

# Community Matters

*A Voice of, by, and for the People  
of Delaware, Ohio*

**September 2019**

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**Send info, articles, questions & comments to  
[delawarecommunitymatters@gmail.com](mailto:delawarecommunitymatters@gmail.com)**

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## CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

### **Columbus Home & Garden Show (9/6-8) – \$**

The Columbus Dispatch Fall Home & Garden Show will take place at the Columbus Ohio Expo Center from Sept. 6-8. To learn more, visit [www.columbushomeandgardenshow.com](http://www.columbushomeandgardenshow.com).

### **MTSO Welcomes Leonard Pitts (9/6) – \$**

As part of a conference entitled "Christians and the Disinherited: Toward the Next 100 Years of Ecumenical Ministry," Pulitzer Prize-winning author and columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. will speak at MTSO on Fri., Sept. 6 during the evening session. Full-conference registration is \$50 (\$30 for students and retirees); the evening sessions is \$20. Visit [www.mtso.edu](http://www.mtso.edu) to see the schedule and to register.

### **First Friday Celebrates School (9/6)**

The theme of September's First Friday (9/6, 6-9 pm) is "Celebrate School Spirit." There will be area school mascots, a performance by the OWU Marching Band, and a special teacher-appreciation tent. Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite school colors.



*Delaware County Fair, Washing Station*

### **Gallery 22 Exhibit Opens (9/6)**

A new exhibition by OWU senior Sarah-Faith Strait '20, "Equus II," opens Fri., Sept. 6 (6-8:30 pm) at Gallery 22, located at 22 E. Winter St. The artist reception is the same day. Strait resides in Mt. Gilead, Ohio and has been around horses since being a little girl. At OWU, where she studies 2-dimensional drawing and painting, she

has received several awards for her outstanding art work. The show, which features several majestic race horses, is in conjunction with the All Horse Parade and Delaware's Little Brown Jug and runs through Oct. 26. Gallery 22 is open every Fri. & Sat., 6-8:30 pm. Free & open to the public.

### **Bioblitz at Gallant Woods Park (9/7)**

Preservation Parks of Delaware County has organized a Bioblitz within Gallant Woods Park, located at 2151 Buttermilk Hill Rd., on Sat., Sept. 7 (7 am – 11 pm). During bioblitzes, scientists and community members come together to identify and record all types of animal and plant species that live in a designated area within a certain period of time – often 24 hours. Sometimes rocks and other natural features are also included in the count. Gallant Woods has a variety of habitats to explore, incl. woodlands, prairies, and wetlands. The community is invited to participate; registration is not required. For related preparatory and educational activities, visit the Sept. 7 event on PPDC's webpage ([www.preservationparks.com](http://www.preservationparks.com)) for programs and times.

### **Scioto River Sweep (9/7)**

The annual Scioto River-Sweep will take place Sat., Sept. 7 (8:30 am – noon). Volunteers meet at the Bellpoint Community, 4771 State Rt. 37 W. and will clean up the riverbanks on foot & in canoes. Equipment, transportation to and from launch & pick-up sites, and a free picnic lunch are provided. Registration is required. Call Jenifer Way-Young from Keep Delaware Beautiful at 740-368-1700 or email her at [jwayyoung@delawarehealth.org](mailto:jwayyoung@delawarehealth.org).



### **Doggie Dive-In (9/7) – \$**

The 2019 swimming season at Mingo Park is over, and it's again time for the annual Doggie Dive-In. This year's date is Sat., Sept. 7 (9 am – 12 pm). Tickets are \$5 until 9/6 and \$10 on the day of the event (cash only). Proof of vaccination & license required. Only 1 dog per guest. People are not allowed in the water, only dogs.

### **Suicide Prevention Walk (9/7)**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Suicide Prevention Walk through historic downtown Delaware will take place Sat., Sept. 7 (9-11 am). Walkers meet at OWU's HWCC Campus Center – either outside at the fountain or (in case of rain) inside in the Benes Rooms. Register at [www.helpinedelmor.org/walk](http://www.helpinedelmor.org/walk) or find more info at Facebook/com/dspcwalk.

### **Muralist Brett Cook at OWU (7/7)**

California muralist Brett Cook will be at OWU on Sat., Sept. 7 for a talk (2 pm) and a reception (2:30 pm) inside Beeghly Library. "Art for Everyone: Making the Delaware Mural Project" documents the creation of the pieces. The Gallery 2001 exhibit inside Beeghly Library, which runs from Sept. 6 through Dec. 12 features the work of Cook along with the photos, writings, and art created by residents who participated in the artistic process. The talk and the exhibit are in conjunction with the completion of the downtown mural. Learn more about Cook at [www.brett-cook.com](http://www.brett-cook.com).

### **All Horse Parade (9/8)**

The annual All Horse Parade is Sun., Sept. 8. It starts at 3 pm at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, turns south on Sandusky St., then west on Winter St., before heading back to the Fairgrounds.

First Presbyterian Church at 73 W. Winter St. is planning on having an all-day "Food, Fillies, and Fun" food-truck festival in the church's parking lot (11:30 am – 6 pm) on the day of the All Horse Parade. Details will be announced soon.



### **Ribbon-Cutting at Raising Cane's (7/9)**

Raising Cane's opens its 17<sup>th</sup> Central Ohio restaurant at 720 Sunbury Rd. (Rt. 36/37 E.) on Mon., Sept. 9 (4:30 pm). The official ribbon-cutting is at 4:45 pm.

### **Olentangy Watershed Alliance Meets (9/10)**

OWA works in partnership with rural and urban communities to understand, appreciate & responsibly use the Olentangy River, its tributaries & its watershed. The organization meets next on Tues., Sept. 10 (10-11:30 am) at Delaware's Water Treatment Plant, 225 Cherry St. The meetings are open to the public. OWA is on Facebook, so check them out.

### **One People Meets (9/12)**

One People meets next on Thurs., Sept. 12 (7 pm) at First Presbyterian Church (73 W. Winter St.). Please use the rear entrance. The nonprofit attempts to bring together folks of all colors, incl. underresourced and underserved minorities, to ensure a more harmonious community. The September meeting is devoted to the organization's mission statement.

### **Stories of the Little Brown Jug (9/12)**

The Delaware County Historical Society (DCHS) is inviting the public to share their stories of the Little Brown Jug and donate their race mementos on Thurs., Sept. 12 (7 pm) at the Barn at Stratford, 2690 Stratford Rd. Two presenters, Roger Huston & Jay Wolf, will describe their first-hand experiences and comment on the significance of the annual race for the Delaware community. Audience members are then encouraged to tell their own stories about the race as part of the Little Brown Jug Oral History Project.

### **Retired Teachers Association (7/13) – \$**

The Delaware County Retired Teachers Association (DCRTA) is having its quarterly luncheon on Fri., Sept. 13 (12 pm) at Willow Brook Christian Village (South), 100 Willow Brook Way. Retired teachers and administrators, as well as spouses and friends, are invited. Kelsey Fox from the United Way and Becky Dungee from the Red Cross will be guest speakers. The cost for lunch is \$15; local dues are \$15 for 2019. Reservations are due Sept. 6 and can be made by calling Pat Bateman at 330-714-9039 (updated) or emailing [pbateman7075@hotmail.com](mailto:pbateman7075@hotmail.com).

### **Shake, Rattle & Roll at SourcePoint (9/13) – \$**

SourcePoint at 800 Cheshire Rd. will hold its annual fundraiser on Fri., Sept. 13 (6-10 pm). Entitled "Shake, Rattle & Roll," it features various casino games & auctions, food & drink, and entertainment. All proceeds support senior services. Tickets are \$85 per person and include food, 2 drinks, and play money. They are for sale at [www.mysourcepoint.org](http://www.mysourcepoint.org).

### **Delaware County Fair (9/14-21) – \$**

The 2019 Delaware County Fair is from Sept. 14 through 21. General admission is \$6. Children under 8 are free. A weekly pass is \$40. Fair rides are extra. Little Brown Jug Day is Thurs., Sept. 19. The harness race is a big day for the city. Schools, businesses, and City Hall will be closed in the afternoon. Traffic delays are to be expected. The Health District is reminding fairgoers to recycle bottles and cans in the green recycle carts located all around the fairgrounds. – The next Delaware County Fair is scheduled for Sept. 19-26, 2020.

### **Full Moon (9/14)**

The next full moon is Sat., Sept. 14. Free & open to the public. – How old is the moon? Of course, no one knows the exact answer. However, researchers estimate that the moon formed about 60 to 90 million years after the birth of the solar system and Earth, as the result of a mega-asteroid (or a series of them) that smashed into Earth. Debris from that event melted into the rocky planet that later formed the moon. The best estimate is that Earth's only natural satellite is approximately 4.5 billion years old.

### **Meeting to Discuss Traffic-Calming Measures (9/16)**

After hearing complaints from residents about speeding issues in her ward, Councilwoman Lisa Keller has arranged an informational meeting to discuss possible traffic-calming measures in

Delaware on Mon., Sept. 16 (6:30 pm) at the YMCA & National Guard Bldg. at 1121 S. Houk Rd. Chief of Police Bruce Pijanowski will be present to answer questions. Free & open to the public.

### **Democratic Party Central Committee (9/17)**

The Delaware County Democratic Party has its next Central Committee meeting Thurs., Sept. 17 (7:30-9 pm) at Willis Education Center (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), 74 W. William St. The meetings are open to the public.

### **Tour & Reception at the Ross Art Museum (9/18)**

Renowned photographer and OWU alumna JoAnn Verburg '72 focuses her camera on a series of mundane objects. Alternating between still life and snapshot, Verburg considers the items we consume, as well as their environmental impact when discarded and forgotten. The exhibit, entitled "After / Before," started Aug. 21 and runs through Oct. 20. A curator's tour and exhibition reception is planned for Wed., Sept. 18 (5 pm). The artist herself will visit the OWU campus on Oct. 17 to take part in a public discussion and a wine-and-cheese reception (\$10) on Oct. 18, the following day. To learn more about the artist, visit <http://joannverburg.com>. The Ross is located at 60 S. Sandusky St. Free & open to the public.

### **OWU Lecture on Pakistan (9/18)**

As part of OWU's Sagan National Colloquium, Dr. Sahar Khan '06 will give a presentation entitled "America, Pakistan, and the War on Terrorism" on Wed., Sept. 18 (7 pm) in Benes B of OWU's HWCC Campus Center. She currently works as an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. Free & open to the public.

### **"Guess the Banned Book" (9/19)**

The Public Library has organized a Sept. 19 (6:30 pm) event in Delaware entitled "Guess the Banned Book." Games and refreshments are included. (A similar event takes place on Sept. 12 in Ostrander.) The celebration is in conjunction with Banned Books Week (Sept. 23-29). Hundreds of titles have been challenged in U.S. libraries, schools, and colleges over the years. Many were indeed restricted and removed, censored and banned because someone objected to subject matter such as sex education, LGBTQ issues, witchcraft, suicide, etc. According to the American Library Association, the list includes many famous works and names, including the "Harry Potter" series or multiple novels by Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison. Banned Books Week began in 1982 and celebrates the freedom to read and learn from all books.



### **Organ Recital by James Hildreth (7/20)**

James Hildreth, organist at the Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus for 20+ years, will give an organ recital on Fri., Sept. 20 (7-8:30 pm) in Gray Chapel inside OWU's University Hall at 61 S. Sandusky St. He will play the 4,644-pipe Klais organ built in Germany. The program includes works from composers from all over the world, including Africa and Asia, as well as works that celebrate the moon. Hildreth is also the organist for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and has played with the Columbus Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra. Free & open to the public.

### **Delaware Watershed Walk (9/22)**

COCP, the Boardman Arts Park, SDO, and DGHD are inviting local residents to the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Watershed Walk to explore the Delaware Run and parts of the Olentangy River on Sun., Sept. 22 (1-5 pm). Gathering place is the Boardman Arts Park at 154 W. William St. People interested in "creeking" and studying wildlife should bring a change of shoes. Following the long or short walk, enjoy light refreshments, green arts & crafts, educational programming, an Earth Dance, and a free concert by The Wildflowers. For more info, contact Terry Hermesen at [thermsen@otterbein.edu](mailto:thermsen@otterbein.edu).

### **Delaware Mural Project (9/22)**

Muralist Brett Cook and his assistants will be installing 3 murals in Delaware from Sept. 14-22 – one at SWCI (50 Ross St.), one at Andrew's House (39 W. Winter St.), and one at the Common Ground Free Store (193 E. Central Ave.). The Ross Art Museum will host a free public opening for the project at Gallery 2001 in OWU's Beeghly Library on Sun., Sept. 22 (2-4 pm). Brett Cook will talk about the project from 2-2:30 pm in the Bayley Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), followed by refreshments. Free van tours will then be offered to the mural sites from 2:30-4 pm. (For more info on the artist, visit [www.brett-cook.com](http://www.brett-cook.com).)

### **Falls Prevention Awareness Day (9/23)**

SourcePoint is hosting a Falls Prevention Awareness Day on Mon., Sept. 23 (9 am – noon) at Mingo Park, 500 E. Lincoln Ave. The community event is free of charge, and registration is not required. Activities include health & balance screenings, fitness demonstrations, medication review, family caregiver support, refreshments & giveaways, and Walk with a Doc (10 am). To learn more, visit [www.mysourcepoint.org/falls](http://www.mysourcepoint.org/falls).

### **HelpLine Annual Meeting (9/24)**

The 2019 Annual Meeting of HelpLine will take place Tues., Sept. 24 (6 pm) at the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities at 7991 Columbus Pike (US 23 S.) in Lewis Center. This year's theme, "Guarding the Sacred: Life," celebrates the prevention efforts of educators, mental-health professionals, and community members. There will be a panel discussion with representatives from HelpLine, Delaware Morrow Mental Health Recovery Services Board, NAMI of Ohio, and the American Federation of Suicide Prevention. To RSVP, please visit [www.helplinedelmor.org](http://www.helplinedelmor.org), contact Tamika Vinson-Reid at [tvison@helplinedelmor.org](mailto:tvison@helplinedelmor.org), or stop by the office at 11 N. Franklin St. in Delaware.

### **Park Planning Open House (9/24)**

Second Ward Councilwoman Lisa Keller and Parks & Natural Resources Director Ted Miller are inviting residents to help create the City of Delaware's next neighborhood park at S. Houk Rd. near the YMCA. The meeting will be held Tues., Sept. 24 (6:30-8 pm) at the Veteran's Park (Shelter House). Anticipated park amenities include a wooded area, a 1-mile walking path, an obstacle course, and a natural-play area. In addition, the City plans to expand the existing neighborhood park at Ross Street.

### **OWU Lecture on Science (9/26)**

As part OWU's Sagan National Colloquium, Dr. Gregory Mack '02 will give a presentation entitled "Science Policy, Arts, and Engagement" on Thurs., Sept. 26 (7 pm) in Benes B in OWU's HWCC Campus Center. Dr. Mack, who works at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, is not only an astrophysicist but also a modern dancer and choreographer. He has been active in bringing the sciences and arts together. Free & open to the public.

### **Fundraiser for Turning Point (9/28) – \$**

Delaware Fit Factory at 171 S. Sandusky St. is looking for corporate sponsors for a Charity Volleyball Tournament at the Food Truck Depot, 59 Potter St., on Sat., Sept. 28 (starting at 10 am). Proceeds benefit Turning Point, the Delaware shelter for victims of domestic violence. Visit the fitness center on Facebook, check Eventbrite, and/or contact Doug Wattenschaidt ([d wattenschaidt@gmail.com](mailto:d wattenschaidt@gmail.com)) for more info.



### **Stratford Celebrates Harvest Fair (9/28) – \$**

Stratford Ecological Center celebrates its annual Harvest Fair on Sat., Sept. 28 (10 am – 3 pm). Children of all ages can discover their inner farmer at this family-friendly event. Visit the farm animals, feed the chickens, climb a tractor, paint your face, ride a horse-drawn wagon, hike the trails, and explore the old cemetery. It is a great opportunity to get the kids outside to have fun. Admission is

\$5/person (free for kids age 3 and under). Stratford Ecological Center is located south of town at 3083 Liberty Rd. The website is [www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org](http://www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org).

### **SWCI's Community Unity Festival (9/28)**

Please note the new day for the 2019 Community Unity Festival at the corner of S. Liberty and Ross streets, across from Woodward Elementary School. Organized by the Second Ward Community Initiative (SWCI), it will be held Sat., Sept. 28 (11 am – 3 pm). There will be vendors of food and crafts, informational booths, speeches, entertainment, inflatables, and more. Members of the Central Ohio Symphony are scheduled to perform at one point. Free & open to the public. The website is [www.swcidelaware.org](http://www.swcidelaware.org); SWCI is also on Facebook.

### **Piano Recital at OWU (9/29)**

Note: The piano recital by OWU faculty member Dr. Frank Chiou on Sun., Sept. 29 has been postponed indefinitely. Frank Chiou will not perform Bach's "Goldberg Variations" this semester.

### **OWU Lecture on Latin America (9/30)**

OWU's Latin American Studies Program is hosting a presentation by Dr. Cynthia McClintock from George Washington Univ. entitled "The Crisis of Democracy in Latin America" on Mon., Sept. 30 (4:10 pm) in 312 Corns, 78 S. Sandusky St. Her latest book is "Electoral Rules and Democracy in Latin America." Free & open to the public.

### **Ezra Vogel Lecture at OWU (9/30)**

Historian Ezra Vogel '50 is one of OWU's most distinguished alumni. He has written many books on China, Japan, and Korea and is famous worldwide. Now 89 years old, he will come to Delaware on Mon., Sept. 30 (7 pm) to deliver the History Dept.'s annual Vogel Lecture in partnership with the Sagan National Colloquium. The title of his presentation is "From Delaware to Deng Xiaoping," the subject of a 900-page biography published in 2011. Free & open to the public.

### **UPCOMING EVENT:**

### **Sakata Exhibit (12/2 – 1/12)**

The Arts Castle at 190 W. Winter St. will host the "Sakata Exhibit" in conjunction with the City of Delaware and its sister city in Japan, Sakata. This is part of a K-12 art exchange between Delaware and Sakata. (It is not yet the exhibit with works by renowned photojournalist Ken Domon, 1909-1990.)

### **New Events brochures available**

The following fall 2019 brochures are now available at the Public Library and other local venues: Delaware County District Library, The Arts Castle (Delaware County Cultural Arts Center), and Preservation Parks of Delaware County.

## **CITY OF DELAWARE**

### **The City of Delaware in September**

City offices are closed Mon., Sept. 2, for Labor Day. City Council meets Mon., Sept. 9 + 23 (7 pm). A CIP work session is planned for Thurs., Sept. 12 (6 pm), tentatively followed by a second one on Mon., Sept. 30 (6 pm) if needed. Board and commission meetings include the Planning Commission (Wed., Sept. 4, 6:30 pm), the Board of Zoning Appeals (Wed., Sept. 11, 7 pm), the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (Tues., Sept. 17, 6:30 pm), and the Historic Preservation Commission (Wed., Sept. 25, 6:30 pm). The Civil Service Commission meeting on Sept. 4 has been cancelled. It is possible for other meetings to be cancelled as well, either for a lack of quorum or lack of agenda items, so always check the City's website ([www.delawareohio.net](http://www.delawareohio.net)) before attending.

### **City Council Elections**

The following candidates are running for seats on the Delaware City Council. All candidates have been certified by the Delaware County Board of Elections.

First Ward: Incumbent Chris Jones is running unopposed.



Second Ward: Incumbent Lisa Keller is running against Mike Rush and Stephen Tackett.

Third Ward: Incumbent Jim Browning declined to run again. Duking it out in the Third Ward are Cory Hoffman and George McNab.

Fourth Ward: Incumbent Kyle Rohrer is running (unopposed) for Judge. Trying to fill the void are Drew Farrell and Sarah JanTausch.



### **Third Ward Elections**

Both Cory Hoffman and George McNab have been candidates for public offices in the past. Cory Hoffman ran as a Democrat for Ohio District 67 and is an experienced campaigner. He is a lifelong Ohioan and a proud graduate of BGSU and Cleveland State Univ. from where he earned a law degree. He has served in the U.S. Naval Reserve and in law enforcement as an attorney for the Ohio Dept. of Commerce where he prosecuted investment and securities fraud. He currently works in private practice. He (obviously) lives in Delaware with his wife Megan and their daughter Mara.



Libertarian George McNab ran for City Council in 2017, but lost to Jim Browning. He was born (in 1984, it seems) in the Youngstown area and moved to Columbus in 2005. He graduated from OSU with a BA in Political Science and is currently pursuing his MBA at Ohio Dominican Univ. He works full-time as a legislative liaison for the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture. "In this role, I lobby the state legislature concerning department financial and policy issues," he says in a biographical blurb. George McNab is married to Emily. The couple has two young children.

### **City Council Models Good Behavior**

Given the fact that several candidates for City Council were in the audience on Aug. 12, it is worth noting that City Council demonstrated exemplary behavior that day. For different personal reasons, both Mayor Carolyn Riggle and Second Ward representative Lisa Keller abstained in council decisions involving decisions about development projects to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. That is laudable. It was also good to see that the elected officials unequivocally sided with Delaware voters and taxpayers in the discussion involving the local YMCA. That too is as it should be. Many residents have long memories and will remember if City Council and City authorities did something to help them or to harm them. If City Council is serious about building trust, it should continue to be on its best behavior.

### **The City and the YMCA**

In 2012, the City of Delaware outsourced its recreational program, incl. Jack Florence Pool in Mingo Park, to the YMCA. The rationale was that the Y could provide better, professional service at a cheaper rate. As reported in the July 2019 issue of "Community Matters," however, the partnership is currently in crisis amid serious complaints about management, staffing, safety, professionalism, hygiene, community relations, and more. At the July 8 meeting of City Council, it sounded as if it might be possible to repair and save the relationship. A 60-day plan was subsequently developed. But at the Aug. 12 meeting of City Council, it seems that the majority of council members were fed up and "done" with empty promises and a lack of accountability and responsiveness on the part of the Y. They vowed "to reset" the entire relationship and "to take back" the Mingo Park swimming pool as an urgent first step. Councilwoman Lisa Keller

expressed concern over the possibility that swimmers may get sick or drown (as has happened in Huber Hts., she said) and the City may get sued as a responsible party despite the fact that it currently has zero oversight. City Manager Tom Homan did not appear to be happy with the new directive, but of course he serves at the pleasure of City Council and has no choice but to implement the new marching orders.

### **Community Promotions Fund**

The City of Delaware assists arts institutions, educational programs, and civic organizations that positively impact the community, promote the City of Delaware, and enhance its quality of life through an annual Community Promotions Grant program, funded from hotel-bed taxes. The amount distributed has been under \$100,000 annually. In the past, the Arts Castle, the Central Ohio Symphony, Main Street Delaware, and SWCI were recipients of grants ranging between \$15,000 and \$25,000. The deadline to apply is Sept. 20, 12 pm. Email Kim Gepper ([kgepper@delawareohio.net](mailto:kgepper@delawareohio.net)) for an application or search for "Community Promotions" at [www.delawareohio.net](http://www.delawareohio.net). Requests must be submitted electronically. The guidelines ask for a description of how the project or program promotes the City and improves the quality of life for residents, as well as an outline of the economic impact. A committee that includes elected City Council members selects the winners, based on a point system.

### **City Produces New Promotional Video**

On Aug. 8, the City of Delaware debuted a new promotional video "to show off our great city." The 56-second video was produced in-house, using ground and drone videography. It has no words, but contains some soothing background music. Images shown are up-to-date and include city operations, downtown architecture, natural resources such as the Olentangy, multipurpose trails with bicyclists, festivals, bands, farmer's market, sports & beer. Although OWU's University Hall is prominently featured at the beginning of the video, intellectual pursuits are not depicted. Academic life, classical music, theater troupes, art galleries, and anything else on a deeper level are likewise excluded. The video is well-done, but it only shows the superficial side of Delaware. The target group seems to tourists, prospective business executives, and future employees & residents.

### **Honorary Street Signs**

City Council on Aug. 12 approved the erection of 2 additional honorary street signs. That brings up the total to 4. A portion of London Rd. will be designated as Elmer W. B. Curry Way, and a portion of William St. will be designated as Rutherford B. Hayes Way. In the past, a portion of Henry St. was declared "Branch Rickey Way" and a portion of Euclid Ave. was named "Pacer Way." Individual honorees with a body of lifetime achievement and significant local ties to the community will be considered posthumously. Honorary street names on private streets and driveways are exempt from the new policy and do not have to be approved by City Council.

### **Coughlin's Crossing**

Coughlin's Crossing, a mixed-use development on approx. 80 acres east of US 23 S., was supposed to include 24 single-family homes fronting Stratford Rd. Instead, the developer has now changed course and is proposing 9 large 3-story apartment buildings with a total of 194 multi-dwelling units (about 20 each). On Aug. 7, members of the Planning Commission voiced concerns over the significant increase in density and traffic this would bring about. The Planning Commission tabled the request until September.

Members of the public also weighed in on the request and discussed the project in a variety of settings. Someone on Nextdoor called it a "bait-and-switch" scheme. A recent memo by Lance Schultz, Planning & Zoning Administrator, indicates that the applicant, staff, "and the community" required additional time to work on the plans and that Planning would not discuss it on Sept. 4. At the earliest, the application will be back on the agenda of the Planning Commission on Wed., Oct. 2 (6:30 pm). A more likely date is Wed., Nov. 6 (6:30 pm).



### **Conducting Walk & Bike Audits**

Most U.S. cities are very car-centric, Delaware included. Even though the legal system privileges automobiles over other modes of transportation, cars are not the only way to get around. Many cities are currently expanding their options to make sure their communities are more walkable and bikeable, for instance. There are several organizations that compare and contrast cities' walkability (e.g., [www.walkscore.com](http://www.walkscore.com)). Walkability and bikeability not only lead to better health outcomes for residents, it also results in less traffic congestion and lower road-maintenance costs. Since many people cannot drive or prefer not to drive for whatever reason, this is also a social-justice issue.

On Aug. 7, the Delaware General Health District (DGHD) in partnership with the Ohio Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) and Julie Walcoff (formerly with ODOT, now Senior Planner at Toole Design Group in Columbus) held a workshop that focused on "Conducting Walk & Bike Audits." About a dozen people were in attendance. The first half of the workshop was devoted to going over the illustrated "Active Transportation Academy" manual (30 pp.) entitled "Conducting Walk Audits." The group defined walkability and bikeability and discussed protocols and defining features such as safety, accessibility, lighting, efficiency, ADA-compliance, traffic-signal times, driver behavior, and the like. The second half of the workshop was devoted to a mock-walk audit where participants explored several city blocks and closely observed positives and negatives. Each segment was rated with a score between 1 (lowest) and 5 (highest). Needless to say, the group identified a number of challenges, even in downtown Delaware where every street has sidewalks. Since the mock-walk audit took place in summer rather than in winter, there was no opportunity to observe snow and ice on the ground. However, the presence of accumulated snow and ice can be a major barrier for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Walk-and-Bike Audit workshop was an eye-opening experience for people who ordinarily do not walk or bike much. Anyone interested in conducting an audit in their own neighborhood should get in touch with either Josie Bonnette ([jbonnette@delawarehealth.org](mailto:jbonnette@delawarehealth.org)) or Abbey Trimble ([atrimble@delawarehealth.org](mailto:atrimble@delawarehealth.org)) from the Health Dept. or contact "Community Matters."

### **Protecting Pedestrians and Cyclists**

The hegemony of the car continues, but more and more cities are taking baby steps to change the situation. Among them is New York where scores of pedestrians and bicyclists get killed by motorists every year. "Cars, trucks, and buses are responsible for an overwhelming majority of pedestrian and cyclist deaths in New York City," according to the New York Times. Here are some ideas from 3 recent articles – ideas that would be perfectly transferrable to places such as Delaware, Ohio.

Dubbed "Green Wave," high-risk neighborhoods will build more bike lanes with protective barriers. For snow-and-ice removal, cities should invest in smaller and narrower vehicles to keep the trails clear. To make intersections less dangerous, cities can add cyclist and pedestrian islands to reduce interactions with cars. So-called road diets are also used to permit the creation of new bus lanes and/or bike lanes. New York recently became the first American city to introduce "congestion pricing," meaning motorists have to pay to enter the busiest parts of Manhattan. Fewer cars help increase walkability and bikeability and make the streets safer (and the air cleaner) for everyone. The mindset of the police also has to change somewhat – they rarely enforce rules against drivers who block sidewalks & bike trails and impede walkability & bikeability. Along the same lines – in New York it is against the law to open a car door in the path of a cyclist. However, even in the case of fatalities the legal consequence to the driver does not extend beyond a summons. The

penal code favors drivers in so many instances. Lastly, traffic signals at intersections could be adjusted to give pedestrians a head start before cars are allowed to proceed. Currently, both start at the same time, which often leads to close encounters.

### **Olentangy River Clean-Up**

On Aug. 24, around 75 people of all ages gathered at the kayak launch pad on Cherry St. to clean up a portion of the Olentangy River under the leadership of Caroline Cicerchi, Delaware's Watershed & Sustainability Coordinator, and Jenifer Way-Young from the Health District's "Keep Ohio Beautiful" program. The group included faculty and staff from Ohio Wesleyan Univ. and many of their students. One team went upstream, the other one downstream to pick up debris from the riverbed as well as its banks. The weather was excellent and the water level relatively low, allowing easy access. Many bags were filled with discarded plastic products, pieces of glass and metal, clothing, old rope, broken toys, golf balls, and the like. Among the larger items were 12 car tires, shopping carts, metal rods, bicycles, a microwave, and a bowling ball. A total of 2,200 pounds of debris was removed, incl. 860 pounds of recyclable scrap metal. At the end of their shift, participants were rewarded with cold drinks, granola bars, and a free T-shirt that says, "Olentangy Watershed Clean-Up 2020."

### **Springfield Branch Bike Trail Closed**

The Springfield Branch Bike Trail across E. William St. is now closed indefinitely. The existing bridge will be demolished so that the intersection of E. William and Lake streets can be reconfigured. The overpass will be replaced as part of the E. William widening project. It will take at least one year to do so.

### **New Buildings Going Up**

Ohio Wesleyan is expected to break ground in October for the new "senior village" on S. Liberty St. between Park Ave. and Oak Hill Dr. Many trees were removed over the summer. The foundation has been laid for Burger King on W. Central Ave. The new OhioHealth office building on W. William St. and Raising Cane at 720 Sunbury Rd. (Rt. 36/37 E.) are almost complete and will open soon.

There was talk about 3 new possible hotels in or near downtown Delaware last year. The proposed Hampton Inn on Spring St. is not going forward, according to City officials. No new information is available about the hotel and parking garage proposed for E. Winter St., across from the Public Library. Multiple trees were removed on the site of the future Wesleyan Inn at 235 W. William St., which was approved by City Council, but there is no indication of any demolition and new construction yet.

### **Sustainable Delaware Ohio Has New Board**

Sustainable Delaware Ohio (SDO) elected three new board members and reelected three incumbent board members at its Annual Meeting on Aug. 10. They will serve 2-year terms. The ten current board members are: Steven Gregory, Terry Hermsen, Marian Jacques, John Krieger, Stephanie Meyer-Gregory, David Soliday, Stefanie Vogley-Hauck, Anna Willow, Tom Wolber, and Ingrid Wood. – SDO meets on the second Saturday of each month (9:15-11:15 am). The time and location may change in the near future, but for the time being the meeting is place is First Presbyterian Church at 73 W. Winter St. (rear entrance).

### **Arena Fair Theatre's Next Production**

Because of copyright issues, Arena Fair Theatre is *not* doing "To Kill a Mockingbird" this fall. Instead, its next production will be "Animal Crackers," a 1920s musical (and film) that starred the Marx Brothers. Performance dates are Oct. 4-6 and 11-13. – There is a website ([www.arenafair.com](http://www.arenafair.com)), but for the most recent updates it is recommended that you follow Arena Fair Theatre on Facebook.

### **DCDL Book Club Discussions**

The Public Library has regular book-club discussions in all 4 branches: Delaware, Orange, Ostrander, and Powell. Here are the fall dates for Delaware. The Afternoon Club will discuss "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates (9/3, 1 pm), "Ill Will" by Dan Chaon (10/1, 1 pm), and "Lucky Boy" by Shanthi Sekaran (11/5, 1 pm). The Evening Club will discuss "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson (9/25, 7:30 pm), "The Merry Spinster" by Mallory Ortberg

(10/30, 7:30 pm), and "There, There" by Tommy Orange (12/4, 7:30 pm). In addition, the Community & Family Outreach Services Dept. has launched a new county-wide book club called "Around the World in Books and Bites." The October meeting will take place at Mi Cerrito in Delaware (19 E. Winter St.) on 10/28 (1 pm). On the program is Laura Esquivel's novel "Like Water for Chocolate." Additional information can be found in the fall brochure of DCDL or on their website, [www.delawarelibrary.org](http://www.delawarelibrary.org).

### **Warren Hyer Contributes to Book on Opioids in Ohio**

A new book edited by Berkeley Franz and Daniel Skinner, "Not Far from Me: Stories of Opioids and Ohio" (2019, \$14.95), contains some 50 gripping accounts at Ohioans affected by the drug epidemic. The stories and poems are told by doctors, addicts, teachers, poets, coaches, parents, librarians, nurses, inmates, and clergy. One of the contributors is Warren Hyer, Executive Director of the Central Ohio Symphony and a resident of the City of Delaware. Hyer was surprised by the request to submit a chapter, but he soon agreed to write about the therapeutic drumming circle he created in 2013. Initially a program at the Delaware Juvenile Court, it later expanded to Maryhaven, a local treatment provider, to the Mental Health Docket of the Delaware Municipal Court, to Alzheimer circles, and to alternative schools. Hyer, a professional percussionist, has given several presentations about the program's evolution and success at various state and national meetings and was well prepared to produce a text suitable for entry.

In his piece, "What's a Symphony Doing in an Intensive Outpatient Program?," Hyer describes his work with juvenile and adult offenders who experience mental-health and substance-abuse issues. Of course, drumming is not "a cure" and "a treatment" for addiction, he says. Instead, it is an opportunity for participants to open up, share, express themselves, gain insights, and build new paths and lives for themselves based on "a hope, a dream, or a goal." Drummers need no musical training or prior experience; the program is open to all levels of ability. "The goal is not to create musicians or even teach music." Instead, it is to give people with broken backgrounds a positive outlet for expression to ensure a more successful outcome in the future. Nobody judges, stigmatizes, and condemns them. Drumming is meant to be a positive, empowering experience.

Former governor Ted Strickland wrote the foreword to this important book, and Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portland both endorsed it.

### **Interested in Square Dance Lessons?**

Little Brown Jug Square Dancers invite you to their fall class beginning Tues., Sept. 17 (7-9 pm) at the Eagles Lodge #376, 127 E. William St. The first 2 lessons are free, \$5 thereafter. Everyone age 8 and above is welcome. Partners are nice, but not required. – See them dance at First Friday (Sept. 6) and at the All Horse Parade (Sept. 8).

### **Eclectic Diner Coming to US 23 N**

According to a series of postings on Nextdoor, Eclectic Diner & Sweeterie will soon be coming to US 23 North (755 US Hwy. 23 N). The building is still owned by Paykoff Co., but it looks they found a new tenant. Eclectic Diner will be open for breakfast and lunch Mon. through Sat. from early am until 4 pm; it is closed Sun. The restaurant is currently hiring staff and will open soon.

## **OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**

### **OWU's 178<sup>th</sup> Convocation**

Ohio Wesleyan Univ. celebrated its 178<sup>th</sup> Convocation, the beginning of the school year, on Aug. 15. According to OWU spokespersons and officials, approximately 420 fresh(wo)men and transfer students from 28 U.S. states (plus Puerto Rico) and 19 countries have arrived and will start their classes on Aug. 21. A total of 35 countries are represented on campus in 2019/20, said President Rock Jones. In his remarks, he stressed that OWU honors and appreciates this kind of diversity and respects the dignity of every human being regardless of their religious, ethnic, or gender identity. He encouraged the new students to take full advantage of the many

opportunities on the liberal-arts campus and to savor the freedom to dream, take risks, and explore – along with the responsibilities that come with that privilege. Provost Chuck Stinemetz, the chief academic officer, reminded students of OWU's three major objectives, which are the impartation and acquisition of knowledge, the development of skills and competence, and the cultivation of moral principles and ethical values.

Students were then asked to commit to the following four tenets: "I will embrace opportunities for academic growth, leadership, and service that have a positive impact on me and the Ohio Wesleyan community. I will value the time that I have been given to explore my interests and passions with an open mind to new possibilities. I will respect each individual person and appreciate their unique perspective regardless of appearance, ethnicity, national origin, faith tradition, gender identity and expression, ability, sexual orientation, or social standing. I will contribute my talents, gifts, and ideas toward strengthening this campus community and, as I am able, improving the world."

### **OWU Sagan National Colloquium, Fall 2019**

Below is the preliminary schedule for this fall's OWU's Sagan National Colloquium. The speaker series, "OWU: Our World Needs You," brings in Ohio Wesleyan alumni who have been active across the globe. Presenters & titles, rooms & times may change, so always check the OWU's calendar page and/or press releases before attending an event.

- Aug. 26: Screening of "42: The True Story of an American Legend" [Jackie Robinson], followed by a call-in conversation with Branch Rickey III (6 pm, Gray Chapel)
- Aug. 30: "Hi, Are You Single?" performance by Ryan Haddad '15 (8 pm, Chappellear Main Stage)
- Sept. 18: "America, Pakistan & the War on Terrorism," with Sahar Kahn '06 (7 pm, HWCC Campus Center, Benes)
- Sept. 26: "Science Policy, Arts & Engagement," with Gregory Mack '02 (7 pm, HWCC Campus Center, Benes)
- Sept. 28: OWU at the Zoo, in partnership with Alumni Relations and Engagement (10 am – 12 pm, Columbus Zoo in Polaris)
- Sept. 30: "From Delaware to Deng Xiaoping," with Ezra Vogel '50 (7 pm, HWCC Campus Center, Benes)
- Oct. 04: "How to Change the World," a panel discussion with Memme Onwuodiwe '15, Carolyn Thompson '14 & Emma Drongowski '16 (7 pm, HWCC Campus Center, Benes)
- "Connection Week" (11 am – 1 pm, HWCC Campus Center, Benes):
- Oct. 14: OWU Connection; Oct. 16, Career Connection; Oct. 18: Alumni Connection
- Oct. 17: "Careers in Art," with JoAnn Verburg '72 & guests (5-6:30 pm, location TBD)
- Oct. 24: "Generalship & Army Culture [Civil War Lecture]," by Joe Glatthaar '74 (7 pm, HWCC Campus Center)
- Oct. 31: "OWU at OWU – How Alumni build OWU," (12 pm, Merrick 301)
- Nov. 04: "Taking It to the Field: Zoology in Practice," with Meredith Palmer '11 (7 pm, HWCC Campus Center, Benes)
- Nov. 08: "Reporting on the World: Careers in Journalism," a panel discussion with Kara Dickinson '95, Jonna Gallo Wepler '93, Tom Jolly '77 & Gordon Witkin '77 (7 pm, Gray Chapel inside University Hall)
- Nov. 12: "What Inspiration Do We Draw On? A Presentation on Creative Writing," with writer & illustrator Martha Park '11 (4-4:30 pm, Beeghly Library, Bayley Room)
- Nov. 14/15: "From OWU to the World," with Cameron Hewitt '98 (7 pm, HWCC Campus Center, Benes)
- Nov. 19: "Using Superpowers to Change the World," with Joshua Mandelbaum '00 (7 pm, HWCC Campus Center, Benes)

### **OWU Loses Lauri Strimkovsky**

Lauri Strimkovsky, OWU's capable Vice President for Finance & Administration and Treasurer, is leaving the institution after three years. Her last day will be Sept. 12. She has accepted a similar



position at John Carroll Univ., a Jesuit institution in the Cleveland area. Through Strimkovsky's leadership, OWU has continued to improve its campus and services to students, according to President Jones: "she implemented a new, streamlined financial system; led the initiatives to secure new dining and housekeeping services; oversaw significant improvements to our campus bookstore, which is now university-operated; secured our new branded transportation fleet and van reservation system; and oversaw construction of the new Butler A. Jones House of Black Culture and Gillespie Honors House. During the past year, she has helped lead planning for the Residential Renewal project, including securing Higher Education Facility Revenue Bonds to help fund the work." Strimkovsky's departure comes at a challenging time for OWU. Enrollment is down, balancing the budget has been difficult, and cutting positions was inevitable.

Compared to her predecessors, Strimkovsky was significantly more proactive, collaborative, and transparent, which the faculty appreciated. She regularly gave PowerPoint presentations about OWU's financial situation. Hopefully, her successors will also see value in treating the faculty as partners.

### **"Run, Hide, Fight"**

At the beginning of the 2019/20 academic year, OWU Director of Public Safety / Chief of Police Bob Wood has reminded OWU students and employees to review OWU's general safety tips and the "Run, Hide, Fight" protocol. There is a 5-minute video, prepared by Homeland Security, on the website of Public Safety.

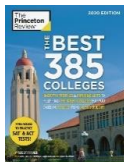
In case there is an active shooter or other aggressor in the vicinity and you are in harm's way, there are 3 things you can do that can make a difference: Run, Hide, Fight. 1. If possible, evacuate as quickly as possible, go to safety, and call 911. Take others with you, but don't let them slow you down. 2. If you cannot get out, find a place to hide. Lock and/or barricade the doors, turn off the lights and cellphones, and stay quiet. 3. As a last resort, you may have to fight the shooter(s) with aggression. Swarm the suspect by using improvised weapons such as a chair or radio, a heavy tool or fire extinguisher. Some schools and work places offer active-shooter training. If yours does, take advantage of it.



### **JoAnn Verburg Exhibit at Ross Art Museum**

As mentioned in the events calendar, OWU's Ross Art Museum has a new exhibit with close to 100 photographs and three-dimensional objects by JoAnn Verburg. According to curator Erin Fletcher, the project started in Venice, Italy when Verburg noticed and began to photograph all the trash floating in the canals. The exhibition features everyday objects before consumption and after they were carelessly discarded. They include plastic bottles and cups, cigarette butts, food containers, lids, newspapers, an old shoe, plastic ware and straws, banana peels, bubble wrap, spray containers, and more. It is fair to say that mindless consumerism has led to an ecological crisis not only in Venice but all around the world.

The "After / Before" exhibit runs from Aug. 21 through Oct. 20. A curator's tour and exhibition reception is planned for Wed., Sept. 18 (5 pm). The distinguished artist herself will visit the OWU campus on Oct. 17 to take part in a public discussion and a wine-and-cheese reception (\$10) on Oct. 18, the following day. To learn more about the artist, visit <http://joannverburg.com>. Wikipedia also has an interesting entry on her, but it barely touches on her environmental work. The Ross is located at 60 S. Sandusky St. Admission is always free.



### **OWU among the Best Colleges**

Ohio Wesleyan University is once again included in the newly revised and released Princeton Review's guidebook, "The Best 385 Colleges: 2020 Edition." Only about 13% of America's 3,000 4-year colleges are featured in the guide. OWU was selected utilizing a combination of institutional data and student surveys based on 84 detailed questions. The factors included academic rigor, affordability, and career outcomes. Students polled noted the campus diversity, gave professors high marks, and pointed out the many opportunities enrolled students to do research and to travel. To learn more, visit [www.princetonreview.com/best385](http://www.princetonreview.com/best385).

### **A Report Card for OWU**

The Ohio Dept. of Education will soon publish its annual report card for the state's schools. Here is our own algorithmic report card for Ohio Wesleyan University, based on decades of painstaking research (☺) and input from a multitude of stakeholders. Our rating results are not in contradiction with the Princeton Review at all, but they do include metrics that Princeton Review ignores.

- Academics: B+
- ADA Accessibility: C
- Affordability: D
- Alumni Success: B
- Buildings & Grounds: C
- Campus Biophilia: C
- Communication & Public Relations: B+
- Community Service & Outreach: B
- Cultural Life: A-
- Custodial Services: B
- Enrollment: C- (declining)
- Faculty Accomplishments: B+
- Faculty-Student Interactions: B+
- Faculty & Staff Morale: C
- Faculty & Staff Diversity: D
- Faculty & Staff Retention: C
- Faculty & Staff Wages & Salaries: C
- Food Services: B
- Four-Year Graduation Rate: C
- Fraternity Conduct: C (improving)
- Fundraising: B+
- Opportunities for Sports: B+
- Residential Housing: C (improving)
- Sense of Unity & Community: C
- Student Binge-Drinking: C-
- Student Diversity: B
- Student Financial Aid: C+
- Student Retention: C
- Student Support Systems: B
- Support for Faculty & Staff: C
- Sustainability: D
- Town-Gown Relations: B
- Tree Canopy: C (declining)
- Walkability & Bikeability: B

### **David H. Staley Dead at Age 89**

OWU Professor Emeritus David ("Dave") H. Staley, Ph.D., died Aug. 30 at age 89. For 33 years, between 1961 and 1994, he taught all levels of mathematics at Ohio Wesleyan Univ. and was chair of the Mathematics Dept. His nickname "Daily Staley" derived from his rigorous practice of giving daily quizzes. In the Delaware community he is known for two reasons. He successfully participated in triathlons and has sports competitions named after him in Delaware. In 1990, he won the World Championship in his age group (60-64) in Orlando, Florida. He was also active in the Delaware County Democratic Party for many decades, serving as chairman from 1971 to 1984. – Dave Staley's family has expressed a wish to hold a celebration of life at OWU, and the university is happy to do so in the upcoming weeks and months.

### **Memorial Service for Lyman Leathers (1929-2019)**

Retired OWU professor Lyman Leathers, English & Humanities-Classics, passed away at age 90 on June 20, 2019. A memorial service will be held Tues., Sept. 3 (4 pm) in the Benes Room of HWCC Campus Center. Since he loved opera, there will also be a musical intermezzo. Community Matters' obituary for him appeared in the July 2019 issue.

### **Storm-Drain Net Installation at OWU**

At a recent meeting of OWU's Sustainability Task Force an interesting experimental project was presented. Brianna Graber reported that on the morning of Sept. 9 a commercial-grade, reusable storm-drain net will be installed at the Delaware Run at Edgar Hall to capture pollutants in the creek. Storm Water Systems in Columbus, Georgia is the only licensee and manufacturer in North America of StormX, as the system is called. This particular project will be 4 feet high and 18.5 feet wide. A more detailed description will follow in the next issue of Community Matters.

### **MTSO's Valerie Boyer Reflects on Toni Morrison**

The Columbus Dispatch reported on Aug. 8 that MTSO student Valerie Boyer, 24, met famous writer and Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison (1931-2019) while being a junior at Howard Univ., a historically black college in Washington, D.C. Morrison listened and responded to a class essay that Boyer read that day – an event that changed her life. That's the kind of impact that Toni Morrison, an Ohio-born writer, had on many folks. Boyer has since graduated from Howard Univ. (2017) and is currently a student at the local Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) where she is pursuing a master's degree in divinity while being a Delaware resident. Encouraged by Morrison, she continues to pursue her writing of both poetry and short stories.

## **DELAWARE COUNTY & CENTRAL OHIO**

### **DGHD Conducts Satisfaction Survey**

The Delaware General Health District is currently conducting a brief electronic survey that explores the satisfaction or dissatisfaction with its community outreach. The 18 questions include the DGHD's leadership and the quality of communication and collaboration with partners. Residents are asked to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the agency and identify areas where improvements are possible. Please fill out the MonkeySurvey only once and submit by Sept. 12. Here is the link to the poll: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/DelawareCountyCommunityPartners](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DelawareCountyCommunityPartners). It can also be found on the Health District's website ([www.delawarehealth.org](http://www.delawarehealth.org)) or by accessing SurveyMonkey.

### **Whitesands Campgrounds at Lake Street**

"Community Matters" has received reports that authorities intend to shut down and demolish the Whitesands Campgrounds at 341 Lake St. (Rt. 42 N), if necessary by eminent domain. Health and safety concerns have been voiced by officials about the fact that the existing mobile homes and recreational vehicles on site are not connected to the water and sewer system, which is typical for traditional campgrounds. Blight might also be cited by the authorities, but the definition of "blight" is not clear-cut at all. One rumor says the attractive site might be converted into a green space and/or dog park, which would be adjacent to the Greenwood Lake area. According to Lee Yoakum, Whitesands is not located within the jurisdiction of the City of Delaware, so it is Delaware County that is behind the push.

The county has so far not been transparent about its plans. However, when it comes to eminent domain there are clear protocols that must be followed. The owner of the campground has little to worry about – he will no doubt receive fair compensation. But the major concern that "Community Matters" has – what plans are in place for the current low-income residents who will be evicted? Where will they (and their pets) go? They are unlikely to be able to afford the ever-increasing rents within the city and county. What help will be available for them?

"Community Matters" toured the fairly large private RV park and lake on Aug. 13. The owner and manager since the 1960s, Gene

A. Monte, was on site. Apparently, he is also the owner of, or associated with, Monte Tree & Firewood Service. He was both busy and suspicious, but he grudgingly permitted us to have a look around, despite the "No Trespassing" sign. He basically denied that there was a problem and that he has yet to hear from the county. In fact, he stressed that he has plans to improve the facility and open up the lake again to boaters and swimmers. Residents we encountered were likewise cautious and did not divulge much information although some confirmed that they too have heard rumors about the uncertain future of Whitesands.

### **Judge Hejmanowski Elected to National Board**

Judge David Hejmanowski of the Delaware County Probate / Juvenile Court was recently elected to the Board of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. The organization was founded in 1937 and has more than 1,600 members. It is the nation's premier provider of juvenile-justice training, education, planning, and data analysis. Hejmanowski serves on several other state and national boards as well. Locally, he is a board member of the Central Ohio Symphony, the Arena Fair Theatre Company, the Historical Society, and more. Since 2005, he has been writing a weekly column for the Delaware Gazette in which he explores and explains decisions made by the court system. Hejmanowski is an exceptionally intelligent, articulate, and creative man, but he is also someone who is not afraid of getting his hands dirty. When it comes to setting up for events and tearing down after them, he is always there, helping to the best of his abilities. In Judge Hejmanowski, the trinity of head, heart, and hands forms a coherent whole.

### **GateHouse Media Acquires Gannett Media**

The consolidation of print media continues. GateHouse Media, the company that owns the "Columbus Dispatch," announced on Aug. 5 that it is buying Virginia-based Gannett in a deal worth about 1.38 billion. The new company will be based at Gannett's headquarters in Washington, D.C., and will be called Gannett. Together, the merged companies will operate more than 260 daily news operations and serve potentially the largest online audience. GateHouse currently owns 10 newspapers in Ohio while Gannett owns many more, incl. a dozen or so in Central Ohio alone. The merger may make economic sense, but does threaten the diversity of newspapers and online platforms.



### **Preservation Parks Debates Future Logo**

As part of their next strategic plan, Preservation Parks of Delaware County believes it needs to replace its current logo, consisting of trees and birds (see above), with a more striking and colorful logo – a curled red fox. Director Tom Curtin hopes that the proposed new logo would stand out more and appeal to a younger crowd. The new logo is not available for public view and comment because, reportedly, it is not yet fully licensed to and/or owned by PPDC. In the absence of this information, it is therefore impossible to provide balanced and meaningful feedback to the park system. However, as a matter of principle Community Matters agrees with those who say that park volunteers and interested members of the public should be given an opportunity to comment on the new logo before it is adopted. After all, it is taxpayer money that finances the overwhelming majority of PPDC's important work.

What is known, however, is that not everyone sees the need for a costly new logo and that not everyone is happy with the choice of a fox. A letter to the editor of the Delaware Gazette (8/8) stated that there was nothing wrong with the current logo and brand and urged the board to retain it instead of spending thousands of additional dollars to implement the new one. "The money would be better spent on new programming, training, and additional staff and equipment," the letter concluded.

PPDC's board met on 8/13, but according to a Delaware Gazette report published on 8/14 the motion to approve the new logo was tabled. The next meeting is Thurs., Sept. 5 (1 pm). Members of



the public are welcome to speak at the beginning of each meeting, held at Hogback Ridge Park, 2656 Hogback Rd., north of Rt. 36/37 E.

### **Preservation Parks Foundation**

It is the mission of Preservation Parks of Delaware County (PPDC) to protect and conserve the natural and historic features in the county. PPDC has now created and launched a new foundation whose purpose it is to raise funds for programming, exhibits, capital projects, and land acquisitions. The 5 foundation members are Joe Dumbaugh, Darcy Kaplan, Bill Shelby, Larry C. Walters, and Andy Zakrajsek. Tax-deductible donations to the 501(c)(3) organization are greatly appreciated and can be mailed to the Preservation Parks Foundation at 2656 Hogback Rd. in Sunbury, OH 43074. Comments & questions can be emailed to [preservationparksfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:preservationparksfoundation@gmail.com) or call 740-524-87600, ext. 1.

### **Preservation Parks Offers Course in Forest Therapy – \$**

The Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku ("forest bathing") is widely practiced around the world. For the first time, Preservation Parks is offering a 3-part course in forest therapy, led by instructors Elizabeth Olate & Scott Sheets. Dates are Tues., Sept. 10 + 17 (Shale Hollow Park) and Sept. 24 (Char-Mar Ridge Park), 6-7 pm. Participants should be at least 18 years old. The cost is \$15 per session or \$45 for the series.

### **Hickory Woods Park Coming to Delaware**

Impatient residents will be happy to learn that Preservation Parks of Delaware County (PPDC) is currently accepting bids for improvements at Hickory Woods Park at 1271 Pollock Rd. in Delaware. An ad in the Delaware Gazette (Aug. 30 & Sept. 6) indicates that Phase I park improvements will include "a new entry driveway / curb cut from the public right of way with access gate; a stone entry drive; a stone parking lot with asphalt ADA parking spaces; grading for a sledding hill; construction of retention / detention facilities; construction of wetlands; storm drainage conduits and storm drainage structures." The total estimated cost is \$440,000. An award will be made "to the lowest and best bidder," taking into consideration such factors as qualifications, past performance, and efficiency.

### **Powell's Gary Vest Is Running for District 67 Seat**

Retired Powell Police Chief Gary Vest has announced that he is seeking the Republican nomination for Ohio's District 67 seat that is currently occupied by Rep. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander). Vest holds a B.S. degree and an M.A. degree from the Univ. of Dayton. In an interview, he said that Delaware County has been "overlooked" by the state for too long and that he plans to be "a strong advocate" for local residents. Chances are that in 2020 he will run against Kris Jordan, a hard-right politician known for his nasty, negative campaigns as well a history of domestic violence.

### **Delaware County Bird Club**

The Delaware County Bird Club meets monthly. Meetings are held Mondays at 7 pm; doors open at 6:30 pm. Upcoming events include: 1. Rich Bradley, "The Other Down Under – Birding in New Zealand" (Sept. 23); 2. Adriana Losey, "Camp Chiricahua with Vent Tours" & Katelyn Shelton, "National Audubon's Hog Island" (Oct. 28); and 3. Amy Tovar, "Iceland – Land of Fire and Ice (and a Few Birds, Too)" (Nov. 18). Free & open to the public.

### **Sunrise Academy in Hilliard**

Central Ohio's only full-time Islamic school, Sunrise Academy in Hilliard, is expanding its academic offerings to cover all K-12 grades. Currently the school, founded in 1996, offers only K-8. The 4 years of high school will be phased in between 2019 and 2023. The school was able to purchase the adjacent property at 5677 Scioto Darby Rd. for a little more than \$1 million.

An article in the Columbus Dispatch (8/12) raised some interesting questions but did not provide adequate answers. In the past, Islamic children often experienced culture shock when they transitioned into public high schools after the eighth grade. According to Principal Mona Salti, Sunrise Academy wants to ensure that children develop "a strong Islamic identity." It is not clear what she means by this. If it is the school's goal to shield and shelter teenagers

from reality, that would be problematic and counterproductive. But if it is the school's goal to indoctrinate teenagers with Islamic ideology to the detriment of a real-world education, that too should raise a red flag. Many Islamic values are beautiful and universal: kindness, charity, justice, universal brotherhood, etc. But any religious school that denies the existence of evolution and climate change, exercises censorship and LGBT bans, calls for the supremacy of one religion over another, or is engaged in any other discriminatory practices should be closely scrutinized. Students with denominational backgrounds, incl. home-schooled students, are often not adequately prepared for work or college and will fail. This can't be the outcome that their parents want, can it?

There are about 230 Islamic schools in the U.S. today, but their purpose is an underexplained topic, according to a 2017 book co-written by Sabith Khan and Shariq Siddiqui, "Islamic Education in the United States." The authors are calling for a closer examination. In addition, the Dispatch article did not address the issue of safety and security at Islamic places of worship and schools.

### **300+ Accusers in Richard Strauss Case**

For decades, OSU physician Dr. Richard Strauss sexually molested male athletes during medical exams. As in similar cases (e.g., Jeffrey Epstein), numerous employees had knowledge of what was going on but turned a blind eye and kept silent. OSU has admitted institutional failure and has apologized to the victims while at the same time trying hard to dismiss the ensuing lawsuits by arguing that the statute of limitations has expired. It was another dirty trick not to proactively contact potential victims, allegedly out of concern for possibly retraumatizing them.

Despite OSU's efforts to minimize the damage, the number of accusers has topped 300. The group's size is now in the same range as the wave of plaintiffs who got \$500 million from Michigan State Univ. in the sexual-misconduct case of gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar. So far, the investigation and related litigation has cost OSU \$7.8 million, according to a spokesperson, but this is only the beginning. The lawsuits pending against OSU are currently in mediation toward a potential settlement, which OSU obviously prefers. However, when all is said and done the total cost could well reach an amount similar to the one MSU paid to victims of sexual abuse.

### **Aldi Renovates 21 Central Ohio Locations**

The grocery discounter Aldi has some 1,300 stores in the U.S. It plans to have nearly 2,500 stores from coast to coast by 2022, according to its website ([www.aldi.us](http://www.aldi.us)). The chain is also investing \$1.9 billion to update, renovate, and expand existing stores across the nation. As part of that plan, Aldi will spend \$34 million renovating its 21 stores in Central Ohio. The latest store to reopen after it was closed for several weeks is the one at 2296 Morse Rd. in Columbus. The grand reopening is Wed., Sept. 4. In addition to minor upgrades, remodeled Aldi stores include a 40% increase of fresh fruit and produce as well as organic items, according to the chain.

Coincidentally, the environmental organization Greenpeace just released its 2019 Supermarket Plastics Scorecard. Aldi ranks #1 for its efforts to tackle the plastics pollution crisis, followed by Kroger's as #2. Giant Eagle (#16) and Meijer's (#17) are at the bottom of the list.

### **Honda Celebrates 40 Years**

Forty years ago, in 1979, Honda of America started to build motorcycles, then cars at its Marysville plant. Since then, Honda has built nearly 20 million vehicles locally, invested more than \$11 billion in its Ohio operations, and grown its workforce to more than 15,000. Over the years, Honda has also contributed more than \$100 million to charitable organizations in the state. Union County remains among the fastest-growing in Ohio and in the nation. Delaware County also benefits from Honda; many employees make the daily commute from Delaware to Marysville. Honda's supply chain has grown to more than 158 Ohio companies, many of which did not exist before 1979. – Honda is a success story for Ohio, America, and Japan. The company's history also illustrates how interconnected the local, national, and international economy have become.

# THE STATE OF OHIO

## “Ohio Gun Owners”

Ohio Gun Owners is a second-amendment group that is even more extreme than the National Rifle Association (NRA). After Ohio’s Governor Mike DeWine proposed a so-called “red-flag law” for the state, leader Chris Dorr posted on Facebook a video in which he said that his group would never compromise. If Ohio’s legislature were to institute a red-flag law, “there will be political bodies laying [sic] all over the ground in – maybe not this election, maybe the next election. (...) At some point when you come across a target field, we gun owners will pull the trigger and leave the corpse for the buzzards.” DeWine’s staff reported the video’s content to law enforcement. Incredibly, upon review the State Highway Patrol determined that the violent and threatening language does “not meet the elements of a criminal offense.”

“Community Matters” is a strong supporter of free speech and the First Amendment, but we absolutely draw the line at death threats of this nature.

## Charter Schools Enroll Fewer

Charter schools were authorized in Ohio in 1997. However, they have since lost much of their luster. Attendance has dropped for 6 years in a row. Enrollment peaked around 121,000 students in 395 charter schools during the 2013/14 school year, but this school year (2019/20) it is down to 104,439 students in 315 charter schools, a drop of 13.9%. Ten new schools have yet to report their enrollment figures, but a continuation of the overall decrease is expected. Back in the heyday, charter schools were rolling in money and faced little oversight, but after the ECOT scandal Ohio has cracked down on charter schools and gotten somewhat tougher on quality and accountability. Many conservative legislators, however, remain enamored with charter schools and help them to keep the doors open by giving them extensions and financial assistance, despite questionable performance metrics. After all, no politician wants to lose the generous donations charter-schools sponsors have been making to their campaign coffers.

## White Nationalism in Ohio

Almost daily you learn about white nationalists and supremacists in Ohio and in the nation who own guns and post menacing threats on social media. Police recently arrested Justin Olson, 18, of Boardman (Mahoning County) for making “terroristic” threats; he had access to a cache of 25 firearms and ammunition. – Police also arrested a man from New Middletown (also in Mahoning County), James Reardon, 20, who had posted a video that featured a mass shooting at the Jewish Family Community in Youngstown. Semi-automatic weapons, rounds of ammunition, and anti-Semitic propaganda was found at his house.

For many years, authorities disregarded the threat of “domestic terrorism.” To this day, there is no such crime in federal law enforcement. It is time that the epidemic of militant white supremacy be taken seriously by politicians, law enforcement, and educators. It is also clear from press reports that people often referred to as “lone wolves” are in fact well connected through the internet and social media where they were radicalized in the first place.

## Ohio Near the Bottom of National Health Rankings

Sifting through old paper files, Community Matters made an interesting discovery. During the last decade Ohio has steadily and inexorably slipped in national health rankings from #27 (1990) to #33 (2010) to #46 (2019). The last ranking is from the Heath Value Dashboard of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. The United Health Foundation’s annual report, begun in 1990, lists many factors. They include smoking, obesity & diabetes, lack of physical activity, cardiovascular deaths, infectious diseases, low immunization rates, infant mortality, air pollution, cancer, drug overdoses, traffic casualties, firearm deaths, lower longevity, poverty, lack of education, high rates of being uninsured, and so on. It is no secret that the U.S. ranks far behind other industrialized nations in keeping residents healthy. However, it boggles the mind to see that Ohio ranks near the bottom in a nation that already ranks near the bottom internationally.

In some respects, the situation is reminiscent of Third World countries. Clearly, public health deserves more attention than it has received by the Ohio legislature in the last decades.

## Avoid Liberty HealthShare “Like the Plague”

Health sharing sounds good in theory. Based on biblical principles, members pay a certain amount each month or year into a general fund. When faced with a medical expense, they receive reimbursement. Only a small percentage is used to cover administrative costs. However, one of these non-profit health-share companies, Canton-based Liberty HealthShare, has now come under scrutiny. The Christian ministry, in existence since 2014, has been accused of delaying payments and of refusing to pay bills, leaving members hounded by debt collectors. The ministry has grown to serve 230,000 members in 97,000 households. Single people pay \$299 per month (\$3,588 per year), couples \$399 per month (\$4,788 per year), and families \$529 (6,348 per year). People younger than 30 pay \$50 less per month. In 2018, Liberty shared more than \$300 million, according to the Columbus Dispatch (8/25). However, many folks are wondering where the money actually went. There is no transparency and oversight. If a portion of the money were embezzled, no one would even know about it. Dozens of complaints have been filed against Liberty HealthShare (check “Yelp” or the Better Business Bureau’s website!) and people have asked that the company be investigated for fraud. “They are crooks,” one irate customer wrote. Another said, “Avoid them like the plague.”

In a Dispatch interview, CEO Larry Foster blamed the problems on new computers and software and said everything would be resolved soon. However, this does not explain why emails and phone calls go unanswered and why Liberty openly refuses to pay in many cases. Even when Ohio’s attorney general was involved, the company delayed payments for up to one year. It also does not explain why Liberty HealthShare is very efficient at collecting the monthly premiums but then fails to deliver. It is clear that there is something fundamentally wrong with the company and that it is not in full compliance with the letter and spirit of its stated Christian mission.

## 74,000 Ohio Drivers Helped

Thanks to Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative, 74,000 (18%) of the approx. 410,000 eligible Ohio drivers were approved for the program and had their driver’s licenses reinstated during the 6-month pilot that ran from January through June 2019. In Ohio, there are more than 30 ways that someone can have their license suspended, many of which have nothing to do with traffic safety and disproportionately affect the poor. Suspending a driver’s license for not paying child support, for example, only aggravates the problem because without a car many people cannot work and earn money. Lacking a driver’s license is a huge barrier to employment. – Under House Bill 285, introduced by Reps. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) and Juanita Brent (D-Cleveland), the program may now become permanent. The new bill expands the list of eligible people by including Ohioans using Medicaid, Ohio Works First program, SNAP (food stamps) recipients, and VA pension program.

## Rhoda Wise – an Ohio Saint?

Rhoda Wise (1888-1948) died over 70 years ago, but her fame as a Christian mystic and stigmatist continues to this day. The small bedroom in her former home in Canton, Ohio has become a shrine for curious and faithful people who come by the busloads to gawk, pray, and hope for miracles. While alive, Wise claimed to have been visited by Jesus Christ on multiple occasions and be cured of terminal cancer. She also appeared to suffer stigmata – bloody wounds on her hands and feet similar to those that Jesus suffered on the cross. Sickly Wise was bedridden for years and known to have had mental-health issues, and she lived with an alcoholic husband. It is impossible to prove whether miracles occurred at her home or not, but the Youngstown Catholic diocese has now petitioned the Vatican to start the long process of beatification, canonization, and sainthood. – For those who want to learn more about the Ohio native, there is a website and a book by Karen Sigler, “The Rhoda Wise Story.” The Rhoda Wise House in Canton is located at 2337 25<sup>th</sup> St. NE, at the edge of Canton near a golf course. There is no admission fee, but donations are accepted.

# THE NATION

## Mass Shootings the New Norm

22 people were killed and 2 dozens more injured on the morning of Aug. 3 when a gunman opened fire outside and inside of a Walmart near the Cielo Vista Mall in El Paso, Texas. Media outlets identified him as Patrick Crucius of Allen near Dallas, Texas. The investigation is on-going, but Crucius, 21, is believed to have targeted the Latino community. Authorities are reviewing an online manifesto that he posted shortly before the shooting. In it, he warned against the Hispanic "invasion" of Texas – a trope that is also frequently employed by President Trump. The diatribe reportedly expresses solidarity with a man who killed 51 people in New Zealand earlier this year. The assumption is a "hate crime" was committed. The suspect, who acted alone, was taken into custody and has admitted to targeting Hispanics.

With 24 hours of El Paso shooting, another mass shooting took place in the historic Oregon district of Dayton, Ohio. On Aug. 4, a gunman killed 9 people; 27 additional people were treated in area hospitals for gunshots or injuries they received during the ensuing panic. Two of the dead were students at Wright State Univ. The suspect, who wore body armor and used an AK assault-style rifle, was shot and killed by quickly arriving police. He has been identified as Connor Betts, 24, of Bellbrook. His sister Megan was among the killed. 6 of the 9 people killed by him were black, but it is not clear if a political motive was involved or not. He is said to have been bipolar and obsessive-compulsive. People who knew him described as somewhat of "an outcast" who made threats in the past and was suspended from school at one point. According to former classmates, he had compiled both a "hit list" and a "rape list" during his years at Bellbrook High School. He had an obsession with wanting to commit a mass shooting, according to law enforcement, and was known for wanting to hurt people. A friend of Betts, Ethan Kollie, has admitted to police that that the two of them had done marijuana, acid, and "hard drugs" together several times a week. Despite all that, the FBI says that Betts was not on their radar.

## U.S. Mass Shootings Lead to Travel Warnings

After new deadly mass shootings in the U.S., several countries and international organizations have issued travel alerts and warnings because of America's ubiquitous gun violence. Warnings have come from Canada, Germany, Ireland, Japan, and New Zealand, among others. Amnesty International has issued an advisory that reads in part, "Depending on the traveler's gender identity, race, country of origin, ethnic background, or sexual orientation, they may be at higher risk of being targeted with gun violence, and should plan accordingly." President Trump did not take kindly to the warnings and threatened retaliation. "If they did that, we'd just reciprocate," he said during an impromptu announcement. "We are a very reciprocal nation with me as the head. When somebody does something negative to us in terms of a country, we do it to them." Health professionals have called the gun epidemic a public-health issue, but Trump claims that the nation's children and foreign visitors should not be concerned about mass shootings: "They have nothing to fear, they have nothing to worry about."

## Iowa's Steve King Defends Rape and Incest

Iowa's Rep. Steve King has been spewing inflammatory right-wing ideology for years. Is he crazy? No, he simply echoes the principles of white nationalism and racism. White supremacists are worried about being displaced and replaced by people of color. But, as King has stated in the past, culture cannot be restored and maintained "with somebody else's babies" because supposedly nonwhites contribute nothing to civilization. So, one way to ensure the survival of the shrinking white population is to defend and promote rape and incest and to fight against abortion. King recently asked "would there be any population of the world left" without forcible sexual intercourse? Resulting pregnancy and childbirth legitimize rape and incest, he was in effect saying. So-called "incels" (young men who are involuntarily celibate) continuously fantasize of subjugating and impregnating women against their will, and if they don't get their wish granted they sometimes take revenge by starting mass shootings. In January of this year, King regretted that the term

"white supremacist" and "white nationalist" had become offensive. He was subsequently removed from his congressional committee assignments. Just the other day, he mocked the Uighurs, China's persecuted Muslims, for not eating pork: "Everybody ought to eat pork."

Anyone who dares to criticize the Iowa lawmaker from the 4<sup>th</sup> District he calls "unhinged," "rabid," and "extreme." It is, of course, the other way around. It is people like Steve King who are unhinged, rabid, and extreme. He is an embarrassment to his party, state, and nation and should never have been elected in the first place.

## ***Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)*** ***"The New Colossus"***

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*

*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

## **Trump Administration Questions Emma Lazarus' Poem**

For the Trump administration, nothing is sacred. The unconfirmed (acting) director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Ken Cuccinelli, has suggested that Emma Lazarus' iconic poem should be rewritten to render it more in line with the anti-immigrant policies espoused by the Trump administration. In particular, he expressed his preference for rejecting those who arrive penniless and depend on welfare. In an interview with NPR he suggested that a couple of lines be changed to read, "give me your tired and your poor who can stand on their own two feet and who will not become a public charge." He also claimed, without evidence, that the sonnet referred to white people of European descent. Lazarus wrote her famous poem in 1883, one year after Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. One of her biographers, Esther Schor, rejected Cuccinelli's claim, saying that Lazarus was deeply involved in refugee causes and meant to include people of all races and colors. Her poem was not intended to give preference to certain ethnicities and exclude others. The Statue of Liberty is "the mother of all exiles."

Emma Lazarus' sonnet and its moral compass is clearly a thorn in the side of the Trump administration. Two years ago, Trump adviser Stephen Miller argued that the poem is "not actually part of the original statue" because it was inscribed later. The comment was clearly intended to question its value and legitimacy.

## **Birthright Citizenship Questioned Again**

Amendment XIV (Section I) of the Constitution of the United States of America states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." Section I goes on to say that "No State shall make or enforce any laws which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." The only narrow exception is children of accredited foreign diplomats over whom the U.S. has no "jurisdiction."

Although birthright citizenship has been rooted in the Constitution of more than 150 years and in common law before that, it has not stopped hard-line conservatives, incl. President Trump, from periodically questioning the law and demanding that it be abolished to stop "illegal immigration." By using derogatory terms such as "birth tourism," "chain migration," or "anchor babies," they attempt to delegitimize the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and overturn it. The goal is to keep immigrants of color out of America. People who shout at Trump rallies, "Send her back," are essentially propelled by the same motivation, which is to keep the country white. However, the overwhelming majority of legal experts is of the opinion that it would



be unconstitutional to exclude U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants from citizenship and that such a challenge would have no chance of prevailing in court under current law.

If, on the other hand, the U.S. continues to follow down the path of fascism as Nazi Germany once did, suspend the Constitution, and usurp the courts, then it is conceivable that an American *führer* might pass legislation to make the country white again. President Trump has been flirting with fascist ideology for years. Of course, it can't happen here, can it? "It Can't Happen Here," is actually the title of a 1935 dystopian book by Sinclair Lewis in which he describes the rise of a fascistic regime of suppression, terror, and totalitarianism in America. It is a prescient and disturbing read that highlights the many parallels between the 1930s and the 2010s.

### **Donald Trump Praises Henry Ford**

Automaker Henry Ford (1863-1947) is an American legend. However, he is arguably also the most notorious anti-Semite in modern U.S. history. He believed that Jewish bankers were responsible for much evil in the world. The Michigan newspaper he purchased, the Dearborn Independent, became a mouthpiece for anti-Jewish propaganda. In May 1920, it published a series entitled "The International Jew: The World's Problem." At one point, the newspaper reprinted the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," an anti-Semitic forgery and one of the most infamous pieces of anti-Semitic propaganda in Jewish history. Ford's activities caught Adolf Hitler's attention and inspired him. "I shall do my best to put his theories into practice in Germany," Hitler once said. "Mein Kampf" does not have an index, but reportedly Ford is the only American mentioned by name in the 2-volume book.

It is doubtful that President Trump knew this history when he praised Henry Ford as a "legendary" American automaker. He does not read. Instead, he watches Fox television and surrounds himself by sycophantic yes-men. However, his ignorance does not exculpate him. Politicians on the left and on the right should know better than to praise controversial individuals with fraught histories.

### **Theodore G. Bilbo of Mississippi**

It may have been a coincidence, but several times last month and twice on the same day we were reminded of Theodore Bilbo (1877-1947) who was governor of Mississippi from 1916-20 and 1928-32 and later served as senator from Mississippi from 1935 until his death in 1947. His name was and is synonymous with white supremacy.

Bilbo attended Peabody Normal College and Vanderbilt Univ. Law School, but graduated from neither. The perception that he was profligate and dishonest took root after he was accused of cheating on academics. He was elected to the Mississippi State Senate in 1907, but after accepting a \$645 bribe to change a vote the Senate called him "unfit to sit with honest, upright men in a respectable legislative body." At one point, during his governorship, he hid in a barn to avoid a subpoena, and was sentenced to 30 days in prison for contempt of court. As governor he fired 3 university presidents and replaced them with uneducated loyalists – a realtor, a press agent, and a recent recipient of a B.A. degree. He also dismissed 179 faculty members. National associations promptly suspended recognition of all of Mississippi's state universities and cancelled their accreditation. At the end of Bilbo's term, in 1932, the State of Mississippi was essentially bankrupt.

Bilbo gained national notoriety as a fiery segregationist and a member of the KKK. He held that the Negro race was inferior to the white race and supported the idea to deport 12 million black Americans back to West Africa. In a book, he railed against the intermingling of blacks and white and warned against the danger of "mongrelization." He helped filibuster an anti-lynching law, saying that if the bill passed it would give blacks license to rape the daughters of Dixie. He was also against giving voting rights to the black population anywhere in the U.S., despite the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments.

Theodore Bilbo was not an honorable man. He was a despicable individual who held his state and the country back in many ways. He should not serve as a role model in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Economy at Risk**

Signs are mounting that the U.S. economy and the global economy are under pressure, slowing, and at risk. Economist and former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers spoke for many when he criticized the "sodomasochistic and foolish trade conflict" with China. "We are losing very substantial amounts in terms of uncertainty, reduced investment, reduced job creation, for the sake of benefits that are very unlikely to be of substantial magnitude," he said. "I don't think there's any question that American workers are going to be poorer, American companies are going to be less profitable, and the American economy is going to be worse off because of the course we're on," Summers continued. A sure sign that not all is well is the fact that the price of gold, a traditional safe-haven asset, has spiked and is now well above \$1,500 per ounce.

As of mid-August, there are feeble signs that even GOP members are not entirely happy with the president's performance. At least 2 current Republican politicians have so far indicated that they plan to run against Trump in the 2020 primaries. Former White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci, usually a supporter, has recently stated that although it is right now "an unspeakable thing," the GOP might have to look for another candidate in 2020 or risk the election if the president does not change his destructive and divisive behavior.

### **Rising Consumer Debt**

More people are struggling with personal debt. Credit-card balances grew from \$848 billion in the first quarter to \$868 billion in the second quarter. Student-loan debt is at \$1.5 trillion. Total consumer debt has risen by \$192 billion, or 1.4%, to \$13.86 trillion in the second quarter of 2019. The figure is higher than the previous peak of \$12.68 trillion before the 2008 global financial crisis... Consumer confidence remains relatively high at the moment, but that can quickly change.

### **Trump Delays Additional Tariffs**

Facing mounting pressure from consumers and businesses, President Trump has delayed some, but not all, additional tariffs on Chinese consumer goods until Dec. 15, after the Christmas shopping season is effectively over. Certain products were even excluded from tariffs altogether based on health, safety, and national security considerations. The list includes car seats, cranes, shipping containers and – weirdly – also Bibles and other religious literature. Trump's decision is a tacit admission that tariffs often do lead to price increases for consumers. However, even on the day of the announcement, Aug. 13, Trump insisted that the trade war was hurting only China, not America. On Sept. 1 only about \$112 billion of Chinese goods will be hit by an additional 10% levy. Another \$160 billion in products will be subject to the tariff on Dec. 15, according to estimates.

Markets were happy and soared, but of course the temporary reprieve does nothing to solve the underlying future uncertainty. As the presidential elections in 2020 are rapidly approaching, Trump is facing pressure to end the misguided trade war that are painful for farmers, manufacturers, and consumers. It remains to be seen whether he and his administration can and will do so.

### **Trump "Orders" Companies to Leave China**

After China imposed tariffs on American products in response to Trump's trade war, the enraged president announced that his tariffs would go full speed ahead after all. In his royal decree, he also said that he "hereby orders" all American businesses to leave China. Of course, no American president has the authority to do so, but Trump has never been shy about shattering established norms. His latest statements have raised more questions about his ability to exercise proper stewardship over the national economy. There is fear and trembling even among his allies about the president's rudderless flailing. Concern is growing that he may have delusions of divinity and be closer to mental instability than ever before. Just the other day, Trump announced, "I am the chosen one." It is possible that his latest pronouncement was a step over the cliff. The Chinese market is too large and important to be abandoned, and the business community may finally have had enough. At this point nobody knows how all this will end, but no doubt someday Trump will be the protagonist of comedies or tragedies that rival those of Shakespeare.

## **Joe Walsh Announces Primary Challenge against Trump**

In April, former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld announced a primary challenge against President Trump, but his campaign has yet to gain traction. Now former Illinois Rep. Joe Walsh has joined him. "I'm running because he's unfit," he said of Trump in an interview with ABC. "The country is sick of this guy's tantrum – he's a child." Walsh was once a fervent supporter of Trump, but has since become a fierce critic. Walsh, 57, has a nationally syndicated radio show and a significant online following, but admits that his candidacy is a long shot. – It did not take long for Walsh's own long history of making racist comments to surface, damaging his credibility. On his conservative radio show and on Twitter he has reviled Muslims and people of color, promoted conspiracy theories about Obama's birthplace, and elevated white nationalists. At one point he tweeted, "No more Muslims in the US. They want us dead." And he has inhumanely mocked the parents of children who were killed in the Sandy Hook massacre. Walsh, like Trump, has appealed to the basest instincts and ugliest sentiments in America. They are both cut from the same cloth. In an interview, the radio personality publicly admitted having said "racist things" on Twitter (while at the same time claiming he is "not a racist"). – Another piece of bad news for Walsh is the fact that Salem Radio Network announced it would cancel the national distribution of his radio program since Walsh is now a bona fide candidate for office. Under the Federal Communications Commission's equal-time provision, any other declared candidate could demand airtime equal to that afforded to Walsh.

## **Business Roundtable Changes Priorities**

For decades, the mantra of American corporations has been that corporations exist to serve their shareholders. However, too often the system is not inclusive enough and many Americans are struggling, raising legitimate questions about the role of large employers in society and the future of capitalism. The national Business Roundtable ([www.brt.org](http://www.brt.org)), which also has an active state chapter in Ohio, has therefore provided the following new Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation, which supersedes all previous Business Roundtable statements. The new focus is on stakeholders, not just shareholders:

*"We commit to*

- *DELIVERING VALUE TO OUR CUSTOMERS. We will further the tradition of American companies leading the way in meeting or exceeding customer expectations;*
- *INVESTING IN OUR EMPLOYEES. This starts with compensating them fairly and providing important benefits. It also includes supporting them through training and education that help develop new skills for a rapidly changing world. We foster diversity and inclusion, dignity and respect;*
- *DEALING FAIRLY AND ETHICALLY WITH OUR SUPPLIERS. We are dedicated to serving as good partners to the other companies, large and small, that help us meet our missions;*
- *SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH WE WORK. We respect the people in our communities and protect the environment by embracing sustainable practices across our businesses;*
- *GENERATING LONG-TERM VALUE FOR SHAREHOLDERS, WHO PROVIDE THE CAPITAL THAT ALLOWS COMPANIES TO INVEST, GROW, AND INNOVATE. We are committed to transparency and effective engagement with shareholders."*

While many people welcomed the paradigm shift, some critics argued that more is required than platitudes, big promises, and "a public-relations stunt" to restore faith in capitalism. Concrete action is needed such as paying workers a livable wage.

## **The Democratic Debate on Sept. 12**

Ten Democratic candidates have qualified for the Thurs., Sept. 12 television debate in Houston, Texas: Biden, Booker, Buttigieg, Castro, Harris, Klobuchar, O'Rourke, Sanders, Warren, and Yang.

Even though it is still early in the game, the field of Democratic candidates has started to shrink. Some contenders never got much traction with voters and are certain not to qualify for the next rounds of television debates. John Hickenlooper has officially

announced that he is ending his presidential campaign. Many Democrats have told the former governor that he is in the wrong race and that it is important to retake the Senate in 2020. Hickenlooper will focus his efforts on the Senate race in Colorado instead. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has also announced that he is abandoning his climate-focused campaign. Rep. Seth Moulton from Massachusetts likewise dropped out; few people even remember what he looked like. The latest candidate to abandon the race is Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand from New York. Additional Democratic presidential candidates are struggling mightily, incl. the only contestant from Ohio, Tim Ryan. More are expected to drop out in the coming weeks and months.

## **October Debate in Ohio**

The Ohio Democratic Party has announced that the third presidential debate on Oct. 15 will be held in the Buckeye State. The news release did not yet name the city where the event will take place. If more than 10 candidates qualify by Oct. 1, the debate is likely to take place over 2 nights, Oct. 15-16. All candidates who qualified for the Sept. primary debate are automatically included, but they could be joined by Tom Steyer or other individuals who are close to meeting the qualifications.

## **Joe Biden's Gaffes a Cause of Concern**

When Joe Biden uses a Teleprompter, he is a fine speaker. But when not, he is prone to making embarrassing blunders. He has always been gaffe-prone. Some people consider it part of his authenticity. On the other hand, the sheer number of recent blunders is alarming to other people who are worried whether Biden is past his prime and no longer physically and mentally as sharp as he used to be. Even his aides have advised him to curb his commentary and not participate in television interviews. Among Biden's recent gaffes is the statement that "poor kids" are not as bright and talented as "white kids" and a campaign speech in which he said "we choose truth over facts." At age 76, Biden has lived so long that he mixes up the British prime ministers Theresa May and Margaret Thatcher. He does not remember when and where certain mass shootings took place, falsely claiming he spoke with the survivors of Parkland, Florida when he was in office. And he tells stories in which he conflates multiple events. Unlike President Trump, Biden is not intentionally exaggerating and presenting misinformation. It's just that he missteps and misspeaks all the time. As the New York Times put it, he continues to find rakes to step on and commit self-inflicted errors. His recent remark that immigrants should "get in line" and wait their turn, was language loaded with latent racism and upsetting to Latino leaders.

The presidential campaign demands vigorous debate and a rigorous schedule. "Sleepy Joe," as Trump likes to call him, has yet to prove that he is capable of rising to the occasion. The chairwoman of the Green County Democratic Party in Iowa, Chris Henning, shared this thought: "I have to say, he just doesn't seem to have his heart in it or the energy for the slog this time." Biden's supporters praise his warmth, but it seems his fighting days are over.

## **Bernie Sanders Wants to Overhaul Criminal-Justice System**

Bernie Sanders, the presidential candidate from Vermont, has unveiled a comprehensive plan to reform the criminal-justice system. The U.S. has the highest percentage of people in jail and prisons in the world, and the incarcerated folks are disproportionately people of color – African-Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans. Sanders is suggesting to end for-profit prisons, along with their campaign contributions; to cut the prison population in half; to set national standards for the use of deadly force by law enforcement; to end the death penalty that affects people of color disproportionately; and to restore voting rights to hundreds of thousands of imprisoned individuals.

## **SoulCycle and Equinox**

New York billionaire Stephen Ross is not only a real-estate developer and owner of the Miami Dolphins of the NFL. Related Companies, of which he is Chairman, also owns majority stakes in the luxury fitness chain Equinox and its subsidiary SoulCycle. Both businesses have significant customer bases in liberal cities and promote themselves as safe havens for the LGBT community and believing in diversity, inclusion, and equity.

Imagine the surprise then when it became known that Stephen Ross would host a fundraiser for Donald Trump in the Hamptons, with tickets costing up to \$250,000. Many people, feeling cheated and betrayed, canceled their membership, not wanting to support the President and his reelection, and called for a boycott of the companies. Both Equinox and SoulCycle said in press releases that Ross is merely "a passive investor," but that provided little comfort for critics who contend that the companies' profits fatten his bottom line and by extension Trump's campaign coffers.

Equinox has 100 locations in the U.S., SoulCycle 94 studios. None appear to be located in Ohio.

### **Jeffrey Epstein's Suicide**

Jeffrey Epstein, accused of decades-long sex trafficking of young girls, committed suicide on Aug. 10 in Manhattan's Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC). For decades, the wealthy financier, 66, rubbed elbows with the world's richest and most powerful people, including European aristocracy and American presidents. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta was forced to resign after being accused of being too lenient on pedophile Epstein in the past. Local billionaire Leslie Wexner (L Brands, Victoria's Secret, the Limited), Ohio's richest man and his biggest client, allowed Epstein to amass a fortune. Many others are implicated in the scandal and are now quite embarrassed to see their name associated with the financier.

Epstein had attempted to kill himself before and was on suicide watch for a while. So, why was the watch discontinued after even more powerful accusations came to light? Why was his cell mate transferred shortly before Epstein's death? And why was the prison staff underqualified, overworked, and asleep instead of monitoring Epstein every half hour? This is the stuff conspiracy theories are made of. It is entirely plausible that someone wanted Epstein to commit suicide to end the prosecution and the investigation, so there would be no trial with embarrassing revelations. Many people benefit from the fact that Epstein is now dead and has taken his secrets to the grave. It has also been suggested that the "suicide" was orchestrated and staged and the financier murdered. The broken hyoid in his neck, near the Adam's apple, could have been caused by hanging, but it can also be found in cases of strangulation or involuntary hanging. Epstein's attorneys have suggested that his injuries were more consistent with an assault than with a suicide.

There may yet be a trial involving some of Epstein's protectors, enablers, and recruiters, but the dozens and perhaps hundreds of victims will presumably not be called to the witness stand. It is also more than likely that the rich and powerful with whom Epstein associated for decades will now avoid consequences. The unusually forceful calls for a full inquiry into the circumstances of Epstein's suicide by General Attorney Barr and President Trump ring hollow and are nothing but a distraction. In truth, the wealthy libertarian elite never wanted to go to the bottom of the scandal. They fear the light a trial would have shed on their profound immorality and corruption. Epstein's suicide was quite "convenient" for them. Don't be surprised if people across the political spectrum will speculate about it for years to come.

### **FEMA Diverts Funds to Border Projects**

The Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) is moving \$271 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and other agencies to the U.S. border with Mexico. The news comes as hurricane season is ramping up and FEMA's funds and staff are stretched perilously thin. Dorian, a category 5 hurricane, is expected to hit the Bahamas, Florida, Georgia, and/or the Carolinas by Sept. 2 and 3. Catastrophic flooding and damage is expected. The transfer of money prompted sharp criticism from Democrats. "Taking money away from TSA and from FEMA in the middle of hurricane season could have deadly consequences," Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, a Democrat, said. He accused DHS of flouting congressional intent. The money taken away from disaster relief will be used to fund ICE operations and detention bed space (\$116 million) and additional temporary facilities along the U.S.-Mexican border (\$155 million). Disaster preparation and relief is one of the essential and legitimate functions of government. However, it is clear that it is not one of the Trump administration's priorities.

### **ICE Detains 680, But No Employers**

In one of the largest national immigration raids ever, ICE agents detained about 680 immigrants at 7 food-processing sites in Mississippi. Companies that "knowingly" hire undocumented workers can face charges and fines, but the loophole is wide and large. Among the 680 detainees was not a single employer. No company owner was charged for employing immigrants with sufficient papers. ICE is not really interested in arresting white people breaking the law; its priority is to deport people of color even if they have no criminal record and have lived and worked in the U.S. for years. To keep Christian families and communities together, Homeland Security should provide people with documentation and a path to citizenship instead of cruelly ripping them apart. The notion that raids are about safeguarding jobs for Americans is absurd because no American wants the dirty and dangerous jobs that hard-working Hispanic workers perform.

### **latino lament**

we live in constant crippling fear  
latinos are not welcome here

we get accused of smuggling drugs  
they call us murderers and thugs

they say we are the evil stranger  
who poses a devastating danger

we feed the country keep it strong  
how can this possibly be wrong

they deny us proper wages  
and put children in metal cages

we are hideous in their eyes  
they are deaf to our cries

for them we are a lesser race  
they want us gone without a trace

we're afraid to show our faces  
and stay away from public places

we get beaten we get shot  
it is our foretold lot

we are battered we are bruised  
because we often are abused

they target us for no good reason  
it is open hunting season

although it happens all the time  
we don't dare to report the crime

no one comes to our aid  
at the next immigration raid

the law is not on our side  
yet we endure and we abide

### **Lung Disease Tied to Vaping**

At latest count, 25 states (incl. Ohio) have seen 215 mysterious lung illnesses associated with vaping and e-cigarettes. At least one death (in Illinois) has been linked to the disease. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not yet have an explanation, but it appears that an infectious disease is not responsible. Symptoms include shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chest and abdominal pain. Patients also reported fever, cough, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Some teenagers experienced respiratory failure, requiring the use of ventilators. While treatment with antibiotics and oxygen support did not help, treatment with steroids led to improvement. Doctors do not know whether their



patients will suffer long-term consequences or not. It is unknown if the illness is caused by the vaping devices themselves, their ingredients, or through contamination. Clinicians have been warning of possible health risks from e-cigarettes, but the American Vaping Association blames the problem on “amateur-made street vapes” and home-brewed concoctions. There is a largely unregulated gray market, but at this point it is not known who or what is responsible for the national outbreak. Trade associations have accused state health departments of creating a “vaping hysteria” and of “unjustifiably alarming the public.”

The Ohio Dept. of Health, which is investigating at least 6 cases, has issued a health alert. People with serious breathing problems linked to vaping should seek medical attention immediately. It is also urging health-care providers to report all suspected cases of serious pulmonary illness. Companies like Juul have marketed their products as a supposedly safer alternative to cigarettes, but doctors are not buying the claims. There are plenty of unknowns about the vaping industry. New flavors enter the market regularly despite the fact that physicians have no idea what toxic chemicals people are ingesting.

### **Pentagon Cancels Missile-Defense Project**

The Pentagon has pulled the plug on a missile-defense system in the contiguous U.S. that at one point included an Ohio component. Both Ohio senators, Brown and Portman, had embraced the project. The Pentagon has spent nearly \$1.2 billion on it before it decided in August to terminate it. The stated reason for canceling the new system was that significant design problems were too costly to correct and/or simply unsurmountable. The Pentagon currently has 44 missile interceptors that are mostly based in Alaska. However, it appears that the never-tested weapons would be largely obsolete and ineffective against newly developed hypersonic long-range missiles from China, Russia, and North Korea. The U.S. needs to start over and develop a new, next-gen missile-defense system. – Wouldn't it be cheaper and safer for everyone to renegotiate existing non-proliferation treaties instead of cavalierly abandoning them?

### **Fighter Pilots Exposed to More Radiation**

Former Air Force and Navy fighter pilots are urging the military to begin cancer screenings at a much earlier age than has been the case in the past. Many pilots suffer from prostate and esophageal cancers, lymphoma, and glioblastomas or have friends who do. “We are dropping like flies in our 50s from aggressive cancers,” says one of them. Although there is no established link between the specific radiation emitted from radars or oxygen-generation systems on advanced fighter jets and the illnesses the pilots are seeing, the Air Force has confirmed that “pilots have greater environmental exposure to ultraviolet and ionizing radiation” as well as non-ionizing radiation. It seems clear and obvious that prolonged exposure to radiation in the cockpit, whatever the specific source, can lead to disproportionately higher cancer rates. Pilots are calling on the military to begin cancer screenings for aviators as young as 30.

### **Trump Pushes for Logging in Alaska**

Alaska's 16.7-million-acre Tongass National Forest, one of the largest intact temperate rainforests in the world, is imperiled. President Trump has directed Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue to exempt Tongass from logging restrictions imposed two decades ago. The boreal forest in southwestern Alaska is replete with old-growth spruce, hemlock, and cedar, rivers running with salmon, dramatic glaciers and fjords, and countless species of animals and plants such as grizzly bears. Republicans have long demanded that public lands and national forests be opened up for ranching, logging, mining, and oil-and-gas exploration. Ohio's only national forest, Wayne National Forest, is similarly endangered.

### **Risk for Alzheimer's Can Be Lowered**

Around the world, some 50 million people suffer from dementia. However, it is not unalterably written in the stars or in your genes that you will get Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Folks have some control over what happens to their physical and mental health. A longitudinal study presented by the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Los Angeles this summer found that if people combine 5 lifestyle habits they can reduce the

risk by up to 60%. The study makes the following 5 recommendations: be physically active (walk, bike, swim, etc.); eat healthily (more vegetables, less red meat); reduce your alcohol consumption; refrain from smoking tobacco; and find things to do that are socially and intellectually stimulating (join a book club, do crosswords). Even if you do only 2 or 3 of these things, the probability of Alzheimer's decreases significantly.

### **Unable to Afford Health Care, Couple Commits Suicide**

An elderly couple in Whatcom County, Washington state, died by murder-suicide in August. Brian S. Jones, 77, left several notes in which he expressed anxiety that the couple could not afford treatment for the severe medical issues of Patricia A. Whitney-Jones, 76. He then called 911, explained the situation to the dispatcher, and indicated that he would shoot his wife and himself as a result of their dismal financial situation. Deputies found the two dead in their home.

People 65 and older spend a much higher proportion of their income on medical care than working-age persons. Oftentimes, the costs far exceed people's available revenues. Many people delay or skip doctor's visits. Others skip their prescribed medications or halve them to stretch them. Yet others rack up credit-card debt or borrow money to pay their bills. Too many have had to sell their home to survive. Medical bankruptcies are common. Are the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services doing enough to address the problem? The U.S. has first-rate medical services for the wealthy, but a third-world system to provide preventive care and treatment. This is one of reasons why life expectancy keeps falling instead of improving.

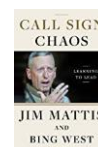
### **Trump Unhappy with Fox News**

After Fox News aired some interviews with Democrats, President Trump got angry and complained that Fox News was not “working for us anymore” and was letting the nation down. In response, two Fox personalities reminded the president that their job was not to work for him. Instead, Fox anchor Neil Cavuto said, “My job is to cover you, not fawn over you or rip you. Just report on you – to call balls and strikes on you. My job, Mr. President – our job here – is to keep score, not settle scores.” Fox News has often been accused of being too cozy with Trump, and the Democratic Party has refused to work with Fox to televise any of the 12 presidential debates. Party Chairman Tom Perez stated in spring of 2019 that Fox is not in a position to hold a fair and neutral debate. In his view, Fox News has “an inappropriate relationship” with President Trump. It is not clear if the disagreement between Trump and Fox is a temporary dust-up or a sign of a deeper estrangement, but the president has increasingly expressed frustration with Fox News and has even suggested the creation of a new network.

### **Toni Morrison's Novels**

Ohio-born Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison (1931-2019) is best known for her 11 novels. However, she also wrote literary essays, plays, a libretto, children's books, and more. Here are the titles of her novels. Her fiction is initially not easy to read for untrained people. It's best to just go with the flow and worry about the logic, structure, and outcome later. Multiple works by Morrison were challenged and banned over the years.

- The Bluest Eye, 1970
- Sula, 1973
- Song of Solomon, 1977
- Tar Baby, 1981
- Beloved, 1987
- Jazz, 1992
- Paradise, 1997
- Love, 2003
- A Mercy, 2008
- Home, 2012
- God Help the Child, 2015



### **Jim Mattis Publishes Memoir**

Former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has published a memoir in which he describes his love for the Marine Corps and how it shaped his character. Entitled "Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead" (Random House, 320 pp., \$28) and co-written with Bing West, the book (released Sept. 3) follows Mattis' life from Marine recruit to 4-star general. The focus is on leadership – direct, executive, and strategic leadership in challenging environments and in a chaotic world. For those interested in warfighting and/or peacemaking, there is lots to learn. This is particularly important at a time when prudent, strategic leadership is absent in the White House. Mattis is an adherent of lifelong learning. Time and again he studies ancient Mesopotamian, Greek, and Roman books about warfare and the lessons they offer; President Trump does not read. Mattis' life is devoted to public service and principles that are universal and timeless; for President Trump such strictures are the enemy. Mattis emphasizes the importance of allies and friends in peace and war; Trump is more of a unilateral loner who alienates everyone. Trump is barely mentioned in the book, by the way, but if you compare Mattis' definition of leadership with the current White House chaos it is obvious that there is a big disconnect.

Even if you are not a military man (or woman), there is a lot to like about the book. Here is one quote that caught our attention. Mattis and West write, "If you haven't read hundreds of books, you are functionally illiterate, and you will be incompetent, because your personal experiences along aren't broad enough to sustain you."

### **Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Water Dancer"**

Ta-Nehisi Coates, the author of the highly recommended non-fiction work "Between the World and Me," has a new book coming out – "The Water Dancer" (Sept. 24). It describes the crushing legacy of slavery, this time in the form of a dramatic novel. Coates' protagonist is Hiram Walker, a young boy with a magical gift who is born into slavery but hatches a plan to escape from bondage after his mother was sold away.

### **Kenneth Kiewra: "Nurturing Children's Talents"**

When Kenneth A. Kiewra's first son was born, he had no intention of introducing him to chess and developing his chess talent. He just wanted his son to be happy and healthy. And yet, young Keaton Kiewra turned out to be an international chess master who won many state and national championships. His father has now written a book, "Nurturing Children's Talents: A Guide for Parents" (Praeger 2019, 195 pp.) that not only chronicles the story of young Keaton but is also a useful guide for parents of professional athletes, musicians, artists, dancers, and scientists. Talent, Kiewra says, is not necessarily a rare, innate gift. Talent can be ignited, developed, and cultivated and is therefore within the reach of most children. However, his research suggests that 5 important conditions must be met for talent to emerge: 1. There must be an enriched early environment. Kids growing up in a musical environment, for instance, are exposed to music at an early age. It becomes second nature to them. 2. Talented children also must have strong parents, teachers, coaches, and mentors who serve as role models. 3. No one becomes talented without deliberate and focused practice over many years. 4. Access to a premier training center (a gym, an academy, a city) is indispensable to develop excellence. 5. Lastly, children must be passionate about they are doing and not be motivated by external, tangible rewards such as medals or trophies. Ultimately, it is the children who drive the talent train, not the parents. (Adopted from an article that appeared in "Chess Life," August 2019, pp. 32-35.)

### **Boys Studying Ballet**

ABC's Lara Spencer laughed heartily at the news that Prince George, 6, was planning to study ballet. After strong public backlash, the following week she apologized for her immature and offensive behavior: "I screwed up, I did. The comment I made about dance was insensitive. It was stupid and I am deeply sorry." – If girls want to wrestle or study engineering, parents should let them. If boys want to learn ballet or study nursing, parents should support them. Children should be able to explore and experience things without being bullied, brainwashed, and stigmatized. For the record – ballet is as challenging and hard as any macho sport, but probably

considerably safer than football. There is absolutely nothing wrong with boys wanting to learn about music and art, dance and ballet. Parents and teachers should applaud and encourage children's curiosity.

### **you reap what you sow**

if you sow lettuce  
you will eat salad  
if you love poetry  
you will write a ballad

if you exercise daily  
your body is healthier  
if you work hard  
you may become wealthier

if you keep the world  
at a hostile distance  
no one will come  
to your assistance

spreading evil and hate  
comes back to haunt you  
being a big bully  
returns to taunt you

there is no farmer  
who doesn't know  
in fall you reap  
what in spring you sow

## **THE WORLD**

### **U.S. Influence in Decline**

The Trump administration's America-first strategy has led to U.S. inaction in many critical parts of the world. Multilateral military, trade, and environmental treaties were abandoned. While American power and influence is waning and disappearing, traditional national interests are seeing a resurgence, leading to needless conflict and war. There are many examples: China is cracking down on Hong Kong, diluting its promised autonomy; India has revoked Kashmir's independence; a conflict between South Korea and Japan is escalating; North Korea continues to build and test ballistic missiles; in Afghanistan the Taliban are back; Russia is being more assertive than before; the U.S. has given Saudi Arabia card blanche in Yemen; and so on. In the cases of Hong Kong and Kashmir the U.S. has signaled that it sees the tensions as "internal," not international conflicts and refuses to get involved. The leadership void that the Trump administration left is being filled by those who see an opportunity to fill the vacuum with their own ideology and interests. Countries that once enjoyed the protection of the U.S. may now be more inclined to pursue the acquisition of nuclear weapons themselves, South Korea being a good example. Trump is reshaping the globe, but what emerges does not seem to be a better world.

### **Israel Bars Entry to Two U.S. Congress Members**

Israel has barred two Democratic congresswomen from entering the country on an official visit. The step appears to be unprecedented. The elected representatives, Rashida Tlaib from Michigan and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota are Muslims, outspoken critics of Israel's discriminatory treatment of Palestinians, and supporters of the so-called BDS movement (boycott, divestment, and sanctions). The decision was made on the highest level after American President Trump tweeted in another Islamophobic statement that Tlaib and Omar "hate Israel & all Jewish people" and should be barred from visiting Israel.

Criticizing existing human-rights abuses in America or Russia does not make a person anti-American or anti-Russian. In fact, it can be a patriotic thing to do. The same goes for Israel and other countries. Israel is currently treating Palestinians as second-class citizens and denies them political and economic opportunities. It has occupied and annexed Palestinian territory, leveled Palestinian

villages, and treats Palestinians as virtual prisoners. Under Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel has passed legislation that now makes it a theocratic "nation-state of the Jewish people" alone, erasing the culture and language of minorities. What is going on there is similar to the apartheid system that once existed in South Africa. If this is reminiscent of the treatment of Muslim Uighurs in China, it is not a coincidence. The BDS movement is aimed, in part, at pressuring Israel to improve its oppressive and inhumane treatment of Palestinians. Shedding a critical light on these abuses is not an act of anti-Semitism, as some claim, but a duty for those who believe in the kind of enlightened and democratic values espoused by Jewish writers and thinkers for centuries.

Netanyahu and Trump should remember that they will not always be in power. Sooner or later, a pluralistic democratic system will be restored. In the long run, the cost of barring members of Congress from traveling to Israel may be higher than permitting them to visit. Israel very much depends on the good and bipartisan will of (and financial support from) the U.S., and barring Tlaib and Omar from visiting may do irreparable harm to Israel's reputation, which is already severely damaged.

### **Boris Johnson Suspends Parliament**

In an audacious move, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has suspended ("prorogued") Parliament until the middle of October. His maneuver was intended to give Parliament as little time as possible to debate Brexit, with or without a deal. It was immediately denounced as an undemocratic "coup," even by some Tories in his own Conservative Party. High-level resignations and spontaneous street demonstrations followed the move. An online protest petition was signed by 1.5 million outraged people within a day or so. What Johnson did, basically, was to shut down democracy and silence the opposition. His gambit revealed to the nation and the world that underneath his charm lurks a ruthless dictator who is perfectly willing to bypass Parliament and govern without it. The American president, by the way, tweeted his support and said that this is "exactly what the U.K. has been looking for." He predicted that as prime minister Johnson will be "a great one."

Diminishing Parliament's (or Congress') sovereignty and oversight sets a terrible precedent. A vote of no confidence and new elections is one possible outcome, but the damage is far greater than that. With a no-deal Brexit looming on Oct. 31, economic chaos is already certain. Now it looks the very survival of Britain's political system may be at stake. Johnson's scheme has also inflicted incalculable damage to the queen and Britain's throne. His illiberal ploy also has negative repercussions for the future of democracy in Europe and the world. It encourages dictators around the globe to flout established constitutional norms and ethics. This is how fascism started a century ago.

### **Brexit May Lead to Shortages**

It is no mystery that a no-deal Brexit on Oct. 31 is likely to lead to major economic disruption and decline. Leaked government documents have now confirmed that British officials secretly share this view. The memos, published by The Sunday Times, are a realistic "base scenario," not a "worst-case" one. The fears outlined include severe shortages of imported food, medicine, gasoline, and even fresh water (due to a possible lack of water-treatment chemicals). Price increases are more than likely. Another concern is the interruption of data-sharing and cooperation in the areas of banking and law enforcement. Michael Grove, the British minister in charge of preparations, called the leaked documents "old" and said in tweets and interviews that "significant steps" to remedy the situation were taken in the last 3 weeks. One wonders, however, how much the British government can accomplish in preparation for a no-deal Brexit within 3 weeks or even within 3 months. It also looks like the UK will have new elections either before or after Oct. 31.

### **Trump Wants Russia Readmitted to the G7 Group**

It's been 5 years since Russia invaded the Crimea Peninsula, snatched it from Ukraine, and annexed it to its own territory. As a result, Russia was expelled from the G8 group and has been an international pariah ever since. To this day, there is no peace between Russia and the Ukraine. Now, President Donald Trump says, the time has come to readmit Russia into the G7 group of

industrialized nations. His remarks included no reference to the Crimea. In fact, Trump has never shown much concern about the fate of Crimea and has even suggested that it rightfully belongs to Moscow. It is well known that Trump and Putin have a chummy relationship. The American president regularly defends the authoritarian Russian President, Vladimir Putin, against critics, including his own intelligence services. Some have started to call Trump "Putin's poodle." Russia will not be part of the G7 conversations in Biarritz, France this year. However, in 2020 it will be the U.S. that is hosting the annual G7 summit. Watch for signs that Russia will be welcomed back despite the fact that it illegally and illegitimately annexed Crimea in 2014.

### **Kashmir**

Religions are supposed to be loving, caring, and peaceful. But there is not a denomination in the world that does not have violent factions and tendencies. Christianity too was involved in bloody wars for centuries. India's Hindu nationalist government under Narendra Modi has now unilaterally ended Kashmir's special constitutional status and autonomy (enshrined in Article 370 of India's Constitution) in a violent crackdown that very much resembles a military coup. "Jammu and Kashmir," as the disputed area between India and Pakistan is known, has about 8 million residents and is India's only Muslim-majority state. The conflict is territorial in nature, but it is also a religious war between two of the world's largest denominations – Hinduism and Islam. India has flooded the region with tens of thousands of soldiers, disabled all communications, closed schools, barricaded roads, and imposed an indefinite 24-hour curfew. Foreign journalists are barred from entering the territory. Reliable information is hard to come by, but some reports say that at least 2,000 civilian leaders were rounded up and spirited away to military camps in India. Suddenly, all of Kashmir has become a prison. Most Kashmiris view India as a foreign oppressor, not as a liberator.

Pakistan, in response, has expelled the Indian ambassador and suspended all trade with India as well as train & bus services. India and Pakistan, both nuclear nations, have been involved in open hostilities in the past, and there is fear that an all-out war is a distinct possibility. Migrant workers and others have fled the region for fear of violence. What is Pakistan holding back may be its poor economy and its international isolation.

The international reaction has so far been muted. The U.S. and other countries, incl. Muslim nations, remained neutral or silent. Some have even openly sided with India. Islamic Pakistan, often accused of aiding and abetting international terrorism, does not have many friends around the world at the moment and even faces the prospect of being blacklisted. As a result, it seems that once again an ultra-nationalist government was able to use an opportune moment to illegally annex territory while the world was watching, and effectively displace and erase another culture.

### **Nuclear Accident in Russia**

A mysterious nuclear explosion occurred in Russia's White Sea near the cities of Arkhangelsk and Severodvinsk on Aug. 8. It appears that during an offshore test a small nuclear reactor malfunctioned, killing 7 people. The test appears to have involved a new type of cruise missile, perhaps a so-called "Skyfall" or "Buresvestnik" that is propelled by a nuclear reactor in addition to carrying a nuclear warhead. This being Russia, there are more questions than answers at this point. The explosion did release radiation, but it is not clear how much and if the threat is on-going. Russia's national meteorological agency reported a 16-fold increase in radiation in Severodvinsk, about 25 miles from the test site, but authorities deleted the information from the website and did not inform surrounding cities and hospitals of any danger. The nearby village of Nenoksa, home to some 500 people, was supposed to be evacuated, but officials denied any link to weapons testing and appear to have canceled the move. As is typical for Russia, reliable information is hard or almost impossible to come by. There is zero accountability. Denying and lying is instinctive. Radiation-monitoring stations were taken off-line. Even weeks later, only misleading, evasive, contradictory, and incomplete reports are available. The true danger to the public remains unknown. Official assurances that the government is in control and that "the complete safety of Russian



citizens" is ensured cannot be trusted. Not much has changed since the 1986 accident in Chernobyl.

### **Trump Wants to Buy Greenland**

Donald Trump has pushed his aides for weeks to investigate the possible purchase of Greenland, the largest island of the world. With 840,000 square miles it is bigger than Alaska and ten times as big as all of Great Britain. (Australia and the Antarctica are considered continental landmasses.) Greenland used to be a Danish colony, but was granted home rule and autonomy in 1979. It is still administered by Denmark, though. Nuuk is the capital of the sparsely populated island. Greenland says it is open for business, but "not for sale."

Trump's directive seems bizarre and has bewildered his staff. It is not known what's on the president's mind. However, once you give it a bit of thought the answer becomes obvious. Greenland is rich in natural resources such as minerals, uranium, and rare earths. China currently dominates the global production of rare earths and has the ability to hold the world hostage. Possession of Greenland would mean greater economic independence for the U.S. What is ironic about the plan is that it is clearly a tacit admission that climate change is real after all. The Trump administration is betting on the fact that Greenland's glaciers are disappearing fast and will one day be gone, making mining and fracking feasible and affordable. In addition, once the Arctic waters (e.g., the famed Northwest Passage) are open and navigable, Greenland's strategic value will be greatly enhanced.

People who decry the plan as ludicrous should remember that the 1867 purchase of Alaska was once called "Seward's Folly." There is absolutely no chance that Trump will get what he wants, and he knows it. America is not yet China or Russia. However, here is the more insidious part. The president planted a dangerous neocolonial seed that someday may grow roots. He seems to have suggested that it is Greenland's "manifest destiny" to belong to the U.S. There will be wars in the future – in 10, 100, or 1,000 years. And then it will be the opportune time to claim and annex Greenland.

### **The Most Persecuted Religion in the World**

Islam is easily the most persecuted religion in the world. China has resorted to mass incarceration and "reeducation" of millions of Muslim Uighurs. Hindu nationalists and supremacists in India have cracked down on Kashmir's political and religious autonomy. In India's Assam state, up to 2 million Muslims may soon be declared stateless and deported. Close to 1 million Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar fled their ancestral country to escape ethnic cleansing. The "Jewish state" of Israel treats Muslim Palestinians as second-rate citizens. White nationalists and supremacists in Europe are fighting against the "Islamization of the West" in an effort to keep the continent Christian and white. In the U.S., President Trump has been talking about "a Muslim ban" ever since he hit the campaign trail. – A lot of people talk about "religious freedom," but when it comes to Islam there is only silence.

### **The Replacement Theory**

In 2011, French author Renaud Camus coined the phrase "the great replacement." (His book, "Le grand remplacement," has not yet been translated into English.) White nationalists and supremacists around the world quickly embraced the term and put it to practice. According to this genocide-by-substitution conspiracy theory, white people are at risk of being displaced and replaced by non-European people of color, including Jews and Muslims, and losing their home and identity. During a march in Charlottesville in 2017, neo-Nazis yelled, "Jews will not replace us." The book also directly influenced the white shooter in Christchurch, New Zealand who killed 51 people and the white shooter in El Paso who targeted Mexicans who, he claimed, were "invading" and taking over Texas. Camus' view is of course not new. Both in Europe and in the U.S. there is a long history of Anti-Semitism, racism, anti-miscegenation laws, and eugenics. America's most influential racist, Madison Grant (1865-1937) wrote a book in 1916, "The Passing of the Great Race," in which he outlined the threat that supposedly inferior people of color posed to the purity of the Nordic race. His screed was a basis for the Immigration Act of 1924 and inspired Adolf Hitler. Sadly, we are now seeing a resurgence of demonic white-power ideologies that elevate and prioritize European and Nordic ethnicities over others. What is

particularly alarming is the fact that there are presidents and prime ministers around the world who are embracing the term and what it entails. They want to make the world, or at least the space they occupy, white again.

### **A New Book on Pope Francis**

French journalist Nicolas Senèze has written a new explosive book on Pope Francis and his relationship with conservative American bishops, "How America Wanted to Change the Pope." It is well-known that American bishops, among them Cardinal Raymond Burke, attempted a sort of "coup" against the pope. They resented him for many reasons, including his compassion for refugees and immigrants, his denunciation of materialism and capitalism, and his interest in ecology and sustainability. Although Burke was eventually ousted as a Vatican supreme court justice, wealthy American Catholics to this day are amassing money and allies with the goal of electing a conservative, orthodox churchman as the next pope. Senèze's book, not yet translated into English, charts the fierce criticism that American Catholics leveled against Francis, including accusations of heresy.



### **Zapata Crosses the Channel on a Hoverboard**

Frank Zapata, the hoverboarding Frenchman, managed to cross the English Channel on his second attempt. It took him about 22 minutes to cover the 20 miles that separate the French coast from Dover in England. He built the device he used, a kerosene-powered contraption fueled by 5 jets, by himself. It can travel up to 110 miles per hour at an altitude of 50 to 60 feet for about 10 minutes. Zapata had to refuel once during his crossing on a boat-mounted platform. – Who knows – maybe in 10 or 20 years many of us may fly to school or work on hoverboards.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Fracking Boom Leads to Surge in Atmospheric Methane**

The fracking boom of the last decade has led to a significant surge in methane concentration in the atmosphere, according to a new report by biogeochemist and ecologist Dr. Robert W. Howarth of Cornell Univ. Methane is the major component of natural gas. Although it deteriorates faster, methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. In 2018, the Trump administration reversed a regulation to prevent methane from escaping into the atmosphere during oil-and-gas operations. There is general agreement among scientists that methane emissions through venting, flaring, leaks, and explosions are much greater than estimated in the past. Howarth's report warns that if shale-gas extraction continues to rise, it will be much more difficult to reach the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement even for a future U.S. administration that takes climate change seriously.

### **Climate Change and Job Growth**

Not many people would argue that plans to prepare for and to adjust to climate change are "job-killers." On the contrary, there is widespread consensus that the opposite is true. Fighting climate change, investing in renewable energies, building resilient cities, reforesting the continent, establishing a robust recycling industry, preparing for sea-level rise, weatherizing existing homes, constructing mass-transit technologies, etc., has the potential of creating millions of new jobs. The real question is how many. Among the current presidential candidates on the Democratic side estimates vary between 1.2 million to 20 million. Ultimately, the question is unanswerable because it depends on what the goal posts are. However, if the U.S. is able to achieve a true paradigm shift on a scale compared to the historic shift from an agricultural to an industrial economy, society, or from a civilian to a military economy (WW II), then it seems plausible that the fight against climate change

could result in tens of millions of new careers and jobs in the field of sustainability.



### **Iceland Mourns Lost Glacier**

In a warming climate, ice caps and glaciers are retreating and disappearing across the globe. In Iceland, Okjökull glacier in the Western part of the country was the first to completely disappear. All that's left is a crater lake. Icelanders have now held a memorial service for the deceased, along with a death certificate. About 100 people made the 2-hour trip up to the volcano where they installed a memorial plaque that reads, "Ok is the first Icelandic glacier to lose its status as a glacier. In the next 200 years, all our glaciers are expected to follow the same path. This monument is to acknowledge that we know what is happening and what needs to be done. Only you know if we did it."

Among the mourners was Iceland's prime minister, Katrin Jakobsdottir. In an essay, published in English, she warned of rising sea levels and the release of vast amounts of methane due to the disappearance of permafrost. Her government is committed to carbon neutrality by 2040 at the latest and has proposed a ban on the registration of cars powered by nonrenewables after 2030.

### **Indonesia Plans to Build New Capital**

The capital of Indonesia, Jakarta, is steadily sinking. It was built on swampy marshland, and millions of tons of building materials combined with extraction of groundwater have caused the city to sink more than 2 inches (5 cm) per year. Around 40% of Jakarta currently lies beneath sea level, according to the World Bank. Adding the threat of sea-level rise, the city is one of the most vulnerable in the world. It is also suffocating from traffic congestion and air pollution. Indonesia's president, Joko Widodo, has now announced a plan to build a new capital on the island of Borneo. The new capital will be built in Kalimantan, near the coastal cities of Balikpapan and Samarinda, where the government already owns some 440,000 acres. The relocation project is estimated to cost about \$33 billion. Widodo said in his announcement that he would not abandon Jakarta and the surrounding areas, a megacity of 30 million, but it is not clear how the government will pay for the protection of Jakarta from rising sea levels while at the same time constructing a new city. – The idea of building a new capital is not as outlandish as it sounds. Brazil did it half a century ago. Given the vagaries of climate change and the associated risks, other low-lying coastal cities may have no choice but to follow Jakarta later this century.



### **Greta Thunberg Arrives in the U.S.**

After a 15-day trip across the Atlantic on an emissions-free sailboat, Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg arrived in New York on Wed. afternoon, Aug. 28. She was greeted by a flotilla of boats and by throngs of people at the Brooklyn docks. She will attend the U.N. Climate Action Summit in September. When asked to comment on the American President, Donald Trump, she had this to say: "My message to him is just to listen to the science, and he obviously doesn't do that." As Greta Thunberg's global influence spreads (she has been nominated for the Nobel Prize), conservative critics have started to relentlessly mock and delegitimize her. But among the younger generations she remains an inspirational force with unbroken credibility and tremendous power.

### **Hollywood and Climate Change**

Hollywood loves apocalyptic gloom and doom. "If it bleeds, it leads." This explains the glut of pessimistic, defeatist movies in which the climate crisis plays an integral role. In movies such as "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Godzilla: King of the Monsters" eco-

terrorists are the evil ones because they want to forcibly reduce the human population. Banning straws, plastic bags, red meat, air travel, and large families is the road to dictatorship, terrorism, and dystopia, these films seem to suggest. Is this a coincidence? The fossil-fuel industry is doing everything it can to brainwash people into believing that coal, oil, and gas are not responsible for the warming of the planet. Funding the production of movies is difficult enough, and it is not hard to imagine Republican resistance against tax breaks for a movie that accepts climate change as a scientific fact.

Few movies are narratives of hope that thematize a successful transition to climate-change adaptation and resilience. Roland Emmerich's "The Day after Tomorrow" (2004) and Jake Paltrow's "Young Ones" (2014) are exceptions to the rule. "Young Ones," a rare film showing humans struggling to adapt to global warming and water scarcity, barely made a blip. It is mostly cheaper documentaries such as "An Inconvenient Truth" that have embraced environmental issues. Hollywood has yet to take Big Oil to task onscreen in a significant way, according to the New York Times (8/17).

### **Climate Change Is Hazardous to Ohio's Children**

A new 7-page report issued by the Ohio Environmental Council on Aug. 22 says that Ohio's children are already feeling the deleterious effects of climate change in many ways. Contrary to popular misconceptions, enforced by climate-change skeptics, the climate crisis is not something far away in the distant future. It is here, now. "We know that children's health right here in Ohio is already being affected by climate change," according to Dr. Aparna Bole, a Shaker Heights pediatrician. The report, which is available on OEC's website, spells out some of the concerns and makes recommendations.

One major concern is drinking water. Heavy rains, combined with higher temperatures, lead to the contamination of water sources. Fertilizer runoff is responsible for toxic algae in many bodies of water throughout Ohio. Air pollution, combined with higher temperatures, creates smog on hot, sunny days. Extreme heat events, especially in urban areas, negatively impact children's development and learning. Warmer temperatures have also led to an increase of mosquitoes and ticks. One in five Ohioans with Lyme disease are children between the ages 5 and 14.

In terms of solutions, the OEC makes several recommendations. To help offset water-quality issues, it suggests restoration of wetlands that serve as filter zones as well as sewer upgrades. To cool hot areas and to sequester carbon, OEC urges communities to plant more trees. It also encourages farmers to use no-till practices to reduce erosion. Long-term solution include alternative means of transportation, new energy sources that are carbon-free, and stronger regulations that reduce methane emissions.

### **William Happer, Climate-Change Skeptic**

Princeton physicist William Hopper, born in 1939 and now 80, has been a climate-change skeptic for decades. In 1993, he was fired by the Clinton Administration from his position as director of energy research after publicly disputing Al Gore's views on the dangers of greenhouse gases and ozone depletion. Despite his contrarian and controversial positions, he was largely ignored by the scientific community as an outlier. However, this has become more difficult now that he is a White House science adviser who has the ear of President Trump. Despite the fact that he not a trained climatologist, he is also reputed to be the future chair of a presidential committee on climate change tasked to evaluate whether climate change poses a major security threat to the nation.

Happer is not a climate-change denier per se. However, he says that the warming is due to "natural causes" and denies that human activity is the main driver behind the climate crisis that began with the modern industrial age. He has likened the scientific consensus on climate change to Nazi propaganda, thus trying to delegitimize it. He has also proposed the core idea that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are beneficial to agriculture, ignoring the fact that global warming will result in heat waves, droughts, and declining yields: "more CO<sub>2</sub> will benefit the world." In a 2014 interview he made the bizarre statement, "The demonization of carbon dioxide is just like the demonization of the poor Jews under Hitler." His CO<sub>2</sub> Coalition has received more than \$1 million from energy executives and right-wing

foundations, incl. the Mercer family. The fossil-fuel industry and the Trump administration love Happer because he is part of the machinery that attempts to undermine the national and international scientific consensus on climate change.

## HAPPY NEWS

### Scoreboard Bar & Grill

On Aug. 11, a supporter of the Second Amendment and CCW holder complained on Nextdoor that Scoreboard Pub & Grill at 6 Troy Rd. has a new sign posted at the door: "No firearms or weapons allowed on property." He indicated that he and his wife would never go back there. Responses came in almost immediately. Ironically, many people thanked him for the tip and said they are now inclined to patronize Scoreboard more frequently than before. Not everyone feels safer with weapons around, it seems, especially after the latest mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton.

Not all agreed, of course. Second-amendment people protect their turf very vigorously and presented the tiresome argument that weapons bans makes establishments safer for shooters, but not for patrons. They say a highly trained individual could quickly disable a criminal, thus saving lives. That may be true in some cases, but the reality is that mass-shooting scenes are often chaotic places of bedlam and mayhem. Poor visibility is common, especially in dark places or at night. It is often totally unclear who the shooter is or who the shooters are. Any people with weapons in their hand are likely to become targets themselves, either by other gun owners or the police. Remember that GOP legislators in Ohio, owned and managed by the NRA, have opposed any kind of red-flag laws for mentally disturbed people and even want to do away with the requirement to have weapons training. Even professional law-enforcement officers occasionally shoot at officers from other agencies and victims, let alone inexperienced shooters.

"Community Matters" was not familiar with Scoreboard, by the way, but we checked it out. It is a combination of a sports bar and family restaurant with burgers, pizza, and wings on the menu. It is a casual and popular place, with plenty of self-seating available. We will definitely patronize the establishment in the future.

### Cherokee Nation Seeks Congressional Seat

Despite promises made in 18<sup>th</sup>-century and 19<sup>th</sup>-century contracts, there has never been a delegate representing a sovereign Native-American nation in Congress. There are non-voting delegates from Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands, but none from American-Indian nations and tribes. The Cherokee Nation, the largest of nearly 600 federally recognized Native-American tribes, is now trying to redress the situation. Chuck Hoskin, chief of the Cherokee Nation, has selected his deputy, Kimberly Teehee, as the delegate. She comes with deep experience in Washington, D.C., where she worked on Native-American issues for many years. If confirmed, she would represent the Cherokee Nation. However, her position would also carry an important symbolic role for all Native Americans, regardless of their tribal affiliation. It remains to be seen how congressional leaders will react. Hopefully, they will not raise unnecessary objections and obstacles.

### World Wildlife Conference

The World Wildlife Conference (CITES) occurs every three years. This year's event in Geneva, Switzerland adopted a wide array of measures to protect endangered and threatened species from being poached and trafficked. 183 governments were represented in the convention that took place Aug. 17-28. The conference took on added importance after a U.N. warned that over 1 million animal and plant species are threatened by extirpation and extinction. Among the 56 new proposals were protections for elephants, giraffes, saiga antelope, otters, sharks, star tortoises, and rosewood – a tropical material cherished by guitar makers. While critics may say CITES does not work fast enough and aggressively enough to curb global animal trafficking, it is possible to point to some success stories.

### Goats against Forest Fires

As the climate gets hotter and drier, there are more forest fires. Even Nordic countries and areas such as Alaska, Canada, the UK, Scandinavia, and Russia have experienced devastating wildfires in recent years. The situation is even worse in hot Mediterranean countries. Portugal has now resorted to a new, low-cost solution for fire prevention – herds of goats. Caprines, known for their voracious appetite, can effectively clear dense underbrush and invasive species. A combined livestock of 10,000 goats are currently grazing about 6,700 acres in Portugal. However, shepherds and goatherds are not always happy with the places assigned to them by foresters. They want more leeway and the ability to go where the vegetation is better. – According to an old article in USA Today (11/13/12), states in the American West (AZ, CA, CO, UT) have also successfully experimented with goats as groundskeepers. But given their indiscriminate appetite, they can also cause damage to sensitive native species, so discretion is advised.

### Hotels Ditching Small Toiletries

The world's largest hotel chain, Marriott International, has announced it is phasing out small plastic bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and bath gel by 2020. They will be replaced by larger bottles or wall-mounted dispensers. While some people may miss the amenity dispensers, Marriott says the move will eliminate about 500 million small plastic bottles per year, or 1.7 million pounds of plastic. Other hotel chains have announced similar steps. IHG, which owns Holiday Inn and other brands, will eliminate tiny bottles by 2021. Walt Disney Co. has also said it would replace small bottles at its resorts and on its cruise ships. Environmental groups welcomed Marriott's announcement. Soon, hotels and motels may not have a choice anymore. The European Union is considering a ban on a wide range of single-use plastic items, and California lawmakers are weighing a ban on tiny bottles in hotels by 2023. The time to think "reusable" instead of "disposable" has come.

### rhyme time for children

it's poetry time  
let's look for a rhyme

it's not a crime  
to find a rhyme

we'll pay a dime  
for every rhyme

there is grime and slime  
and the sublime rhyme

you are in your prime  
go climb and rhyme



### Sonia Sotomayor Publishes Children's Book

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who is of Hispanic descent, has published children's book entitled "Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You" (Philomel Books). The 32-page book with illustrations by artist Rafael López celebrates kids with all kinds of different abilities and disabilities, special powers and challenges. It encourages them to "just ask" if they see something new and different that they don't understand instead of assuming the worst.

According to an NPR program, the inspiration for the book came when the judge finished an insulin shot in a bathroom to manage her diabetes. When someone suggested she was a drug addict, Sotomayor responded: "Madam, I am not a drug addict. I am diabetic, and that injection you saw me give to myself is insulin. It's the medicine that keeps me alive. If you don't know why someone's doing something, just ask them. Don't assume the worst in people."