

OPINION

THE 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.

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OUR OPINION

Independence Day

Celebrate freedom by reading the Declaration of Independence

The following are excerpts from the U.S. Declaration of Independence. To read more about the Declaration, including the entire text, go to ushistory.org/declaration.

The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776 The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains

July 4 festivities

- 4th Fest '22 is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday at the George H. Henderson Jr. Exposition Center with a number of musicians scheduled to play. Tickets can be purchased online at eventbrite.com or at the gate. Tickets are \$5 for kids 17 and under or \$10 for guests older than 17.
- Gates open at 3 p.m. Monday at Ellen Trout Park for the city of Lufkin's celebration. Food trucks, games, vendors and family-friendly fun will lead up to fireworks that night.
- The city's annual fireworks display, sponsored by Mike Love & Associates, will start around 9:15 p.m. For more information, call (936) 633-0359 or go to VisitLufkin.com.

them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain (George III) is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. ...

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. ...

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Cherishing time in this village

It takes a village to raise a child. Well, it also takes a village to care for your aging parents.

In May, a small stroke left my mom without the use of her right leg. Following three weeks in the hospital and in-patient therapy, she is now home and doing really well. With the aid of a walker, which she absolutely detests, she is getting around in the house and to doctors' visits.

Before the stroke, she and Dad milled around town often — hitting the grocery store, mall, pharmacy and other places. They got out of the house almost every day. And I called every night, mostly, and saw them at least once a week.

But without a lot of strength in that leg, she can't get in and out of his truck. It is easier for her to get in and out of my car. I have become her personal Uber. And I love it.

The two have done their own thing all these years. But, for now,

she is stuck in her house more than she cares to be, and they need a little more help — and that comes in the form of myself, my brother and sister and my parents' terrific neighbors.

Taking them to and from doctor and therapy appointments, picking up groceries and prescriptions and doing other general errands — I gladly do for them.

Dad does some grocery shopping, picks up lunch and dinner but does not want to be away from her for too long.

However, as happy as my siblings and I are to do these errands and take her to the doctors' appointments, she is that unhappy.

After every trip, every doctor appointment, each errand, both of them tell me thank you and in the same breath tell me how sorry they are to put me through this.

Through what? I am doing for my parents what they did for me for — well — all of my life.

It's not that I feel obligated. I feel so very lucky. Not many people get to do these things for their parents.

She is frustrated that they can't get out and go when they want but

even more angry because, as she says, she is taking my time, keeping me from doing my work or from things she thinks I need to be doing. It all makes her anxious and agitated. And that raises her blood pressure.

I am trying to understand. She has lost her independence. Well, their independence. She has not been able to see well enough to drive or get around without my dad for many years — but that had not slowed them down — until now.

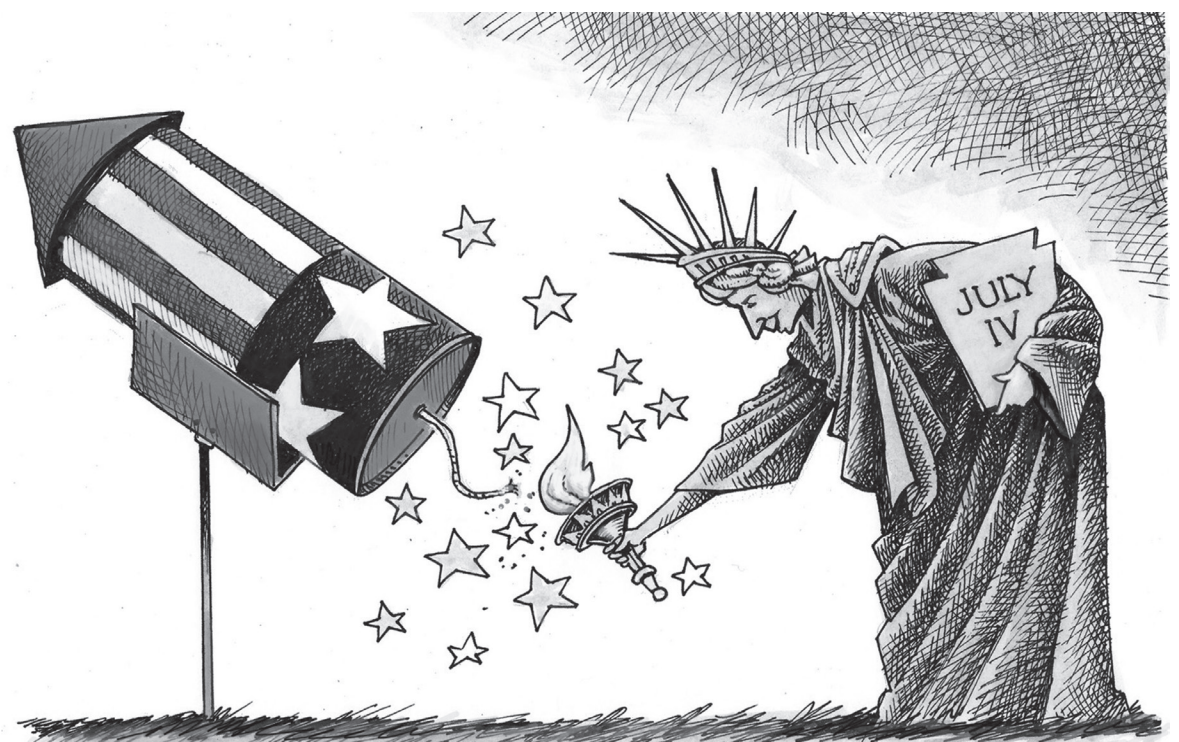
But in a weird twist, this bad situation has made our village tighter. I am spending more time with Mom and Dad, as is my brother. Dad goes to every appointment of Mom's, so we three trip around town quite often now — and we actually have some quality time in the waiting room talking rather than scrolling on my phone.

So, while both tell me they are sorry for inconveniencing me every time we get back home, I am cherishing each of these doctor visits and being part of this village.

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JACKIE ZIMMERMAN



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Actions result in better outcomes

Those who know me personally know this, but many of you aren't that lucky: I have a rather large ego and an enhanced sense of what I am capable of.

And this means I push myself into difficult situations and act shocked when it hurts or when, inevitably, the power to control what happens next slips through my fingers like water.

Some days I want to scream and tear my hair out. I know, as a journalist I probably ought to remain cool as a cucumber in most situations. I'm a human first, though.

It's hard to describe the powerlessness I have felt this week, and through a lot of last week. Not just in one situation, but many. I have seen the impact of the words I typed in a story, but it's not me who ultimately makes the world turn.

That feeling sends me back to my morning meditations — breathe in, two, three, four, five; hold, two, three, four, five; breathe out, two, three, four, five; repeat. Repeat. Repeat.

I woke up Thursday to messages and comments on an ongoing case involving potential animal abuse. I saw the video when it first came out and my heart hurt. And I, again, felt powerless.

I cannot say whether the judge who gave the man his dogs back was right or wrong. I imagine he had more information than I do and I most definitely would not want to be in his shoes. But this case is

nowhere near over.

And in speaking with the veterinarians who examined the dogs, I felt only relief that they didn't find signs of abuse. It's strange to me that people would hope for signs of significant abuse.

And I'm struggling with the endless and rather violent threats against the man accused in the video, the judge and the local veterinarians involved in this case. At no point do those actions make any kind of sense, and they don't make you a good person.

I think it's time we take a moment to recognize where those violent urges come from and use that energy for something more productive.

The Kurth Memorial Animal Shelter is overflowing, as it always is, with needy animals. The shelter staff does everything it can to help their lives not be so miserable, but no one believes a shelter is the best place for an animal to live out their life. And the staff can do nothing to stop the constant inflow of critters.

I know that feeling. And this is something we, as a community, actually do have some power over. There is a solution to this problem. Quite a few, actually.

When I last checked the social media post about my story, it reached more than 18,000 people. There were 967 reactions, comments and shares and nearly 8,000 post clicks.

Can you imagine what can happen if each of those individuals donates \$10 to the shelter's vetting fund?

For those with a little extra energy after that rather simple task, what can happen if you volunteer for a few hours? The shelter needs

people to help coordinate rescues to pick up critters, give dogs baths, take one or two on a walk and help them socialize. There are wonderful people volunteering already — I'm sure they have a few ideas about what you can do.

Go play with a shelter critter. I can promise the anger will be gone after an hour or two of volunteering. And if you still have some energy after that, why not consider adoption or fostering? Dozens of animals find themselves in the shelter every day. If more locals took responsibility, these scared critters may actually have a decent life.

No, it may not fix what you believe to be wrong with the situation in which the dogs in the video live. I get it. But I have two lovely rescues of my own at home who have grown fat and spoiled. I am grateful for them every day and I can sleep at night knowing there are two lives that are infinitely better because I took action.

Speaking up about a problem is important. Calling it out is important. It's the first step toward recovery, or so my friends say while pushing pamphlets in my direction.

It's easy to be angry, to get online or call up to certain offices and make threats. It's not easy to be a part of the solution. It's not easy to step up and actually fix some of these problems.

But when it comes to the state in which animals in Angelina County live, you can do a lot better than type a mean comment on a social media post and threaten the lives of your neighbors.

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HEADLINES IN Local HISTORY

JULY 2-3

Five years ago

■ State District Judge Paul White announces his final campaign as 159th District Court Judge, with the goal of establishing a special court for those suffering from mental illness.

■ Central ISD hosts "Lego Movie" summer camp, where budding filmmakers learn to make stop-motion movies.

Ten years ago

■ Kids College summer camp at Angelina College provides enriching and stimulating classes for elementary children.

■ City's Parks & Recreation Department to bring adult kickball tournaments to Lufkin.

Twenty years ago

■ U.S. Supreme Court vacates the death sentence for Willie Mack Moddon, convicted of the 1984 murder of a Lufkin woman.

■ Lufkin City Council approves the first reading of a zone change request that will allow the construction of a Home Depot on Tulane Drive.

From the pages of The Lufkin Daily News, compiled by The History Center, TheHistoryCenterOnline.com.

TODAY IN HISTORY

The Associated Press Today is Saturday, July 2, the 183rd day of 2022. There are 182 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 2, 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

On this date:

In 1566, French astrologer, physi-

cian and professed prophet Nostradamus died in Salon.

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

MALLARD FILLMORE

By Bruce Tinsley



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