

OUR VIEW

We can never forget

The local community came out in force Monday to honor area veterans, a clear sign that Union County hasn't forgotten those who made a sacrifice and a commitment to our nation.

That says a lot about our area and a lot more about the type of people who live and work and play in our great part of the state.

There are more than 18 million veterans in the United States, and Monday allowed the entire nation to take a collective moment to recognize their sacrifice and commitment.

For many of us, Monday was a welcome day off or part of a three-day weekend.

For millions of others, though, the day carried a special significance and marked one of the few times during the year when the great nation they defended stopped and tipped its hat.

Veterans Day is more than just another day off. The day began as Armistice Day, which recognized the anniversary of the end of World War I. Later, the day was made an annual observance.

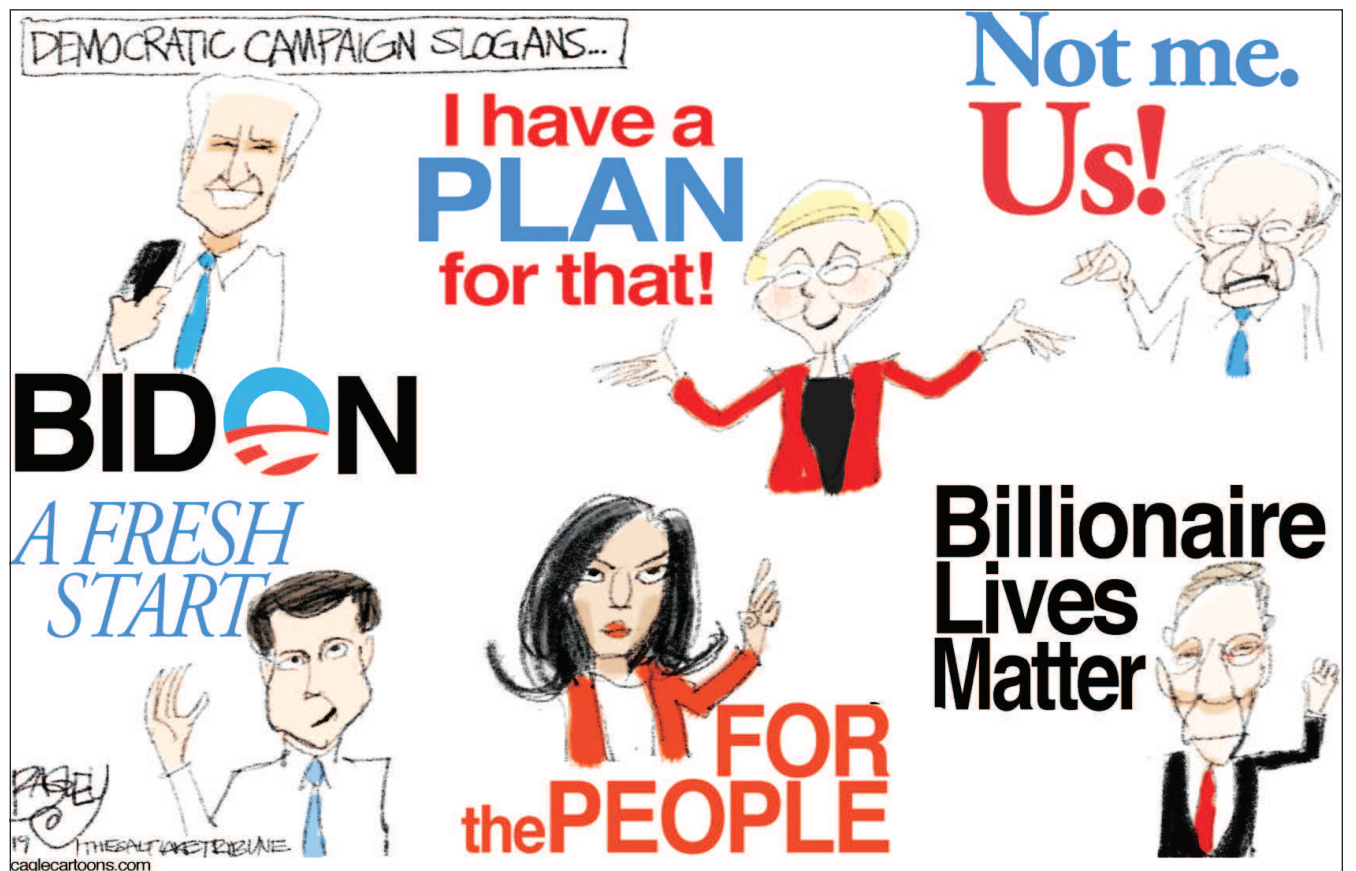
The day is rightly a celebration to recognize our veterans for their patriotism and service, but it should also serve as a reminder that we owe all of those who participated in our Armed Forces a debt we will probably never be able to repay.

Men and women have gladly stepped forward throughout our history to defend what is, in a real way, a collection of concepts. The Constitution and its Bill of Rights are words supported by a philosophy of democracy that remains an experiment. Yet each year millions join our Armed Forces, and they swear an oath. Not an oath to the president. Not an oath to Congress. They pledge their souls to defend the Constitution.

That makes us unique in many ways from nations across the globe. Our men and women make a choice to lay it all on the line for words. For a philosophy.

Our veterans deserve to be recognized and lauded. Each one made a conscious choice to sacrifice their time — and in many cases their bodies — for their nation. While many of us built lives, raised children and attended youth sports events, our veterans were far away from home. They were sometimes stationed on foreign shores, in harm's way, while the rest of us went along with our lives.

We can't forget their sacrifice. So as the 2019 Veterans Day recedes, we must all collectively remember their sacrifice and endeavor to ensure their needs — mental and physical — are met.



MY VOICE

Appeal should wait until spring

After reading the news article about the Union County Warming Station in La Grande ("New shelter site heats up," The Observer, Oct. 30), I, a lowly resident of our fair city and loyal Observer subscriber, felt the need to express some concerns for a warming station to be located in our city.

I read that Al Adelsberger, someone I believe to have a number of business interests in our area, filed an appeal regarding the decision to allow a warming station to be located near downtown La Grande this season. The article quoted him as stating: "I am all for it... Anyone who is against helping the homeless is not a good person." According to the article, Mr. Adelsberger cited various concerns about this project. So it would seem that as much as he agrees this project is needed, out of the goodness of his own heart and out of grave concern for us "backward folk," he filed the appeal.

If Mr. A. really is "all for it," I do wonder why he would file this appeal right before the station would open. Why not file an appeal last spring or summer, allowing time to discuss and make changes to the plan? As things stand, the warming station is doomed for at least this cold weather season. Why not let it

My Voice ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Angela Eytchison is a resident of La Grande.



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go forward for at least this season?

I have heard that a fair number of our very own residents have had to seek shelter in a warming station during pre-

vious cold seasons, for various reasons but mainly due to lack of adequate heat in their residence.

And was the following statement made during a planning meeting? (I am paraphrasing.) "If you are so worried about the homeless, why don't you just take them home with you?"

How kind. It is easy to sit in comfort and make such a cruel and heartless pronouncement. And no personal consequences for such an opinion. What if those individuals speaking against the warming station were given this choice: Allow the warming station to be implemented now, or shelter "them" in their own home? Hmmm.

If the Union County Warming Station is not a perfect plan, then Mr. A. and any other concerned citizens need to get to work on ideas and revisions now. Put your ideas together and come on back to the Planning Commission this spring.

Right now this looks like a very obvious plan to put a stop to a much needed project. Just saving us from ourselves, huh?

Mr. Adelsberger, please withdraw this appeal now, and wait for an appropriate time, like spring or summer, to make plans for revisions.

Your views

LaMont: American Legion Auxiliary aims to improve lives of veterans

To the Editor:
The members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 43 La Grande invite everyone to pause to remember those who have fought for our freedoms.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces. Thank you for serving this great country. Thank you for protecting us. Thank you for the security we have here at home. We know you sacrificed much for your country and all of us. And though you may no longer wear the uniform, we know you're always on call to serve and protect the freedom and security of the United States of America.

Thank you to all who have so bravely protected us.
Founded in 1919, the American

Legion Auxiliary (ALA) helps to advance the mission of the American Legion. With nearly three-quarters of a million members, it is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization (all spouses of veterans are eligible now) and one of the nation's most prominent supporters of veterans, military and their families.

ALA members volunteer millions of hours annually, with a value averaging \$2 billion each year.

From helping to draft the GI Bill in 1944 to advocating for veterans on Capitol Hill, the American Legion Family has been instrumental in advancing legislation that improves the quality of life for our nation's veterans. To learn more and get involved, visit www.ALA-forVeterans.org.

Maggie LaMont
American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 43, president, La Grande

Low: Do you want your children growing up in a segregated white society?

To the Editor:
A picture is worth a thousand words. I came across a Commemorative News-week magazine dated Dec. 3, 2001. The cover showed a crowd after Sept. 11. A crowd of Americans, every race and creed and persuasion. Black, white, brown, every shade and color of people.

Now compare that picture with Donald Trump's rallies. Look at Trump's crowds — almost all white Republicans. Donald's white anti-abortion, anti-gay, anti-immigration crowds are not representative of America; they are an anomaly. Do you want your children growing up in a segregated white society? America's already been through that.

Ron Lowe
Nevada City, California

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