

The Sidney Scoop

By Ann Rhoton
Phone 217-688-2812



Look for your correspondent's April 20 Sidney American Legion Post 433 Meeting Coverage published in this week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

Sidney American Legion Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch reached out to your correspondent and asked me to publish a request that anyone that was around when the Sidney Village Board time capsule was buried in 1976 to please reach out to him at (217) 649-6989 as he would like to find out more about the capsule.

The Sidney Lions Club will host their 67th annual donations accepted fish fry on Saturday, May 2 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Sidney Community Building located at 211 East Main Street in Sidney.

Alaskan pollock with all the fixings, pork and beans, coleslaw, potato salad, desert, and more are on the menu and proceeds from the fish fry go toward Sidney Lions Club college scholarships and their eye glasses program.

The Sidney Lions Club will

also be giving the community an opportunity to purchase Sidney Lions Club 2026 Christmas Cash - New Year's Dash raffle tickets at their fish fry. Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at the fish fry from Sidney Lions Club President Bill Hensch or from any Sidney Lions Club member.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sidney Community Building located at 211 East Main Street in Sidney. All monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held in the Sidney Community Building meeting room.

The inaugural Sidney Spring Fling event brought to you by The Goose & The Gander, LLC and the Sidney Improvement Group will take place on South David Street in downtown Sidney on Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The event will take place the day before Mother's Day so vendors will focus on gifts for Mom and more.

Reach out to Brett Franzen

at The Goose & The Gander, LLC at (217) 530-5696 or by email at tgandtllc@gmail.com for more information.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 will hold their next monthly meeting at the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney on Monday, May 18 at 6:00 p.m. Prospective new members are always welcome and encouraged to attend and all monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held at the Post Home.

Have a wonderful week!

If you or your organization have news items you want published drop a line to Ann Rhoton at P. O. Box 491, Sidney, IL 61877 or call (217) 688-2812 between 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Don't hesitate to leave a message if there's no answer.

News items must be turned in by 10:00 a.m. each Friday to be published in the following week's paper. Items submitted after the deadline will be published in the following week's column.

A visit from The Little Mermaid

Rocket Nation

By Diane Ducy



KAY GREEN is with CU Ballet, sharing details about the May 1 and 2 showing of "The Little Mermaid" at the Virginia Theater in downtown Champaign. The set designer, Andy Warfel is a Unity grad and Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, Andy Warfel from Tolono (not pictured). Submitted photo.

The last weekend of April was busy in Rocket Nation! Thursday, April 23rd the National Honor Society Ceremony and Unity Alumni Hall of Fame Induction took place in the Polly Anderson Auditorium. Friday, April 24th with a Teacher's Institute Day, students got out of school early in Unit 7. Satur-

day, April 24th was Unity High schools Prom at the iHotel and Conference Center with so many upper classmen finding pretty places to take pictures with friends. Sunday, April 25th, even those Juniors and Seniors that did not attend Prom could go on the trip to Six Flags St Louis with buses departing at

8am and getting back by 9pm. Illinois Race Weekend had organizer Jan Seeley and her team welcoming over 20,000 participants to the area by Gies Memorial Stadium for runners participating in the mile run, Thursday April 23rd, the 5k on Friday, April 24th and Saturday April 25th was the half marathon, marathon, wheel chair marathon, 10k and Kid's Run at 3pm! With post-race treats, RegCakes had gluten free options for finishers making their way to the booth, some hurting but relieved to have finished with family, friends and supporters escorting them. As owner of RegCakes (801 N Dunlap Suite A in Savoy, the old Senators Inn location) Regina Johnson (Pesotum resident) was thrilled to share her passion of making food more accessible to eaters with gluten free choices available as her son, Miles and his co-worker Leslie Hammer-smith were happy to respond to runners needs in the Great Hall of Memorial Stadium after they crossed the finish line.

The Mayor of Savoy, John Brown (also on Tolono's Police force) was joined by his daughter Elaina (telecommunications for U of I police department) on the golf cart as they rode down the route and stopped at Mile Marker #23 to visit with friend and DJ Diane Ducy, providing music and encouragement on the microphone to marathon participants.

Mother's Day reflections: A journey of healing

As we draw closer to Mother's Day, a wave of mixed emotions washes over me, as it does every year. For many, this day is a time of celebration, filled with joy and gratitude. For me, it has always been a period of anxiety and dread because my childhood was overshadowed by a traumatic relationship with my

mother. Every card that I would see at the store wouldn't work. She WAS NOT always there for me. She DID NOT show up for my big moments in life. She WAS NOT loving and caring and a strong shoulder to lean on. Where are the

Holding It All Together

By Amy McCollom



cards that say, "Well, at least you didn't kill me. Thanks for that, Mom."

Growing up, I often found myself torn between the expectation of honoring my mother and the reality of my experiences with her. My

mother was not just a difficult parent; she was mean and manipulative. I can vividly recall moments from my childhood—the cursing, the kicking, the hitting—all reminders of why I decided at the tender age of ten that

I would never be like her. I didn't hate her, but I certainly wasn't thankful for her.

I used to beg families at our church to adopt me, yearning for an escape from the pain and strife of living in our household. Living in the 70s and 80s, I felt trapped. Child abuse and neglect were largely ignored issues, leaving me and so many others voiceless. Being treated poorly by my own mother made me a quiet and weird kid, and an easy mark for bullies at school. Then I would come home and get it even worse from the one person who was supposed to protect me. I walked on egg-

shells every day and night.

It wasn't until I was married with children of my own that I stumbled upon an article about Narcissistic Personality Disorder. Reading about it was like flipping a switch on in my mind; everything suddenly clicked into place. There was finally a name, a label, something that made sense of her erratic and cruel behavior. It wasn't an excuse, but an understanding.

My mother thrived on pitting my siblings and me against each other, ensuring a perpetual cycle of competition and insecurity. In public, her facade was often meticu-

lously polished; it was only behind closed doors that her true colors shone. We were well aware that inviting friends over to our house was a recipe for embarrassment—her cutting remarks spewed out onto everyone, and I learned quickly never to let anyone too close to our family. She was our dirty family secret.

Her sadistic tendencies made it clear that she derived pleasure from belittling others, and my father bore the brunt of her disdain. She would constantly compare

See **HOLDING** on page 6



Our HHS Secretary RFK Jr. testified as follows during a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing:

"President Trump has a different way of calculating if - there's two ways of calculating percentage. If you have a \$600 drug and you reduce it to \$10, that's a six hundred percent reduction."

I can tell you that if he'd said such a thing in a math class I was teaching, he'd be sitting in the corner wearing a dunce cap. It is so ludicrous, it calls the price figures into question. Six hundred percent of \$600 is \$3600, so a six hundred percent reduction of \$600 would be minus three

thousand dollars. The "explanation" that the "six hundred percent" figure comes from switching the baseline from \$600 to \$10 isn't right either. Six hundred dollars is 60 times \$10, or six THOUSAND percent. An increase from \$10 to \$600 is an increase from 100% of \$10 to 6000% of \$10, or a 5900% increase. (Actually, \$10 is 1 and 2/3 percent of \$600, so going from \$600 to \$10 is a 98 and 1/3 percent reduction.)

In my opinion, it would be better simply to state the prices before and after and leave it at that. If the price-cut figures are accurate, they would be impressive enough.

The real problem is that it

isn't merely "a different method of calculating." Rather, the president is once again simply making up his own daffynishuns, which his sycophants slavishly repeat.

Trying to redefine words and concepts has been a pattern and practice of this Administration since day one. Claiming that foreigners in this country illegally are not subject to the jurisdiction of the US is a case in point. The president himself has harangued about illegal immigrants charged with crimes. And, of course, people in the US illegally are routinely deported, pursuant to enforcement of our immigration laws. Which means they are, manifestly, subject to US jurisdiction. Which means that any children they might have on US soil are US citizens. To revoke birthright citizenship in the US would require a Constitutional Amendment. There's a process for that. The Presi-

dent signing an Executive Order isn't it.

The typical case of someone not subject to US jurisdiction is someone with diplomatic immunity. No court in the land can enforce so much as a parking ticket against a foreign diplomat, let alone charge them with a crime. All that can be done (according to treaty obligations) is to declare them "persona non grata" and order them out of the country.

By legal precedent, those NOT subject to US jurisdiction comprise a very limited group - those covered by diplomatic immunity, foreigners aboard foreign ships in US waters, foreigners on US territory under military occupation by an enemy in war, and Native Americans on reservations considered sovereign tribal territories. The Administration also tries to redefine illegal immigrants in the US as an "occupying army" which they

clearly are not.

At the same time, the Administration is trying to redefine "freedom of speech" to include false and defamatory statements by its supporters against dissidents, but not true statements which embarrass the Administration.

Similarly, the DOJ routinely misapplies laws to try to punish political opponents. This has resulted in a growing number of grand juries - particularly in DC District Court - refusing to indict. This is no surprise to me. I read a number of rulings in bogus election-denial lawsuits after the 2020 election. Time and again, the lawsuits filed by Team Orange gave "supporting citations" which didn't actually support their cases. And in some cases, the complaints made assertions which were already known to be false. Presenting false assertions as fact to a court of law is a major ethics violation. That's why

Rudy Giuliani was disbarred in multiple jurisdictions, Lin Wood agreed to retire permanently to avoid disbarment, and John Eastman was recently disbarred by the State of California. Lawyers have to work hard at violating legal ethics just to get suspended. Getting disbarred is really, really difficult.

Being granted the right to redefine words and concepts is tantamount to deification. And granting the power to define what is true is worship. I offer an example of this from an interview after the 2020 election: In Sundown, Texas, Mayor Jonathan Strickland said there's "no way in hell" Biden won fairly. The only way he'll believe it, he said, is if Trump himself says so.

The USA was founded on the principle that the government is the peoples' servant. Idolatry towards a leader says the reverse. It doesn't get any more un-American than that.

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