships in recent Democratic political history — a halting public embrace between two figures long defined by rivalry, ambition and a complicated union with the same man.

The event’s ostensible focus was climate change, Mr. Gore’s signature issue. But the wider message of the gathering, 16 years after the recount fight that begot the presidency of George W. Bush, was unobvious: As Mrs. Clinton seeks to encourage registration efforts and convince Americans that every ballot counts, Mr. Gore is the nation’s ambulatory cautionary tale.

After Bill Clinton’s 1992 election, Mr. Gore and Mrs. Clinton quickly established themselves as rivals for Mr. Clinton’s ear — a pair of policy wonks seeking influence in a new administration.

It was their similarities, at least in part, that had compelled Mr. Clinton to choose Mr. Gore in the first place. “He reminds me of Hillary,” Mr. Clinton told a former top aide, Paul Begala, according to Mr. Begala. “When he gets hold of something, he never lets loose.”

Young voters, wary of the Democratic nominee, have weighed third-party options, delivering fresh nightmares of Ralph Nader’s 2000 campaign to bleary-eyed Democratic operatives.

The grim history of Mr. Clinton’s behavior with women has re-assumed center stage, with Mr. Trump raising his infidelities as a campaign issue. (At least twice during Mrs. Clinton remarks on Tuesday, protesters ridiculed Mr. Clinton over his past. Mr. Gore stared straight ahead, his hands clasped.)

But the former vice president ended with a flourish. “Please take it from me,” he said. “Every. Single. Vote. Counts.”

“We love you, President Gore!” a woman shouted from the bleachers.

Moments later, Mr. Gore wrapped up, turning toward Mrs. Clinton for a brief negotiation as the room cheered.

“Wanna do a hands-up?” he asked, cupping his right hand in his left.

“Yeah!” Mrs. Clinton said.

One more time, their arms shot skyward.

## United we stand divided we fall



By **John Finney**  
Advocate General Manager

Every week we hear of another NFL players, college football players or band members, or high school players that are protesting during the singing of this country’s National Anthem. It was good to see story where a high school senior holds it so close to her heart that she stepped in to sing it when the schools CD player quit working.

Marina Garcia attends high school in San Antonio, Texas and is on the girls volley team. As both teams stood and faced the flag the CD player which normally plays the National Anthem quit working. Unrehearsed and impromptu, she ran over grabbed the microphone and nailed it. She received cheers from the whole crowd.

We have all heard the National Anthem. It is played before every ball game; whether it is baseball, football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, etc., it is played. It is played to honor those who have fought and served to protect the freedoms we have in this country. It is played during the Olympics after a gold medal is given to a winning athlete from the United States.

We keep hearing about athletes and students protesting during the National Anthem, but I have yet to hear where they have had any ideas on solving the problems that have led them to protest. Are they protesting the

same issues? Are they protesting just to be protesting? Do they know why they are protesting?

Since Colin Kaepernick has been protesting the National Anthem because he feels this country “oppresses black people and people of color,” what has he done or said to change anything? Nothing.

He was invited by the sheriff in Alameda County, California (Oakland, Ca.) to their regional training center to learn more about the aspects of law enforcement. Police officers have to make split second decisions to make the right choice in dangerous situations. I guess as a quarterback, he never has to make split second decisions with a defensive back bearing down on him from his blindside? Can you say fumble?

In Aesop’s fable ‘The Four Oxen and the Lion,’ the four oxen could defend themselves from the lion as long as they stayed together, but once they separated it was the end of all four. ‘United we stand divided we fall.’

As a country we are growing further and further apart; groups with different thoughts and feelings are no longer being accepted or allowed to have views that differ. You are a bully or considered a racist just for having different views.

Marina Garcia stood up and sang the National Anthem because it is dear to her heart, nobody asked her. It honors her family members who were in the military and fought for our freedoms. She united that auditorium.

For this to be the United States of America we must stand united and no longer sit divided.

## Amish man asks community to please not travel after dark

A member of Ethridge’s Amish Community has issued a plea to his fellow community members asking that they please not travel after dark for safety purposes.

The man did not want to be identified but stopped by the *Advocate* offices recently and because of several accidents that have occurred in the county, especially in the evenings near dusk, asked us to pass this request on to the local Amish community.

Many collisions have occurred on Highway 43 north and elsewhere in the county in past years involving

vehicles and horse and buggies. Some Amish have been seriously injured and some horses killed in the wrecks.

Drivers need to also exercise caution, leaving plenty of room between their vehicles and the buggies, and watching for Amish travelers, especially in areas they frequent inside Lawrenceburg and Ethridge.

Drivers of both 4-legged and engine propelled vehicle are asked to exercise extreme caution in Ethridge and surrounding areas. Get home safely!

## Your vote is vital to the success of this country: Use it or forfeit the right to complain about anything

By **Elizabeth Kennedy Blackstone**

Today marks the first day of early voting. Gentlemen (and ladies!) start your (voting) engines! A lot has been said about this election - too much. Mercifully, it is almost over, but I beg you not to quit just yet.

Don’t stay home in disgust. Don’t throw your vote away on a third party candidate. You are being offered two distinct choices in a country great enough to give you choices. It is right there in the First Amendment, you have the right to peaceful protest. The clearest, most peaceful, most American way to say “you’re fired” is to exercise your right to vote. Do your research. Read or watch a source or two

Continued on Page A-3

### First Amendment

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.

## Lawrence County Advocate

Sam Kennedy, Publisher  
John Finney, Managing Editor

**NEWS STAFF**  
Elizabeth K. Blackstone, Editor  
LaShawn Baxter, Editor  
Sandi Mashburn, Staff Writer  
Joe Baxter, Sports

**OFFICE STAFF**  
Katy Adams, Bookkeeping/  
Classifieds/ Receptionist

**ADVERTISING STAFF**  
Amber McIntyre, Sales  
Misti Richardson, Sales

**PRESS & CIRCULATION**  
Ralph Yeager  
Donnie Howell  
Brian Chandler  
Keith Matthews  
Chris Dickey  
David Ray  
Wayne Wilburn

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Howard Johnston

**PRODUCTION STAFF**  
Rachel Weaver, Ad Designer  
Angie Wallace, Ad Designer

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Dorothy Belew

16,300+ published & delivered twice weekly

Published each Wednesday and Sunday at  
121 North Military Ave., P. O. Box 308, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464  
Phone # (931) 762-1726, FAX # (931) 762-7874

[www.lawrencecountyadvocate.net](http://www.lawrencecountyadvocate.net)