



FROM THE Editor's Desk

BY SARAH NIGBOR

Step up or shut up

I'm sick and tired of people complaining, so I'm calling them out.

I like Facebook because it allows me to keep up with goings-on of family and friends. I like the community pages, such as "Ellsworth WI Community Happenings," when they share *truthful* information on events, etc. But lately those community pages have become a platform for people to be nasty and rude, complain and spread misinformation. It infuriates me.

For example, this past weekend people have been online complaining about the Pierce County Fair prices, the parking, the demo derby, and God knows what else. Not to mention the paragraphs of misinformation on the proposed contained anaerobic digester that Bigadan wants to build in East Ellsworth. Before that it was the Cheese Curd Festival and its volunteers getting attacked. Even the people who sell sweet corn in East End Park were under fire. Who knows what it will be next.

I'm not perfect. I make mistakes because I am human. When I make a mistake in the paper, I thank whoever brought it to my attention and I correct it. That's called accountability. Is it embarrassing? Sure it is. But what about all the people posting things on social media that are incorrect? None of them go back and correct anything. People just spew out "information" and opinions as fact without checking their accuracy. Why in the world would any of those people know more about an anaerobic digester than the people involved with the project? If you have questions, ask them! Don't ask the yutzes on Facebook who have no idea what they are talking about.

Am I being a bit harsh? Yes, I am. Because my blood is boiling.

I saw at least two posts this weekend calling the Ellsworth Funsters Demo Derby "ridiculous" and "awful." I was not able to attend, but apparently there were less vehicles than usual. One person was again complaining about the ticket prices.

The Funsters are a volunteer group who run this derby every year as a fundraiser for the good work they do in the community. They are out there getting ready for the derby at dawn and are there long past the fair closing to clean it up. It takes months of preparation, coordination and volunteers to pull this event off. They are not professional derby organizers or promoters, but dang it, they do the best they can. Not to mention the wonderful things they do for the community with the money they raise: The annual Easter Egg hunt, Santa visit, parade appearances, Pumpkin in the Park, fishing contest, to name a few. So for people to insult this organization and event is disgraceful. I am ashamed of those people.

If you want a successful event, you must participate, whether that is by volunteering, entering a vehicle, or attending. People who do not volunteer to help make things better, who do not offer solutions instead of complaints, have no right to say a thing. If you have time to complain, you have time to offer a solution. Maybe you have some great ideas to make things better. Then share those, not your negativity.

I want to thank all the community organizations and volunteers who do wonderful things for our community. Thank you for caring. Thank you for your time. Thank you for your action.

I'm asking those who sit and complain and do nothing to get involved. It's incredibly rewarding to serve other people. Working in the 4-H Food Stand at the fair this year, my heart melted when I saw the looks on the kids' faces as they took orders and served food to people. They felt accomplished, like they had done something worthwhile. Is it better to be a keyboard warrior, showing your kids stir the pot on social media, or is it better to better your community by volunteering with that time? You tell me. You like to give your opinions, right? Email me at sarah@piercecountyjournal.news



WOODWORKING Again

BY DAVE WOOD

Our trip to bountiful Independence, Mo.

Last week, I promised readers that the Beautiful Wife and I would regale you with a tale of visiting Independence, Mo., home of one of my favorite American presidents, Harry S. Truman. Harry had no middle name so he tossed in an "S" to commemorate one of his favorite ancestors, a guy named Solomon, which we learned from a U.S. park ranger in the Truman museum, near the ranger ticket office on the town's charming Independence Square.

The ranger station had a commodious rest room, of which I was badly in need. As soon as I sat down, I was faced with the first of many bronze plaques, this one entitled "Truman Loved Toilet Humor." When the President finally returned home from his tenure as Chief of State, he was greeted by his next door neighbor, one John Tuff the Second, who had brought his little boy along. "Mr. President, why don't you ask my little boy what his name is."

Truman complied and here was the kid's replay: "My name is John Tuff da Turd!"

The former president thought it was so hilarious it became his habit to take the little boy with him again and again so he could ask his old political cronies hanging around Independence Square to ask the kid the same question.

And then we were off to the Truman Library, a magnificent edifice at which Truman worked for years after returning home. Later we drove around town and found it to have grown to more than 100,000 souls dotted across the landscape. Most of it was sort of like Edina with little of the charm of old Independence Square. But the presence of the Truman family was everywhere. Bess Truman Town Road, Harry Truman Lake, Truman Causeway and of course the Truman Home, a block from the historic square.

One night we dined at the town's best and very upscale restaurant, Ophelia's, where alongside the steamed mussels and rack of lamb was what was purported to be Harry Truman's favorite fried chicken. Somehow I had a difficult time envisioning Harry and Bess struggling with a huge bowl of wine-infused mussels.

Next day we drove out 20 miles to the Truman farm where Harry toiled on its 600 acres. Now it includes only 11 acres, but the house still remains, white with green trim,

several outbuildings, their doors sagging on rusty hinges, an outdoor privy badly in need of paint, all surrounded by malls and industrial buildings. Plaques and brochures told us the family had owned the property since 1865, but lost it to foreclosure when Truman was in Washington. The Sheriff came and escorted Grandma Truman and her maiden daughter off the farm where the old lady had planted its maples 70 years before. We were silently bewildered that the President of the U.S. couldn't do something about that disgrace, but for the first time on our trip we realized that this president was not always loved by some of the citizenry.

We found out how the farm was lost on our tour of the lovely "Missouri White House," fenced in by a mighty steel fence to ward off intruders and souvenir collectors. Truman had words for those intruders, according to a well-informed park ranger, who filled us in and answered some of our silent questions. Seems that Harry was almost always broke and his wealthy in-laws did nothing to bail out the farm. So after the presidency, all Harry had was \$120 per month, a pension he received from his army duties as an artillery captain in World War I! Presidents in those days got no pension. So Harry chose to mow his own huge lawn, which he hated doing, remembering the days on the former farm. Inside, the rooms were quite tidy (Harry hung his own wallpaper and liked it so much that he even papered the ceilings.) Outside the screened porch we glimpsed an old garage, which stored the 1962 Chrysler Newport he used to take is beloved Bess on a long trip to visit the whistlestops on his 1948 tour.

It must have been bitterly sweet, having earned only a 20 percent approval rating on his exit from the White House. Of course, that would all change in a few years when the naysaying pundits reviewed his actual accomplishments and rated him one of the five best presidents this country has enjoyed. "Not bad," said the knowledgeable park ranger, "for a man who didn't even want to be president. Voters either loved him or hated him, and he bore both with dignity."

As the man from Missouri would say as he sat down to play poker with his cronies on vacation in Key West—"The buck stops here."

LETTERS to the Editor

Dope

To the editor,

Wow, is our nation really soooooo depressed it needs more cannabis? This plays into the hands of one world government as you dope up the citizens so they cannot think clearly. Like the newly discovered Covid lab in Fresno, Calif. To reinfect us again with Covid, so we can quietly die with plenty of cannabis pain killers. Sounds like a scene from "the time machine" where the people above ground play joyfully and at certain times the underground demons come up to harvest them. Seems like things are heating up to destroy freedoms of Ameri-

icans.

Poor Mr. Trump is accused of doing what Biden's people did to subvert last election. But the more SOME media outlets expose this stifling of human rights like gender free bathrooms, maybe the glimmer of hope is beginning to shine again?

And that fact that the IRS has how many rounds of ammunition? And 80,000 swat team raids last year on Americans? Makes you wonder where our freedoms went.

But alas, one must remember what a great early American once said: "Give me freedom or give me death." It would appear ONCE again that not just the military or local police but freedom lov-

ing Americans will pay the price for our children to walk safely and happily in a former oppressive government. God gives us strength in the coming days.

Steve Gullixson
Baldwin

Foul language and treatment

To the editor,

Do we want this person to represent us Wisconsin's 3rd District or anyplace? Rep. Derrick Van Orden! Senate pages are a group of 16- and 17-year-olds who assist in Senate operations. They were resting in the Capitol rotunda recently as the Senate was working late, and snapping pictures of the historic rotunda dome. Van Orden came across them, said to them, and I quote, "Wake the f--- up you little sh---. What the f--- are you all doing? Get the f--- out of here. You are defiling the space you pieces of sh---."

There's more, but you get the idea. This individual apparently has no empathy, no understanding, no emotional control, and frankly no sense to treat young people (or anyone) this way. He needs to be voted out at the earliest opportunity, or perhaps expelled.

Alvina Stainer
River Falls



SENATOR JEFF SMITH'S Column

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S 31ST DISTRICT

Healthy kids, healthy communities

With over three years between us and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's hard to imagine a world in which vaccines are uncontroversial. In the past few years, the efficacy of vaccines has been disputed and has sparked much debate, scientific or otherwise.

But this marks a distinct recent change in the American public's attitude towards vaccination. According to the Pew Research Center, in February 2022, 29% of U.S. adults say they have a great deal of confidence in medical scientists to act in the best interest of the public. That's down from the 40% who said they had confidence in medical scientists as recently as November 2020.

Since early in the coronavirus outbreak, there has been a marked decrease in trust in medical professionals, most prominently in Republicans.

It's not surprising this issue is complicated, given the abundance of information we're bombarded with every day – some from credible sources, others perhaps not. The real difference is in how we evaluate the efficacy of vaccines and how we consult scientific evidence to do so.

The history of protecting against diseases like smallpox through mild exposure has been demonstrated in Asian and African cultures going back in some cases to as early as 200 BCE. In the late 1700s, English physician Edward Jenner traced milkmaids' immunity to smallpox back to previous exposure to the related virus cowpox.

Even with the primitive methods used back then, inoculation proved far safer than risking exposure. Only 1 to 2 percent of people died from the procedure, as opposed to the up to 30 percent of people who died from being infected with smallpox.

The political weaponization of vaccine disinformation is dangerous. Often those questioning vaccines' effect have not consulted the experts. But according to an overwhelming majority of experts, vaccines save lives.

We've seen the result of this here in

the Wisconsin State Legislature. Just this spring, Senate Republicans moved to block a recommendation from the Department of Health Services requiring (with exceptions) that seventh graders be vaccinated against meningitis, among other things.

Meningitis is a highly transmissible seasonal virus that can have potentially fatal and unpredictable outcomes for infants, including hospitalization. It can cause severe inflammation of small airways in the lungs and even pneumonia in children younger than one year old.

The Advisory Council on Immunization Practices, a group of experts that advise the Center for Disease Control, have recommended that students get vaccinated against meningitis since 2005.

DHS's recommendation was sent to the Senate for a vote, but apparently Republicans in our State Senate didn't want to be seen voting against the advice of public health experts. Instead of simply voting it down, they referred it back to a committee. It still has not had a hearing, and I wouldn't hold my breath.

Meanwhile, vaccinations for children are still lagging behind, and it's our children who may pay the price.

The CDC has released updated information on routine childhood vaccination and routine adolescent vaccination. Children are the most vulnerable to disease, and even if they don't show symptoms, can spread disease to family members. Getting routine immunizations back on track before our children return to school will save lives.

The most effective remedy to disinformation is the truth, and the best way to make informed healthcare decisions for your kids is by consulting your pediatrician.

Sen. Smith represents District 31 in the Wisconsin State Senate. The 31st Senate District includes all of Buffalo, Pepin and Trempealeau counties and portions of Pierce, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson and St. Croix counties.

We're Looking for **50 Homeowners** who need a new bath or shower!

FREE Installation on a new bath or shower!

Zero Down! Zero Payments & Zero Interest for 24 Months!

Senior & Military Discounts!

Receive a Free \$50 Walmart gift card with in-home estimate!

CALL TODAY!
715-941-4210
MadCityBaths.com

mad city WINDOWS & BATHS a division of renuity

Does not include material costs. Not valid with any other offer, or previous job. Financing available with minimum purchase and approved credit. Mad City Windows & Baths, LLC is neither a broker nor a lender. Financing is provided by third party lenders unaffiliated with Mad City Windows & Baths, LLC. Under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender. All subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms selected are estimates only. Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the purchase balance is not paid in full within the end of the 24 month period or if you make a late payment. With in-home estimate and product demonstration to homeowners. Limit one per household. Electronic bill and credit card payment great with completion of Sales Agreement. Offer not good on payments by check and is subject to change without notice prior to installation. Allow 2-3 weeks after installation to receive a gift card. Gift card valued at \$50. See representative for details. New orders only for appointments completed by 9/30/2023. Offer expires 9/30/2023.

OUR DEDICATED, EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

ATTORNEY MAGGIE MCLOONE

ATTORNEY JENNIFER N. BROWN

Supporting you in PROBATE AND ESTATE PLANNING

Supporting you in FAMILY LAW • DIVORCE ADOPTIONS • GUARDIANSHIPS

WELD RILEY SC

a more powerful partnership

3624 Oakwood Hills Pkwy, Eau Claire, WI 54701 • 715.839.7786 • weldriley.com

EAU CLAIRE • BLACK RIVER FALLS • MENOMONIE • WAUSAU