



A Hancock County Democrat

Not affiliated with or approved by the Hancock County Democratic Party

Biden Pop-Up Booth Fun! Cathy M. Weygandt

It was our first day setting up the Hancock County pop-up tent for Biden last week. The Hancock County Democrats have a permit to set up on Main Cross in front of the Farmer Market on Thursdays until the market closes in October. This is to safely distribute campaign materials during these COVID times.

We didn't know what to expect, but it turned out to be an exhilarating experience. We were received with more positive responses than negative. We witnessed people driving around the block and coming back again, in disbelief, to obtain their Biden signs. Of course, there were a few rude shout-outs, but we just smiled and waved at them. I think perhaps the 3' x 5' BIDEN signs caught them off guard?

We did have a few brave enlightened former Republicans wanting signs, saying they just couldn't bring themselves in supporting Trump again. One bystander pointed out that she has noticed the absence of huge Trump support signs that are normally on Main Street by now. We distributed almost 50 signs in those two short hours, as well as bumper stickers and some facial masks.

Melissa Kritzell, candidate for County Commissioner, stopped by for a bit, as well as fresh faces from the Hancock County Young Democrats, Claire, and Juliette, to offer their support. It was fun



Lee and Cathy manning and womanning the booth

seeing all the different demographics of folks relieved to see a Biden booth in town. We even had someone from Crestline, Ohio stop and get a sign! We have some folks willing to put up the larger 3' x 5' signs in prominent places as well! And last but not least, Nick Rubando, District 5 (aka missing-in-action Latta's gerrymandered district) Congressional seat candidate, stopped in with his campaign manager. Not only did he drop off some more signs, but he also helped us dismantle the booth at the end. He will represent us all! Tip of the hat to Nick! <https://nickrubando.com/>

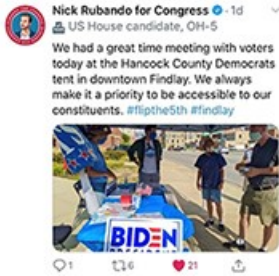
If you are interested in joining in on the fun, a few things to know:

1. There is no stopping or parking available in front of the booth on Main Cross. It is best to pull around to the Farmers Market, shop fresh produce locally, and then visit our booth. (continued on page 2)

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Biden Pop-Up Booth Fun! (continued from page 1)



2. The booth times are 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., Thursdays. We set-up at 3:00 P.M., take-down by 7:00 P.M.
3. Biden merchandise at the booth has been purchased with donated funds from the Clear Images shop in Toledo, made in the USA by Union labor. <https://www.clearimagestoledo.com/>
4. This is a small booth, following COVID guidelines. 2 masked volunteers at a time, room for extra volunteers on the peripheral to hold signs, watch/guide traffic. Please no food/drink on the table due to precautions
5. Suggested donation prices to cover costs: \$5.00 signs, \$2.00 large bumper stick, \$1.00 small bumper sticker, \$8.00 hats, and facial masks. It is a cash system for now, please.
- 6.
7. We will be receiving more supplies with time and now that the Vice President has been announced.

If the location is too difficult to walk to for you (it's a hike from the parking lot) or if you know of any invalids who want a sign, please contact Lee Weygandt by his e-mail address, and he'll get a sign to you. lweygandt@woh.rr.com

I smiled when I counted 4 BIDEN signs on our street already. "The times they are-a-changin'."

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The Attacks on Social Security and Medicare Bruce Workman



PoliticusUSA

Since it's inception, Republicans have tried to "gut" or get rid of Social Security. There was no program of Roosevelt's New Deal or Johnson's Great Society that seemingly did not offend their sensibilities. Four years before the passage of the Social Security Act, then Governor of New York, Franklin Roosevelt stated his preference for wage insurance to replace lost wages, "not merely...a roof over head and enough food, to keep body and soul together, but also enough income to maintain life during the balance of their days in accordance with the American standard of living." The Republicans responded—in their 1936 party platform—with, "Every American citizen over sixty-five should receive the supplementary payment necessary to provide a minimum income sufficient to protect him or her from want." If their recent unemployment benefits proposal is any

indication, an income at 81.5% of the poverty level for one person, is sufficient to replace wages.

Having passed its 85th anniversary, Social Security has proven to be effective and popular. Social Security provides benefits not available in the private sector at any cost. In short, if the SSA is privatized, beneficiaries will find themselves paying more and getting less—much like private health insurance. For this reason, Republicans have to be more deceptive and covert in their effort to undermine it.

The most continuous method employed by opponents is the propagation of myths. One is the argument that it is poor welfare, not targeting those who need it most; Social Security was never intended to fight poverty.

(continued on page 3)

The Attacks on Social Security and Medicare (continued from page 2)



Forbes

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It was and still is much more than that. Its purpose has always been to replace wages and allow people who are retired, disabled, or the survivor of a primary wage earner, to maintain their standards of living. Claims that it is anything else are dishonest and intended to mislead.

Another Republican ploy is to attempt to so division amongst beneficiaries and workers still paying into the system. I can not count the number of times that I have heard young people claim that the system will collapse before they retire, and they will never receive benefits. It is true that under the current “income cap” system, benefits will have to be reduced by 20% in 2035. What the Republicans fail to mention is that if the current exemption on income over \$137,700 annually (currently) would keep the system solvent for several more decades. The wealthy argue that since there is a limit on the amount of benefits they may collect, there should also be a limit on the payroll taxes collected to fund Social Security and Medicare. I do not know about you, but with the current wealth inequality, I find it impossible to empathize and hard to sympathize with the wealthy. Since corporations and the wealthy are the real Republican constituents, they are opposed to any proposal that would raise taxes on those who can most afford it.

While hard-working Americans contribute at a rate of 6.2% of their earnings, Willard Mitt Romney pays less than 0.2% on his substantial income. Apparently, he thinks even that is too much. Tucked away in the latest Senate -proposed COVID relief bill is the TRUST Act (the acronym for the ominously named Time to Rescue United States Trusts). This bit of legislative duplicity works by creating crises where none actually exists. The measure would require the Treasury issue reports, within 45 days, on the status of the Social Security,

Medicare, and federal highway trust funds, after which committees would be to “draft legislation that restores solvency and otherwise improves each trust fund program,” Romney stated. As previously pointed out, there is no current crisis in the Social Security trust.

Perhaps the best way to get an idea of a bill’s true intentions is to look at its biggest fans: Committee for a Responsible Budget (supported by hedge fund billionaire, Peter Simpson). Alan Simpson (who once describe Social Security as a” milk cow with 310 million tits”), ex-investment banker Erskine Boyles, American for Prosperity (financed by the Koch organization)., and its opponents: all Social Security advocates.

Republicans also claim they want to reduce these funds as a way of controlling deficits—certainly not the one they created by giving massive tax reductions to corporations and the wealthy. The problem with this argument is that .by law, the program cannot take from a surplus or add to the debt or deficit.

Maybe Trump’s payroll tax vacation is intended to split old voters (who are already turning against due to his botched coronavirus approach) from young voters (who may feel that they are getting screwed by the SSA, as mentioned before). Since many of the young people are unemployed, also largely for the same reason) I cannot see this as an effective strategy. Whenever attempting to ascertain the reasoning behind Trump’s action, it is essential to consider that maybe he is just one of those people who want to see the world burn.

The most logical explanation for Republican motives for attaching these and other social services plans is their unstated program to make the rich richer at the expense of the rest of us.

How has Trump Handled the Pandemic?

Bruce Workman

A recent NBC News/Survey Monkey poll found that 58% of all Americans, 93% of Democrats, and 66% of Independents do not trust what Trump says about the Coronavirus. Did you think the numbers would be higher? So did I. There is another group that is skewing the numbers lower. 86% of Republicans indicated they were willing to continue to indulge in steaming fresh piles of Trump bullshit.

Perhaps the best way to gauge the effectiveness of Trump's response to the immense and enduring COVID-19 pandemic is to look back at the history of his tweets, spoken words, actions, and inactions on the topic:

As early as 2017, Trump administration officials were briefed on a playbook to address emerging infectious diseases. The playbook suggested the procurement of PPE for healthcare workers as soon as a threat was identified and stockpiling tests and diagnostic procedures to monitor the spread of the disease.

In May 2018, on the 100th anniversary of the 1918 pandemic, Dr. Luciana Borio, Director for Medical and Biodefense Preparedness at the National Security Council, stated that "pandemic flu" was the "number one health security issue" and the U.S. was unprepared for it. The following day, her boss, Senior Director Rear Admiral Timothy Ziemer, was fired, and the team disbanded. Beth Cameron, the former senior director, called it "a situation that should be rectified immediately." It never was.

In January 2019, the director of National Intelligence issued the assessment of threats to national security. Included in this assessment was the statement, "We assess that the United States and the world will remain vulnerable to the next flu pandemic

or large scale outbreak of a contagious disease that could lead to massive rate of death and disability, severely affect the world economy, strain international resources, and increase calls on the United States for support."

So much for 'everyone was taken by surprise.' Statements such as those reflect on either the speaker's dishonesty or ignorance

In September 2019, the Trump Administration ended PREDICT, the pandemic early warning program designed to train scientists in China and other countries to identify viruses that could lead to pandemics. According to the Las Angeles Times, "field work ceased when funding ran out in September," two months before COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan Province.

On January 8, 2020, the CDC issued an official health advisory about COVID-19. On January 18, after two weeks of attempts, Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex Azar, spoke to Trump about the virus. Trump immediately switched the topic to vaping. On January 20, the first case was reported in Everett, Washington. On January 28. Critical shortages of PPE were reported. Trump still does nothing.

On February 5, 2020, Alex Azar requests \$2 billion to "buy respirator masks and other supplies for a depleted federal stockpile of emergency supplies. The White House rejected his request, and a 500-million-dollar request is sent to Congress two weeks later. On February 26, Trump complained about funding for "the wall."

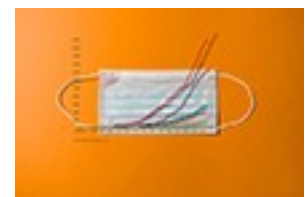
Those were his actions or inactions, now let us explore what he has said and tweeted:

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Brian Stauffer

“86% of Republicans indicated they were willing to continue to indulge in steaming fresh piles of Trump bullshit.”



Shutterstock

How has Trump Handled the Pandemic? (continued from page 4)



Washington Post

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- January 22, 2020: "We have it totally under control. It's one person coming in from China, and we have it under control. It's going to be just fine."
- January 24, 2020: Trump tweets, "China has been working very hard to contain the Coronavirus. The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency. It will all work out well. In particular, on behalf of the American People, I want to thank President Xi!"
- January 30, 2020: At a campaign rally, "We only have five people. Hopefully, everything's going to be great. They have somewhat of a problem, but hopefully, it's all going to be great. But we're working with China, just so you know, and other countries very, very closely. So it doesn't get out of hand. But it's, you know, it's something that we have to be very, very careful with, right? We have to be very careful."
- February 2, 2020: On Fox News, "We pretty much shut it down coming in from China."
- February 4, 2020: In the State of the Union address, "We are coordinating with the Chinese government and working closely together on the coronavirus outbreak in China. My administration will take all necessary steps to safeguard our citizens from this threat."
- February 10, 2020: At another campaign rally, "Looks like by April, you know, in theory, when it gets a little warmer, it miraculously goes away. I hope that's true. But we're doing great in our country. China, I spoke with President Xi, and they're working very, very hard. And I think it's going to all work out fine."
- February 24, 2020: Trump tweets, "The Coronavirus is very much under control in the USA. We are in contact with everyone and all relevant countries. CDC & World Health have been working hard and very smart. Stock Market starting to look very good to me!"
- February 28, 2020: At a campaign rally, "Now the Democrats are politicizing the Coronavirus. ... One of my people came up to me and said, 'Mr. President, they tried to beat you on Russia, Russia, Russia.' That didn't work out too well. They couldn't do it. They tried the impeachment hoax. That was on a perfect conversation. They tried anything; they tried it over and over. ... And this is their new hoax."
- March 5, 2020: In a tweet, "Gallup just gave us the highest rating ever for the way we are handling the CoronaVirus situation. The April 2009-10 Swine Flu, where nearly 13,000 people died in the U.S., was poorly handled." Note: the current death toll from COVID-19 in the U.S. is approaching 170,000.
- March 10, 2020: To reporters, "This was unexpected. ... And it hit the world. And we're prepared, and we're doing a great job with it. And it will go away. Just stay calm. It will go away."
- March 16, 2020: While announcing social distancing guidelines, "My administration is recommending that all Americans, including the young and

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How has Trump Handled the Pandemic? (continued from page 5)

healthy, work to engage in schooling from home when possible. Avoid gathering in groups of more than ten people. Avoid discretionary travel. And avoid eating and drinking at bars, restaurants, and public food courts. If everyone makes ... these critical changes and sacrifices now, we will rally together as one nation, and we will defeat the virus. And we're going to have a big celebration all together. With several weeks of focused action, we can turn the corner and turn it quickly."

- March 17, 2020: At a task force briefing, "We're getting rid of this virus. That's what we're doing. That's the best thing we can do. By the way, for the markets, for everything — it's very simple, very simple solution. We want to get rid of it. We want to have very — as few deaths as possible. This is a horrible thing."
- March 22, 2020, the day Mike DeWine issued the stay-at-home order, "Tweety" tweets a Fox News opinion, "WE CANNOT LET THE CURE BE WORSE THAN THE PROBLEM ITSELF. AT THE END OF THE 15 DAY PERIOD, WE WILL MAKE A DECISION AS TO WHICH WAY WE WANT TO GO!"
- March 23, 2020: 140 deaths later at a task force briefing, "America will again, and soon, be open for business — very soon — a lot sooner than three or four months that somebody was suggesting. A lot sooner. We cannot let the cure be worse than the problem itself. We're not going to let the cure be worse than the problem."
- March 25, 2020: One day after the

"Open by Easter" interview at a task force briefing. "Nobody would ever believe a thing like that's possible. Nobody could have ever seen something like this coming, but now we know, and we know it can happen and happen again." Note: See the timeline from 2017 to February 2020.

- April 3, 2020: At a task force briefing, "It's going to be, really, a voluntary thing. You can do it. You don't have to do it. I'm choosing not to do it, but some people may want to do it, and that's OK. It may be good. Probably will. They're making a recommendation. It's only a recommendation."
- April 13, 2020: In a task force briefing, "I'm going to put it very simply: The president of the United States has the authority to do what the president has the authority to do, which is very powerful. The president of the United States calls the shots." Yes, King Donald.
- April 14, 2020: At a task force briefing, "Today I am instructing my administration to halt funding of the World Health Organization while a review is conducted to assess [its] role in severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of the Coronavirus." Damn, them for trying to alert people to the danger!
- April 24, 2020: At a task force briefing, "So I asked Bill (Bryan, head of the science and technology directorate at the DHS) a question some of you are thinking of if you're into that world, which I find to be pretty interesting. So,



Getty Images

"Nobody could have ever seen something like this coming, but now we know, and we know it can happen and happen again."

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How has Trump Handled the Pandemic? (continued from page 6)

supposing we hit the body with a tremendous, whether its ultraviolet or just very powerful light, and I think you said, that hasn't been checked, but you're gonna test it. And then I said, supposing it brought the light inside the body, which you can either do either through the skin or some other way, and I think you said you're gonna test that too, sounds interesting. And I then I see the disinfectant, where it knocks it out in one minute and is there a way you can do something like that by injection inside, or almost a cleaning. Because you see it gets in the lungs, and it does a tremendous number on the lungs. So it'd be interesting to check that. So you're going to have to use medical doctors, but it sounds interesting to me, so we'll see. But the whole concept of the light, the way it goes in one minute, that's pretty powerful."

April 24 is approximately the date when most sources quit building timelines of Trump quotes. I think it had something to do with the inject bleach and put a U.V. light up your butt suggestions. Since then, he has shut down any expert who disagreed with his unscientific pronouncements on a subject that requires expertise.

Taken with all of these actions and comments and combined with an extensive record of pathological lying, leaves us with a fundamental question. How can anybody still believe this guy on something as crucial as a pandemic that has infected over 5 million people and caused over 165,000 deaths in the U.S. alone? An answer to this question evades me. Could it be that Trump's supporters suffer from the same inherent dishonesty and ignorance as him? Note: Since I don't edit quotes, the spelling and grammar checkers were overworked while quoting Trump.

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There Is No 'Russia Vaccine'

Alexandra Marvar, *The Daily Beast*, August 11, 2020

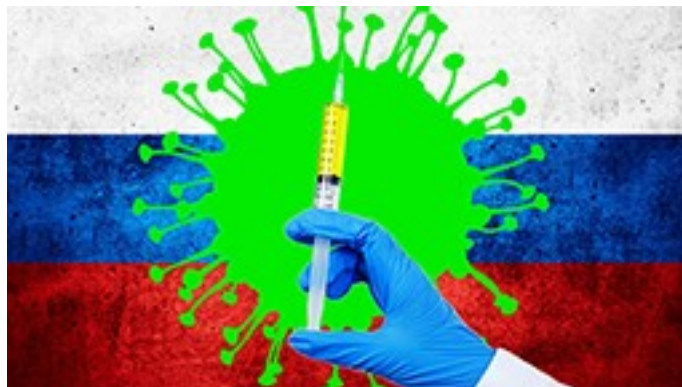


Photo Illustration by The Daily Beast/Getty

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There Is No ‘Russia Vaccine’ (continued from page 7)

Here’s one way to get mass participation in your experimental vaccine clinical trials: Don’t call it experimental, and don’t call it a trial.

Russian President Vladimir Putin made headlines Tuesday by announcing that the country had developed and registered the world’s first coronavirus vaccine. In a televised video conference with government ministers, he said the new Gam-Covid-Vac Lyo, developed by Russian scientists at Moscow’s Gamaleya Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, was so safe and effective that his daughter and a top government official have already taken it. In touting the new drug, he insisted it had passed “all needed checks” despite the fact it hasn’t undergone phase 3 trials—a fact that has horrified vaccine experts in the U.S. who are trying to parse the science from the PR spin.

“Until it has been tested in randomized clinical trials in tens of thousands of patients and the results are carefully reviewed by regulators, there is no ‘Russia vaccine,’” Dr. Henry I. Miller, PRI Senior Fellow and founding former director of the FDA’s Office of Biotechnology, wrote in a direct message to The Daily Beast. “There’s only a candidate vaccine.”

That said, a candidate is a candidate. Gamaleya has been churning out immunological research since 1891, and they may even have the advantage of the Russian state’s vaccine espionage efforts on their side — but without proper testing, it’s a roll of the dice.

What’s Your Vector, Vladimir? The Gamaleya vaccine is based on a viral

vector—or a vehicle—that delivers genetic information to the human immune system to help it fend off the novel coronavirus.

In this case, that vehicle is a common cold virus called the adenovirus, and tucked inside it are genetic instructions, or RNA, for the formation of antibodies to prevent the coronavirus’ signature spiky proteins from taking hold.

This adenovirus vector approach is so cutting-edge, it was only just approved for the first time on July 1 of this year by Europe’s regulatory body for an Ebola virus vaccine, and while no adenovirus-vectored vaccines have yet made it to market, there are several in trials—including leading U.S. and Chinese coronavirus vaccine candidates: Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, and CanSino are each working with altered, harmless adenovirus strains as delivery mechanisms for RNA.

CanSino Biologics in China, which announced its phase 3 trial in Saudi Arabia on August 9, uses adenovirus strain Ad5 as its vector. In late June, after promising phase 2 trials, the Chinese military approved it for early use. And Johnson & Johnson, which plans to launch Phase 3 trial in September, uses Ad26 as its key ingredient—the same strain it used in its experimental Ebola vaccine.

Gamaleya uses a combination of both—Ad5 and Ad26.

Rushed and Reckless: Naor Bar-Zeev, an associate professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the

“...despite the fact it hasn’t undergone phase 3 trials—a fact that has horrified vaccine experts in the U.S. who are trying to parse the science from the PR spin.”



Theo Moudakis
The Toronto Star

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There Is No ‘Russia Vaccine’ (continued from page 8)

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deputy director of the International Vaccine Access Center, believes the science behind Russia’s vaccine may be promising. In a recent paper in *The Lancet*, published alongside the “promising” results and “reassuring” safety findings of two other candidates that use the adenovirus vector approach, he called the technology innovative, efficient, and full of potential.

“But when things are urgent,” Bar-Zeev writes, “we must proceed cautiously.” And Russia’s approach demonstrates a terrifying lack of caution.

Limited information is available about their phase 1 and 2 trials, and few to none of the results have been peer-reviewed or published. Their plan appears to be to replace phase 3 trials with administering the supposedly approved shot to “tens of thousands” of people in the coming weeks, including teachers and health-care workers, and then asking them to “document how they are feeling,” while simultaneously putting 30 million doses into production.

Phase 3 trials are a critical step in establishing a vaccine’s efficacy and safety before securing regulatory approval. Without phase 3 results to share, Bar-Zeev told the *Daily Beast*, two critical questions are left unanswered: Does the vaccine work? And a question that has become even more make-or-break as sentiments of vaccine skepticism grow more widespread: Can the vaccine itself do harm?

It’s Not So Simple: As to the basic question of efficacy, it may be close to impossible to know, at this early stage, whether Russia’s vaccine works.

“We need to know if there is efficacy in subgroups,” Bar-Zeev said. “I really want to know that this vaccine works in African Americans. I really want to know if it works in Latin populations. I want to know that it works in the elderly. Ideally, I’d like to know

that it works in diabetics or people with obesity,” groups in which many vaccines tend to be less effective, and groups that are inherently more vulnerable to coronavirus symptoms and fatality.

The more specifics you add to the inquiry, he said, the larger an effective trial needs to be.

According to Bar-Zeev, previous clinical trials of adenovirus-vectored vaccines have yielded “less than exciting results in the performance.” In past trials for adenovirus-vectored flu and rabies vaccines, he said, “the phase 2 trials and the animal studies looked good, and then it didn’t translate to very high efficacy in the human phase 3 trials. And that yet may be the case—where we may be super excited about the phase 2, and be slightly disappointed with the phase 3.”

He added that one drawback of adenovirus vectors is that it is possible for a person to have pre-existing immunity to the vector. “It depends on which adenovirus you use. If you use a vector that I’ve encountered in my life previously, I might be immune to the vaccine—kind of vaccinated against the vaccine.”

This is why AstraZeneca’s candidate, developed by scientists at Oxford University, which recently launched its own large-scale phase 3 trials, uses a chimpanzee adenovirus, ChAdOx1, which would theoretically solve for the possibility of existing human immunity.

Gamaleya’s dual-adenovirus approach may do the same, but without a formal Gam-Covid-Vac Lyo phase 3 trial, there will be no way to know.

But, Bar-Zeev added, “Hopefully we won’t be disappointed. This is a race where we want more than one winner. We want as many winners as possible.”

Saturday August 15, 2020 Distribute Literature for the Judicial Coordinated Campaign! 9—11am, 11am-1pm, 1pm-3pm [sign up here](#)

There is an alleged no-knock canvassing event for Nick Rubandao today, but I don't have any details,

Sunday August 16, 2020 3 p.m. Hancock County Phonebank w/ Melissa Kritzell [sign up here](#)

Monday August 17, 2020 Lima-Sandusky Phonebank - Princeton for Joe Biden [sign up here](#)

Democratic National Convention 9pm—11pm [watch it live here](#)

Tuesday August 18, 2020 Democratic National Convention 9pm—11pm [watch it live here](#)

Wednesday August 19, 2020 Democratic National Convention 9pm—11pm [watch it live here](#)

Thursday August 20 2020 Biden Pop-up Tent 4-6 pm in front of the Marathon Performing Arts Center

Evening of Remembrance for Women's Suffrage 6:30 – 10 PM Public · Hosted by Hancock County Democrats and Black Heritage Library & Multi-cultural Center

Democratic National Convention 9pm—11pm [watch it live here](#)

Friday August 21, 2020 Lima-Sandusky Friday Phonebank 5—7pm [sign up here](#)

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\$18

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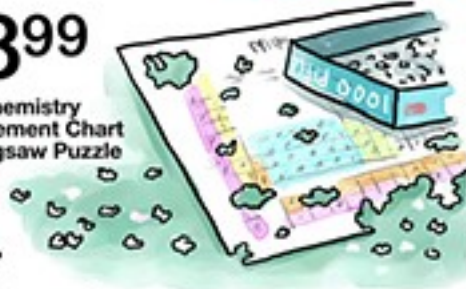
\$3⁹⁹

Multi-colored Back-to School Scented Face Masks
500 pack assorted. Scents include: chlorinated pool, hot dogs, gym locker room, lilacs, and new textbook smell



\$8⁹⁹

Chemistry Element Chart Jigsaw Puzzle



Pandemic Monopoly! The newest bored game

\$7⁹⁹



Germey keyboard? Contagious mouse? Hungry?

\$2⁹⁹

Kids Safe Edible Computer Disinfectant Wipes



\$11

Rubber Gloves Box of 10,000. With cheat notes.



Back-to-School Fashion

The latest bath robes and pajama styles for kids.

\$12



Colossal School Backpacks Are Here

Keep classmates six feet back. Excellent for bringing home rolls of toilet paper from school lavatories.



\$18

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ABOUT

“A Hancock County Democrat is not approved by any formal organization of the Democratic Party.

Guest submissions are welcome. Please submit any work you would like to see published here to : [Bruce Workman](#)

Correction: Jeffrey Stites lost to Shannon Freshour by 47.5% to 29.0% or an 18.5% deficit. In the August 7 issue, I reported this as a 14-point loss.