

EDITOR'S NOTE



Debra Fitzgerald | Editor
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An abundant time (for festivals and flies)

And just that quickly with blizzards and snow and cold-weather memories still fresh in my head, the year's longest day arrives next week.

The earth has been tipping on its axis and is now positioned to expose all of us in the Northern Hemisphere to the most direct blast of sunlight and warmth.

The summer solstice officially ushers in the first day of summer at 10:45 a.m., CDT, on Friday, June 21. It always feels too soon and it always awakens me to the early dawns and late sunsets that I've barely been enjoying.

This is largely due, this year, to the epic swarms of buffalo gnats that have clouded my vision and forced me to spend all my outside time either swatting or reapplying bug spray. My mother in Massachusetts reminded me last weekend that we used to call these 'May flies' and I was suddenly transported to the beach in early summer with my young legs coated in baby oil (yes, those were the days) and black flies.

So the wake-up call has been issued just when the days will begin to shorten, at first imperceptibly, but shortening nonetheless.

Here in Pipestone we celebrate the summer solstice in high style. Though its officially called Water Tower Festival, the solstice lands on

day two of the three days of jam-packed events that last well into the wee hours. It's a rollicking time rivaling all that Shakespeare wrote in a "Midsummer Night's Dream" — minus love juice being squirted in everyone's eyes, and if an historic concrete water tower were the event round which the characters revolved rather than a wedding. Just writing down all the oodles of events for this week's paper made my fingers tired, let alone having to plan it all.

And it's not just strictly Water Tower Festival events, though those alone would seem enough. There are three guided tours being offered by the Pipestone County Museum, fundraising dinners for various organizations, a two-day youth baseball tournament, the Calumet Players' latest production, a cattle show at the Fairgrounds, numerous Class Reunions and at least one local business is offering a bash of its own.

But it's all worth it. Over the years I've grown to thoroughly enjoy the carnival mood that sweeps through the city of Pipestone for Water Tower Festival. It's an abundant time at the height of the midsummer season during the longest days of the year and if you've never participated or enjoyed it, you're definitely missing out.

THIS WEEK IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Opinions from our followers



There was an outpouring of support for the Pipestone Area Arrows girls softball team all throughout last week's state tournament. Once the final results were posted on June 7 reporting the Arrows defeat of Thief River Falls, 4-3, to claim the MSHSL Class AA third place state softball trophy for the second straight season, congratulations came in all around, including this one from Leann Bloemendaal:

"Congratulations to a great program. What a huge accomplishment. Congrats to the girls, you put in the extra time to reach this goal. A team does not get to this level of play without the extra effort. Congrats and thank you to coach Petersen and Bouman. The amount of time and heart that you put into this program does not go unnoticed. You have never turned a player away who has asked for the extra help. You personally helped my child exceed above and beyond. As a past player Shelby is excited to work with you again to help her with her game during the summer. We are so lucky to have you. To all of the younger players coming up, get to the cages, don't be afraid to ask to work with them... they will never turn you away. They will start working for the next season tomorrow take advantage of the best coaches around. GO ARROWS!"

The news item that generated the most comments for the week was the story about



the Pipestone City Council's rejection of the evacuation plan for Prairie View Mobile Home Park — "When severe weather strikes? You're on your own." — and the city's action to require the owner to construct a shelter for the safety of the residents. Among those comments were the following:

Cole Schatzie Reynolds Page: "I have been saying this over 20 years also they need another way in and out for emergency"

Robin Hollenhors-Fritz: "As was pointed out to me the townhouse communities have to make their own plans, are they going to have build an overpriced shelter now too? And why wasn't this addressed when the original owners built this place? Is this happening because they want to do some-

thing else with the property? I've lived her for 13 years and I can't move. I have pets, if you have any kind of pet you won't be rented to. I also smoke can't do that, omg. I can't afford to buy a typical house. It's a trailer park and you know what kind of people live there!!! Instead of coming up with an affordable solution let's just be jerks and toss them all out. I work hard, I'm a good person and apparently I'm invisible."

Destiny Michelle Dagele: "sadly that's pipestone for ya" Danielle Marie: "every community has their issues so it's not really a matter of "it being pipestone."

Robin Hollenhors-Fritz: "I understand what your saying. However all of a sudden they are concerned? Really? I don't usually go in for conspiracy theories but they had a meeting about this and notified who? I'm hoping I'm worried for nothing... currently I feel quite ill."

Peggy Jo Snook Gould: "I understand the difficulty of relocating but it is high time the residents have a safe place to go. I lived there several years ago and had to jump in my car with a baby drive into town to a friends house. I do agree that it should have been build with the park. Maybe now it's just that someone finally stood up for what is right."

In good company

Kyle Kuphal | Staff reporter
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One of the things most frustrating to me is when my kids don't do what they're told.

It's usually the simplest of things too, such as "Go get your shoes on," or "Come to the table and eat." Sometimes it's as though they don't even hear me.

Occasionally, I say, "Hey, Alexa," just to see if my voice is actually audible or if it's just in my head. I must admit that it's rather comforting when that little hockey-puck shaped device lights up, indicating that I do indeed have a voice.

For the most part my kids are pretty well-behaved and I try to remind myself when they don't listen that they might be in the middle of something

that is important to them, such as putting together a puzzle or being silly with their sibling. They also spend most of their time doing what other people tell them to do and I probably wouldn't like that either.

None of that excuses them from having to do what I tell them, but being conscious of it does sometimes help me keep my cool. So does walking out of the room and taking a few deep breathes when I feel my blood pressure start to rise after repeating myself several times to no avail.

Sometimes these incidents require some form of disciplinary action, which no one enjoys. Then later I ponder what went wrong and how to respond the next time. I was doing just that recently when I sat down to do my evening Bible reading.

I typically read one chapter each night until I've gone through the entire Bible and then start over. On this particular night I opened up my Bible to Psalm 81. Within that chapter I read the phrases, "if you would only listen to me..." and "But my people would not listen to me..." and "If my people would only listen to me..."

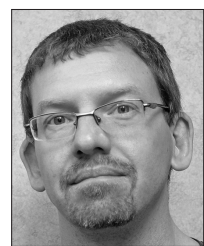
As I read the words, it sounded like an echo of the thoughts in my head at that very moment. Now I'd guess that all parents have had those same thoughts at times, but reading it in scripture made me feel like my Creator really understood exactly what I was struggling with at that moment. It was quite comforting.

What I also found comforting was that based on the repetition within the chapter, it appeared that even God was driven to exasperation by

kids who didn't listen.

The text reassured me that just because my kids don't always listen to me doesn't mean that I am failing as a parent. It means that they are human. And like all humans, myself included, we don't always do what we "should" do or are told to do, whether that's based on instruction from an authority figure, a belief system, an ethical code or even the law.

Now if all goes well, I'll be able to store these thoughts away and recall them the next time one of my kids doesn't listen to me and it will help me keep my cool, parent in a more compassionate and understanding way, and not beat myself up over parent vs. child conflicts.



Editorial Policy

We strongly encourage letters to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit as needed for grammar, spelling, space, factual inaccuracy or personal attacks on individuals in the sole interest of libel exposure and commonsense fairness. Some material submitted for publication is not suitable for the page or print. In all cases, we will let the letter writer know if we exercise our option to decline publication. All opinions expressed are those of the individual writers and not those of the editor or the Pipestone County Star.

When writing, please include your name, city of residence and telephone number so we may verify the submission. Please email your letters by Mondays to: editor@pipestonestar.com. You may also mail or drop off your letter to: Editor, Pipestone County Star, 115 2nd St. NE, Pipestone, MN 56164.

Legislative Directory

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Letters from our readers

Congress needs unredacted copy of Mueller report

To the editor,

Before the Mueller report was finished, Attorney General Barr said he would publish what he could legally publish. I knew immediately that we would not see the full report.

Of course, there could be national security issues related to collusion that would not get published. But I also remembered in elementary school civics that a president's past records are all sealed when he gets into office so that no one can blackmail him with what he did previously in his life.

So everything that happened during the campaign before he got into office would be sealed and that included reasons why his campaign chairman went to jail. Half a dozen of Trump's top people got indicted and convicted and some are in jail. But we would not hear anything relating to the president's part since that is sealed by law. Trump is also the type that would have fired anyone that did not do what he ordered them to do, so he was in fact involved quite heavily with whatever happened.

Elementary school civics also taught me that a president cannot be arrested or indicted while in office so that partisan politics could not undermine what a president is doing in his job. So it is illegal for Mueller to bring charges against Trump no matter what he had done. Mueller is a very law-abiding citizen so he would not even publicly state what problems there may have been.

Extremely good people will resign if not allowed to do their job well. Mueller is resigning soon. The same thing happened when Trayvon Martin got killed. Zimmerman's father was a judge and had the state's attorney call the local police chief to let him go and drop the charges the night that Zimmerman killed Martin. Within a week the police chief resigned because he was not allowed to do his job right. Mueller said that he could not prove that Trump had not obstructed justice. Many of the phone calls that he tried to get from homeland security had been encrypted by those making the calls so that no one would ever find them. This is the same thing as Hillary not showing all her emails. Trump thought she should go to jail for that and that is the same thing his people were doing. He has enough of a dictator style of management that he cannot blame anything his people did on anyone other than himself.

According to the constitution and our laws, the only people that can stop a bad president is the congress by impeachment. So Trump was obstructing justice when he went to court to stop the unredacted copy of the Mueller report from going to Congress. Congress needs to know everything that Mueller found out, including what he was not able to find because it had been covered up.

Roger Elgersma
Pipestone

Field needs to be leveled for family farmers

By Anna Johnson, policy manager, Center for Rural Affairs

Sen. Grassley (IA) and Rep. Fortenberry (NE) are standing up for family farmers in very tough times. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced they plan to release regulations this year addressing payments to family farms. These payments offer essential support to family farmers, but current loopholes are exploited by the largest farms that sometimes receive hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars in payments.

Sen. Grassley and Rep. Fortenberry have asked USDA to make sure that only people actively engaged in farming—those with "dirt under their fingernails"—benefit from those payments, and that USDA curbs what are effectively limitless payments to corporate farms.

Most family farmers—those struggling right now with saturated fields and unplanted corn—will never be able to access the hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments that are available via loopholes to the largest operations.

The farm bill, passed last year, added a requirement that USDA expands the people involved in a farm operation who are eligible for payments to include cousins, nephews, and nieces. Sen. Grassley and Rep. Fortenberry are asking that when USDA writes these regulations, they use the opportunity to strengthen requirements for farm involvement of these family members.

At a time when the playing field is tougher than has been seen in years, it is vitally important USDA enforces these requirements to make that playing field more level.

PUBLIC NOTICES

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW!