

OPINION

- Columnists
- Letters to the Editor

The more we are thankful for, the more they stay the same

■ Advocate Publisher Sam D. Kennedy



EDITOR'S NOTE: As is our habit, I sat down to speak with my father about this week's editorial page. We pulled out a couple of old Thanksgiving pieces he wrote and he got a big chuckle out of his 2012 Thanksgiving column. "Change the name of the President, the UT football coach, and the Army General, and you have your 2017 column."

I laughed. I did exactly what I changed only those 3 names and darn if he wasn't right (as usual). Can't decide if this is good news or bad news for the human condition but it sure seems to prove the expression: "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. I am certainly thankful for mine, including my number one columnist and his bride of 63 years this month, my parents — Elizabeth Kennedy Blackstone

By Sam D. Kennedy (2012/17) Publisher

We in America are blessed to have many things to be thankful for. Consider the usual along with a touch of the new.

We are indeed blessed. We live in a free country. Even Muslims and holy rollers have a protected right to worship. We can vote the rascals out and failing that, there's always the next election.

Even though some confuse world's end with Trump's election, we remain free to disagree with the opinions of those who lead us and

each other. We will continue to do exactly that and that is something to be thankful for.

The storm has passed on the east coast and our nation has rushed to help including members of our own southern Middle Tennessee community. Be thankful that the Volunteer State is still who we are.

Even our President stretched out his hand to calm the waters, and then left immediately for Southeast Asia.

There is surely something to be thankful for in that you pick.

Be grateful you were not Major General Harrington facing the husband of a woman he was sending sexy text messages to.

Be thankful that you are neither Israeli, nor Palestinian, as they continue to improve their living standards and freedom by killing one another.

Be thankful that you are not likely to be selected as the University of Tennessee football coach.

Be thankful, if your name is Butch Jones, that not everyone kicked out of a job has to rely on food stamps. You might have been a worker for Twinkies.

Count your blessing if you were moved out of Rep. Dr. Scott Desjarlais's district into Martha Blackburn's. Now you won't have to look the other way when someone asks you who your congressman is.

Be grateful that when your wife or daughter needs medical attention, Obama care will not dictate that she need rely on Dr. Desjarlais.

Forget such foolishness. Be thankful to the God who made us and for the blessings of this land. Look around you and be grateful for your family and friends, for food, and for shelter. We are indeed blessed.

Happy Thanksgiving! Keep the turkey; give me a piece of fried chicken.



Climbing to the top of the conspiracy chain ■ Guest Columnist Emily Weathers Kennedy



By Emily Weathers Kennedy
I visit my cobbler the other day in his downtown shop in North Alabama. I told him I would be writing about him someday because I've always wanted to shine light on his noble and very-in-demand trade. I also wanted to get to say I have a cobbler. I just think that's the coolest word for someone who has saved countless favorite shoes for my husband and me.

My cobbler friend might not appreciate that my article about him leads to the inevitable for me—politics. He is not political, or so he says. I suspect he is just wise enough to keep his mouth shut so that he can cater to people of every persuasion. A second cobbler in the shop, however, did elaborate when he asked what I wrote after I handed him my business card.

"I was a life-long Democrat myself," he mused. "But I left the party a while ago. I don't particularly care for this president, but I think he would do a good job if people would just leave him alone."

This sentiment is quite common, especially among Democrats who crossed over. They believed Trump when he promised to bring jobs back and make great deals. They see the Putin-Russian thing as a wink that much like Democrats saw the Benghazi investigations, and they have heard so many crazy fake stories of late they don't know what to believe.

But here's the rub. Republicans spent upwards of

\$7 million to try to find fault with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and bring down her poll numbers. They found nothing illegal. The whole Vladimir Putin-backed-Russia-thing started because people in Trump's circle—his campaign—lied about meeting with Kremlin-backed Russians during the election and afterwards. In addition, on a recording intercepted by US intelligence, Russians are overheard discussing their efforts to reach out to representatives of Trump. Their objective? To establish a favorable relationship that would lead to sanctions being lifted against Russia. Those sanctions, imposed after Russia's annexation of Crimea in Ukraine, cost Russia over \$100 billion in the end of 2015 and left oil prices plummeting, leaving a severe decline in Russian economic welfare. Russian oligarchs have also lost billions.

The favorable relationship necessitated getting Donald Trump elected. So Putin's operatives threw crumbs, enticing the Trump team with stolen campaign files from the Democratic National Committee. Putin's operatives also spent rubles spreading fake propaganda on social media sites like Twitter and Facebook. Thousands of Trump supporters were targeted with inflammatory stories about Hillary Clinton to rile them up and encourage them to sway other voters by sharing the fake information. At the Republican National Convention, Trump operatives changed the tone of US foreign policy by softening Russian sanctions.

It might come as a surprise that ANY contact with ANY foreign nationals must be documented even after a federal employee has a security clearance. Further, lying on a security clearance itself can bring criminal

penalties with fines up to \$10,000 and removal/debarment from federal service. It says this right on the form. So, it's unclear why Trump advisor and son-in-law Jared Kushner still has a security clearance after he was caught lying about his involvement with Kremlin-backed Russians multiple times on his security clearance. Ordinary federal employees would have lost their clearances with one omitted encounter with a foreign national.

Kushner and Donald Trump, Jr., also caught lying about campaign interactions with Kremlin-backed Russians, shouldn't be too surprised to be exposed. Paper trails from social media and the Internet live forever, and when you exchange messages with the likes of WikiLeaks to get illegally obtained dirt on your opponent, those messages will indeed come back to haunt you.

So far, in addition to Kushner & Don Jr., the Russian/Trump campaign investigations have exposed lies and omissions by Attorney General Jeff Sessions (under oath); former Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort; Richard Gates, Manafort's protégé and Trump campaign advisor; former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn, Jr.; and Trump foreign policy advisors Carter Page and George Papadopoulos, among others.

The Obama administration warned the Trump campaign about intelligence intercepts and Russian meddling. The intelligence community, including the CIA, NSA, and FBI as well as ally agencies abroad also concurred. Yet, even today, Trump's tone with Putin is eerily positive and supportive. Instead of calling him out for interfering in our sovereign nation, Trump praises Putin and says he believes him when Putin says Russia didn't meddle in our election. Trump puts his faith in a dangerous, ex-KGB, opponent-murdering psychopath over his own intelligence agencies.

So leave Trump alone as my cobbler shop acquaintance wishes? Oh no. Conspiracy (called treason in war time) is too damaging to our representative democracy to be allowed to go unpunished. It's all coming out a trickle here and a trickle there. Eventually, Special Counsel Robert Mueller will go far enough up the election meddling chain to reach the top as some eventually flip. It's all a matter of time. By then Americans must make up their minds about their own loyalties to their fellow citizens or to a chameleon who could very well be the one at the top of the conspiracy chain.

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. The Kennedys have three beautiful, smart, grown-up daughters.

The National Hockey League turns 100: What lies ahead?



Tyrades! by Danny Tyree
Let's start with a disclaimer, just so I'm not skating on thin ice.

My credentials for writing about the National Hockey League can be summed up as: circa 1982 I attended one game featuring Nashville's old Central Hockey League team the South Stars. I recognize superstar names such as Wayne Gretzky, Bobby Orr, Gordie Howe, Mario Lemieux and Bobby Hull; I always enjoyed hearing Don Rickles dismiss some self-important celebrity as a "hockey puck"; I'm familiar with the old joke "I went to a fight and a hockey game broke out."

There were we! Ah, yes, November 26 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the NHL. According to Wikipedia, while it is considered one of the four major sports leagues in North America (along with Major League Baseball, the NFL and the NBA), overall it has the smallest total fan base of the four leagues, the smallest revenue from TV and the least sponsorship. I have been approached by a think tank of NHL fans who are proud of the league's storied past but who will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the sport survives and thrives in the next century.

Demographic shifts being so important, certainly the NHL will want to cater to the aging population. With a nod to those Sunday-magazine ads for senior-friendly Jitterbug telephones, the league might experiment with easier-to-follow MANHOLE COVER PUCKS.

Another way of commanding the loyalty of mature fans: instead of filling the TV screen with boring statistics about "assist" and "icing," stats could announce how often the players call their mothers or how much more they make than that bum who stole their childhood sweetheart.

Why stop there? NHL teams could run a promotion in which fans bring in their &%\$#@ pill bottles with

"childproof" caps and let all the players direct their slap shots at the bottles.

According to Wikipedia, the NHL does have the distinction of holding one of the most AFFLUENT fan bases. But instead of resting on their laurels, they should brainstorm ways to attract more rural/blue collar/low-earning fans. Terminology should be more relevant to people's lives. "Body check" could be redefined to mean inspecting for ticks and chiggers. "Pace off" would involve agitating the Rotweiler at the neighbor's double-wide. "Breakout" is what your belly does after the church social. ("Can I get an 'amen' for replacing 'goaltenders' with 'soulenders'??")

The think tank is on a roll. They recommended that the Anaheim Ducks could revert to being the Mighty (Fine Eatin') Ducks. Instead of referees and penalty boxes, there could be Mounties delivering restraining orders. Goalties could adopt a more stringent, NRA-approved "stand your ground" policy.

Perhaps teams could give away bags of player teeth, with the slogan, "Hey, show your kids it's a BUYER'S MARKET for teeth, and that they'd better not expect much from the Tooth Fairy."

China is particularly promising for hockey. The country plans to build hundreds of arenas and set up grassroots programs, ahead of the 2022 Winter Olympics. Just beware how they define terms such as "hat trick." ("OF COURSE the 10-year-old workers used lead paint on exported hats. How else could hijinks ensue?")

Yes, the NHL should really prosper in the coming century if it can command the respect of every nation. To think tank finds the greatest potential in three little words: "Intercontinental Ballistic Zamboni."

©2017 Danny Tyree. Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades." Danny's weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate.



Let us give Thanks

Thanksgiving is the unofficial beginning of the Holiday season and it has different meanings to each of us. For most it is being with family and friends, having too much delicious food and watching some football. Let's not forget the huge sale papers advertising the bargains to be had by the early shoppers on "black Friday." Most everyone is familiar with the story of the "first" Thanksgiving with the pilgrims and the Indians but I wonder how many know about the Proclamation issued by George Washington in 1789 which called for a national day of thanksgiving? It is a historical document that would be considered so "politically incorrect" by the misguided judges of today that it cannot even be studied by our children in school. Imagine that, a proclamation by the first President of the United States that can't be studied by our children.

Continued on Page A-5

Lawrence County
Advocate

Sam Kennedy, Publisher
John Finney, Managing Editor

<p>NEWS STAFF Elizabeth K. Blackstone, Editor LaShawn Baxter, Editor Sandy Mashburn, Staff Writer Joe Baxter, Sprints</p> <p>ADVERTISING STAFF Tamtha McInryne, Sales Abigail Gray, Sales</p> <p>PHOTOGRAPHER Howard Johnson</p> <p>PRODUCTION STAFF Rachel Weaver, Ad Designer Angie Wallace, Ad Designer</p>	<p>OFFICE STAFF Kathy Adams, Bookkeeping/ Presses/Receptionist</p> <p>CLASSIFIED & CIRCULATION Ralph Yeager Keith Matthews Chris Pettigrew Wayne Wilburn Tanner Osborn</p> <p>DISTRIBUTION Dorothy Bledsoe</p> <p>16,300 published & delivered twice weekly</p>
--	---

Published each Wednesday and Sunday at
121 North Military Ave., P. O. Box 308, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
Phone M (931) 762-1226, FAX M (931) 762-7874
www.lawrencecountyadvocate.net

Capitol Hill
Week in
Review
■ State Senator
Joe Hensley MD
■ State Senator
Dorothy Bledsoe