

OUR VIEW

An example of what community can do

There is no more better example of what a community can do when it cooperates than the nearly complete field renovations and turf installation at Optimist Field and Trice Community Field at Pioneer Park.

The dual projects were the result of a cooperative effort between the La Grande School District, Eastern Oregon University and the city of La Grande, not to mention many volunteers.

The new fields will be state-of-the-art and will provide a viable platform for La Grande baseball and softball, Eastern Oregon University and Little League programs.

At first glance that would be enough of a shot in the arm in terms of community involvement but what really shines in this case is the way different organizations chipped in to help.

That is not as common as many of us would like to believe. We live in a fractured world now, and getting people to unite toward a common goal can seem a difficult challenge under the best of circumstances.

But La Grande isn't just anywhere. Never has been. There is a deep, in-grown quality about the people in the town where helping out and achieving goals is a common attribute.

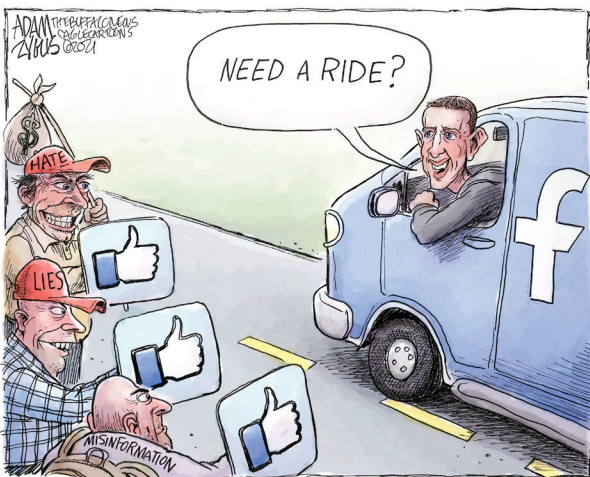
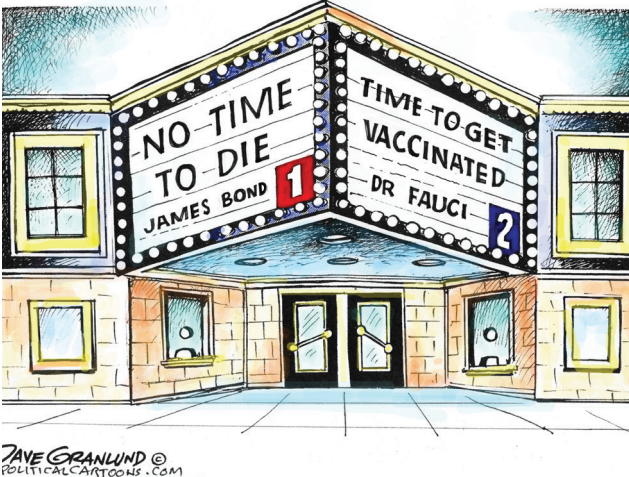
There is a tendency to forget that at times. The recent controversy over COVID-19 immunizations and mask usage is a good example of what can appear to be a community at odds with itself.

Yet that isn't really the case. The people who have expressed their views about COVID-19 — either in public forums or individually — are simply exercising their fundamental constitutional right to have their voices heard.

That's America, and what is also very America is a group of townspeople and organizations coming together to add a new feature to our lives.

There is a lot of praise to go around regarding the field renovations and turf installation at Optimist Field and Trice Community Field but we know the people and agencies involved in this venture were not seeking acclaim. They were doing what good people do: Trying to fix a problem through a cooperative effort.

In this case their work paid off. Not only for themselves but for the entire community. They deserve to be lauded.



LETTERS

Patriotism doesn't have to be divisive

To the handful of people in Union who fly political flags with messages laced with obscenities I would ask you to consider the impacts these may be having on our young people who are exposed to these obscenities daily as they go to and from school and out playing or riding horses and bicycles around town. I feel we all have an obligation to try to set examples of how a civil society should function and provide our communities with responsible and thoughtful leaders for the future. I also feel these displays show a lack of respect for your neighbors, neighborhoods and the town in general. I appreciate your effort to participate in our democracy but would ask that you choose a message that

expresses your views while being suitable for all who may view it; if this is difficult might I suggest a visit with the wonderful staff at our local library as they can provide you with information that will enable you to compose such a message and be more effective rather than divisive.

Chuck LeBold
Union

It's your money, your debt

"Obscene" best describes what is going on in Washington, D.C., right now. Only 10% of the \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill is earmarked for infrastructure. The rest is being spent to feather the beds of a progressive Congress. On the table is an additional \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill.

A reconciliation bill can be used for three things:
1. Increasing/decreasing taxes (revenue)
2. Increasing/decreasing spending
3. Raising the debt ceiling.
That's \$5 trillion in new spending that must be paid for with increased taxes and raising the debt ceiling. Obscene.
September polling shows that (71%) of all voters consider our national debt an emergency, and this includes most independents (70%) and Democrats (63%). Suspending this country's debt ceiling isn't going to be used to pay America's bills; it is being used to finance the far left's \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill.
Remember, government does not have money: It's your money and your debt.
Grant R. Darrow
Cove

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