

My Voice

Immigration reform is a must as population booms

In light of the recent border surge caused by President Joe Biden's executive order essentially sending word south that the border is open, we are going to hear a lot about immigration reform.

We have been hearing that for years and nothing happens. Illegal aliens/undocumented workers just keep coming.



STEVE CULLEY
BAKER CITY

mala, heads north through Mexico and ends when an illegal alien contacts the border patrol and says, "Here I am."

They are then transported to a facility, names taken, bus fare paid to a new destination with a warning to come back for a court hearing, which is ignored, while they wait for amnesty and citizenship. It's good politics: eventually they and their families will vote Democratic.

It is time to replace the immigration reform policies with immigration control. The first part of that is to define who an American is. The criteria should be having an American parent. As it is now, you can hop the border pregnant, deliver a brand-new anchor baby and start the chain migration of a family.

America's birthright citizenship comes about by abuse of the 14th Amendment Civil War reconstruction that was intended to make citizens of those who had previously been slaves. It didn't even cover Native Americans. It was 1924 before they thought to extend it to those who had been here for centuries.

At one time I heard of a case heading to the Supreme Court that would settle the matter, but I have heard no more. The court needs to weigh in.

The next thing that should happen is a national mandatory E-VERIFY where Social Security numbers are checked against names before you can get a job. If the name matches — fine. But if it doesn't, you are here illegally and can't work.

Those who employ illegals should get big fines. Desperate illegals will work a lot cheaper than native born who compete with them.

It should also be used when applying to any federal housing program. Also, the Social Security Administration should check to see how many are using the same number and those who have stolen one need to be reported to ICE. It's no secret why there hasn't been any enforcement. Illegal workers pay in but don't draw Social Security. That brings in a lot of money.

The Supreme Court needs to make it clear that the federal government is responsible for immigration. Sanctuary cities and states need to be abolished and illegals turned over to ICE.

The wall needs to be completed. The construction can be financed by a tax on wire transfers to Latin America, which total about \$40 billion a year. Walls work. Scare a Democrat and you get a wall around Congress.

So those who think with that organ in their chest that pumps blood are probably feeling pretty angry at this column, but I think that in an over-populated country with housing shortages, homeless by the thousands, cities that swallow farmland, microwaving power lines and ever-widening freeways, it is time call a halt.

Native-born Americans have a negative birthrate. Liberal legal immigration quotas are ridiculous and by adding illegals we are exploding in numbers. When I was born in 1947 we had 137 million, we are at least 337 million now.

Too much immigration, too fast, stops assimilation and we end up with tribes instead of Americans.

So, do I lack compassion for those desperate people I see on the border?

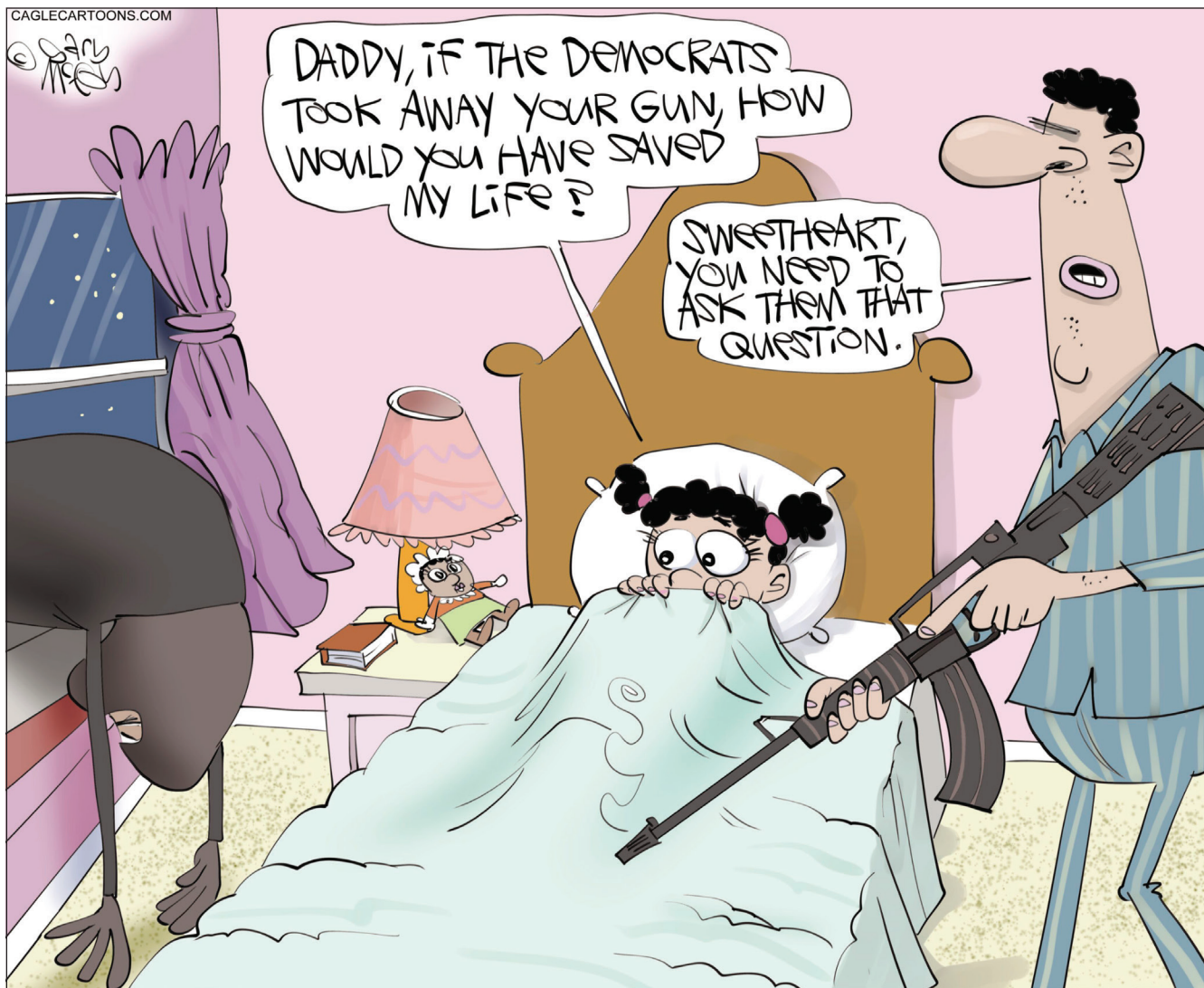
No. I would like to see massive help in their home countries, and we should.

China is filling the void caused by our inaction. We have good people who would help, such as Doctors Without Borders, a revived Peace Corps and a lot of young Marines and soldiers who would be willing to eliminate a dictator, gangs and cartels.

Not everyone who thinks there is a limit to numbers is a racist, xenophobic, white supremacist, but if people don't think their government will protect our borders there will be a surge in their numbers.

Steve Culley is 73, a Vietnam War veteran and a 1984 graduate of Eastern Oregon University. He lives in Baker City.

We hear much about a pathway to citizenship. There already is one. It starts in Guatemala.



My Voice

Gov. Brown makes wrong move on dams



DONNA BEVERAGE
UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONER

As a Union County commissioner, farmer, rancher and lifelong Oregonian, I understand the importance of working together to meet the needs of those I serve. That's why I was so frustrated that Gov. Kate Brown recently filed a lawsuit over how the federal government manages the operations of the hydropower system.

What makes the governor's action even more surprising is it came just a week after the first meeting of the Columbia Basin Collaborative, an effort Gov. Brown herself convened with the governors of Washington, Idaho and Montana to protect both salmon runs and economic interests through dialogue. When stakeholders come together in good faith, real progress can be made. Unfortunately, Gov. Brown has chosen litigation over collaboration.

We are blessed here in Oregon with unparalleled natural beauty and economically valuable resources. The

federal hydropower system, which includes the four Snake River dams, provides 95% of the reliable, affordable electricity used in rural Oregon. The power benefits of the Snake River dams are shared by more than 1 million Oregonians. According to a three-year study conducted by federal agencies last year, breaching the dams could increase energy costs in rural Oregon by as much as 50%. That's something we can ill afford in Union County, where our median household income is \$45,564 a year, well below the state average of \$63,426.

This lower income means the average Union County resident spends nearly a third of their monthly income on housing, and a full 16% of our community struggles to purchase enough food for themselves and their families. We can't afford to see our electricity rates climb higher.

Like Oregonians across the state, residents of Union County care about the environment. The hydropower generated by the Snake River dams is a carbon-free, renewable source of energy, and there are no good alternatives for replacement. Federal agencies estimate that replacing the lost hydropower would require more fossil

fuels, resulting in a net increase of roughly 3.3 million metric tons of carbon emissions annually — the equivalent of 712,944 additional passenger vehicles on the region's roads. At a time when the state is setting goals to reduce carbon emissions, this would be a devastating step backward. Wind and solar are good, renewable sources of electricity, but they don't have enough generating capacity to make up the hydropower we would lose from the Snake River dams.

The dams were also put in because of flooding in the spring and low water in the late summer. This is not good for fish, agriculture or recreation.

Pursuing legal action while at the same time working with the Columbia Basin Collaborative is hypocritical and harmful to those who are counting on the CBC to engage with stakeholders in good faith. In order for the CBC to be successful, I urge the governor to withdraw her lawsuit and find common ground to develop a long-term strategy for dam operations. Rural Oregonians are counting on her.

Donna Beverage is a Union County commissioner and lives in Union.

Letters

An Easter prayer for each of us

We are into our new year, 2021. Easter, April 4, is almost here. As we celebrate our risen savior, Jesus Christ, who stretched out his arms on the cross in love for you and me, forgiving our sins and giving us his free love gift — eternal life — let us give him all the praise and the glory that only he deserves.

As we stay faithful in God's word, which is true and just, let it fill our hearts with love and joy as we sing, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in his wonderful face and the things on earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

What an awesome God we serve! May each of you have a blessed Easter is my prayer.

*Janice Roberts
La Grande*

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