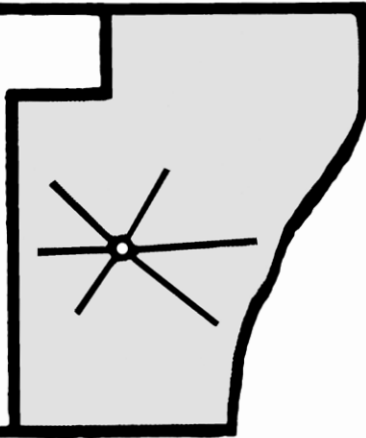


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Safety urged for holiday travel

The state Department of Transportation reminds travelers during Labor Day weekend to follow simple steps to help prevent tragedies on highways. Motorists are urged to plan ahead, buckle up, put their phone down, and be patient and courteous. Drivers are required to travel at a “reasonable and prudent” speed based on weather and traffic conditions. It is illegal for drivers to use a handheld mobile device in work zones. Be prepared to move over or slow down when approaching emergency responders. Most road construction will pause during the weekend, but significant road construction projects may still impact Labor Day traffic.

School loan forgiveness divides U.S.

People either love or hate Biden’s college debt plan

By Todd S. Bergmann

When President Joe Biden announced plans to forgive student loan debt, people who owed for their education rejoiced, while those who had already paid off their loans or have none cried, “Unfair.”

On Aug. 24, Biden announced that individuals with annual incomes less than \$125,000 would receive up to \$10,000 in federal student loan forgiveness, while Pell Grant recipients would have \$20,000 forgiven.

Additionally, the current payment pause on federal loans will continue through the end of 2022.

The U.S. Department of Education will soon lay out the plan in detail and provide information on an application to obtain forgiveness.

At the Manitowoc County Fair last week, U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman, R-Glenbeulah, listed several reasons for opposing loan forgiveness.

“There are all sorts of problems,” he said. “First of all, we do not have another \$330 billion to spend. It is just pouring gasoline on the flames of inflation.

“Secondly, it is unfair to the people who just paid off their loans. Thirdly, it is unfair to the people who did not go to a four-year college....Why should they be paying off somebody who decided to go to college?”

He bemoaned having the idea that loans should not be paid off ingrained in people.

“You are always going to think that in another two years when elections come up, maybe the president is going to forgive the loan,” Grothman said.

Logan Kelly, professor of economics at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, disagrees with Grothman on the economic impact of loan forgiveness.

Because current inflation in our country has multiple causes, Kelly said the economic stimulus from loan payments would have minor impact on inflation.

“\$300 billion in the overall grand scheme in the size of the economy, which is somewhere around \$16 trillion, is not a particularly big amount,” he said. “It is not really big enough that it have huge impacts on inflation.”

The major reason for inflation at this time
See Loans p. 13



All Dressed Up to Show

Allison Leschke (above) shows Hill-Line Syracuse Elliot during the Manitowoc Culver’s Futurity Show on Saturday night at the Manitowoc County Fair. Exhibitors showed 3-year-old cows that were entered as calves and wore formal wear for the competition. Clockwise from right: Todd Borgwardt handles Sunnyside Nana Crush; Clarissa Ulness works with Ragnar King Doc Angel; and Alex Hackmann shows Kress-Hill Strawberry Red.

—Journal Photos



Showmen put their—and cows’—best foot forward

By Todd S. Bergmann

The dairy showmanship ring was good to local youths last week during the Manitowoc County Fair.

Eli Staudinger, a Valders High School junior, was named supreme champion in dairy showmanship, while his brother, Isaac, became champion in the third and fourth grade class.

Winners of each class—Kaitlyn Fischer, Valders FFA, 11th grade and higher; Eli Staudinger, ninth and 10th grade; Laney Neuser, Maribel Mighty Kids 4-H, seventh and eighth grades; Logan Bratt, Clarks Mills

Good Sports 4-H, fifth and sixth grade; and Isaac Staudinger, third and fourth grades—and their heifers or calves competed for the supreme championship.

After spending three hours judging five classes, judge Brian Behnke evaluated the five young winners and their animals again.

“These exhibitors understand what it takes to win showmanship,” he said. “They understand what the rules are and follow them.

“They present the animal correctly.” Behnke then awarded supreme champion to Eli Staudinger.

“He has held his own,” Behnke said. “He

is a great, great showman. I just loved the way he presented the heifer.”

He awarded reserve champion to Neuser.

“I give it to the lady with a red heifer as a reserve champion,” Behnke said. “I just thought that the young man in first got his heifer squared up a little more correctly and quickly.”

The two sons of Brian and Jennifer Staudinger, both members of the Cato Future Farmers 4-H Club, talked about their success in the ring.

By walking his calf every day all summer, Eli said she gets accustomed to walking for

show, while most cows do not.

“I worked very hard all summer long training her,” he said.

In his 11th year in dairy showmanship, Eli started training his calf, Doreen, in February.

The 9-month-old calf was born on the Staudinger farm to a cow that Eli won at a Junior Holstein convention.

Isaac, now in fifth grade at St. Mary/St. Michael School in Clarks Mills, showed 5-month-old Mick Jagger.

His father told the story of the name.

See Showing p. 3

Loans

Continued from p. 1

is a shortage of supply related to COVID-19 in this country and the war in Ukraine, Kelly said.

"Much of the inflation that we are seeing right now is driven by what I call cost shocks," he said. "They are basically unfavorable supply shocks. They do not cause permanent inflation."

He said student loan forgiveness would also not make inflation permanent, despite possible one-time price hikes.

When student loan payments go down or disappear, Kelly said life becomes more affordable for families.

"They would have more income at their disposal to pay rent and buy food," he said.

If households have better financial stability, they have better outcomes and become more likely to invest in a home and save more for retirement, Kelly added.

People who pay off student loans may or may not expect a plethora of offers from credit card companies because paying off loans improves credit ratings, Kelly said.

"It really depends on the individual," he said.

When people pay off loans, they may get a better credit score, of which they may take advantage of to buy something else, Kelly said.

College education, based in part on student loans, can help children of poor families get ahead, Kelly said. This education transfers to the next generation.

"The more educated the parents, the more educated the children are," he said.

Student loan forgiveness has become a political issue, with Democrats calling it a means to help people while Republicans see it as an expensive welfare program.

Don Zimmer, chairman of the Manitowoc County Republican Party, said Biden has no legal authority to forgive student debt.

"Right now, he is doing something that is utterly illegal," Zimmer said. "He does not care."

The U.S. Education and Justice departments are reviewing whether the president has the legal authority to cancel federal student loan debt

through executive action. There is no timetable on when these reports will be issued.

If loan forgiveness does go through, Zimmer said people will be irresponsible in paying off student loans.

"It makes the taxpayer who did not go to college liable for loans for those who did," he said. "That is grossly unfair."

"For example, a guy who owns a plumbing business and works very hard to be successful, he's going to be paying off the loans of somebody who went to one of these ridiculous universities and got a gender-studies degree."

"The president is doing it only for political reasons. He thinks he is going to gain votes by doing it. It may backfire."

Kerry Trask, co-chairman of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party, said education beyond high school is a necessity in today's economic world.

"A high school education is not sufficient... to have the skills that are needed in society and an economy," he said. "Education is a necessity. But, nobody is saying you have to buy a new car."

Although he is a retired history professor in the University of Wisconsin system, Trask said that a technical school education is important for the society and the economy.

Forgiving student loans shows that education and a well-trained work force are priorities, Trask said.

"I think it is a good thing," he said. "I don't think it is a particularly expensive thing. It is going to be a wash on inflation. It will probably help the economy."

Trask said he is unsure if forgiving student debt is fair or unfair to those who already paid off their loans.

"History is history," he said. "A lot of us have been in unfair situations. I am not in favor of reparations for slavery."

"Nothing can be fair in the human endeavor."

Later, Trask expanded on that thought.

"There is a bit of unfairness to it," he said. "It is not egregious. I think it is a good help to the economy. It's a Band-Aid on a problem that made education too expensive for people in the bottom third of the economy."

Self-sustaining life reaps rewards

Hello friends,
The column that I am about to write was supposed to be written on June 15 and it is my annual hobby farming

Outdoorsman's Journal

By Mark Walters

getting-by-with-nature-as-much-as-possible story. Instead, the good Lord decided to have my beautiful woman pass away that night and so I had my 21-year-old daughter, Selina, write my column so I could meet my deadline.

Here is another unique situation. I am writing this week's column in one of my three gardens, and it is the one that is directly across a fence from my sweet corn and on the other side of the corn I just let my steers into a small area where they can graze on knee-deep clover.

Earlier in the summer I was working in one of my other gardens. It was five days after Michelle passed and it seemed like my steers were on the wrong side of the fence.

I was correct and in a matter of five minutes all 36 of my pepper plants were consumed to nearly the ground and it was a challenge to get the steers onto the right side of the fence and minimize the damage. At this moment all I can hear



Mark Walters stands amid his tomato plants that should produce about 15 bushels of tomatoes by mid-September.

have to make at least 20 to take me through the next 12 months. I put lots of venison burger in it and freeze most of it in 1-quart bags and it makes for a perfect meal on my trips.

I will try to write this corn freezing recipe as simple as possible to save space. Fifteen cups of corn that has been cut off the cob, has been in ice water, 4 cups of ice water, 1.25 cups of sugar, 2 teaspoons of salt. No blanching, super-fast, best frozen corn ever.

This year Michelle and I planted enough garden to give us food for 12 months for six

the cattle live in it, which makes incredible soil in what is one of the worst counties in the state for growing food unless you use large amounts of fertilizer.

I have all of my firewood cut, split and stacked under shelter for this winter and soon I may harvest a black bear, will probably harvest a whitetail or two and in October, and I will be heading to Montana to hunt elk and mule deer with a rifle on a lone-wolf hunt that will be a huge challenge and should

be very good for my mental health.

Everything I do or at least I try is to be as independent as possible including how I earn a living.

I miss Michelle but I need to keep putting one foot in front of the other!

Sunset



Mark Walters is a syndicated columnist from Nece-dah who travels mostly throughout Wisconsin in search of outdoor adventures.

An Outdoorsman's Journal is sponsored each week by these fine businesses.



Two Nescoes of chili are ready to be put in the freezer for some delicious eating during the long winter.

is grazing cattle.

After I finish this column, I am going to freeze about 25 more bags of corn. I have already frozen 42 and after the corn freezing, I am going to harvest enough veggies to make another Nesco of chili.

So far, I have made and frozen or given away seven gallons and

people, which would have been three of her children, Selina, Michelle and myself. I lost all of my consumers but Selina as well as my labor force. If you would come to my house, you may actually be in disbelief as to the amount of garden.

In the fall I fence off my main garden and let

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