

LETTERS

Continued from page 16

literal attack on the very foundation of our democracy, and by extension, the American people.

It is time to loudly announce what this is — a coup.

We crossed beyond the time for discussion. We face a determined opponent who is willing to disregard every freedom and belief we hold dear, and we must rise to meet them immediately. The path forward must be peaceful and measured, but it must also be walked with the greatest passion, discipline, and conviction that we can muster. The future of our American experiment in democracy rests on the actions that everyday people take now and in the following days. Talk to family and friends, make a plan to support the peaceful transition of power, and never forget the freedoms we are bound to defend.

Riley Paine



To the Editor:

Cliff Bentz has just been sworn in as our 2nd district representative to the U.S. Congress. His first official act was to join a group of Republican congressmen in an attempt to disenfranchise the tens of millions of voters who elected Joe Biden as President.

Greg Walden at least had the integrity to resist the pressure from President Trump and other Republicans and understood the seditious nature of this attempt to overturn the election results.

Cliff Bentz is a lawyer by profession. As a lawyer he knows that an allegation needs evidence before it can be taken to a jury. So why would he willingly join a coup attempt in the absence of any evidence of election fraud? All of the bogus lawsuits about election fraud filed since the election have been thrown out because of a total lack of evidence. Those rejecting these meritless lawsuits include more than 60 judges including Trump appointees, the former attorney general of the United States, and the U.S. Supreme Court. What is one to conclude?

All I can conclude is that Mr. Bentz is a man lacking integrity who is not worthy of the votes that were legally cast (including mine) at the last election. We have now seen firsthand the consequences of his willingly following a leader who incited violence and insurrection in our nation's Capital. From this point forward, I will do what I can to make sure Cliff Bentz is not returned to Congress in two years.

Dennis Tower



To the Editor:

So much to forgive. So much to be forgiven.

Judy Bull



To the Editor:

As we move into a new year I keep asking myself the question: What will help unite us as Americans again? What more do we need to encounter before we are each willing to really listen to each other, to really hear what people who think differently than we do think, without interrupting them with our own facts and opinions? What will help us narrow the gap rather than widen it with our need to justify our positions?

The majority of people agree that being heard is a very important part of any successful relationship. And yet, many people feel they are not heard when they try to share their thoughts and beliefs. They experience others interrupting to defend their beliefs because they have information that will prove they are right and the other person is wrong. I wonder what would change *if*, instead of justifying our "right" position or defending our "right" reasoning or protecting our position based on *our* facts and information sources, we really took the time to sit and listen to each other? I have recently shared with my adult children and friends I am going to ask *before* we start a difficult conversation, "What is our common ground? What do we agree on?"

I believe there is often common ground if we are willing to be patient and take the time to listen to one another. We all care about our families. We want those we love to stay healthy, although we may differ on how that occurs. We want our children to have an education although we may differ on how that should continue with COVID. Ask yourself if you are willing to pause five seconds when in conflict to ask the question, "What do we have in common?" See if each of us can hear something new we did not know we had in common.

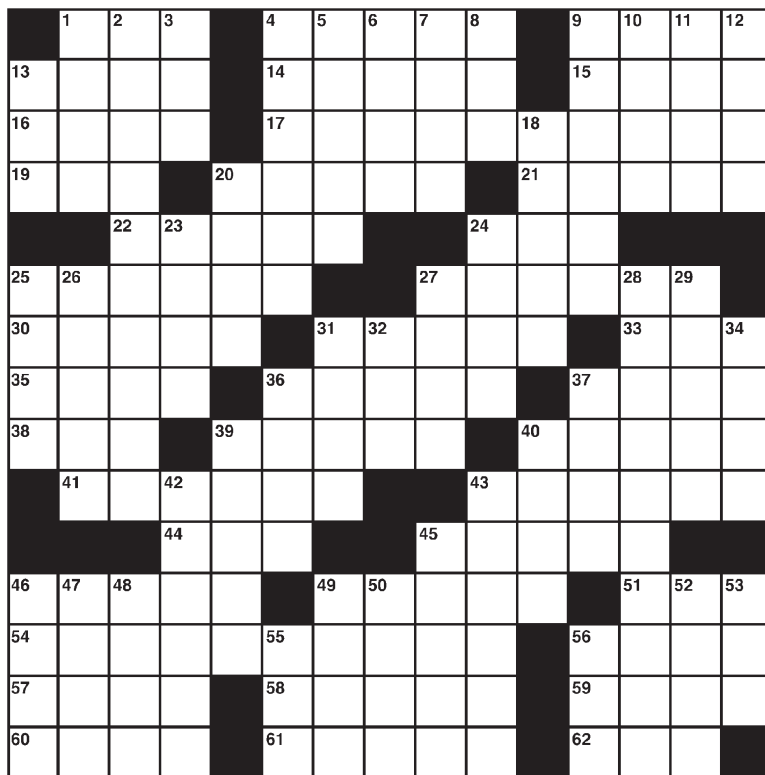
Be willing to pause long enough to truly see if there is a middle way not yet discovered because we were so set on our own way. We can all give by listening to one another in the same way we would want them to listen if we were talking. Maybe in the listening, the pause, the hearing, and in finding common ground, we can slowly move forward together as individuals, as a community and as a country.

Linda Wolff

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dobbin's dinner
 - 4 "All ___ lead to Rome"
 - 9 Suffix for differ or confer
 - 13 Florida's ___ Canaveral
 - 14 Sound portion of a telecast
 - 15 Actor McDonough
 - 16 ___ machines; casino attractions
 - 17 Impasse
 - 19 Under the weather
 - 20 ___ song; TV show tune
 - 21 Dancer Gene
 - 22 Yellow shade
 - 24 Gentleman
 - 25 Pricey car
 - 27 Company
 - 30 Wide-awake
 - 31 Gives a job to
 - 33 Uncooked
 - 35 Ceremony
 - 36 Gives walking papers to
 - 37 Epiphany visitors
 - 38 Zoom down snowy slopes
 - 39 Annoying
 - 40 Not as wacky
 - 41 Reverberates
 - 43 Cool dessert
 - 44 Laundry soap
 - 45 ___-depressive; bipolar
 - 46 Classic board game
 - 49 Lock of hair
 - 51 Record speed letters
 - 54 Conquers
 - 56 Urgent
 - 57 Lucie Arnaz's brother
 - 58 Charlotte, to Prince Harry
 - 59 Many a golf tournament
 - 60 Liberal ___; literature, math, etc.
 - 61 Griffith & Garcia
 - 62 Eyelid woe
- DOWN**
- 1 Corridor
 - 2 Remorseful



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- 3 However
- 4 More impetuous
- 5 External
- 6 Actor Sandler
- 7 Have a feast
- 8 Layer of turf
- 9 ___ into; penetrates
- 10 Diamond, for one
- 11 Close ___; narrow escape
- 12 ___ May; Jed Clampett's daughter
- 13 TV crime drama series
- 18 "Blue ___"; Irving Berlin song
- 20 "You can say ___ again!"
- 23 Remedy
- 24 Takes to court
- 25 Glass containers
- 26 Identical
- 27 Author Zane ___
- 28 Court reporter's output
- 29 Wise men
- 31 Snake's greeting
- 32 Make angry
- 34 Telegram

— Last Week's Puzzle Solved —



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- 36 Perceive; sense
- 37 Hawaiian island
- 39 Unwanted growth
- 40 Juniors
- 42 Singer Emmylou
- 43 Hoi polloi; common people
- 45 Compassion
- 46 Malt shop order
- 47 "___ the Rainbow"
- 48 Take a break
- 49 Birthday-sharer
- 50 Piece of bamboo
- 52 Hunter's victim
- 53 Guys
- 55 "Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof"
- 56 Tijuana two

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