



KEISER NEWS

"Small town, big heart - that's Keiser!"

2025

July Newsletter

Vol 27

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

I've recently heard from a few residents who have questioned the need for the grants the City of Keiser has received. I want to take a moment to share what I've done since taking office and why I believe the direction we've taken is not only necessary, but responsible and forward-thinking.

When I first came into office, I didn't rush into making changes. I started by evaluating every part of the city. I got to know our employees—what their roles were, what tools they needed to do their jobs, and where their strengths and weaknesses lay. I took a close look at our finances. I needed to understand where our money came from, how it was being spent, and what safeguards were in place. I learned the water system, how the front office operated, and dove into understanding how grants work. Some issues were immediately obvious—what I'd call "low-hanging fruit"—and I didn't hesitate to put better procedures in place. One employee jokingly said I came in like a "wrecking ball," and in some ways, I did—but only to rebuild a better structure for our future.

Once I had a good working knowledge of the city, I developed a plan. I broke down everything that needed attention into categories: Critical Items, Necessary Items, and Items That Can Wait. From there, I got to work—starting with the Critical Items.

First: Securing Our Funds. When I arrived, there were no set policies to handle the money that came into City Hall. Cash drawers weren't being balanced daily. Today, we balance every single penny, every single day. That's not just good practice—it's accountability.

Second: Infrastructure. If we want to grow, we have to have a strong foundation. While our water system was in decent shape, our

sewer system was not. Everyone knows how our sewer backs up during heavy rain. We've already replaced two major lift stations, cleaned the entire sewer system, and we're preparing to replace almost all of the sewer lines in the coming months.

Third: Community Safety. Every resident deserves to feel safe. We've invested in better equipment, brought in officers who are trained and committed to this community, and made safety a top priority.

Fourth: City Park. A thriving park is the heart of any small town. It's where families gather, children play, and adults walk or exercise. We've been focused on making our park a place of pride—adding new equipment, improving safety, and creating areas for people of all ages to enjoy.

All of these improvements require funding. While we've had enough money to keep things running, we didn't have the resources to make the big changes that Keiser truly needed. That's where the grants come in. I've spent countless hours studying, researching, and applying for grants that would directly benefit our community.

To date, the City of Keiser has submitted 82 grant applications. We've been awarded 25 of those, and we're still waiting on decisions for 15 more. In total, we've secured \$4.9 million in grant funding. That money isn't for fluff—it's for real, measurable improvements that strengthen our community, support our families, and prepare Keiser for the future.

We're building momentum, and I'm hopeful that we'll continue moving forward. Everything we're doing is for one reason: to make Keiser stronger, safer, and better for generations to come. Thank you for being part of this journey.

City Council meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. All welcome.

Follow us on Facebook and at our website

Water bills due the 16th of each month. Late charges will be applied on the 17th and shutoff on the 27th unless the 27th is Friday.

Remember riding ATV's on city streets is a violation of state law and will be enforced.

Remember the city has a leash law. If you are walking your dog in the city limits they **MUST** be on a leash. No exceptions.

If you have not yet registered your dog or cat. Please come to City Hall and do so.

Disclaimer: The City of Keiser strives to ensure that all information published in this newsletter is accurate and up to date. However, errors or omissions may occur, and information is subject to change. The City of Keiser is not liable for any misprints, incorrect data, or reliance on the information contained in this publication.

Home owners and contractors are required to notify city hall before any mechanical excavation can be done.

City Hall—870-526-2300

New City Hall Hours

Hours 8:00am to 4:45pm M-F
Closed 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch

Glenn Dunn III - Chief of Police

Summer is in full swing and we are all feeling the heat. When it comes to your furry friends, please make sure if they are outside that they have access to food, water, and shelter. City Ordinance 2021-1 requires any dogs outside of their home to be withing an enclosed fence with a minimum of 4 feet in height or tethered to keep the dog within the property and a beware of dog sign clearly posted.

Our Helmets for Heroes program was a hit and we are very nearly out of helmets, with only 3 pink helmets left. We still have prizes for those heroes that wear their helmets while enjoying riding their bike, scooter, etc. We love to see our children being safe and coming to see us at city hall to claim their prizes.

As a reminder, Arkansas state statute 27-21-106 states :

It is unlawful for a person to operate an all-terrain vehicle on a public street or highway of this state, even if the all-terrain vehicle otherwise meets the equipment standards of § 27-20-104.

There are exceptions to this law when it comes to hunting or farming operations, but those exceptions are not valid when

operating within a municipality. Please take your ATVs outside of the city to enjoy them safely. I want to personally thank the citizens who helped us in recovering missing property belonging to our Public Works department. It takes a village and it makes me proud to know that I serve a city filled with such great people.

We are currently looking for citizens of Keiser to join a neighborhood watch. We need citizens who are looking to provide support in the form of being watchful for suspicious activity, communicating with other watch members coordinating and communicating with the Police Department to identify areas of the city where criminal activity may be taking place. There will be a sign-up sheet at the counter at City Hall for those that are interested.

Our child ID kits are available as well, bring your children to city hall for fingerprints and take home your kit to keep as reference. The Police Department will not be retaining any of the information, only providing fingerprints for the kit. This program is free of charge and open to anyone interested. If you have any questions, contact us at City Hall. 870-526-2300

Penny Wilbanks - Recorder/Financial Director

Serving with Respect: Dealing with the Public in Local Government

In municipal government, one of the most important roles we play is serving the public. Whether it's answering a question at the front desk, helping resolve a concern, or issuing permits, our daily interactions with residents shape how our city is viewed-and how effectively we operate.

Professionalism Matters

Every citizen deserves to be treated with respect and fairness. Maintaining a professional attitude, even in difficult situations, builds trust and reinforces that we are here to serve. Listening attentively, staying calm, and providing accurate information go a long way in resolving most issues.

Patience and Understanding

It's important to remember that when people contact City Hall, they may be facing stress, confusion, or frustra-

tion. Patience is key. Often, just taking the time to explain a process or policy clearly can turn a difficult conversation into a positive experience.

Consistency and Fairness

Public service must be impartial. Applying rules, ordinances, and procedures equally ensures that every citizen is treated fairly. It also helps avoid misunderstandings and ensures confidence in local government.

Working Together

Positive public interaction isn't a one-person job—it's team effort. Whether you're a clerk, maintenance worker, police officer, or department head, how we communicate and collaborate reflects the character of our entire city.

By approaching every interaction with empathy, professionalism, and a spirit of service, we build stronger connections between City Hall and the community we proudly serve.

Neal Brown - Director of Public Works



City of Keiser Legislative and Water Audits

Each year, the City of Keiser undergoes two important audits to ensure we are operating with financial transparency, accountability, and responsibility. These audits play a vital role in keeping our city in good standing and building trust with our residents. These audits were over our FY2023 Legislative and FY2024 Water System.

The first is a **Legislative Audit**, which is conducted and paid for by the State of Arkansas. This audit reviews the city's general financial practices, procedures, and controls. It ensures that the city is following state laws and financial guidelines, and that public funds are being managed properly. The audit looks at everything from payroll and expenditures to how we handle grants and city operations.

The second is our **Water System Audit**, which the city is required to pay for each year at a cost of \$3,000. This audit takes a deep dive into every financial aspect of our water operations. It reviews billing procedures, payments, receipts, and tracks all funds received from water-related grants and loans. It also checks that our documentation and recordkeeping meet state and federal requirements.

I am **THRILLED** to report that the City of Keiser passed **both audits with ZERO writeups** — a truly exceptional result! This means there were no findings, no recommendations for improvement, and no issues with how the city manages its funds or records.

A special thank you goes to **Penny Wilbanks, our Financial Director**, whose diligence, attention to detail, and commitment to excellence made this outstanding outcome possible. GREAT job, Penny! Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we are proud to have you as part of the team.

Passing these audits is no small feat and reflects the strength and integrity of our city staff. As always, we remain committed to running Keiser with transparency, efficiency, and pride.



Celebrating the 4th of July – A Time to Remember and Reflect

The 4th of July is one of the most important days in American history. It marks the day when our country declared its independence from Great Britain. On July 4, 1776, the leaders of the thirteen American colonies signed the Declaration of Independence, a powerful document that said the colonies would no longer be ruled by the British king. Instead, they would create a new nation where people had the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Writing and signing the Declaration was a bold act. The men who signed it, like Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin, knew it could cost them their lives. But they believed that freedom was worth fighting for.

After the Declaration was signed, the colonies went to war against Great Britain. The war was long and hard, lasting about eight years. Many people gave their lives so that future generations could live in a free country. When the colonies finally won, the United States of America was born. Over two hundred forty years later, we still remember and celebrate the courage and sacrifice of those who made our independence possible. The 4th of July is not just a holiday. It is a reminder of how far we've come and why freedom matters.

Today, the 4th of July is celebrated across the country with fireworks, parades, family cookouts, and music. People fly American flags, wear red, white, and blue, and spend time with family and friends. At night, the sky lights up with colorful fireworks as people watch with pride and joy. These traditions remind us of the excitement and hope our Founding Fathers felt when they dreamed of a new nation. But this day is about more than fun. It is about remembering our country's history and the values we stand for—freedom, fairness, and unity.

Living in a free country is something we should never take for granted. Not everyone in the world has the same rights we do. Here in America, we can speak our minds, vote in elections, worship freely, and make choices about how we live. These rights are protected by laws and by the brave men and women who serve in the military, as well as those who work in police, fire, and emergency services. On the 4th of July, we honor their service and thank them for keeping our communities safe.

The American flag is one of the most powerful symbols of our country. The thirteen stripes on the flag represent the original colonies, and the fifty stars represent each state in the union. When we stand for the national an-

them or recite the Pledge of Allegiance, we are showing respect for our country, our history, and the people who made our freedom possible. The flag reminds us that even though we come from different places and backgrounds, we are all united as Americans.

The 4th of July also reminds us to be good citizens. That means doing our part to make our communities better. Whether it's helping a neighbor, picking up trash, voting, volunteering, or simply being kind, every small action makes a difference. Being free means we also have responsibilities. We should use our voices to stand up for what is right and to help others whenever we can. The people who built this country believed that we are stronger when we work together. That message still holds true today.

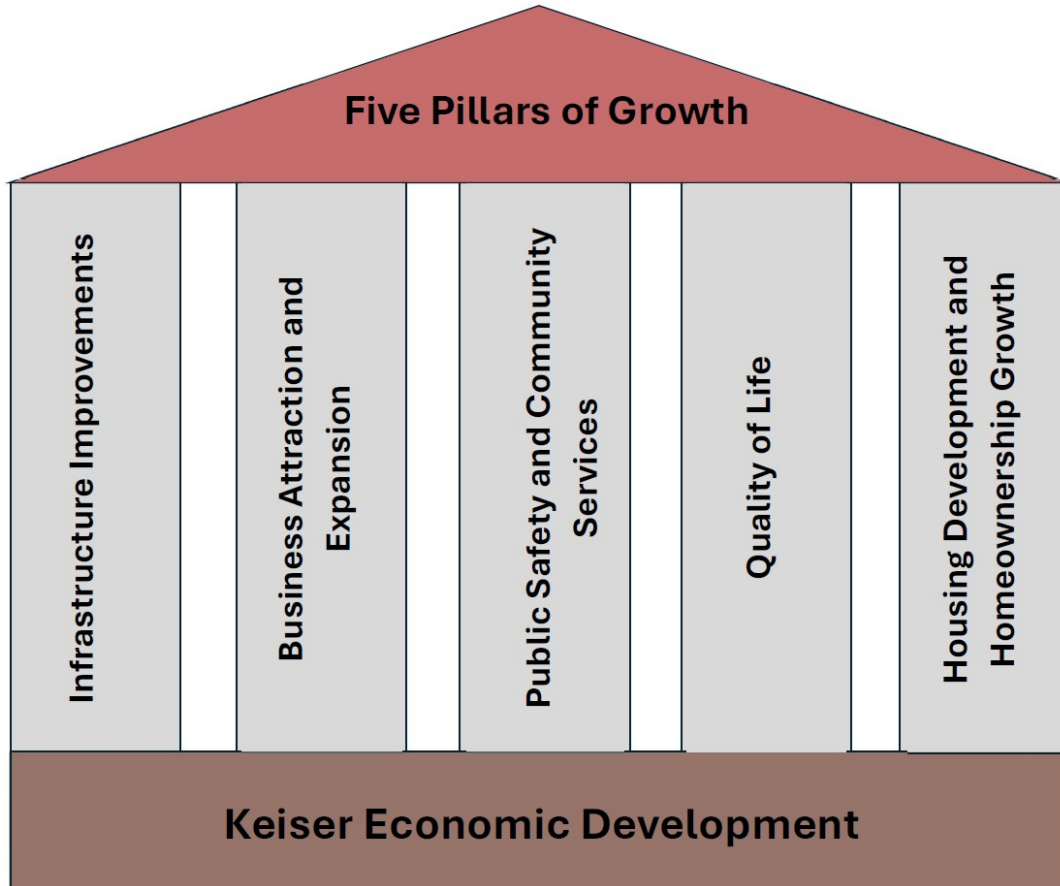
As we enjoy the celebrations, it's a good time to think about the future too. What kind of country do we want to leave for the next generation? How can we teach our children about the importance of freedom, responsibility, and respect for others? These are questions we should all ask ourselves, not just on the 4th of July, but all year long. The work of building a better country is never done, and each of us has a role to play.

The 4th of July is more than just a date. It's a celebration of who we are as a nation. It's a time to remember the bravery of those who came before us, to reflect on the blessings we enjoy today, and to look ahead with hope. Whether you celebrated with fireworks, family, or a quiet moment of gratitude, the meaning of Independence Day lives on. Let's continue to carry the spirit of freedom in our hearts and work together for a brighter future.

Happy 4th of July—and may freedom always ring across this great land.



Five Pillars of Economic Growth for Keiser



City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45
Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

July in History: A Month of Change, Courage, and Celebration

July is a special month in the United States. It's when families gather for cookouts, fireworks light up the sky, and communities come together to celebrate the nation's independence. But beyond the flags and festivities, July has also been the backdrop for many major events that shaped our country's history. From the birth of the nation to important moments in civil rights, science, and global leadership, July stands as a month of reflection and transformation.

The most recognized event in July is **July 4, 1776**—the day the **Declaration of Independence** was adopted by the Continental Congress. With that bold action, 13 colonies formally broke away from British rule and began building a new nation founded on the principles of liberty and self-government. Every Fourth of July since, Americans have honored this milestone with celebrations big and small, remembering the courage it took to stand up for freedom.

Almost a century later, another major July event occurred: the **Battle of Gettysburg**, fought from **July 1 to 3, 1863**, during the Civil War. This bloody three-day battle became a turning point in the conflict, ending General Robert E. Lee's invasion of the North and leading to a critical Union victory. With over 50,000 casualties, it remains the deadliest battle on American soil. Later that year, President Abraham Lincoln would visit the site to deliver the Gettysburg Address, one of the most powerful speeches in American history.

Another key July milestone came in the fight for civil rights. On **July 2, 1964**, President **Lyndon B. Johnson** signed the **Civil Rights Act** into law. This landmark legislation outlawed segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination based on race, religion, or gender. It was a major victory for the Civil Rights Movement and laid the groundwork for additional protections and equal treatment under the law.

In a moment that united people around the globe, **July 20, 1969**, marked one of the greatest achievements in science and exploration: the **moon landing**. American astronauts **Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin** became the first humans to walk on the moon, fulfilling President Kennedy's challenge to reach the moon before the end of the decade. Millions watched as Armstrong stepped onto the lunar surface and declared, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

The month of July also played a role in America's foundation of communication. On **July 26, 1775**, the **U.S. Postal System** was created, and **Benjamin Franklin** was appointed as the first Postmaster General. This new system was vital to keeping the colonies connected and would later grow into a nationwide service that shaped communication, business, and government.

Some events in July reflect serious turning points for the country and the world. On **July 16, 1945**, the **first successful test of an atomic bomb** was conducted in New Mexico. Known as the Trinity Test, it marked the beginning of the nuclear age. Less than a month later, nuclear weapons would be used in World War II, changing the course of history and global politics forever.

July has also been a month of progress in health and public safety. On **July 1, 1946**, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** was founded in Atlanta. Starting as an agency focused on malaria control, the CDC has grown to play a central role in protecting public health and responding to disease outbreaks in the U.S. and beyond.

Another important milestone came on **July 26, 1990**, when the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** was signed into law. This legislation banned discrimination against people with disabilities and ensured greater access to jobs, transportation, and public spaces. It helped make communities more inclusive and gave millions of Americans new opportunities and protections.

Even in cultural history, July has brought about exciting changes. **Disneyland** opened on **July 17, 1955**, in Anaheim, California, changing the world of family entertainment forever. Walt Disney's vision of a magical theme park became reality and inspired a new era of creativity and imagination that still draws millions of visitors each year.

From independence and civil rights to space exploration and social change, the month of July has been central to the American story. It's a time to celebrate not only where we came from but also how far we've come. These events remind us that progress is often made through courage, vision, and the belief that we can do better. As we enjoy the sunshine and summer traditions, it's worth remembering the powerful history behind this remarkable month.

Vandalism at the City Park Undermines Community Progress

On the night of Friday, June 13th, our City Park experienced an unfortunate act of vandalism. Around 9:10 PM, two individuals were seen removing a piece of the newly installed playground equipment and taking it from the park. Thankfully, Chief Dunn and the Keiser Police Department acted quickly. The missing equipment was recovered, and a citation has been issued to those responsible.

While we are relieved that the item was found and accountability was taken, this incident is deeply disappointing. The City of Keiser has made tremendous progress over the past few years, especially in enhancing our park to better serve families, children, and residents of all ages. From installing new playground features and walking trails to improving lighting, adding benches, and boosting security, we've worked hard—often through grant funding and community input—to build a space that brings people together and reflects the pride we have in our town.

Vandalism is more than just a careless act—it's a direct blow to the progress we've made. These incidents cost the city valuable time and money, and they slow down future improvements. More importantly, they send the

wrong message to those who are trying to invest in and support our community. Every piece of equipment that's damaged or stolen is something that could have brought joy to a child or a moment of peace to someone out for a walk.

We ask every member of the community to take ownership of what we've built together. This means being watchful, reporting suspicious behavior, and helping to educate the next generation about the value of public spaces. Parents, please talk with your children about the importance of respecting city property and the impact that destruction has on everyone.

Keiser is moving in the right direction, and we want to keep that momentum going. Let's continue working together to protect and improve the city we all call home. Every bench, swing, light, and trail represents a step toward a better future—one we build and protect together.

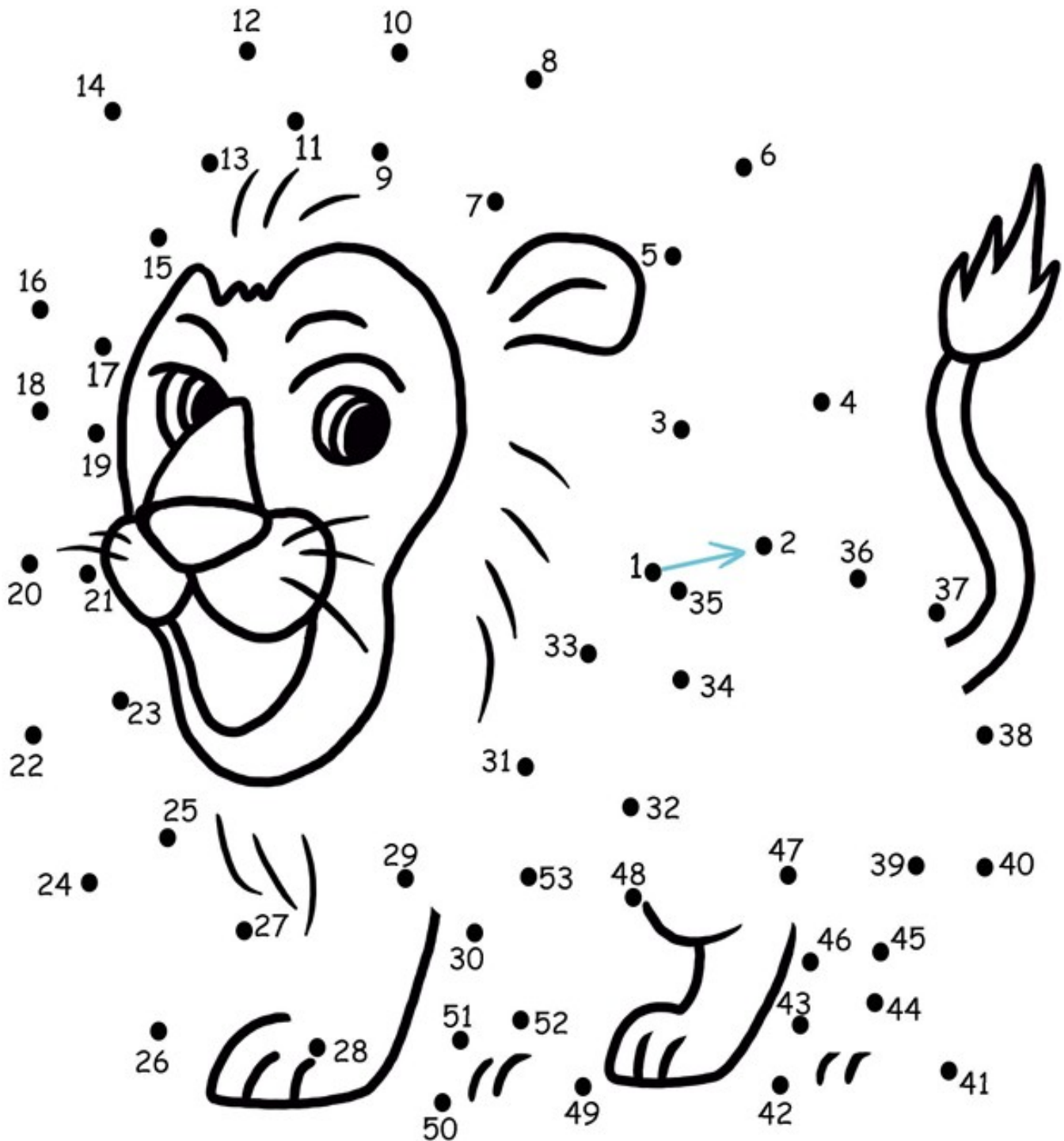
**NO
VANDALISM**

July 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Canada Day	2 World UFO Day	3	4 Indep. Day	5
6 National Fried Chicken Day	7 World Chocolate Day	8 Cow Appreciation Day	9	10	11 National French Fry Day	12 National Pecan Pie Day
13	14 National Mac & Cheese Day	15	16 Water Bill Due	17 World Emoji Day	18	19
20 National Ice Cream Day	21 Council Meeting	22	23	24 Cousins Day	25	26
27 Parents Day	28 Cutoff Date	29	30 Int'l Day of Friendship	31		

Kids Fun Page

Connect the Dots



Contact Us

City Hall—870-526-2300 Email—cityofkeiser@gmail.com Mayor—rjc.cityofkeiser@gmail.com



Scan Me...

City Fun Page

July Events

L A H Q A Z L R S C J L Y D M A M H B Y Y P R O Y
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Stars and Stripes	Independence	Red, White & Blue
Firecracker	Flag-waving	Watermelon
Patriotic	Sparklers	Sunscreen
Americana	Fireworks	Vacation
Freedom	Liberty	Hotdogs
Barbecue	Parades	Heatwave
Cookout	Picnic	

Contact Us

City Hall—870-526-2300 Email—cityofkeiser@gmail.com Mayor—rjc.cityofkeiser@gmail.com



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