

Opinion / Local

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

Obama paid off terrorists

To the Editor:
I'm not one to keep quiet when I see gross negligence, lack of judgment and just plain stupidity on the part of those who took an oath the "preserve, protect and defend" the Constitution of the United States. The move this past week will affect our history for decades to come. Our "Fearless Leader" in the "People's House" has done what amounts to irreparable damage to national security.

National policy is to not pay ransom to rogue countries, we do exchange prisoners. That's fine!

The problem facing us now is that a precedent has been set, and it is the wrong precedent. We just paid \$400 million to a State sponsor of terror for the release of political prisoners they were holding. Included in this scenario are the facts that the funds were in unmarked, untraceable foreign currency, delivered in an unmarked jet, in the middle of the night and the plane that was to carry the prisoners to freedom was held for four hours on the tarmac to await the arrival of another airplane. This information came from, Saeed Abedini, one of the released prisoners.

So now, despite the denials from President Obama, it was a nefarious deal. Now his Legacy will be the nuclear Armageddon to come via Iran. Maybe not today or tomorrow, but in the future of our children and grandchildren.

If we do not change the direction our country is headed, then Hillary will continue upon this path of mutual destruction, which has been the goal of her Socialist agenda for decades. Our generation is going to be the last one to taste freedom, and I do not want to leave that legacy to my families to come.

Peggie Longwell
Baker City

Meeting to fight war on parents of meth addicts

To the Editor:
I have reserved a room at the library from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. On August 12th to see if something can't be done about the war on parents of meth addicts. I lost a son to suicide because of the devil drug and have a daughter at Coffee Creek. Both became addicts in their teenage years. My ex-wife Jorja and I have learned a lot over the last decade or so from being on the front lines of drug epidemic.

One thing is clear, our so-called war on drugs isn't working. Ask any law enforcement officer, a prosecutor, a defense attorney, sheriff, or mental health professional. Watch the jail roster. The same individuals show up time and again. We are becoming a nation of grandparent parents and time moves on. You look at the future and wonder how the hell are you going to raise a teenager when you are approaching 80.

Those who have been abused by the prison industry with exorbitant phone call rates, complex visitation rules and fees and fines imposed by get tough on crime legislators that have to be paid by parents trying get an addict back on their feet will know exactly what I'm talking about. "Leadership" seems to be clueless about what it means to be a parent victim of the meth/ heroin epidemic. It's time to explore legislation and also time to consider some legal action, possibly class action, against the state and federal government. I'm not a public speaker. It might be best that children don't attend but I do invite law enforcement, lawyers and the public and addicts who have fought the battle. I've had enough. If you have too let's start leading the leaders.

Steve Culley
Baker City

Shriners weekend

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... and the Shrine Steer (the groups have donated the steer every year to be auctioned off, since the first Shrine Game, and have raised more than a quarter million dollars for the Shriner's Hospital); East-West past Shrine Game players; Baker County Shrine Club; Al Kader Shriners Motor Escort Unit; Al Kader Patrol Unit Color Guard; Al Kader Shriners, of Wilsonville; Shurtah Club, active and retired law enforcement officers; Al Kader Desert Patrol; Central Oregon Shrine Club; Al Kader Patrol's World War II vintage jeep and people hauler; Nydia Daughter of the Nile Queen Sharon Kelly; nationally famous, award-winning Al Kader Oriental Band; Kader Klowns; Calliope Corps, with the Al Kader Calliope, a unique musical instrument, hand-built in 1923, pulled by a miniature locomotive, built on a 1990 Jeep Wrangler frame; Al Kader Hospital Support Club, one of the Shriners's newest clubs; Lincoln County Shrine Club Renegades; Snake River Shrine Club; Al Kader Shrine Club, of Pendleton; Klamath Falls Shrine Club; Hillah Shrine Club; Hillah Shrine Oriental Band; El Korah Shriners; El Korah Sand Duners; El Korah Cameleers; El Korah Daughters of the Nile Iras Temple #40; El Korah Ladies Oriental Shrine; Order of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter of Oregon; Daughters of the Nile Royalty, including Queen Pam Thomas, Princess Royal Jenny Isserman, Princess Jackie Holloway, and Princess Badaura Carol

McGinnis; Haines Stamped Rodeo Court Princess Kachira Phillips (Queen is Delaney Van Arsdall); Haines Stamped Demolition Derby; Elkhorn Archers; Blue Mountain Community College; Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash; Forest Green; Haines Fire Protection District; American Legion Auxiliary; B&K Recycling and Pipe Supply; and Baker County 911 Dispatch.

Burrows issued the following statement, in appreciation of the efforts of Rose:

"On behalf of the Baker County Shrine Club, I would like to acknowledge the generosity of Mr. Damon Rose, owner of Marilyn's Music Plus, for his gracious help in setting up and allowing the club to use a sound system, for me to announce the parade last Saturday. We Shriners like to have fun (no kidding!), while helping children, like Chelsea Thompson and her family, of North Powder. Chelsea lost part of her right leg in an accident recently. This charitable work is our mission, and folks like Mr. Rose help the Shriners to carry out that mission. We like to think that we help our respective communities with our charitable work, and Mr. Rose, who obviously shares our values, helps make our work possible. It's a wonderful thing, and what small town America is all about. Thank you, Mr. Rose, for your charity and generosity, in helping 'get the word out,' and in making the whole day's events of parade and football game a big success."

The BCLA and the BCC spearheaded an even more successful Gridiron Tailgate & Grill (this was its second year),

at Geiser Pollman Park, serving lunch from noon on. BCLA President Jake Bingham, BCLA Treasurer Martin Arritola, and Grumpy's Auto Repair owner J.R. Streifel manned the grill, barbecuing choice tri-tip, that was marinated in a "secret recipe," Arritola said.

This fundraiser included either sliced strips of the tri-tip or a hot dog, and veggies, salad, and chips. The tri-tip lunch sold for \$10, and the hot dog lunch sold for \$5. Bingham said it was a more successful event this year, as he noted that it was easier to get more customers, since the venue had changed (last year, the event was held in a vacant lot on 10th Street).

As part of the fundraising events, there was both a silent auction and a live auction held, and the live auction included two footballs, one signed by members of the East squad, and the other signed by members of the West squad. Baker City Manager Fred Warner, Jr. acted as auctioneer, and Jack Applegate had the high bid of \$500 for the West football, and Tom Hafter took home the winning East-side's football, with the high bid of \$300.

Terri Siddoway and her son, Matt, were at the park with the Shrine Steer, that Matt raised, to be auctioned off during half time of the East-West football game. The steer weighed between 1,400 and 1,500 pounds at the time, said Terri, and the auction has always been a successful event, with bidders purchasing the steer, donating, and then re-auctioning the animal, raising thousands of dollars—over \$20,000 last year.

Rail Fire tops 11,500 acres outside Unity

The Rail Fire started Sunday afternoon, July 31, approximately five miles west of Unity, Oregon. Northwest Incident Management Team Twelve (NWIMT#12) assumed command of the fire at 6:00 a.m. Monday, August 1.

The fire area received light to moderate precipitation Tuesday. This gave firefighters an opportunity to continue building contingency lines. Recent efforts have focused on completing containment lines and preparing for necessary burning operations, so containment

figures have changed little. Fuel breaks have been completed along roadsides and in strategic areas where containment can be safely achieved. While the fire continues to burn well within established contingency lines, it is burning in steep inaccessible terrain where direct engagement would pose unnecessary risk to firefighters. Once the limited burning operations begin, containment figures will reflect not only the effects of those actions, but also the significant efforts invested in preparing the containment lines. These tactics are consistent

with the fire management objectives of limiting risk to firefighters, while also preventing further spread onto private and public lands.

Containment is at just 10% with about 11,550 burned. 768 people, 25 crews, 10 dozers, 30 engines, 19 water tenders and 7 helicopters are assigned to the fire.

Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Baker County Sheriff's Department and Emergency Services and local residents are involved.

Trauma workshop planned

A free workshop is planned at Community Connection of Baker County, 2810 Cedar St., Baker City, Wednesday, August 24, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Handling strong emotions surrounding past experiences is difficult. A free workshop will be held at the Community Connection to introduce you to another tool to assist in dealing with these emotions.

"We all have traumatic events in our past," said George Wheaton, the facilitator for this workshop. "These memories can, in some cases, be very limiting in our lives, preventing us from achieving all we would wish to accomplish."

"PTSD is frequently

talked about with our veterans returning from combat missions, but life itself can be a combat mission leaving scars in all our lives," said Mr. Wheaton. Such things as: the death of a parent, child, or other loved one, divorce, whether as a spouse or a child of divorce, the process of aging and feeling alone, an embarrassing event at work or school, being abused, physically or emotionally, can all leave deep emotional scars which sometimes we have even completely blocked out of our consciousness.

This workshop on Energy Medicine will explore how this field of medicine has helped individuals

relieve emotional traumas from their past. You will also look at how physical problems are sometimes exacerbated by these old emotions and can be relieved through the application of Energy Medicine. According to Wheaton, this is something we can all do for ourselves once we have learned the techniques he will be teaching during this workshop.

A recent arrival in Baker City, Wheaton has been a student of personal growth and interpersonal relationships since the 's. He has extensive training in psychology, including training as a facilitator in Transactional Analysis and as a practitioner of the Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) also known as Tapping.

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2nd annual teen wellness event ahead

Baker County community organizations and healthcare providers will be holding the 2nd Annual Wellness Event to address the health needs of adolescents.

Although this comprehensive wellness check will serve as a sports physical, this event is not

limited to athletes. In addition, there will be no out of pocket costs for these visits, so we encourage all incoming Juniors to participate and take advantage of this great opportunity.

The event will be held on Thursday, August 11th at St. Luke's Eastern Oregon Medical Associates facil-

ity at 3950 17th Street in Baker City. The girls session begins at 5 p.m., while the boys session starts at 6 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call The Baker County Health Department at 541-523-8211.

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