

OPINION

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OUR VIEW

Helping those who are in need

It is that time of year when many of us gather with friends and family to celebrate and reflect on all of the things we are grateful for. But for a portion of our community, the holidays offer up only another set of days on the calendar as they struggle to make ends meet. Other families must face the unpleasant fact they may not be able to adequately clothe their children. Others don't know how they're going to eat their next meal. In this day and age, that simply is unacceptable. These issues won't be solved by one organization because to adequately care for our downtrodden it takes a full community effort. Area food banks need all our assistance. Hunger for many and tight times for the working poor isn't an issue that is just going to go away. Unfortunately, it is a chronic issue in our community — and throughout the nation — and needs to be addressed by organizations and by community members. One good way to help is easy:



A Hermiston student packs a box for local food banks with protein fortified macaroni and cheese in 2017 as part of a service project called Meals of Hope.

Donate food items to your local food bank. It is that easy. And if you don't think one or two or three food items will make a difference and therefore brush the notion away, don't. Your contribution, no matter how small, will make a difference. Every effort,

no matter how modest it may seem, is a critical donation. In a perfect world, of course, everyone during the holidays would have enough to eat and enough clothes and a bright future. That isn't the reality, though, and so by making a dona-

tion to a food bank, each one of us can help at a crucial time. While the plight of the hungry and the working poor secure the limelight during the holiday season, the subject often fades as the holidays recede. That is another challenge the community must address. The hungry don't just exist during the holidays. The challenge exists 12 months a year. We must not let this important issue fade away only to be resurrected during the holidays. The hungry, those who are barely subsisting, don't usually make headlines. Yet they are out there, and they need our help. There is nothing wrong with reaching out occasionally and helping someone who needs a hand up. Our nation was built on the lofty ideals of helping those who need assistance — "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." We are a generous, forgiving country. So, this holiday season, don't forget those who need help.



YOUR VIEWS

There is no global climate crisis

As a lifelong environmentalist, I am now embarrassed to admit I allowed myself to be drawn into the bogus "global warming" threats and warnings of non-science folks like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. It takes facts and evidence to make me change my mind on as issue. A guest on the Mark Levin program did that recently. Dr. Patrick Micheals, holder of a doctorate degree in ecological climatology, a past president of the American Association of State Climatologists, holder of another degree in plant biology, a member of a UN panel on climate which won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 — and the list goes on. He is without a doubt one of the few genuine experts in the world on climate. He stated there are 31 computer models used to predict climate and weather change. However, he also said they are all "fudged" or "parameterized" and misleading. Ironically, the only accurate model is the Russian one. It most closely shows what has happened with climate. The truth is planet temperature has risen only nine-tenths of 1 degree in the past 100 years. The earth is nowhere near as warm as some scientists and too many non-science experts would have us believe. "It is the scientists — not the science — that is influencing weather," Dr. Micheals said. He adds that terrible storms are not getting worse, there is just a lot more stuff and people in the path of these storms. He was one of 500 climate scientists who signed

a letter and delivered to the UN that said, "there is no climate emergency." Dr. Michaels says if you really want death and devastation — go through a cooling trend. Cooling times in history have caused seven times more deaths than warming trends. Another famous climate scientist, Dr. Patrick Moore, co-founder of Greenpeace, pleads with people to reject AOC's dire warning that we will all die within 10 years if we don't accept her crazy and unbelievably expensive New Green Deal. He reminds us fossil fuels account for about 85% of global energy while solar and wind amount to only about 5%. He encourages governments to increase production of hydro, natural gas and nuclear energy. As a long-time opponent of nuclear, I now understand it to be the cleanest, cheapest and probably safest form of energy we have available. I am sad now that so much of Eastern Oregon is littered with wind turbines that have not produced the level of energy promised, kill lots of eagles and geese, and only work when wind blows. If you want the truth — it's out there. I discovered dozens of online sites featuring scientists who agree we have been lied to by the media and those who want to control every feature of our lives. Another great book on climate is "Inconvenient Facts" written by well-known geologist Greg Wrightstone. Too many people have been needlessly frightened into believing they might die in 10 years. Don't believe it. There is no global warming crisis. David Burns Pendleton

OTHER VIEWS

City waging war on landlords

Despite Mayor John Turner's recent comments that I don't like competition, I do like competition. I grew up with four competitive brothers and went to college on an athletic scholarship. I thrive on competition. I might be the most competitive person he's ever met. What I don't like is unfair competition, which is exactly the anti-competitive incentive system he has created and overseen in Pendleton. I did not come to the council a few weeks ago to ask for money. I asked why there isn't a clear, concise, fair system for passing out incentives. Why is having a fair equitable system too much to ask for? Why is there so much push back for having equality? If you're not in favor of a free market and letting developers build what the market needs, then just say that. Just admit you want to pick and choose who wins and what gets built where, for example the fire station. Just say you don't believe in the free market. I would imagine the majority of your conservative Republican constituents in town would be in support of the free market solving our housing problems. I came to this town and infused the local economy with over \$4 million and I built a quality complex as fast as possible because that's what the housing study showed the market needed. That is clearly not what the mayor or the city council support because that is not what they incentivize. Should I have come to the council over and over for five-plus years asking for stuff? Is that their idea of what is best for the community? The mayor said I'm concerned with my individual business. That's right, I am. And so are other property managers and landlords concerned with their businesses. I'm frankly astonished that they aren't concerned with how our business is doing. Why aren't they concerned with why none of the thousands of daily commuters want to live in town? Or with all the vacancies that other landlords and property managers are already having in the \$1,200 range? Or with the sheer number of jobs — more than 900 — needed to fill the pipeline of coming units? We only need 100 to 112 market rate apartments over the next 20 years, according to two housing studies by career professionals. The mayor and city council have ignored those findings and overseen subsidies and land giveaways for 305 market rate units and counting. Flooding the city with \$1,200 apartments will have a negative affect on all landlord business in town,

including mine. They're needlessly destroying the value of our properties. The mayor's standard answer to questions about housing seems to be "we need all types of housing." Great, but why have you ignored the needs of all other housing categories? There is dire need for low-income subsidized housing that will rent for under \$500, more mobile homes, more farm worker housing, short-term shelters, town homes and mostly more single family homes. Why take taxpayer assets and only encourage one narrow segment of the housing market? It's no wonder there is so much money on the sidelines; it's hard to predict what the city will incentivize next. Each time you roll out another incentive package it's different. There is not even equality among the people getting incentives. Go wage war on one of these other categories, you have done enough damage to the market rate apartment segment. While this giant socialist civics experiment unfolds, why would I or others want to build 50 to 100 single family homes when there is no system or way of knowing what is being cooked up behind closed doors? The uncertainty and lack of transparency starting from the very top is a key reason I and others don't want to do more business in Pendleton. The entire state is watching the redistribution of wealth in Pendleton. The problem with slow growth in Pendleton is not from topography, it's from lack of jobs and lack of leadership. Lashing out at me and calling me stupid is probably a result of your frustration. The numbers don't lie. You must be incredibly frustrated that you have overseen a city that only can manage 0.3% annual growth. Meanwhile, the rest of the county grows at more than three times that pace, 1.1%. It was probably hard to hear that we have more than enough land inside the urban growth boundary for the next 20 years. It's obvious that your "flexible" system is a failure. Hermiston has grown three times as fast without giving away land, cash or reducing permit fees. If waging war on landlords is your answer to solving housing needs in Pendleton, then you might know even less about housing than everyone is saying. You can call me stupid if that makes you feel better, but don't tip the scales far to one side and then accuse me of being the one that doesn't like competition. Nate Brusselback COMMENT

Nate Brusselback is the owner of the Triangle Apartments in Pendleton.