

## News Journal

P.O. Box 418, Williamsburg, KY 40769

The NEWS JOURNAL (USPS 683320) is published each Wednesday by The Whitley Whiz Inc., P.O. Box 418, Williamsburg, KY 40769-0418. Periodicals-class postage paid at Williamsburg, KY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: NEWS JOURNAL, P.O. Box 418, Williamsburg, KY 40769-0418. Annual subscription rates: \$47.50 in local delivery area; \$63.50 elsewhere in Kentucky; \$73.75 out of Kentucky. Online edition only \$35.00. Circulation call 606.528.9767.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

Letters to the editor are welcomed. We invite you to express your opinion on local, state and national issues. All letters must be signed by the author with a phone number for verification purposes. Please contain letters to 500 words or less. We reserve the right to edit or reject any and all letters for any reason. All letters are the opinion of the writers and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the News Journal. No more than (2) letters per month will be published by the same writer. Deadline for letters is Monday at 5 p.m. Letters may be sent to the News Journal, P.O. Box 418, Williamsburg, KY 40769 or P.O. Box 1524, Corbin KY 40702; delivered to our office at 215 North Main Street, Corbin, or e-mailed to news@corbinnewsjournal.com.

## Opinion

## This Week In History

From the May 7, 1970 edition of the Whitley Republican...

This week 53 years ago, several special events and celebrations were taking place in the local community...

- A photo appeared on the front page from the Annual Career Day program held at Williamsburg High School. The caption read, "Those participating in the program and the various professions they represented were: Mrs. Linda Cox, social work; Miss Charlotte Mahan and Miss Joyce Cornelius, cosmetology; Mrs. Nina Croley, medical technician; Mrs. Wanda Freeman, Career Club sponsor; J.B. Johnson, Jr., law; Mrs. Billie Huddleston, journalism; Mr. Adams, Mr. Adams, Nancy Taylor Finishing School; Mr. Roger Downard, Navy; Sgt. Ward, Army; Sgt. Edwards, Marines; John Faulkner, guidance counselor; George Campbell, Knoxville Business College; Carl Paul, mortician; Mr. McCutcheon, forest service; and Paul Falin, coach.

- A photo of a young man and woman appeared with a caption that read, "Participating in a three-day conference at the University of Kentucky in Lexington are Whitley County High School juniors Dennis Faulkner, Route 1, Williamsburg, and Diana Egner, Route 1, Rockhold. Approximately 130 Kentucky students participated in the 10th Annual High School Juniors Conference designed to orient college prospects in the Commonwealth to life on the UK campus.

- Several photos appeared showing scenes from a celebration for a former Whitley County Schools superintendent. The caption read, "These people gathered at the TravelLodge on Wednesday to help Charlie Lawson, former superintendent of the Whitley County School System, celebrate his 68th birthday with a dinner given in his honor. Members of the Whitley County Board of Education were hosts at the dinner. Attending were: William Cooper, Lloyd Wilson, Mrs. Dorothy Hurd, Mrs. Edith Bradford, Mrs. Marie Bennett, Mrs. Roxie Lee, Harold Evans, Mrs. Docie Carr, Mrs. Agnes Hill, Mrs. Nadine Reynolds, J.A. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Lawson and Archie Hill.

- Three photos appeared showing remodeling work that had been completed at the old Whitley County Jail. The photos showed Whitley County Jailer Russell Underwood standing in front of a newly painted wall inside the jail, as well as the jail entrance with a new coat of paint and the addition of a porch. Underwood was also shown with his two grandchildren in the updated jail kitchen area.

- Finally, the Fine Arts Association of Southeastern Kentucky, with the help of the Kentucky Arts Commission, announced that they would be presenting the Louisville Orchestra in concert on May 9 on the campus of Cumberland College in Williamsburg.

## RIP Keith Decker, founder and president of Cedaridge Ministries

Whitley County lost a great man this week with the passing of Keith Decker Monday.

In addition to being a senior pastor at Black Oak Baptist Church, Keith was the founder and president of Cedaridge Ministries, which celebrated its 30th anniversary last year.

Cedaridge traces its roots back to a fundraising yard sale in 1990 to raise money to buy a youth center for the Mount Zion Association Youth Ministry. On Feb. 18, 1992, God gave Keith the word "Cedaridge" as the name of the ministry.

"We didn't know exactly what that word was going to mean going forward. We just knew that it was a lot shorter than Mount Zion Association Youth Ministry. That is how it started," Keith said last year during the 30th anniversary celebration.

A few months after this, Cedaridge outgrew the associational office basement and moved into a facility next to Family Fitness in Williamsburg where it stayed for about six months before moving into an old warehouse on Second Street next to the RC Cola Bottling Plant.

"That is where we really started getting semi loads of stuff," Keith said about donations the ministry got through the Christian Appalachian Project, Feed the Children and the Society of St. Andrews among others.

Before Cedaridge had its own forklift, Decker would go in the evenings to W.D. Bryant & Sons



Mark White

## THE WAY I SEE IT

to borrow its forklift then drive it to Cedaridge, organize the donations and then get the forklift back to W.D. Bryant's by 7 a.m. the next morning.

IGA also let the ministry borrow its pallet jack.

In 1996, Cedaridge moved to the old Bailey Brothers store,

which was off Exit 11.

Cedaridge did many things at this location, including building dormitory style rooms in the basement where mission groups could stay while doing work in Whitley County and the surrounding areas.

The thing I will probably remember most about the Bailey Brothers building is that nearly the entire time Cedaridge occupied the building it had a leaky basement.

I say nearly the entire time because an Illinois church, which had worked with Cedaridge previously doing mission work in Whitley County, donated \$5,500 to get the basement waterproofed. Affordable Waterproofing and Home Builders originally quoted a \$10,000 price to waterproof the Cedaridge basement, but decided to do the whole thing for \$5,500 because they too wanted to help the ministry.

Ironically, Cedaridge didn't get to enjoy that waterproof basement very long or the new roof it had gotten put on the building months earlier.

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## WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



## 2023 Newspaper Study shows local papers continue to play vital role in the community

I was excited to see an e-mail arrive in my inbox earlier this week from America's Newspapers, an advocacy group that is dedicated to, as they put it, "providing research, education and practical information aimed at optimizing newspapers' business operations, deepening their community engagement and enhancing the quality of their journalism."

I get e-mails from America's Newspapers regularly, but this one really caught my eye as it contained the results of a recent national study about newspapers and their readership. The study, called the 2023 Local Newspaper Study, took into account the responses of 5,000 people that were contacted by an independent research firm. Here are some of the most intriguing findings...

According to the findings, eight out of ten Americans read print or digital newspaper content every month. Now, I'm not the world's best with math, but that sounds like a majority to me.

In addition, 63 percent of readers will access their local news through both print AND digital platforms.

This new study found that 78 percent of newspaper readers are under the age of 65, which may surprise some of you. 71 percent of readers have lived in their communities for five years or more, and 61 percent are homeowners. This reaffirms to me that a majority of newspaper readers are people who have a vested interest in their local community. They care about where they live, and they want to stay engaged with the important events that are going on there. Reading your local newspaper is, no doubt, the best way to do that.



Trevor Sherman

## THINKING OUT LOUD

When looking at different generational groups, the study showed that people 75-years and older still prefer home delivery of their local paper. Gen Xers and Baby Boomers (ages 40-74) seem to prefer checking a newspaper's website each day, while the youngest

readers, Millennials and Gen Z, will mostly keep an eye on social media.

Here at the News Journal, we make a strong effort to cover all of these bases for our readership, getting the print edition out and into people's hands each week while also keeping our website and social media feeds regularly updated with fresh content.

When it comes to public notices and information about local government, the local newspaper is undoubtedly the most trusted source, with 55 percent of respondents choosing this medium.

The study found that a whopping 74 percent of Americans believe that it is important to have a local newspaper in their community for five main reasons. Those are: 1) To stay informed, 2) To feel connected with the community, 3) To help them decide where they stand on local issues, 4) To find out about places to go and things to do, and 5) To be able to talk to other people about community news.

Those are all pretty good reasons to continue picking up your local newspaper if you ask me, and they are also equally good reasons to begin picking it up if you aren't already.

In terms of advertising, newspaper still offers

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