

## Plenty of Time Left

Can you hear it?

That sound is summer slipping away. The days are growing shorter as autumn gets ready to make its entrance.

As I age, it seems as if the days and seasons are passing more quickly. I know time is a constant, but our perceptions of time and its passage change as we age. When I was a child in school, a particularly boring or difficult class seemed to last forever. I know it was 30 or 40 minutes, but my young mind distorted it to be much longer.



From the Publisher's Desk  
Tom Stangl

I sometimes wish I could slow down time to be as long as one of those boring classes. I can assure you I would take greater advantage of the time.

Even though we are in August, there is still plenty of time to enjoy the weather and the outdoors. We all know winter seems to linger for seemingly half of the year. I think that's why many try to jam as much as possible into the all too brief days of summer.

This summer seemed to start early, taking over from spring which seemed to have a hard time vanquishing winter. Canadian wildfires are responsible for the orange tinted skies and questionable air quality we have experienced this year. As beautiful as the smoke assisted sunsets have been, I would rather have the air be better to breathe and fewer and more easily contained wildfires.

Drought conditions in areas of the United States and Canada have exacerbated fire risks. You don't have to travel far to find places that could burn with the proper accelerants.

This summer was different for me as well because I spent half of May and all of June with lifting restrictions following my prostate cancer surgery. I never thought I would say I was happy to take out the trash or mow the lawn, but I am grateful to be able to perform these tasks.

Recently, I was able to move furniture for my wife so she could clean and polish the hardwood floors in our house. It's a mundane and labor-intensive task that needs to be done a couple times a year. The job is more time consuming for my wife than me. I just do some lifting and do my best to stay out of the way.

While the second phase of the cleaning and polishing was underway, I took our two-year-old Corgi/Shiba Inu mix dogs, Winston and Lucy, for a walk. The walk had a double purpose — to keep the dogs out of the polish and to tire them out. After getting their harnesses on, we set off for our walk with me being pulled by the dogs. About 40 minutes later, we returned with me in the lead.

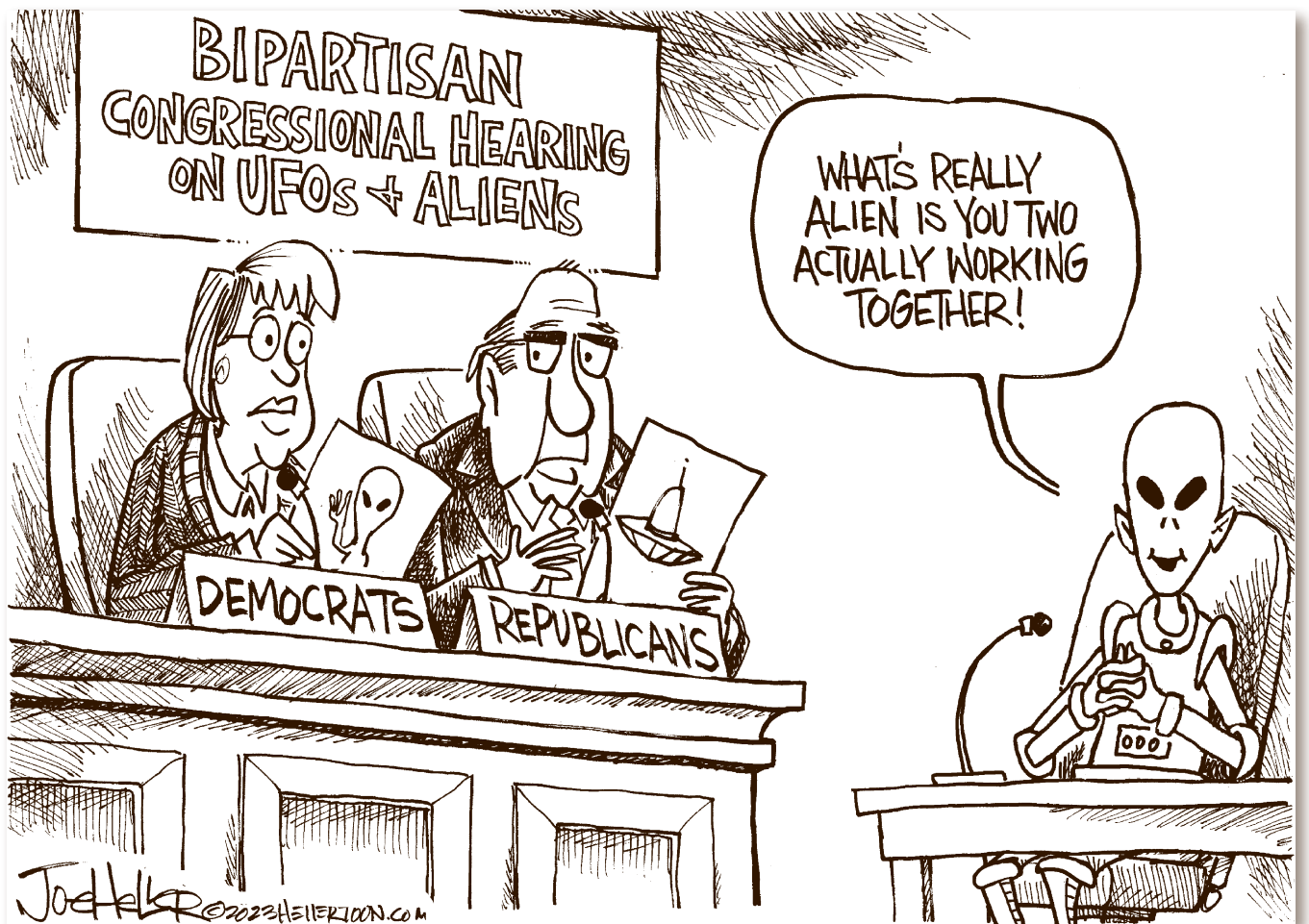
I enjoyed watching their nap.

Winter and snow are hopefully many, many months away, so I will have time to become bitter and jaded about snow removal. But for now, I am happy to be active. To be active is to be alive. I know that before my cancer diagnosis, I took many, many things for granted. I'm trying to remain mindful of the many gifts I have been given. Some days are easier than others.

Do your best to enjoy the rest of the summer. Avoid the trap of ingratitude.

As always, I welcome your comments. You can reach me by email at [tstangl@theamery-freepress.com](mailto:tstangl@theamery-freepress.com), telephone 715-268-8101 or write me at P.O. Box 424, Amery, WI, 54001.

Thanks for reading. I'll keep in touch. Feel free to do the same.



## Child 1, Dad 0

Against my better judgment, Hannah and I went back to school supply shopping over the weekend.

There's a couple of rules within our family when it comes to back-to-school shopping. Michelle does the clothes; I do the supplies.



From the Editor's Desk  
Jason Schulte

My patience for clothes shopping is not good. If I like it and it fits me, it's a winner. The ability to spend four to six hours clothes shopping isn't for me.

Therefore, I gladly do the supplies. There's always a list to follow, so therefore you can't or don't need to

stray too far from it.

I went by myself in most years, which selfishly, was even better. No interruptions, no second guessing and I could go at whatever pace I desired.

Hannah wanted to tag along this year for supply shopping. Something along the lines of 'I'm going to be using this stuff not you' and then

I also heard 'I want to accessorize my locker'.

Fine, I said and off we went.

For the most part we followed the list, and I kept my patience level in check. Even better, the price was coming in at a respectable total.

We did our shopping at Target in Hudson and for those who know the store's layout, the back-to-school supplies were in proximity to the toys' area.

"I'm a kid and we have to walk through the toys area," she said, paraphrasing.

No, no you don't. I answered. We came here for school supplies, not toy shopping.

For those who have met my youngest daughter, she has an independent streak that is hard to beat. Establishing something like that is a great thing which we've heard for years from the staffs past and present at the St. Croix Central Elementary and Middle School.

Yet, in that Target, for being the parent and the multiple times I was saying no, I knew it was a battle I wasn't going to win thanks to that independence.

'Dad, please?' she said, multiple times at a rate which was bordering on irritating. When that starts to occur, raise the white flag.

The agreement was a Squish mallow, a soft plush toy with a soft feel and usually a cute design for a face.

When we walked through the door, Michelle rolled her eyes at the latest addition to Hannah's collection (this isn't her first).

"Now I know why it didn't take so long," she said.

While the overall experience was fine, paying for something that wasn't needed feels like four-putting the 18th hole after a good round of golf.

### IT'S HERE

Speaking of golf, on Aug. 11, Baldwin-Woodville girls is scheduled to compete in the Barron Invitational at Rolling Oaks Golf Course. The following day, the girls tennis team hosts a quadrangular with Amery, Barron, and Medford.

St. Croix Central's first action of the season is Aug. 17 when its girls golf team hosts a meet at Pheasant Hills.

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