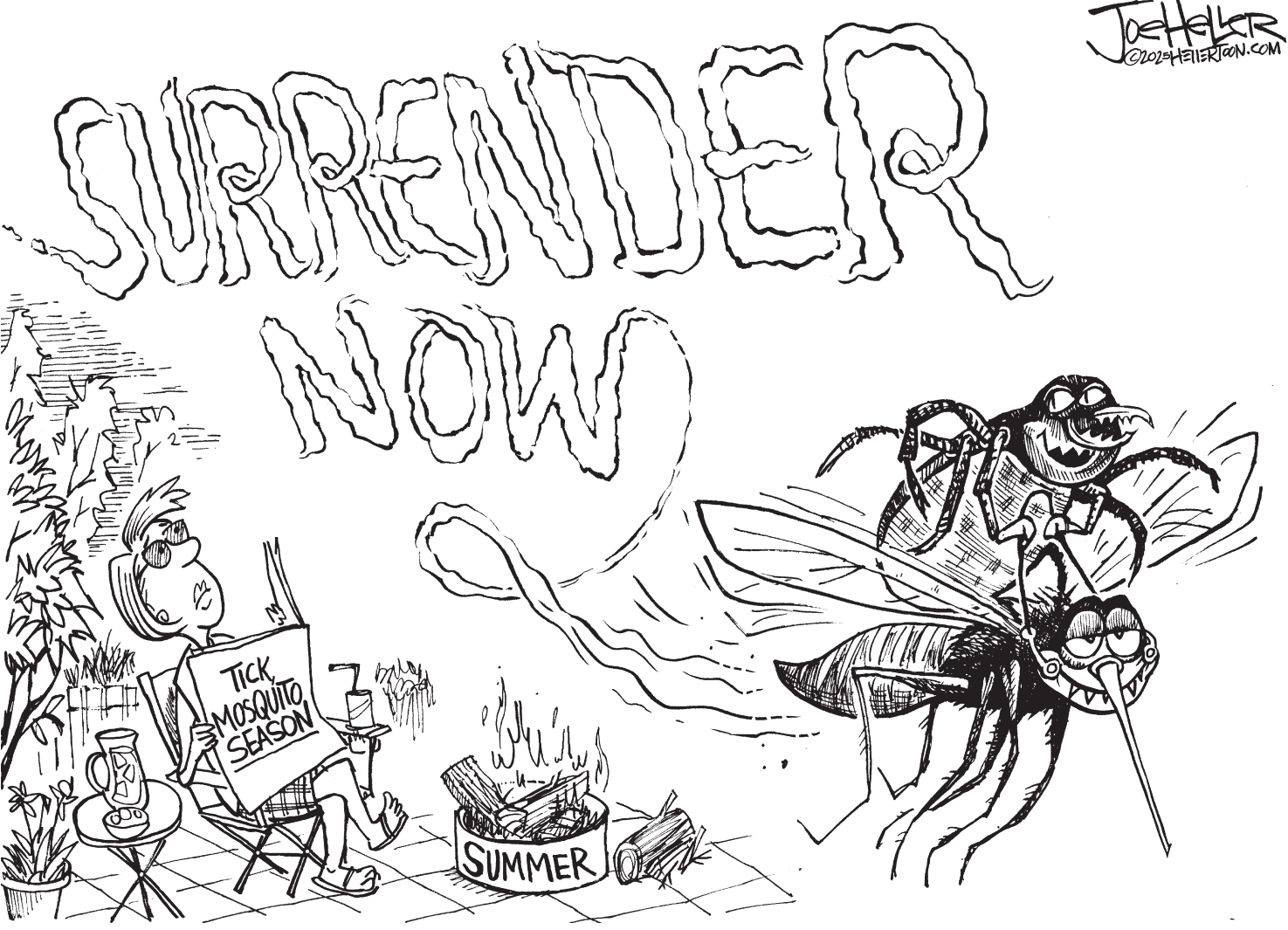


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The Citizen-Times

OPINION

JULY 17, 2025



Joe Heller
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By way of introduction this week, I invite you to listen to Scottsville Mayor’s Podcast for in-depth conversations about our city, its services, its opportunities and its challenges. The latest available broadcasts are discussions with GIS Analyst Jada Barnett and Police Chief Darren Tabor. Past broadcasts feature Senator Rand Paul, Representative James Comer, Judge-Executive Dennis Harper, IDA Director Johnny Hobdy, as well as several city officials and local residents who bring a unique perspective to what is happening and what is planned for our city. These podcasts are accessible from our city Facebook page, Pandora, Spotify, Amazon music, and pod apps on your phone.

Two large projects have been completed by city crews in the last couple of weeks—all in-house except for final paving. The barn crew did an outstanding job on the sewer repair project on N. Court. Because Hwy. 101 is a state road, the matter was complicated by permits, detour plans and coordination with the state. The issue was obvious for several days before we could begin repairs. I appreciate the citizens who let us know that there was a problem. I thank State Engineer Joe Plunk for expediting the process in Frankfort and Allen County State Highway Transportation Foreman Lee Blankenship for his assistance locally, allowing us to begin the project as quickly as we did and get it finished in like manner. The second project I refer to is the tile repair following the road collapse on E. Locust. Our barn department does a great job.

In other City Barn news, crews ran a



double garbage truck route on Monday due to the Independence Day holiday. Yes, that means there were two trucks in operation, and I am sure they were glad about that. The guys read meters, mowed and sprayed rights of way, installed a new grate on N. Court in front of Hobdy’s Florist and Neville Dental Studio, rodded out a sewer line on W. Maple Street and did some gas repair work at Deer Creek RV Park.

We have a new tool our customers can use to monitor water meter usage. It is called Water Smart, and you can find a link to it at cityofscottsville.org. Choose “residents,” then “utilities.” It clarifies your usage, identifying what in your home or business is using water at what rate—faucets, toilets, washing machine, dishwasher, etc. It can help you know your usage day by day and help you to respond in a way that impacts your monthly bill. My wife has become a super fan of this new available feature.

I am excited to announce that I signed the contract with United, our utilities billing vendor, to begin online payments for all utilities. We begin testing immediately and hope

to have the service available for the August billing cycle.

In this week’s Transit report, as of July 10, the service has provided 234 rides for the month and 5,688 rides for the calendar year. The stop of the month is The Medical Center at Scottsville. Thank you to the drivers for their dedication and courtesy and to our mechanic, Andy, for his diligent service.

Sign up for the Mayor’s Circle on the city Facebook page or website. It comes out monthly with information about what is happening in the city. The various departments of the city also provide updates. It is currently a monthly newsletter, but we are planning on making it bi-weekly in the near future.

The Scottsville-Allen County Emergency Communications Center is now hiring. You can go to their Facebook page for more information. Dispatch is the heart of emergency operations and city communication. It is a demanding but rewarding position.

I welcome your comments at david.burch@cityofscottsville.org. Keep up with our town 24/7 on EarthCam and the Scottsville Advisory App.

•WEATHER *Continued from page A1*

Weather Service, flash flooding can occur within a few hours of heavy rain and windfall, or by a dam or levee failing, or the sudden release of water from an ice jam.

Flooding is classified as whenever a usually dry area becomes inundated by an abnormally high water flow, and they develop slower than flash floods, generating over six hours.

Regardless, floodings are the largest cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms, with more than 90 fatalities each year on average.

“Don’t cross water,” David Calvert, the National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Observer for Allen County, expressed in a previous interview. “There’s a difference if you can see the black top, and it’s really shallow, running across that is fine, but if it’s a creek area, turn around. Don’t try it.”

The National Weather Service advises that six inches of fast-moving water can knock someone off their feet, with two feet of water being able to carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pick-up trucks.

Calvert explained in a previous interview that storm watches are advising that conditions are favorable for something to occur, whereas a warning is stating that there is actively a situation, whether that be a flood, tornado or even a thunderstorm.

“You really need to just kind of keep up on the weather when those alarms go off, until everything’s past and cleared,” Calvert added. “I’m sure everybody’s seen these destructions where a tornado hits, being EF1 through EF5, and what damage they do. But the biggest thing I’ve seen here in Allen County and Scottsville is

flash flooding.”

The National Weather Service advises that with flash flooding, people should avoid driving, walking or swimming in flood waters, and to stay away from high water, storm drains, ditches, ravines or culverts, and to keep children away from storm drains, and to be aware of road signs.

“That’s the biggest thing in Allen County and Scottsville,” Calvert said in a previous interview. “Not to say that wind, tornadoes and hail are not, but people have been irresponsible with that.”

Along with thunderstorms, lightning can pose a threat to life, as there is no safe place outdoors whenever there is a thunderstorm, being most common during summer afternoons and evenings, being a temperature of

WEATHER, Continued on page B4

Dave Says

Dear Dave,

I just started listening to your radio show a few months ago, and I love your advice. I do have a question about the order of two of the Baby Steps, though. The list puts saving for retirement ahead of putting money aside for college if you have kids. Why do you suggest this?

Jon

Dear Jon,

Setting aside a college fund for your kids is a really nice thing to do, if you can actually afford that kind of thing. But kids can also further their education by getting good grades, applying for scholarships, choosing a school they can afford and working their tails off while attending classes.

Trust me, I believe in education. The point is there are lots of ways to get a college degree—or complete career training at a technical or trade school—without your parents saving up and footing the bill.

Taking steps to begin saving for retirement comes before setting aside a college fund for kids, because everyone is going to retire someday. Unless, of course, they happen to die before reaching retirement age. So, in my mind funding retirement is basically a necessity. College, on the other hand, is a luxury. In fact, it’s often not the best route for someone to take when pursuing a career. Tons of folks succeed in life without going to a four-year school, and on top of that, thousands have worked their way through college.

That’s why it follows saving for retirement in the Baby Steps. Should you try to save up for your kid’s education? Sure, if you can. If you have the financial resources to do it, without putting your entire family’s future in jeopardy. But there are many parents out there who, for one reason or another, can’t pay a dime toward someone’s education. And that doesn’t make them bad parents.

The last time I checked, there aren’t any good ways to retire that don’t require getting your finances ready for retirement well ahead of time. And that requires putting aside as much money as possible to live on during your Golden Years. I mean, you can always live off Social Insecurity alone, but I don’t consider that to be a good plan—or a smart one.

Good question, Jon!

— Dave

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