

Patience this holiday

MAY 29, 2010

Memorial Day is upon us and as such the greater Cadillac area will be hosting tourists from all over the state and Midwest. As locals, we know tourism is of vital importance to our economy, so we want to make our visitors feel welcome. To do this, we all need to have a bit of patience with the guests who will be gracing our fair environs.

For example, many of our visitors will be people who have never seen a lake. You'll be able to spot them because they'll be the ones driving around Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell at about 12 miles per hour.

You'll have plenty of time to observe them because, if you're like me, you'll find yourself at the end of a quarter-mile line of traffic following behind the sightseers. As they putt-putt around a lake they'll point at the water, turn their heads sideways instead of looking at the road, and swerve into the bike lanes. Whatever you do, don't tell them those blobs on the water are ducks or it will take three hours to get from downtown to the state park. Patience, my friends, patience.

As long as we're going to be patient anyway, be sure to save an extra dollop if our guests are from Flint. They may be just looking for a place to get a good night's sleep uninterrupted by gunfire.

This Week State Senator John Gleason asked Gov. Granholm to help tackle violent crime in Flint because the

city "is on the brink of violence spiraling out of control." On the same day, former state representatives Vera Rison and Brenda Clack suggested the National Guard might be helpful in stemming recent violence and homicides in Flint. The Flint Journal reported that in the past 30 days, there have been more than 100 reported assaults in the city and nine homicides.

The mayor has asked criminals for a cease fire, but for some reason that hasn't worked. It should be noted that Flint, due to budget cuts, is down to just five police officers patrolling the entire city each night. This is what some would call "limited government."

OK, so you don't want to go out this holiday weekend. You'd rather stay home and avoid the hoo-hah. If so, the Russians would like it very much if you'd update your Facebook page.

Russian company Digital Sky Technologies just bought into Facebook for \$200 million. Said CEO Yuri Milner to the London Daily Telegraph: "Every single industry will get disrupted by the Internet. This is permanent, not cyclical. I am investing in disruptive companies."

Yup, your Facebook data will now be in the hands of this guy. No potential for she-



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nanigans here.

The world has gone bonkers and I can prove it! From now on, thanks to a new state law, voters dressed in chicken costumes won't be allowed inside Nevada polling places. State election officials have added chicken suits to the list of banned items. This came about because a person running for office suggested that people barter with doctors for

medical care, like when "our grandparents would bring a chicken to the doctor." Opponents responded by setting up a website, "Chickens for Checkups," and having people in chicken suits show up at political events. Under the new rule, chicken costumes will be banned along with political buttons, shirts, hats and signs within 100 feet of polling places.

I know what you're thinking ... "If they pass a law like this in Michigan, what am I going to wear when I go to vote?" Bonkers, eh?

The world is going bonkers and I can prove it — part two! According to USA Today, the Pentagon's bureaucracy is so bloated that it now takes "five four-star offices to approve a request to send a dog-handling team to Afghanistan."

Add to that, the U.S. now has a battle fleet larger than the next 13 navies (of other

countries) combined — and 11 of those are our allies. By the year 2020, the U.S. will have 20 times more advanced stealth fighter planes than China.

I want the country to be safe, but will adding a 14th layer to our naval superiority really accomplish anything? It's bonkers!

The world is going bonkers and I can prove it — part three! I'm not going to debate the merits of medical marijuana. The fact is that 13 states, Michigan included, have legalized the purchase of medical marijuana by the chronically ill if they have a doctor's prescription.

That said, however, according to the Associated Press at one point there were more "medical marijuana" shops in Los Angeles than there were Starbucks — 1,000 at one count.

Think about that. When you go to a big city it seems like there's a Starbucks on every corner. You mean to tell me there are so many people "chronically ill" who can only be treated by this one prescription that there needs to be 1,000 dispensaries for that one drug alone? There are more of those folks than coffee drinkers? Whole forests are being clear-cut just to produce the paper needed to print prescription pads? Is this bonkers or what?

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