

# Knowledge could ease rage over Roe

Major wounds in this nation were ripped raw in the past week, and people need to learn some civics and history and extend grace if we are to heal.

The reaction to the ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States overturning Roe v. Wade sharpened the division between left and right in America.

Emotional and irrational arguments on both sides only deepen that divide. It has become all but impossible to find anyone who will listen and give the other side space to explain.

## In Our Opinion

Angry, impatient and irrational reactions to every issue have been going on for decades, but the ruling to overturn Roe forced an already foaming cauldron of hate to boil over.

That spilled out on social media and cable news and onto the streets.

We've created a critical lack of knowledge of how our government and legal system work. Because courts have tried to make law instead of interpret it for too long, people who oppose the Supreme Court's decisions feel betrayed when the justices follow their constitutional mandate.

The justices in the majority took that action at great peril. A man got into Justice Brett Kavanaugh's neighborhood with the intent to assassinate him, and all the conservative justices have faced threats and protests outside their homes.

It would have been easier and safer to wimp out, but they stood by their conscience and legal knowledge.

An honest lesson in civics would teach anyone willing to learn that the court was not speaking on the morality of abortion but declaring the original decision was legally incorrect.

It would also help if people understood that the decision gives authority over abortion law back to the states, putting more power in the people's hands, and does not automatically abolish the procedure everywhere.

It doesn't help to have people—including elected officials who should know better—spouting off about abolishing the Supreme Court or declaring without merit that many other rights will soon be gone. Misplaced Bible quotes and unsubstantiated abortion "facts" from the right are just as bad.

We, as Americans, can do better than this. The U.S. Constitution is an old document that will serve us well if we let it do its job.

Let's learn how this nation is designed to function and understand the argument before talking or protesting. We won't heal if we don't stop reacting in hate.

## Today in History...

Here are some highlights in world history on June 30:

**1934**—Adolf Hitler launches his "blood purge" of political and military rivals in Germany in what comes to be known as "The Night of the Long Knives."

**1958**—The U.S. Senate passes the Alaska statehood bill by a vote of 64-20.

**1982**—The proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution expires, having failed to receive the required number of ratifications for its adoption, despite having its seven-year deadline extended by three years.

**1994**—The U.S. Figure Skating Association strips Tonya Harding of the national

championship and bans her for life for her role in the attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan.

**2009**—American soldier Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl goes missing from his base in eastern Afghanistan, and is later confirmed to have been captured by insurgents after walking away from his post. (Bergdahl was released on May 31, 2014 in exchange for five Taliban detainees; he pleaded guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, but was spared a prison sentence by a military judge.)

**2020**—Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves signs a landmark bill retiring the last state flag bearing the Confederate battle emblem.



# State urged to nurture existing business

An economist with UW-Madison argues the state should focus more on developing "homegrown" businesses rather than recruiting companies to move to Wisconsin.

"Going out and trying to recruit that business is not a good use of their time," Prof. Steven Deller said during a recent rural innovation event held in Beloit. "Much better off working with the businesses that are already in your backyard and the entrepreneurs that are thinking of starting a business."

Deller pointed to research he and colleagues conducted showing that 97% of all businesses in the state "are in the same place as they were last year." What's more, the "vast majority" of companies remain in the same location where they started, he said.

Panelists during the event—held at the Irontek co-working space—discussed ways to support innovation and business growth in rural areas.

Sam Ridders, deputy secretary and COO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., said rural innovation in the state "is not in a happy place."

"I think that's why we're all here," he said. "There's a lot of things we can do. ... At WEDC we're doing pretty well, we tell ourselves, but still...8.2% of our entrepreneurial investments are going to rural counties and communities."

Deller described innovation as the "engine of economic growth," but said efforts to stimulate it are often focused on industry disruption rather than the "mom and pop" end of the spectrum. That's despite the fact that these local, often rural, businesses are far more common in Wisconsin than those that redefine an entire industry or market niche, he said.

"It could be in rural Wisconsin when they now have reliable, affordable broadband, they set up a social

media marketing campaign," he said. "For these businesses, that's new, that's innovative...I think maybe we need to spend a little more time with these 'mom and pop'

## Capitol Report

By WisPolitics.com

businesses, in terms of them being more profitable and more efficient."

Phil Fonfara, president of Beloit-based Blue Line Battery, highlighted the city as an "incredible example" of local investment leading to innovation and success.

"You've got a million-square-foot building here at the old Beloit Corporation headquarters," he said. "This space was abandoned for a very long time. It's taken a tremendous amount of capital to build what you see here today, but there is an incredible

amount of startups that are headquartered here and have found funding here and other resources."

He applauded Hendricks Commercial Properties and billionaire founder Diane Hendricks for their impact on the city, pointing to investments in apartment buildings, sports facilities and restaurants.

"Without that capital and commitment to a community and this city...you'd drive right by it and not stop unless you needed gas," he said. "Now it's becoming a destination, not only for tourism, but also for startups. It's a great place to grow a business."

*The Capitol Report is written by editorial staff at WisPolitics.com, a nonpartisan, Madison-based news service that specializes in coverage of government and politics, and is distributed for publication by members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.*

# Boy on bicycle killed in highway collision

**45 Years Ago—1977**

—A rural Valders boy was killed last Saturday when he collided with a car while riding a bicycle. Gerald W. Hibbard, 11, died of head injuries after striking the car as he drove the bike out of a driveway along County Highway C southeast of Valders. The driver of the car, an 18-year-old Two Rivers woman, swerved to avoid the boy, but he struck the front side of the car. The boy would have started seventh grade at Valders in the fall.

—The Valders School Board approved a 1977-78 budget of about \$1.82 million, nearly 8% higher than last year's spending. The expected tax levy will also increase about 8% to just more than \$1 million.

—The Valders pee wee baseball team slammed Cleveland, 39-3, in just 3 1/2 innings last week, scoring 15 runs in each of the second and fourth frames. Jeff Schwoerer went five for six at the plate to lead the of-

fense, and Jeff Evenson was the winning pitcher, striking out nine of 13 batters he faced.

**25 Years Ago—1997**

—Doneff Building Systems of Manitowoc has bought a lot along Christel Drive in Valders, where plans call for

## Looking Back

By Brian Thomsen

building a 17-unit apartment building for senior citizens. The company has begun taking appointments with potential residents as it tries to clear up legal and financial details.

—Four hits by Jessica Christel and two extra-base hits by Brandy Lenz led the Valders girls fastpitch softball team past School Hill, 12-8, this week. Pitcher Vicky Lueloff struck out two and walked seven to get the win. Crystal Mueller, Tiffany

Ries and Amanda Mueller also got hits to help the offense.

—Gas prices have fallen in Wisconsin just in time for the Fourth of July holiday, which we see millions of people traveling, many by car. AAA Wisconsin says the average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gas in the state is \$1.27, which is 3 cents lower than a year ago at the same time, despite some fluctuations in the past year.

**10 Years Ago—2012**

—Organizers of an annual music festival in the Town of Eaton said they are disappointed with what they say was late action by county officials that led to the event being canceled. Ken Tribolini has conducted a small music festival on land he owns along Town Line Road for about 25 years. The county's increased enforcement of zoning laws forced the event to shut down this summer. In the past, no advertisements were made and no tickets were sold, but a new event

organizer did those things last year, triggering the county's action.

—Abby Ebert struck out 16 batters to help the Valders I senior fastpitch softball team defeat Branch Yellow, 10-2. She pitched a complete game, also giving up four hits and walking five. She held Branch scoreless after the first inning. Alli Lehman and Taylor Wagner each drove in two runs for Valders.

—Hail on Friday afternoon damaged crops in several locations in Manitowoc County. The major damage was centered near Whitelaw and the area to the south of the village. The hail was described as pea- to marble-sized. Jerry Herrmann, who farms south of Whitelaw, said that the hail damaged 130 acres of corn on his farm, crops on neighboring farms and a soybean field near Taus. The storm follows an erratic spring and early summer that has seen hot weather, heavy rains and periods of drought.



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