

BULLY PULPIT

Bowling for kids

Ah, another blissful weekend in the books. But, warning, it was another one of those ‘So’ weekends.

I had a lady’s church meeting last Thursday when one of the girls mentioned she might need a knee replacement; that, after wearing a brace and gimping around the dinner meeting.

When we found out she might need surgery, the questions came about like “who is going to help you?” “Where are you going to stay?” Etc.

Then, I mentioned I was going roller skating with my granddaughter Saturday; you guessed it. I heard, “Who is going to take care of you?” “Where are you going to stay?” Etc. Actually pretty entertaining for me.

The last time I was on real skates was in western Kansas; Sharon Springs to be exact. They had beautiful asphalt roads that I could roller blade on. I kept in great shape roller blading around town every early morning. Then I moved to eastern Kansas and my skates got put away.

Saturday night was the first time in 20-plus years that my feet wore skates. My son and daughter-in-law had plans with friends and I spent the day with my granddaughter who has season tickets to the local skating rink.

We went, signed all the necessary release-of-liability forms for her and me, and donned our skates.

Well, being of sound mind and body at the time, I was slow on the uptake of the skates. Actually, I felt like I was 80 and if I fell, I’d be knocked into the Stone Age.

We hit the floor at 1 p.m. and started our rounds. The last time I saw my granddaughter skate was two years ago at her birthday party. The skating rink is pretty tricky with litters; they give them a tripod on wheels to skate with.

The tripods are made of two-inch PVC pipe and work to hold less-than-stable kids up in one to two second bursts of time.

My granddaughter had progressed from needing a tripod to grasping the wall from time to time. I have to admit, the wall came in handy for me, as well.

So, when we entered the rink, I could see it was bowling for children. There were 10 to 15 tripod-adorned kids careening around, others who had progressed beyond the tripod and would skate a bit before hitting the floor.

Then there were others, a bit older, who felt they were the next Olympic hopefuls and either went mach-7 on the floor, or did quad-loops. They actually were safer than the dad-types who were going 50 miles-per-hour around the rink cutting in and out of kids, obviously reliving their old days at the skating rink in high school.

One such meeting of a tripod and dad skater occurred when the dad was flitting around and a tripod did a sudden 90-degree turn to an exit. Dad had no hope of stopping and the kid definitely couldn’t stop – so smooched kid and embarrassed dad met in the middle.

At one point, I stood on the side of the rink and watched the mayhem that was occurring inside the rink and felt I was looking more at bowling for kids than skating. It actually was pretty funny, and a lot of fun. I don’t think anyone got hurt in the skating brawl; everyone just had a lot of fun.

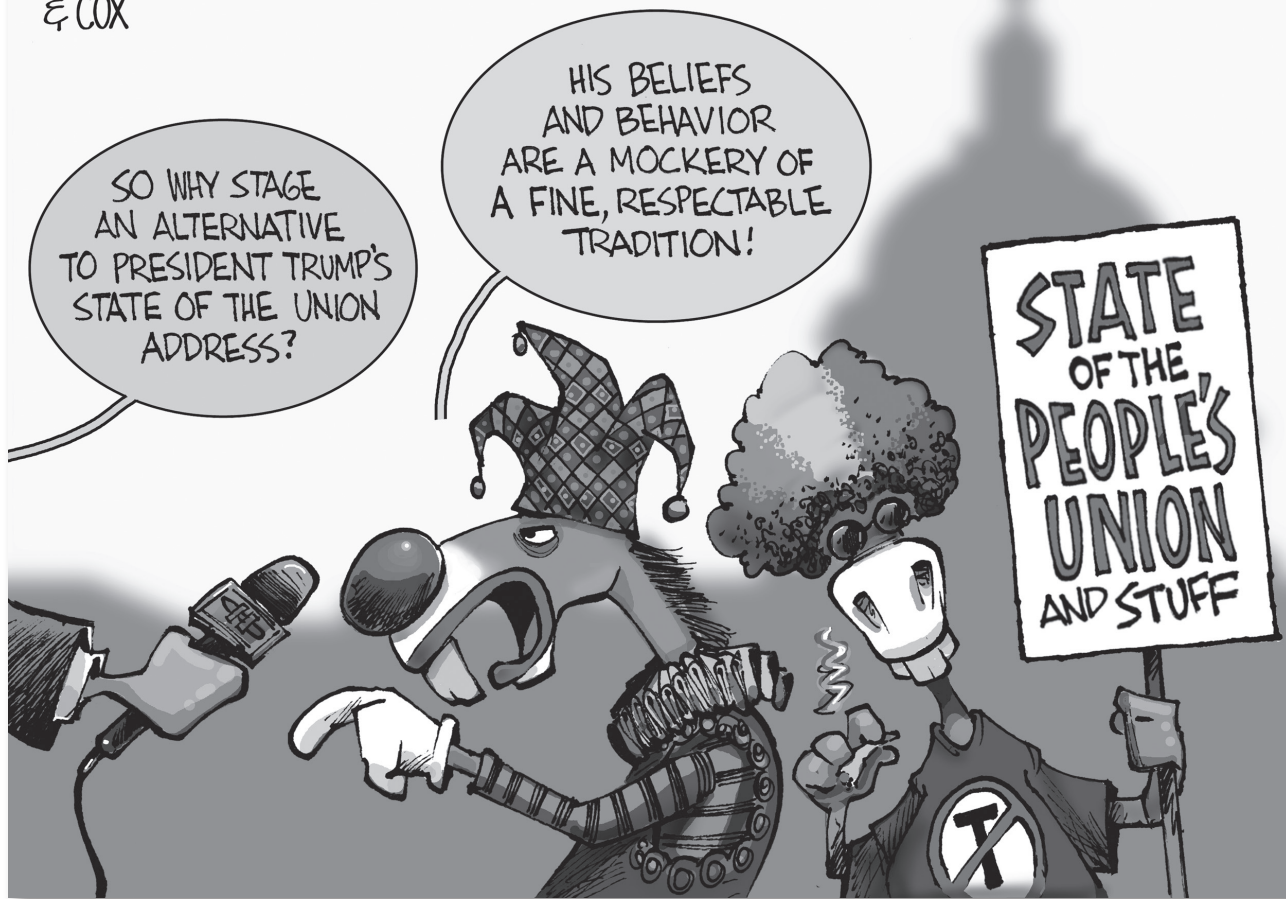
Honestly, I think more people need to get back into a skating rink; what a blast from the past. I remember many days my brother and I, friends, high school dates, etc. spent on the floor of a rink skating.

The music was fun, too. My son, who used to say my music sucks, now has a playlist made up of many of the tunes I listened to – now coined ‘Dad tunes.’ Many of the tunes played took me back to a different time, fun times. I really think kids now-a-days have missed out on something if they didn’t get to hang out in a skating rink.

Hopefully, it’s not 25 years until my next venture into a rink; or, it could be a question of who is going to take care of me through rehabilitation.

Jackie Taylor
Linn County News
Jackielcn1@gmail.com

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DC stench no longer metaphorical

Matt Walsh says that “one of the worst ecological disasters in American history is currently unfolding. A river of sewage is flowing into the Potomac. When you dig into this story, and who is responsible for it, you start to see why the media doesn’t want to talk about it.”

He’s not wrong, the disaster began January 19th but we’ve heard little about it. On his podcast, No. 1736; Mr. Walsh goes all into a “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” explanation.

According to *The Daily Wire’s* most socially

conservative host, the responsible agencies are filled with hires based not on qualifications or competence or conscientiousness, but based on their color.

He highlights, specifically, two individuals in the current muck: one, DC Water CEO David L. Gadis, partly responsible for the Flint, Michigan, water crisis, and the other, the current head of DC Water Board of Directors, Dr. Unique N. Morris-Hughes, a doctor in philosophy. Walsh regales us with her inanities and her over-spending on de-

partmental entertainment junkets.

While there may be a detectable odor to Walsh’s relentless critique of hiring blacks, specifically, under DEI, the odor from the Potomac, right now, is *much less* metaphorical.

In between retches, ask the question: Why would there be a general incompetence rising in public utilities *now*?

Is it race as such? Of course not.

Is it DEI putting race over competence? Maybe in part.

But the general trend for a long time has been to put

more and more domains of everyday life under direct government control. There’s a principle lost on the Mammanis of this world: the more tasks set for government to govern, the less capable it becomes to manage even its core tasks. And, as that capacity declines, so goes even the will to bother trying.

Besides, if there is any apter metaphor for Washington, DC, than hundreds of millions of gallons of untreated sewage sloshing into the Potomac ... I can’t think of it.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

More pencils? More books? More teacher’s dirty looks?

TYRADES! BY DANNY TYREE

Is it time for the educational system to go “old school” again?

According to NBC News, concerned parents nationwide are rebelling against the heavy reliance on laptops and tablets by school districts.

These parents are championing a more balanced curriculum that still has room for pencils, paper and honest-to-goodness

physical books. (“Let’s make the #2 Number One again!”)

So, they are perceived as “walking the walk,” many of the more die-hard reformers organize their retro campaigns without texting, phoning or emailing like-minded individuals. Instead, they get Stinky McGuire to pass a note asking, “Do you like my plan for deemphasizing digital education? Check yes or no.”

Some educators stick up for the pandemic-driven digital paradigm because it allegedly prepares students for the modern workforce. (“All in all, you’re just another brick in the wall. Hey, does anybody remember that video on the theory of picking up a brick to build a wall?”)

Sure, nothing helps you compete against robot workers better than a hunched back, bloodshot eyes and a flair for visiting porn sites while the teacher isn’t looking.

And the companies

supplying the hardware and software for a virtual learning experience are quick to tell you how efficiently students can shovel in the information with high-tech tools. The only thing more educational is eavesdropping on their corporate retreats. You’ll learn to laugh maniacally all the way to the bank, in 176 languages.

Still, my sympathies lie with the crusaders trying to recalibrate and create a blending of digital and “analog” learning.

SEE PENCILS, A8

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Why the Olympics tanked in China but thrive in Italy

BY TOM PURCELL

No wonder the ratings for the Winter Olympics are so much better than they were four years ago.

Four years ago, the Winter Olympics were held in China. The Beijing Games were designed to showcase the glory of the communist state. Athletes were under constant surveillance and

warned to keep their yaps shut.

This year, in democratic Italy, the Milano Cortina 2026 Games are buzzing with open expression: entitled American athletes insisting they only partially represent their country, a Ukrainian racer honoring war dead and local Italian protesters protesting all kinds of things.

Unlike Beijing, these Games are a vivid reflection of everything in the human heart — good, bad and everything in between.

Take Eileen Gu, the American-born free-style skier who chose to compete for China, her mother’s native country, rather than the U.S.

When asked about the many atrocities her

communist benefactor continues committing, she goes full Sergeant Schultz: “I know nothing!”

All you really need to know is that she’s being paid millions more by Chinese interests than she’d ever receive as a U.S. athlete. If she were taller, her cash-grabbing opportunism might land her a

SEE OLYMPICS, A7

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Jackie Taylor Publisher | Editor

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Linn County Residents: \$49.28 • Kansas Residents: \$62.56 • Outside Kansas: \$67.33 • Subscriptions are nonrefundable
PO Box 478 • 808 Main St. • Pleasanton, KS 66075
(913) 352-6235 • Fax (913) 352-6607 • E-mail lcn@ckt.net • USPS No.: 435-920

Published by Walker Publishing, Inc. • PO Box 478, Pleasanton, KS 66075

Published each Wednesday, Periodical Class Postage • Paid at Pleasanton, KS
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