

Daily World



Area can advance in adversity

At night before I go to bed, I read regularly from The Bible and a devotional book called "Power for Today." This book uses scriptures and applies them to everyday life. Last weekend I was reading a couple of entries that I felt could be applied to our situation right here in Helena and Phillips County.

The title for the first reading was called "Advancing in Adversity." To most, that is foreign to the way we think. After all adversity is defined as "difficulty" or hardship," and advancing means to "move forward." How do you move forward during hard times?

The devotional used the life of Joseph as an example. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and wanted to kill him. Instead, they sold him into Egyptian slavery. Joseph achieved great political status in Egypt and eventually turned a "wrong" into an opportunity to do something good for the brothers who had betrayed him. Joseph grew in spiritual wisdom during those difficult times.

Like Joseph, Helena and Phillips County have experienced some tough times over the last three or four decades but to those who persevere there is always the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. Helena, by no means, is a great place to live, at least not yet but that doesn't mean that it cannot be.

At this point, the area needs an attitude adjustment. It is time the residents of this Delta community join forces and become a conqueror rather than a victim. It is all too easy to sit back and cry, "poor, poor pitiful me."

The Advertising and Promotions Committee opened the door of optimism at their last session when they approved funding for a Civil War consultant. Something we have sorely missed since Ronnie Nichols left the area several years ago. The consultant will draw up a plan that will highlight the area's significance in the history of this country during the awful "War Between the States." Helena and Phillips County is literally sitting on a gold mine of historical riches if properly mined.

Soon that will all be placed in the hands of our civic leaders and potential new business owners. The city's next step forward is to cultivate good solid leaders to move us in a positive direction. There is simply too much of a negative stigma associated with our town.

A step in the right direction would be a transparent government. I will not deal with that too much here rather than to say the people of Helena need open access to its government. We should have no less than any other community in our great state.

In defense of our community, I want to go on record saying that it is not as bad as many naysayers would have you believe. I read an article about a church minister who challenged his congregation to look at the brighter side of life by not whining or complaining for 21 days. He handed out plastic bracelets and every time a person complained they had to switch the bracelet from one wrist to the other and the countdown started all over again until they reached 21 days without a complaint. One member said they didn't realize just how much they complained.

Perhaps that challenge could be issued to the regular contributors of our guestbook. However, instead of the bracelet I suggest that you do not register a complaint without offering a viable solution to the problem.

At this point, I think I will close by carefully paraphrasing the lyrics from a recent Eagles song. "It's not too late...just do something, do something."

It is time for the citizens of our city and county to stop feeling sorry for themselves and stand up and "do something." Like Joseph, we can make the best of a difficult situation.



Random Thoughts

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