

OPINION

EDITORIALS, LETTERS, COMMENTARY

EDITORIAL

By Publisher Brent Schacherer and Editor Stephen Wiblemo



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY JOHNSON

Children run out to scoop up candy Sunday during the Grande Day Parade on Main Street.

Something for everyone

And that's a wrap! The 77th annual Jaycee Water Carnival was once again a spectacular showcase of all the city of Hutchinson has to offer, and we at the Leader have one word to say: Bravo!

Bravo to the businesses that sponsored events all week long. Bravo to the Miss Hutchinson and junior royalty candidates for having the courage to try something new. Bravo to our public safety members who watched over us and made sure we were safe during the festivities. Most of all, bravo to the countless volunteers who selflessly gave their time so we could all enjoy.

Tradition is a thing that many people take for granted, but the volunteers who put on Water Carnival each year know how much work tradition requires. A citywide festival doesn't go on its own and keep itself running strong for 77 straight years without dedicated groups and individuals. Hutchinson is fortunate to have a plethora of these people.

Besides the wonderful weather we enjoyed all week long, a big part of what made this past Water Carnival so wonderful was the number and diversity of events that were hosted. From bike rides and foot races, live music and fireworks shows to competitions such as bean bag toss and human foosball, this year's Water Carnival had something for everybody. And there were many new activities introduced, such as Party in the Park, the disc golf tournament, paintball and duck races.

Which brings us to the results of this week's online poll, which asked people how much they planned on

celebrating Water Carnival. To our surprise, the answer that received 58 percent of votes was "I don't plan on attending any events."

As always, our polls are unscientific and this is a good example of how this type of poll is flawed. While 58 percent of respondents said they weren't celebrating Water Carnival, the actual number of people was only 57 out of the 98 who responded. We can only assume the low voter turnout was due to there being so many people out celebrating Water Carnival. There were more than 98 people on one block of Main Street Sunday for the Grande Day Parade, so we think it's safe to say that this week's poll is not an accurate sampling of Hutchinson residents.

Why have polls at all then? Well, we conduct our weekly online polls with the goal of creating discussion. In that spirit, let us begin the discussion around this poll.

The Jaycees do their best to incorporate a variety of fun activities for a week-long celebration. We counted around three dozen events listed on this year's Water Carnival poster, many of which were free. If folks don't feel like there is anything for them to do, maybe they should be more like the Miss Hutchinson candidates and try something new for a change?

You can't please everybody, so perhaps that is the lesson to learn from this week's poll results. The Jaycees and volunteers have done a terrific job of keeping this Hutchinson tradition alive for almost eight decades now. Judging by how many people we saw out at events last week, this is a tradition that won't die soon.

READER LETTER

Gruenhagen's letter misleading

FROM DARIS REMUS
Hutchinson

Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen's letter to the editor opposing the Green New Deal is at the very least misleading. The Green New Deal is a resolution. It is not a bill, legislation or policy proposal that requires a vote. Our representative tries to paint the picture (again) that he and his fellow Republicans rode up on white horses to save us from those dastardly Democrats who are trying to increase our utility bills.

The Center for the American Experiment that Gruenhagen

refers to is a radical right wing organization with strong ties to the Koch brothers, so I'm a little reluctant to accept their data predicting 40 percent higher electric bills if we increase our renewable energy.

His recommendations for nuclear, hydroelectric and clean coal border between irresponsible and half baked. Why advocate for nuclear power when the waste product is deadly for thousands of years and we still have no long-term solution for storing it (think Chernobyl and Fukushima)? Minnesota still has a ban on the construction of nuclear power plants. Hydroelectric would

be good, but what river will we dam up and what property will we flood to create it? Clean coal? That's an oxymoron.

Given a choice, I would choose to pay a little more for electricity and have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. I think that is the best choice, not just for me but also for my children and grandchildren.

New technologies such as solar and wind power make it possible to improve our environment. They are also creating more jobs than the coal industry. Why wouldn't we want to take advantage of that? It is time to embrace new, clean sources for energy production.

READER LETTER

No abortion for poor planning

FROM JUDY HAGEN
Hutchinson

I, too, believe a woman has a right to control her own body. But I believe poor planning is never justification for murder.

You have every right to choose not to have sex, use birth control or be sterilized if you don't wish to have children. But when you decide to create a child with a beating heartbeat, finger prints unique to only one child ever born, you choose with your body to have children. I don't believe a child

should die because of mom's poor choices for her body or the father's poor choices.

If you look, statistically very few women become pregnant from rape, and if so the morning-after pill is available before the baby's heart begins to beat.

If you hit me with my car when I am pregnant, you will be charged with two murders. Funny how the laws work: In one instance, it's OK to kill your unborn baby, but then you can be charged with two murders.

God gave each of us the process

to choose, please use it before you create another human being. Crying "It's my body" doesn't work for me when your choices lead to creating another human being. I think we have lost our way when the punishment for robbing an eagle's nest, abusing a dog or hunting a wolf has stiffer penalties than killing a human being.

Please, if you as a woman want to choose, exercise that right by all means. But when you create another human being, don't cry for women's rights to me, because you did choose.

READER LETTER

Politicians use abortion for votes

FROM JOHN BURNS
Willmar

Abortion is the issue that keeps on giving to cynical politicians who milk the issue for money and votes. They are drawn to it like maggots to a festering wound. It's all about heat and no light, about opposing sides screaming at each other across an ideological abyss. That's just what those politicians want to perpetuate. It works so well for them.

I'm an old guy so I have never had to face the terrible decisions that many women have to face. The politicians making the laws about abortion are guys (many of them old) who will never know what it is like to be a woman faced with those decisions.

My personal belief is that abortion beyond the first trimester is always tragic, but in some cases it is the lesser evil. I recall that a few years ago the advocates for legal abortion said that it should be safe, legal and rare. Then, the word rare was dropped. For some, abortion became the No. 1 women's issue, crowding out all the other issues that negatively affect women. That is wrong.

Christians look to the Bible as the authoritative foundation of their beliefs. However, an explicit prohibition of abortion can't be found anywhere in the Bible. Those who call themselves Christians, followers of Jesus, should note that there is no reference in the Gospels to Jesus having said or done anything

concerning abortion. Meanwhile, Jesus' actual moral teachings are ignored.

What scientific research shows is that in nature and without abortion, somewhere between 40 and 60 percent of zygotes (the first cells of life) are naturally destroyed and never become born babies. That is what nature teaches us about the natural law.

Nature allows a virtual holocaust of "babies" at the earliest life stages, usually before there are any indications of pregnancy. What should that tell us about natural law as it relates to abortion, and about God's plan as reflected by nature? You figure it out. Use your mind. Just don't fall for the cynical political trash.

READER LETTER

Shame on the Minnesota Chamber

FROM PAUL TUVESON
Board member of Health Care for All Minnesotans

I've been very disappointed in the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce while they are traveling around the state. The Chamber supports allowing drug companies to charge as much as they want. In addition, it doesn't support single-payer health care where everyone benefits. Therefore it supports high profit HMOs as opposed to the public getting affordable health care. Should you need to pay sky-high dollars every month for police and fire protection?

Likewise, you shouldn't have to pay too much of your paycheck so that a HMO can get rich off of the citizens of Minnesota and control your health care. Why would we have to wait longer? The clinics and hospitals are there. Is the Chamber stating that they don't want to have affordable pricing when it comes to insurance so that people could afford to go to the doctor?

The folks at the Minnesota Chamber should be looking out for the welfare of the citizens of Minnesota so that they aren't stressed out about health care and go broke in the process. Rather, they are

looking out for businesses that are taking advantage of a broken system. HMOs pay a pretty good premium to belong to the Chamber. The Chamber isn't going to back down from those dollars and thus instead promotes a dysfunctional system that isn't working. Meaning that once again money controls decisions.

Single-payer is working well and is alive in the rest of the world. It's about time for us to change our dysfunctional system instead of feeding a very high profit-making system with cash with very little benefit when it comes to health care.

CHEERS

Cheers and a big **thank you** for the wonderful Flag Day program held in McLeod County Veterans Memorial Park on the start of Water Carnival week. That includes the Hutchinson Elks, service clubs, Boys Scouts, music, speakers and all participants. Let us never forget our beautiful flag.

— Karen Scieszka

We like letters. Here are a few guidelines:

- Letters must bear the writer's name, address and daytime phone number.
- No name calling, no hearsay, no names of businesses, and no character assassinations.
- Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.
- The best letters are short, preferably under 300 words.

If your letter exceeds 600 words, call Editor Stephen Wiblemo at 320-753-3638 before you submit it.

- Letter writers are generally limited to one letter per month.
- Letters may be mailed, dropped off or sent via email to: news@hutchinsonleader.com.

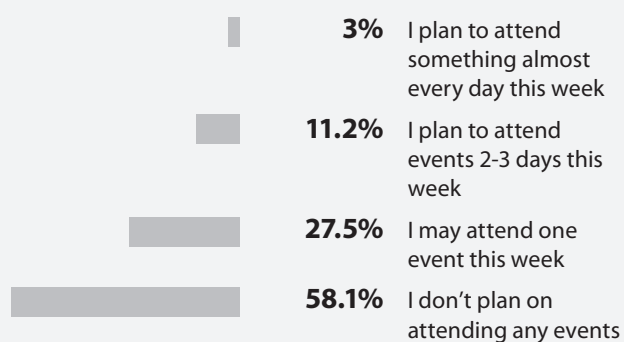
ONLINE READER POLL

Views from www.hutchinsonleader.com readers

Reader poll question

Are you celebrating Water Carnival this week?

Total votes: 98



The current question is:

Should Roe v. Wade be overturned?

About the poll:

The results of the most recent online reader poll from hutchinsonleader.com are above. Readers wanting to suggest a question may email wiblemo@hutchinsonleader.com. This poll is not a pure scientific sampling of readers' views but rather is intended to create community discussion of issues.