

OPINION

Looking Back



THE NEWS SUN
90 years ago
 Five-year-old Rex Aldrich was killed on July 11 when he fell out of his father's motor truck and was crushed under a rear wheel. The accident happened in front of the feed mill in Kendallville. After falling out of the truck and being run over, he was put in another car to be taken to Sacred Heart Hospital in Garrett, but was returned to Kendallville before arriving when it was clear he had expired.

Elmer Lehner filed a suit in Noble Circuit Court seeking divorce from Hazel Lehner, charging "cruel and inhuman treatment." They were married less than three years earlier, in September 1928.

THE HERALD REPUBLICAN
25 years ago

With the exception of the one year following his retirement from the Steuben County Health Department, Steuben County Commissioner Norris Lehman had been employed by the county continuously since 1958. Lehman died on Wednesday, July 3. His likely successor appears to be Rod Wells, who won the Republican nomination for the Middle District seat in the May primary over Lehman and Gary Kohlmeier. A Republican caucus will name Lehman's replacement.

THE STAR
25 years ago

Groundwork was completed for the demolition of the CSX depot in downtown Garrett. Efforts by members of the Preservation for DeKalb Heritage effort to save the old B&O Depot from the wrecking ball for more than a year were denied with tear down to begin on July 17.

THE NEWS SUN
25 years ago

Anna Diehm, 100, was recognized as the oldest fairgoer on Senior Citizen Day, while Clearance Peace, 84, was the oldest gentleman at the fair.

We welcome letters to the editor.

All letters must be submitted with the author's signature, address and daytime telephone number. We reserve the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of libel, poor taste or repetition.

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THE NEWS SUN
 Established 1859,
 daily since 1911

The **Star**

Established 1871,
 daily since 1913

THE HERALD REPUBLICAN
 Established 1857,
 daily since 2001

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Our View

Enjoy fun, safe, respectful county fairs

It's that time of year — fair week! Noble and LaGrange counties are off and running this week and Steuben County's fair is coming up next week.

After a pile of cancellations last year — 4-H shows still went on but most of the fair was dropped in 2020 — we're sure people are looking forward to getting back out to the fairgrounds for some annual fun.

While fairs are getting mostly back to normal this year, it's a good opportunity for a reminder to be considerate of other fairgoers, in several aspects:

- COVID-19 is down, but it's not out. A lot of people are acting like the pandemic is over, and although new activity is way down right now (it was down a lot in summer 2020 before making a comeback in fall, remember), it's not gone.

There won't be masking and distancing at fairs, but there's still risk for the virus to circulate if people aren't careful. Also a reminder that about 6-in-10 people in Steuben and Noble counties and more like 8-in-10 people in LaGrange County aren't vaccinated and aren't protected from the virus.

Wash your hands. Cover your mouth if you sneeze or cough. And, most importantly, if you're sick, stay home. Even if it's not COVID-19, be considerate and don't spread your illness at the fair.

- Remember, 4-H is for the kids. Yes, we're talking to you, the parent who takes animal shows way too seriously. We've all seen the adult or two who acts like the fate of the world depends on whether their son or daughter wins their class showing their hog or goat or whatever.

Animals have bad days. Judges can have subjective tastes. 4-Hers are trying their best. The kids get lots of support from the community and crowd, make sure they're getting it from Mom and Dad, too.

- Be considerate. Let's face it, after COVID, we're all out of practice when it comes to interacting with other people in large groups. Take crowds and lines and add heat and people can get cranky fast. Some people may need to brush up on their manners.

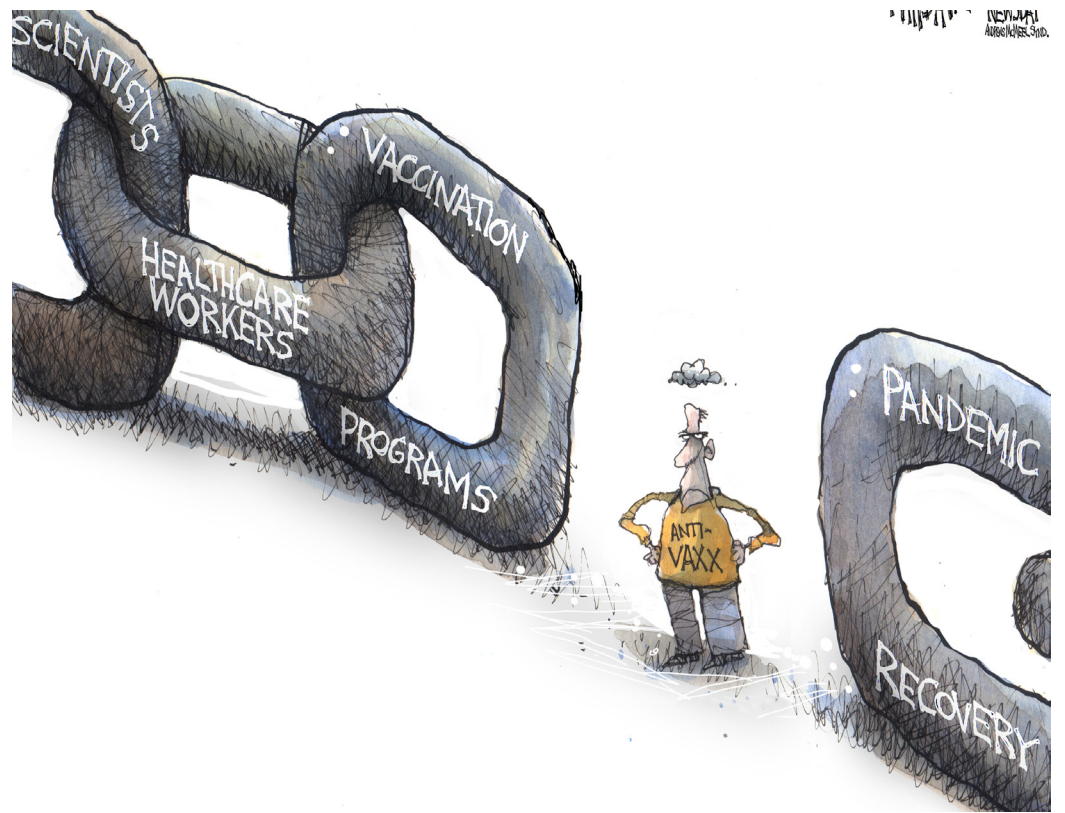
The fair should be a place of fun. Don't ruin your day or someone else's by getting worked out about some trivial incident.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone back again and enjoying the fair. Check out kpcnews.com and your daily newspaper for photos and stories from the fairs each day and then keep your eyes open for the annual 4-H special sections that run with all the participants and winners following the fair.

Stay safe. Be respectful. Have fun. We'll see you out there.



Remember, 4-H is for the kids. Yes, we're talking to you, the parent who takes animal shows way too seriously."



Letter

Political solutions are not the most important thing

To the editor:
 I would like to encourage Bible-believing Christians in our community to actively resist the leftist progression in our society through peaceful but aggressive means.

Francis Schaeffer, a famous American Christian philosopher, founded a retreat in Switzerland called L'Abri. L'Abri was a retreat center for young people seeking answers to ultimate questions in life.

In his book titled "How Should We Then Live?" Schaeffer describes the progression of the secular mind, apart from God, throughout history. Man's attempt to define his own purpose and identity, apart from God, and to arrive at answers for ultimate questions, eventually fails and leads to despair.

Societal collapse occurs when this despair reaches epidemic proportions, and society unravels. The despairing populace inevitably turns toward authoritarian leaders to define absolutes for them. They are willing to give up freedoms over time to achieve an illusion of peace of mind and relative prosperity.

Ultimately, this authoritarian government never delivers on its promises, and it becomes oppressive. Marxist governments are a good example.

American society has worked fairly well until the Sexual Revolution (1960s) due to the presence of a Christian consensus. Differences of opinion could be managed. However, Schaeffer saw this consensus was deteriorating, and America was headed towards the same fate as other nations.

Americans do not agree on the sanctity of human life in the womb or sexual ethics, for example.

Sixty-two million unborn lives have been terminated in the womb since Roe v. Wade (1973). In previous generations, there was a general consensus that unborn lives matter. Not true now. There is no agreement regarding sexual ethics, either.

Biblical ethics limit sexual activity to one man and one woman, in a marital relationship, for the

purposes of raising godly offspring. Nowadays, many other sexual practices are considered normal. In fact, biblical sexual ethics are vilified as archaic, homophobic and transphobic.

School systems throughout the nation are seeking to re-define sexual ethics and to wrench the responsibility for moral instruction from parents. Loudoun County, Virginia, is only one of many school systems that are promoting unbiblical values. School systems want to silence Christians from speaking about their faith, yet openly teach neo-Marxist ideology, and provide profane reading materials to students. This movement is not limited to a few school districts in leftist states, either. It is permeating the entire nation. The current presidential administration supports this ideology, so this trend is likely to worsen.

I strongly suggest Christian parents keep an eye on local school affairs. Run for school board positions. Interact with activist groups such as Purple for Parents. Watch for acronyms like SEL (Social Emotional Learning) and research them. SEL is a program based on Neo-Marxist ideology teaching all people with white skin tone are white supremacists. Ask your children what they are being taught. Challenge educators, administrators and school boards. Be aware of leftist tactics. Don't be silenced. Leftist activists try to silence others by accusing them of racism, for example. Be willing to home school rather than allowing your child to be indoctrinated into false ideologies. Join a solid, biblical church.

Political solutions are important but not the most important thing. God created man and gives him his identity and purpose. Man doesn't define his own identity and purpose. The purpose of man, as an image-bearer of God, is to glorify God individually, in the family, in the church, and in society. He represents God in the material world. The absolutes of Scripture guide man in this regard. Fulfilling this purpose requires a new birth and a new mind. These are the most needful things for all to know. You can contact me at sparkmanr1@mediacombb.net.

Robert Sparkman
 Rome City

When we refuse to accept verdict of elections



When a significant portion of one of our two main political parties refuses to accept the results of a presidential election, that calls into doubt the fragile American experiment."

INDIANAPOLIS — One of the most vivid moments of my fatherhood was sitting in the woods one hot early July day on the Gettysburg battleground between Devil's Den and Little Round Top, watching my two sons climb up what became the most important strategic heights of the American Civil War and a turning point for civilization.



BRIAN HOWEY

Had the Union lost at Gettysburg, the political will of the North to continue would have evaporated. There would have likely been a United States of America, the Confederate States of America, the Republic of Texas and, perhaps, a half dozen other nations. There would have been nations with slavery, regional wars and the accompanying Pandora's Box of atrocity and horror.

While raising my sons, there were the normal parental concerns sending them off to war on a foreign battlefield, but up until now, the notion that they face a second American civil war seemed far-fetched. In the America we grew up in, the regional battles young Hoosiers waged against Alabama and Texas took place on football fields, basketball courts and baseball diamonds.

Ominously, that has changed. When a significant portion of one of our two main political parties refuses to accept the results of a presidential election, that calls into doubt the fragile American experiment. A YouGov poll in October 2020 found that 56% said they expect to see "an increase in violence as a result of the election." Some 40% "strongly agreed" that the United States could be "on the verge" of a second civil war.

"This is the single most frightening poll result I've ever been associated with," said Rich Thau, president of Engagious, a poll sponsor.

The Washington Post reported on Monday that a third of nearly 700 Republicans seeking U.S. House and Senate seats have embraced Donald Trump's perverse and baseless notion that the 2020 election was "rigged" and "stolen."

The Atlantic's Tim Alberta writes in the article

"The Senator Who Decided to Tell The Truth" about Michigan State Sen. Ed McBroom, a conservative, pro-life Republican. He chaired the Michigan Senate Oversight Committee, which released a bombshell report in June: "There is no evidence presented at this time to prove either significant acts of fraud or that an organized, wide-scale effort to commit fraudulent activity was perpetrated in order to subvert the will of Michigan voters. The Committee strongly recommends citizens use a critical eye and ear toward those who have pushed demonstrably false theories for their own personal gain."

McBroom has been doubted by constituents, who would rather believe a Russian or Chinese website designed to discredit American democracy and sow division. "It's been very discouraging, and very sad, to have people I know who have supported me, and always said they respected me and found me to be honest, who suddenly don't trust me because of what some guy told them on the internet," McBroom said.

Last week, the New York Times posted a 40-minute video investigation of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. It documents in vivid detail from hundreds of videos it obtained the origins of the mob that was incited by President Trump, how the U.S. Capitol was breached in eight places, the deaths of two Trump supporters, and the hours of hand-to-hand combat that Capitol and Washington Metro Police endured resulting in more than 140 injuries.

My takeaway from this spasm of violence was, given all the mayhem, it's a wonder there weren't more casualties. Despite the beatings that police endured, they only fired one shot. The video raises questions on why police were so ill-prepared, why it took the Pentagon hours to respond to the assault which had been planned in plain view on the Internet. It revealed how close the insurrection came to derailing the "peaceful transfer of power" that has forged the American democracy experiment and how fragile that has become.

Last week, former Vice President Mike Pence said at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, "Now, there are those in our party who believe that in my position as presiding officer over the joint session that I possess the authority to reject or return electoral votes certified by the states. The Constitution provides the vice president with no such authority before the joint session of Congress. And the truth is, there's almost no idea more un-American than the notion that any one person could choose the American president. The presidency belongs to the American people and the American people alone."

Pence added, "In the years ahead, the American people must know that our Republican Party will always keep our oath to the Constitution, even when it would be politically expedient to do otherwise. If we lose faith in the Constitution, we won't just lose elections. We'll lose our country."

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

I keep thinking of my young sons scaling Little Round Top, at a time when the American experiment in democracy seemed to present an unlimited vista to excel and celebrate. Now I am deeply concerned that my grandchildren may watch the lethal horrors that came to be known at the Peach Orchard, the Wheatfield and Cemetery Ridge.

BRIAN HOWEY is publisher of *Howey Politics Indiana* at howeypolitics.com. Find him on Facebook and Twitter @hwypol.