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The Abundance of Autumn by Sue Orsen/The Victoria

Generation. “When September and October roll around, the abundance of autumn is evident in Victoria and in neighboring communities. The Gazette captured much of it firsthand these past few weeks and, when putting it all together for this issue of the paper, realized how fortunate we are in this heartland we call home. Click on Front Page.

Global Warming by Tom Stumpf, *Cowboy Correspondent.* “Our hunting party, which usually includes son Spencer, one or two of his buds, and mineself, decided to return to a favorite haunt which we lovingly refer to as Dang Near South Dakota, a smallish lake named Miller out at mile marker 6 on a state highway way out west.”

A Gagggle of Wild Turkeys Lollygagging by Sue Orsen. “A large birding event occurred on the evening of September 11th when 18 wild turkeys strolled into our backyard and lollygagged, oblivious to the fact that Thanksgiving is less than two months away.”

Final 2019 Classic Car Nights by Sue Orsen. “As fall puts a cap on summer, it also brings a close to the Classic Car Season in downtown Victoria until next spring. A highlight on the final leg of the season was meeting the Justen family from Eden Prairie.”

Changing Seasons by Christie Schlueter, *Regular Visitor to Victoria.* “Sweet and spicy maple-roasted butternut squash with brussels sprouts and savory, crispy bacon, makes this filling veggie-packed dish perfect for a side dish or a main meal.”

Planning to Make “Swings for the Kids” a Home in Waconia by Katie VanVooren, *Waconia Swing for the Kids.* “In 2014, Quinn fell from a two-story window. A traumatic brain injury changed his childhood. Quinn has special needs that aren’t supported by traditional playground equipment.”

Calling People of the Community to The Saint John’s Bible by Sue Orsen. “It was a day of discovery and inspiration as The Blessing House in Victoria invited people to experience the Saint John’s Bible on September 22nd. There were four seatings to accommodate the presentation.”

Calling the Archdiocese in Synod to a Listening Process by Sue Orsen. Said Archbishop Hebda, “One of the tasks of a bishop is to call our gifts forward. This is a historic first step. Synod is a Greek word that means a community on journey.”

Calling Women for Over 25 Yerars to Support Life by Sue Orsen. “Several people worked to organize the 1st Annual Bingo for Babies at the Lions Park Pavilion. Sue Bill of Victoria was pleasantly surprised to see the large turnout of guests.”

Calling All Kirke Lachen Lovers to the Garden by Amber Huttner, *Victoria Garden Club.* “Once a lovely garden gone to thistles, this Victoria park is now resurrected and better.”

Music on Golf Carts by Tom Abts, *Deer Run Golf Club.* “I can’t believe that I’m taking on this subject. Not that I’m afraid to say how I feel, it’s that I’m really conflicted about music on golf carts. Music on golf carts isn’t pure. But golf carts aren’t really pure anyway. Where do we draw the line?”

No Vegetable Diversity in Gardens of Old Victoria by Mike Wartman, *Former Resident of Victoria.* “Every Victoria garden had exactly the same plants — three rows of potatoes, a long row of peas that never reached maturity cuz some *\$%* kids were always picking them eaeerly, eight different kinds of onions, a few cabbage plants, raspberries, and a bed of strawberries.”

A Soaring Silver Maple Fallen with Fungus and Chainsaw by Sue Orsen. “This ‘mile high’ silver maple in our front yard was diseased with a fungus that made it balloon out near the bottom like a rotten mushroom. It’s amazing to watch tree cutters in their buckets, riding high in the sky.”

Wrapping Up a Summer Project by Sue Orsen. “Victoria Lion Al Orsen spent much of the summer building a portable bar for the Victoria Lions in his garage/shop on Lilac Lane. Why? To save the club about \$3,000 and because he’s retired and enjoys building projects.”

Victoria’s Library Log by Author. “Some of the youth programs include Retro Games & Puzzles, Drawing & Cartooning, Lego Lab, Painting with Pastels, and 3D Design and Print.”

The Transportation Technology Center Inc. in Colorado by Eric Sieger, *Carver County Public Services.* Said Commissioner Randy Maluchnik, “Attending tours like this and seeing what other counties are doing in the way of transportation helps me fram Carver County-related transportation issues.”

Donald G. Happ, 92, died September 16th.
Gerry Pangan Yumul, 49, died September 2nd.
Carver County Update by Randy Maluchnik, *Carver County Commissioner.* “I’m pleased the State of Minnesota has finally designated our workforce center as an official site, after great work by our income support staff in making this happen.”

The Rebranded Regarding Dentistry by Sue Orsen. “It was an Open House to beat all open houses! The generous afternoon featured trays of fancy hor d’oeuvres and wine and gift bags for guests.”

Nordic Festival at Lions Park by Kurt Zuppke, *Laketown Township.* “The ever popular celebration of our Nordic heritage included music, dancing, food, drink, silent auction, craft vendors, and the lutefisk toss.”

Residents at Emerald Crest Benefit through County Partnership by Jenna Zark, *Emerald Crest of Victoria.* “Program enhancements at Emerald Crest were made possible by Carver County’s Strategic Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP).”

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October 2019

The Victoria GAZETTE

The Abundance of Autumn

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by Sue Orsen/The Victoria Gazette

When September and October roll around, the abundance of autumn is evident in Victoria and in neighboring communities. The Gazette captured much of it firsthand these past few weeks and, when putting it all together for this issue of the paper, realized how fortunate we are in this heartland we call home.

The paper Gazette featured the Victoria Fire Department Open House, the Hartman Garden Center, Excelsior Apple Day, Waconia Nickle Dickle Day, Enki Brewing Oktoberfest, and the Arboretum Field Festival.

Click on Sue's Album and scroll to September Events In and Out of Victoria" for an array of related photos.



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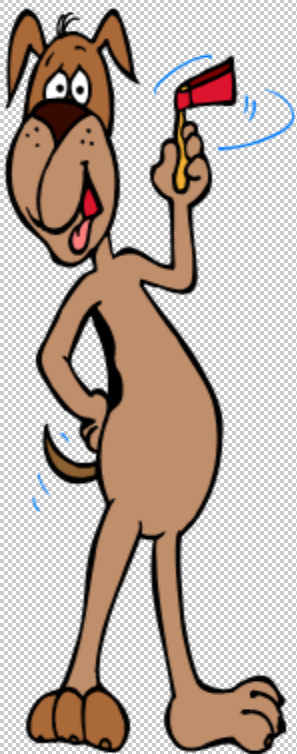
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In September, I was introduced to a production which I viewed on the big computer screen in my Gazette office. It was a YouTube video entitled "Eastern Carver County Schools Exposed." I found it scary.

A link to the video was emailed to me by a concerned citizen of the school district. Others have since been in touch about the video and I feel an obligation to pass it on to you -- the intelligent, caring, astute, patriotic, moral, honest, Christian readers of the Victoria Gazette, and others who should be interested.

The YouTube video is easy to access. All you have to do is a google search of its name to find it: "Eastern Carver County Schools Exposed."

The video prompted me to learn more about the issue(s), so I decided to watch the referenced July 15th, 2019, school board meeting of the Eastern Carver County School District, known for years as School District 112. That video is also easy to directly access with a simple google search.

During the first 45 minutes of that July 15th meeting, eleven people came to the podium during the Open Forum to address the school board. I listened to all of them. I learned that the school board hired someone named Dr. Muhammad Khalifa to conduct an equity audit for the district because of charges of racism.

Then I checked the official written minutes of that July 15th school board meeting and saw that the compelling 45 minutes were summed up with this one sentence: "During Open Forum, residents and non-residents of the community voiced concerns regarding the equity audit." In other words, the minutes are not informative.

Of the eleven people who spoke to the school board that evening of July 15th, I was most impressed by the young mothers. Their agenda is their children. Their agenda is *not* political, nor is it group-think. Theirs is a cry from the heart.

The mothers were articulate and passionate about the goings on and the unusual expenditure of taxpayer dollars in Eastern Carver County Schools. Their comments and concerns make me fear for my grandchildren and other children across the land.

I put together a montage of what the mothers said to the school board that evening, and include it here for you. It may not be in print anywhere else except in the Victoria Gazette. Here is the montage:

"Dr. Khalifa sees educators in a way that I believe is foreign to average Americans. He describes dismantling the western education system in all his published papers. Teachers simply want to teach the subjects they're passionate about. It's not about a power struggle. Who thinks like this?"

"This is social engineering on steroids. It pits school administration against teachers. It's a matter of telling on one another. How dare you allow this in our schools! It's a subversion of our schools. We put our children in your hands and this is what you're hiring for our district? This is a radical agenda.

"The petition asking for an equity audit was signed by people that are not even members of the district. The petition doesn't pass the smell test.

"I am concerned about the direction the district is headed. I am disgusted by the 125 questions that you authorized to be sent to my children. Surveys of this sort, masked as an audit, indicate there is another purpose.

"I am embarrassed by your decision to authorize the survey, and I feel horrible for our district's educators, that the administration subjected them to this scrutiny. The impression you left on our students and our community is an impression of bigotry.

"You forced our kids to look through a lens of black and white, which is exactly opposite of what we've been working on with them for all these years. I have a concern of what you might try to implement because of the results of your survey.

"The administrator of the survey is an advocate for hate groups against Jews. The vision does not align with our community. Your approval of this contract is negligent. The tools approved for use in this survey clearly spell out identifiable data collected on our students. This personal information now includes their sexual identity, family, finances, and answers to biased questions toward white educators.

"You do not have provisions in place to prevent the contractor from buying, selling, storing, or using data collected for marketing. You broke your own policies set in place to protect student privacy. You disregarded parents' rights and failed the entire staff of this district. You've broken our trust.

"And just as we're trying to understand this horrific survey, we received notice about the upcoming referendum. Unfortunately, it now puts us in a position to apply scrutiny to the decisions being made with that, because you've broken our trust."



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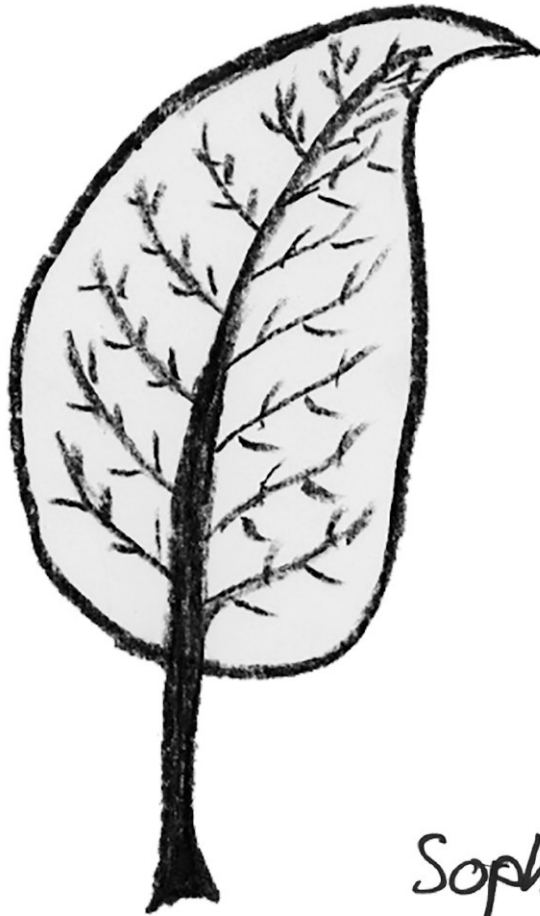
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To the Editor:

I've lived in the Victoria area for four of the last six years and am now moving away so our trips to Victoria will be less frequent, but I have always enjoyed reading the Gazette and staying caught up on all the goings on in town. Ruby's Roost has been a fantastic addition and we will drive for that. Keep up the great work. Kindest regards.

*Dan Chies
via email*

To the Editor:

Hi, Sue. Thank you again for putting Jim's information in the Gazette last month. His new cabin print, "Living the Dream," looks great in the paper! Take care.

*Lois Hansel
Chaska, Minnesota*

To the Editor:

Good morning, Sue. It was good seeing you yesterday. As summer settles into fall, it is the perfect time to watch the colors change and also how the community is changing. The Gazette wonderfully captures these changes occurring in Victoria.

As I finished reading the Gazette last night, I spied the picture you were referring to at church, Sue, that of the Community Living folks at Sunset Fest in 2001. As I look at the circle of smiling faces surrounding Father Bob -- of Elroy, Lenny, Scott, Theresa, Dorothy, and Donnie -- I was reminded that Victoria has been a fabulous community for them to call home since 1970.

As the campus' colors change now to Bethesda's Cornerstone Village in 2020, it will be an incredible place for Bethesda's folks to reside amidst their fellow Victoria neighbors, creating a vibrant community mosaic. Enjoy the colors.

*Julie Schmieg
Victoria, Minnesota*

To the Editor:

Hi, Sue. I always enjoy the Victoria Gazette. Nice job of hiding the fishhook in the September paper. It's on page 29 on the left side of the butterfly sculpture. Thanks.

*Ryan Walsh
Chaska, Minnesota*

To the Editor:

You sure do have a wonderful paper. Have you been to see the garden at Cologne? It's beautiful and worth the trip out there. I found the fishhook on the butterfly bench in the garden on page 29.

*Doreen Walter
Cologne, Minnesota*

To the Editor:

I really like your paper. Found the fishhook on page 29, after much searching, on the butterfly.

*Barb Johnson
Sacred Heart, Minnesota*

To the Editor:

Hi, Sue. The article about my brother Harry last month was fabulous. I think you hit a home run on this one. Better yet, I think you hit a grand slam. Loved it all, also Mom and Dad's picture. I think it's time for Harry and me to have some pie.

*Izzy Kroening
Chaska, Minnesota*

To the Editor:

Hi, Sue. I wanted to thank the person or people who have been cleaning up the landscaping at Kirke Lachen Park. It looks so much better. Thank you.

*Vicki Turner
Victoria, Minnesota*

To the Editor:

Would you please start sending the Gazette to our Texas address? I was so sad to read last month about the death of Jenny's dog. Our fur babies are so much a part of our lives. They certainly leave footprints on our heart. We lost our beautiful lab Rudy this past winter, very suddenly, so we know the grief. Please tell Jenny and her family we are sorry. Hope you have a good winter.

*Mary Carse
Clear Lake, Minnesota*

MORE LETTERS IN PAPER EDITION OF THE GAZETTE.



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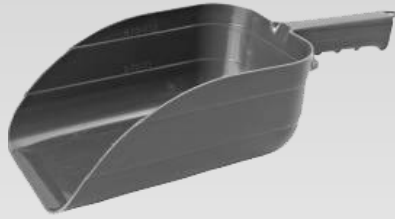
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TWO UPCOMING 2019 WEEKENDS ON CALENDAR FOR YARD WASTE DUMP SITE IN VICTORIA

After about an hour of discussion at a workshop on September 9th, Council agreed to sponsor a local yard waste dump site this fall at the old Public Works location on Stieger Lake Lane. That location was a city dump and then a yard waste site for many years.

Council agreed to have the place open this fall and to use volunteers to man the gates and confirm the dumpers are residents of Victoria. Councilmember Judy Black agreed to work with City Manager Dana Hardie and Public Works Director Ann Mahnke to organize the event and gather volunteers.

At the September 23rd city council meeting, Councilmember Black reported that she talked to people and that MEA weekend doesn't work for taking care of yard waste, and so the two weekends for yard waste dump will be the last weekend in October (26th/27th) and the first weekend in November (2nd/3rd).

She stated that the hours on each of those Saturdays and Sundays will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. "The volunteer list of helpers is filled!" she added. "People need their ID to show they're a resident of Victoria. Maybe their city water bill would work if they're address is Chaska or Excelsior."

Advised City Attorney Bob Vose, "The city is entitled to limit the dumping to city residents. I don't believe you have a specific ordinance that you've used in the past, so you'd rely on the trespassing ordinance."

Added Councilmember Black, "And I did get access to a trail camera! I did get a sign that says, 'Smile. You're on camera.'"

Stated Mayor Funk, "I'd be surprised if we had any issues."

Councilmember Deb McMillan said, "It might be helpful to have a sign that says, 'For Victoria Residents Only.'"

The site is only for residential property owners, not commercial property owners.

EVERYTHING'S ON THE UP & UP IN VICTORIA IN THE PRELIMINARY 2020 TAX LEVY AND BUDGET

On September 9th, Council approved a preliminary Total Tax Levy of \$5,896,000 for the City of Victoria for collection in 2020. That amount is 13.1% higher than the 2019 levy of \$5,215,000.

The preliminary 2020 General Fund levy is \$4,800,000 which is 17.6% higher than last year's levy.

The preliminary 2020 Debt Service levy is \$1,096,000 which is 3.5% lower than last year's levy, mainly because the 15-year debt service on the 2004 street and utility project has now been retired.

Victoria's 2020 tax rate is projected to remain flat at 32.4% which is the same tax rate as in 2019.

Victoria's 2020 population is projected to increase by 3.3% to 10,808. City tax per capita would increase by 9.5% to \$545.54.

That same evening, Council adopted the preliminary 2020 General Fund Budget. The revenue part of the preliminary GF Budget totals \$5,949,000 which is an increase of 14.1% compared to 2019. The expenditure part of the preliminary GF Budget totals \$4,662,482 which is an increase of 6.8% compared to 2019.

The median value home in Victoria is projected to increase from \$404,200 to \$439,300. The city portion of property taxes on that median value home in Victoria is projected to increase by \$116 (from \$1,307 to \$1,423).

The preliminary 2020 budget is anticipating revenues from 111 new homes, which is the same conservative number as projected in the 2019 budget.

REVIEWING ALL VICTORIA CITY POLICIES SOME PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED, SOME NEW

Council held a workshop on September 9th to begin the review and updating of all city policies. Said City Manager Dana Hardie, "We've not received notice of any deficiencies. We have a Triple A bond rating in part because of the strength of our policies. Some of our normal practices are being formalized."

She said that after a comprehensive review of all policies, over time, they will be placed into one policy manual. On September 9th, council reviewed nine policies, not yet formally adopted.

SHORTER CITY SCOOP FROM SEPTEMBER PATRICK SMITH NO LONGER WITH CITY OF VICTORIA

Community Development Director Patrick Smith is no longer employed with the City of Victoria. His last day was August 26th. The city is in the process of recruiting for his replacement. The applications closed on September 30th. According to City Manager Dana Hardie, "We are targeting interviews for the first two weeks in October and would like to have someone in place by early to mid November. In the meantime, several of us are working together to keep projects moving forward and cover any gaps. The majority of that work is being carried by Senior Planner Paul Moretto and me. Department directors, including the city engineer, are also stepping in as needed and where appropriate."

COMPREHENSIVE CITY SCOOP IN PAPER EDITION.



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WORLD WAKE SURFING CHAMPION! Tyler Stewart of Victoria and a junior at the Chanhassen High School recently competed at the World Wake Surfing Championships, where he finished first in men's outlaw skim and earned the title of World Champion! The "outlaw" division is the Competitive Wake Surfing Association's semi-pro division. The competition was held in the Pineview Mountain Reservoir just outside of Salt Lake City. Tyler was one of only eight wake surfers from around the world who qualified to compete in his division. Other competitors traveled from France, Russia, Switzerland, and Ukraine. Tyler will be moving up and competing at the pro level for the 2020 competition season.

*Katie Stewart
Victoria, Minnesota*

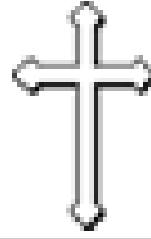
HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY, LeRoy and RaNaye Miller.

Continued good health and happiness. Enjoy life.

Love,

Mitch, Lonnie, Brook, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren.

MORE VICTORIA MOMENTS IN PAPER EDITION.



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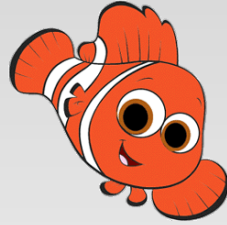
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I had the fish fry for our son Nick and his family using Tony Vogel's walleyes and also a couple of Allan's walleyes from his recent Canadian fishing trip. As I was rinsing the filets and patting them dry for the frying pan, Nick asked why Tony's filets were white and Allan's were pinkish. I said it was probably related to the size of the fish as well as the lake in which they were caught. After frying, they all tasted the same -- delicious.

When I dipped into the minnow bucket this time, I pulled out Ryan Walsh of Chaska to win the ten dollars. Congratulations, Ryan. The fishhook was hiding in the metal butterfly structure in a garden club photo on page 29.

There's another fishhook hiding in this issue of the Gazette. If you find it and wish to be included in the next drawing, email Sue@VictoriaGazette.com telling of its location or write a note and sinker in the mail to P.O. Box 387, Victoria, MN 55386.

Why do I always bake or broil salmon and always fry walleyes?



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Full Moon. Sunday, October 13th. The moon is fully illuminated as seen from earth. At Full Moon, the moon and sun are on a line with earth in between, as though the moon and sun are sitting on either end of a seesaw.

Columbus Day. Monday, October 14th. Observed annually on the second Monday of October, celebrates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the New World of the Americas in October of 1492. Columbus was an explorer and sailor by occupation, Italian by birth, and Catholic Christian by faith. His voyage was sponsored by the Catholic sovereigns of Spain, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

Property Taxes. Due by Tuesday, October 15th, to cover expenses of Carver County, the School District, and the City of Victoria.

City Council. Monday, October 14th, and Monday, October 28th. At City Hall on Stieger Lake Lane. 6:30 p.m.

United Nations Day. Thursday, October 24th. In 1948, the UN General Assembly declared October 24th, the anniversary of the Charter of the United States, as which shall be devoted to making known to the peoples of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations and to gaining support for its work.

Halloween Party. Saturday, October 26th. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Downtown Victoria. Games and activities. Sponsored by the Lions and the VBA.

Gazette Deadline. Monday, October 28th. Email Sue@VictoriaGazette.com or use P.O. Box 387, Victoria, MN 55386.

Halloween. Thursday, October 31st. The earliest documented customs attributable to Halloween proper grew out of the tandem observances of All Saints Day (November 1), a day of prayer for saints and martyrs of the Church, and All Souls Day (November 2), a day of prayer for the souls of all the dead. Among the practices associated with Halloween during the Medieval period were the lighting of bonfire.



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"A fallen leaf is a summer's wave goodbye."
A. Nonnie Mouse

*"Old songs are a manifestation of cultural memory,
the heirloom of a common heritage."*
Christopher Hoyt
"Voices Uplifted" in Touchstone, March/April 2019.

*"Through old songs our forefathers speak to us,
and through them we testify to our yet-unborn descendants."*
Christopher Hoyt
"Voices Uplifted" in Touchstone, March/April 2019.

*"There is no victim more innocent than an unborn child,
but political forces have prioritized the victimhood
of those burdened with unwanted pregnancy."*
C.E. Smith
"The Mimetic Bachelor" in Touchstone, March/April 2019.

*"Clear, perceptive insight is a function of simplification,
acceptance, and attentiveness.
And these together very often issue in gratitude."*
William Graddy
"Bird Calls and Summonses" in Touchstone, May/June 2019.

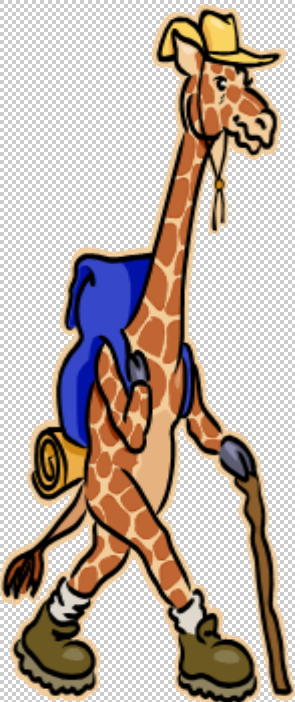
*"If boys don't become good, dependable men,
they can't become good, dependable husbands and fathers."*
Glenn T. Stanton
"Manhood is Not Natural" in Touchstone, May/June 2019.

*"Ghettos are not created by city planners, nor crime by the police,
nor failing health by big pharma. Each of these social ills arises
from inattention to the sexual behavior of males."*
Glenn T. Stanton
"Manhood is Not Natural" in Touchstone, May/June 2019.

*"Wishful thinking is no mere fallacy.
One's wishes may be evidence of something."*
Nathan Smith
"The Grand Coherence" in Touchstone, May/June 2019.

*"If there was a creation, there can be a new creation,
and there must have been
a kind of new creation when humans appeared,
for they are not merely another of nature's fruits."*
Nathan Smith
"The Grand Coherence" in Touchstone, May/June 2019.

*"With a smile on our lips, a song in our throats,
a sword in our hands,
and a prayer in our hearts, we may as well fight with good cheer."*
J. Budziszewski
"What Makes Men Men?" in Touchstone, May/June 2019.



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