

BULLY PULPIT

Time to be careful

We Americans are pretty lucky. We don't have roadside bombings like we've seen happen in Israel, Iran, Iraq – and even in other First World countries in the European region.

We need something, we go to the local grocery store and buy it. We don't think about walking into a suicide bomber that is bent on pressing the trigger as he thinks he'll spend eternity with seven virgins.

I think about it when I happen to go to Kohl's at 119th and Metcalf in Overland Park; a side-trip to Walmart brings it front and center. If there is a place where I feel I'm in danger, it's at that Walmart store.

There is a mix of many people groups there – Jewish, Sikhs, Muslim, Christians and more. A place, I feel, is made for a suicide bomber bent on retaliation against the West, and Israel, to do much damage.

Americans are fortunate that when we feel we want to go to the movies, we go. Many, except the well-trained, walk into soft targets like movie theaters, concert halls, etc. without a thought in mind that they are sitting ducks if a deranged individual, or one bent on seeing Allah, decides he is going to murder a few unarmed individuals out for a fun evening.

Texas experienced such a massacre Sunday morning, as reported on FoxNews.com, "The gunman in Sunday morning's shooting outside a bar in Austin, Texas, had pictures of Iranian leaders inside his apartment as investigators are reviewing evidence that indicates a "potential nexus to terrorism," according to a report.

"Ndiaga Diagne, 53, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Senegal, was identified as the suspect in Sunday's shooting outside Buford's Backyard Beer Garden shortly before 2 a.m., law enforcement sources told Fox News. According to CBS News, Diagne had pictures of Iranian leaders at his home as well as an Iranian flag. Three people, including the suspect, were killed in the shooting that left an additional 14 people injured, officials said.

"Law enforcement sources also told Fox News that the shooter was wearing a sweatshirt that read "Property of Allah" as well as an undershirt with an Iranian flag. The sources said a Quran was also found in Diagne's car."

Diagne was neutralized at the scene, another statistic of what is beginning to look like a person that was radicalized and, 26 years after entering the United States, turned his weapons on U.S. citizens.

The FBI issued a stark warning to U.S. citizens Tuesday morning concerning potential lone wolf or terror cells unleashing terror on our country.

Biden let in millions of illegal aliens from all over the world, with no vetting, and no tracking – many have been caught by President Trump, but many have not. People from known terrorist countries such as Iran, Iraq, Syria, etc. have embedded themselves into our society; I'm hoping they are here to gain a new, productive, safe life -but I'd imagine for several it's to strike terror into the hearts of our country.

The time is right to begin thinking about safety for our families; look at places your travel, shop, etc. Is it safe? Where is the nearest exit? How can I keep my family alive if something were to happen?

Kansas and Missouri have good gun laws for those who wish to carry a concealed weapon. The time is right to go to the range and practice safe marksmanship. Know your weapon, know how and when you can safely brandish it.

Putting your head in the sand that nothing will happen here is not going to cut it. America is pounding the snot out of Iran; but their sleeper cells are in waiting to do damage to the heartland. Don't be a victim, get training and be proactive in your own safety.

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The Beast Cometh

As the U.S. Debt Clock ticks towards \$39 trillion, a predictable but horrible beast slouches towards us, ready to knock on the door. Or, rather, burst through.

The federal debt hit \$38.8 trillion this weekend: it's \$38,830,051,666,666 as I type these words on Sunday.

But that's not the beast. This year's annual deficit is \$1.9 trillion.

But that's still not the beast.

The Congressional Budget Office warns that

the debt-to-GDP hits 120 percent by 2036 – above post-WWII peak.

That isn't the beast either.

The beast is the interest on the debt, and the service charge the government must regularly make merely to keep the borrowing going.

Net interest payments will be over one trillion smackeroos this fiscal year. That rivals or exceeds spending on defense/veterans in many breakdowns – those payments are projected to double to over two trillion

per year by 2036.

It's the fastest-growing line item.

It's non-discretionary. And it compounds; the beast only gets bigger.

And with it any hope for tax relief goes out the window. Just last week the president, reacting to the Supreme Court decision in *Learning Resources v. Trump*, floated what amounts to a revenue-directed tariff, and under normal circumstances voters could not unreasonably demand, say, an offsetting 15 percent

reduction in income taxes, across the board.

Nothing like that is in the offing. Not because tax cuts wouldn't be a big win for the tariff-in-chief, but because any extra revenue might be more cost-effectively thrown as debt service at the American holders of \$31 trillion in federal debt.

This is as bipartisan an issue – and failure – as anything can be, yet the bipartisan response? Crickets.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

Misguided matriarchy can't dim men's hockey Olympic gold

BY CHRISTINE FLOWERS

Looking for a good movie the other evening, I came across one that I'd missed when it was out in theaters about a decade ago: "The Mighty Macs."

This was a slightly fictionalized version of a true-life triumph: small Catholic women's college fields a basketball team, and miracles happen.

Immaculata College, with girls in skirted uniforms, stunned the nation and won a national title. And another. And another. Hence, the Mighty Macs.

Although a bit stylized in the way that Disney tends to do these things, sanding down the rougher edges of reality, it was incredibly moving to see a part of my own history portrayed so beautifully onscreen.

I say "my own history" even though I never bounced a basketball, because this was Immaculata. If you went to a Catholic single-sex high school in the 1970s, you felt

incredibly proud of these older women who brought glory to the tribe.

There was very little support for women's athletics in the early '70s. Yes, the third wave feminists were definitely doing their thing across the land, but at small Catholic institutions, they didn't have much of a foothold. We had nuns. We did not need, or want, bra burners.

Fast forward a half century. Now, women's sports are well funded, well respected, and widely watched.

There are "girl dads" who proudly tout the accomplishments of their daughters, which is a good thing.

There are high profile champions, some with pink hair, who lobby for equal pay, equal airtime, equal everything.

Of course, it is notable that many of these women also welcome the inclusion of people who were not born as women but want

SEE MEN'S HOCKEY, A7

Where did the monoclonal antibodies go?

BY PHIL KERPEN

The political and scientific fight over the COVID vaccines rages on, years later, with the belated acknowledgment by the FDA there were likely a small number of children killed by the vaccine, despite earlier denials.

Vaccine supporters are as unmoved by this as skeptics were of the FDA during the last administration. About 15 percent of U.S. adults got this year's booster, according to the latest CDC survey. That might not be a failed product, but it certainly is a niche product. But what happened to the other part of Operation Warp Speed? We don't hear much about monoclonal antibodies for prevention and treatment of infectious diseases anymore, even though they were extremely successful during the pandemic.

While vaccines stimulate the body to produce an immune response, monoclonal antibodies skip a few steps and infuse antibodies directly. Those antibodies attack patho-

gens just as the body's own immune response would. Trials and real-world experience found them highly effective at reducing hospitalization and death during COVID, and most of us know somebody who received antibody treatment and felt better almost immediately.

Most famously, President Trump rebounded sharply after receiving a Regeneron antibody infusion.

Monoclonal antibodies are also widely used for various cancers, which is the primary indication for most of the recently approved drugs of this type. There have been a pair of monoclonal antibodies for RSV prevention and one for Ebola treatment approved in recent years. But that's it for infectious diseases, which is somewhat surprising given the resurgence of measles and other infections that have been dominating headlines.

One of the sad things we learned during COVID is there are some figures in

SEE ANTIBODIES, A7

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