



Missourian Wednesday and the Weekend

Our aim shall always be to promote the best interests of the community we serve. We shall print the news accurately, impartially and without favoritism as far as humanly possible. Editorially, we reserve the right to speak out freely and without fear, and will fight to the limit of our ability to reserve that right for all others.

Another Mercy Honor

Mercy Hospital Washington is honor-rich because it rates so high in performance in delivering health care. The honors are a reminder of how fortunate we are to have such a facility to serve this area.

The latest honor Mercy Hospital Washington has received is to be named one of the Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals in the United States by The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

It is the only hospital in Missouri to qualify for this recognition!

For patients and others who are aware of the inner workings of the hospital here, the honor is a testimony to the commitment by all of the associates of the health care facility — from the administrators to the medical staff, nurses, and other staff members who play a role in serving people in need of health care. It is a honor for all members of the staff, from the board to housekeeping, to the kitchen to landscaping, technicians, security and all personnel serving in the many offices. They all share in this honor.

We are not saying the hospital is perfect. It doesn't claim to be. We are saying the entire staff is committed to assigned tasks and performs well in going above and beyond the average in performance. That is so important in health care.

Eric Eloff, hospital president, said it best: "We don't claim to be perfect, but our health care teams are working hard each day to deliver compassionate care and exceptional service."

Utilizing 50 independent indicators, the grading process assesses actions across eight pillars of performance that span market-value, and finance-based categories in making comprehensive and objective assessments. The hospital is in touch with its mission, said Michael Topchik, an official of the The Chartis Center for Rural Health, in delivering better quality, better outcomes and better patient satisfaction.

Commitment to its mission is what makes Mercy Hospital Washington stand out in the health care world. Congratulations, on your latest honor.

Reading Night a Success

There are some people who believe reading printed matter is a relic of years past. They should attend Family Reading Night of which *The Missourian* is the lead sponsor. The printed words are alive and stimulating.

The 20th annual Family Reading Night was held last Friday at Washington Middle School. Another crowd of about 500 area adults and children attended. After taking the Oath of Reading administered by Circuit Judge Craig E. Hellmann, the children enjoyed a presentation by Author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds of the Boston area, who interacted very well with the children while reading and presenting his newest book, "Be You!"

As usual, reading sessions were held in classrooms. Community leaders and high school students read books to the children. There was a section in the school lobby set aside for creative activities, and the Franklin County Humane Society had dogs to pet in the gym, which was a joyful treat for children.

The finale was a performance of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" by the Washington Police Department. More than 80 baskets,

buckets and bags of books were given to children who visited two or more reading rooms and were eligible for the drawings. The books were donated by local organizations, businesses and individuals.

The theme for the night was "Be a Reader."

The Missourian is thankful to Dawn Kitchell, who chaired the event as she has for 20 years. Dawn is the newspaper's educational services director and directs *The Missourian's* Newspaper In Education program. Two of the other main sponsors are the Washington School District and the Washington Optimist Club. Support also is given by Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., New Haven, the WHS football team, Washington NEA, Washington Public Library and Neighborhood Reads Bookstore. The event would not be possible without the help from the planning committee and more than 100 volunteers. *The Missourian* is thankful for their assistance.

The free Family Reading Night has become a tradition for this area. Its purpose is to encourage family reading. The program's popularity is evident from the attendance it draws.

Sprucing Up History

It was good news to learn that the Washington Parks Department plans to upgrade the old caboose on Front Street next to the train station. As a recreational point in that area of the riverfront, it may be a minor attraction, but to children who visit and play on it, it's a joyful experience.

The caboose will be painted along with the old freight depot building a few feet to the west. Both are historic in nature and preservation of them is one of the city's achievements in linking present times to the past.

The caboose work will include interior and exterior sprucing up, according to Wayne Dunker, parks and recreation director. The work by volunteers on the caboose landscape adds to the overall appeal of that location on Front Street.

It was the late Jerry Michels, civic worker par excellence, who spearheaded the drive to obtain the caboose and transport it here. He had the vision to recognize its appeal and connection to the past. The caboose is a reminder of Washington's link to the history of trains in the state. It also is a fun attraction for children.

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Editorials • Commentary • Letters

THE BEST OF ENEMIES UNTIL SOMETHING CAME BETWEEN THEM.



EDITOR'S Notebook

By Bill Miller Sr.

Age of Incivility

Respect for others and their opinions fades, especially in politics, and it can be constant with some people and with others just during an election year. It is the nature of many humans, male and female, regardless of their status in life.

We've been exposed to it more since the White House has been occupied by Donald Trump, a man of ever-changing moods who vents his emotions and who can be downright nasty at times. But he did all right at the polls four years ago with that type of personality. Is his persona much like

many Americans' today? He said things that resonated with many voters.

The calls for more civility in our relations with others have come from all avenues of life, but in politics that message has been rejected — dead on arrival — by a number of our elected representatives.

An example was the verbal outburst by Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Democrats' top leader in the Republican-controlled Senate. Schumer, of New York, attended a rally outside the Supreme Court building while the justices were hearing oral arguments on

an abortion law. Schumer aimed his remarks at two Trump-appointed justices, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, using their names in what most observers considered threats. What he said was:

"I want to tell you Gorsuch. I want to tell you Kavanaugh. You have released a whirlwind and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with those decisions." By decisions he meant how they rule in abortion matters. The two justices are assumed to be anti-abortion and will vote

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Rights Versus Wishes



Walter Williams

Sen. Bernie Sanders said: "I believe that health care is a right of all people." He's not alone in that contention. That claim comes from Democrats and Republicans and liberals and conservatives. It is not just a health care right that people claim. There are "rights" to decent housing, decent food, a decent job and prescription drugs. In a free and moral society, do people have these rights? Let's begin by asking ourselves: What is a right?

In the standard usage of the term, a "right" is something that exists simultaneously among people. In the case of our U.S. Constitutional decree, we have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our individual right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness im-

poses no obligation upon another other than the duty of noninterference.

As such, a **right imposes no obligation on another**. For example, the right to free speech is something we all possess simultaneously. My right to free speech imposes no obligation upon another except that of noninterference. Similarly, I have a right to travel freely. Again, that right imposes no obligation upon another except that of noninterference.

Sanders' claim that health care is a right does impose obligations upon others. We see that by recognizing that there is no Santa Claus or tooth fairy who gives resources to government to pay for medical services. Moreover, the money does not come from congressmen and state

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Pat Buchanan

Is This How Europe Ends?

"Fortress Europe is an illusion."

So declares the *Financial Times* in the closing line of its Saturday editorial: "Europe Cannot Ignore Syrian Migrant Crisis."

The *FT* undertakes to instruct the Old Continent on what its duty is and what its future holds: "The EU will face flows of migrants and asylum seekers across the Mediterranean for decades to come."

Can Europe not repel this unwanted home invasion from the Global South? It is "delusional" to think so, says the *FT*. Europe must be realistic and set about "providing legal routes for migrants and asylum seekers."

What occasioned the editorial was Greece's rough resistance to Turkish President Erdogan's funneling of thousands of Syrian refugees, who had fled into Turkey, right up to the border

with Greece.

Erdogan is threatening to inundate southeastern Europe with Syrian refugees to extract more money from the EU in return for keeping the 3.5 million Syrians already in Turkey away from EU frontiers.

Another Erdogan objective is to coerce Europe into backing his military intervention in Syria to prevent President Bashar Assad from capturing all of Idlib province and emerging victorious in his civil war.

In the human rights hellhole that is Syria today, we may see the dimensions of the disaster wrought when Wilsonian crusaders set out to depose the dictator Assad and make Syria safe for democracy.

A brief history.

When the Arab Spring erupted and protesters arose to oust Assad, the U.S., Turkey and the Gulf Arabs aided and equipped

Syrian rebels willing to take up arms. The "good rebels," however, were routed and elements of al-Qaida soon assumed dominance of the resistance.

Facing defeat, Syria's president put out a call to his allies — Russia, Iran, Hezbollah — to save his regime. They responded, and Assad, over four years, recaptured all of Syria west of the Euphrates, save Idlib.

There, the latest fighting has **pushed 900,000 more refugees to Turkey's southern border**.

The 21st-century interventions and wars of the West in the Islamic world have not gone well.

George W. Bush was goaded into invading Iraq. Barack Obama was persuaded to overthrow Colonel Moammar Gadhafi in Libya and the Assad regime in Damascus. Obama ordered U.S. forces to assist

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