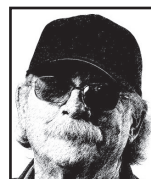


Thoughts for just another day



J.D. SMITH

FROM THE HEADWATERS OF DRY CREEK

Collect one liners and jokes on little slips of paper in shoe boxes. Here is a sample of what I have gleaned over the past few years from bumper stickers, postcards, word of mouth, and the blessed internet. We are better than a year into this COVID mess. I figure maybe we could use a bit of comedic relief.

Never fight ugly people, they have nothing to lose.
All stressed out and no one to choke.
Be prepared. The meek are coming.
Born once, that was plenty.
I intend to live forever — so far, so good.
It's been Monday all week.
Nothing political is correct.
One by one, the penguins slowly steal my sanity.
Pee for enjoyment, not for employment.
Jesus loves you, but I'm his favorite.

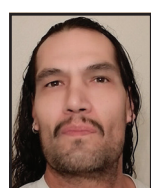
Reincarnation: Been that, done there.
Save trees. Wipe with an owl.
Smile and the world audits your taxes.
Stop animal experimentation. Use lawyers.
Teach. Don't Preach.
Thank you for not breeding.
Whenever I think of the past, it brings back so many memories.
The urge to scream tells me I must be at work.
Next time you wave, use all your fingers.
The way to a man's heart is between the fourth and fifth ribs.
Someday we'll look back on all this and plow into a parked car.
Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
Too bad stupidity isn't painful.
A good way to deal with predators is to taste terrible.
I kept an open mind and my brains fell out.
Was today really necessary?
As useful as a mint-flavored suppository.
When you do a good deed get a receipt,

in case heaven is like the tax man.
My career is taking off. I'm never at work.
When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.
Why is there always so much month left at the end of the money?
You're the reason God created the middle finger.
A bird in the hand makes it hard to blow your nose.
Coincidence happens.
An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.
Blood is thicker than water, and tastier.
He wears a hat so he can remember which end to wipe.
Humpty Dumpty was pushed.
I would jog, but the ice would fall out of my glass.
Jealousy is all the fun you think they have.
Once I thought I was wrong — but I was mistaken.
Pornography? We don't even have a pornograph!
The buck doesn't even slow down here.
Cheerios are not doughnut seeds.

Think hard now! Which one is Shinola?
As useless as windshield wipers on a duck's butt.
Why can't we just spell it "orderves?"
I'm already visualizing the duct tape over your mouth.
Never enter a butt-kicking contest with a porcupine.
I caught him tossing bread crumbs to helicopters.
He's got it floored in neutral.
My future is behind schedule.
His head whistles in a cross wind.
If I called you a wit, I'd be half right.
He is one brain cell away from being a talking monkey.
There should be a warning label on her forehead.
Did you sit under the ozone hole too long?
He is tall enough to hunt geese with a rake.
I sold my car for gas money.
I lettered in track as a member of the javelin catching team.

J.D. Smith is an accomplished writer and jack-of-all-trades. He lives in Athena.

A solution for salmon, business and our future



E. LITTLELEAF



A. LITTLELEAF

OTHER VIEWS

As descendants of the Wasco Tribe of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Columbia River and its tributaries are like the veins and arteries of our own bodies. For some, "Water is Life" has become a slogan, a hashtag. For us, it's who we are.

Right now, the native people of the Columbia River Basin are hurting. On top of the overlapping crises caused by COVID-19 and a struggling economy, our rivers are sick and choked by dams. The salmon runs that sustained our people

since time immemorial are slipping toward extinction. The salmon represent food, ceremony and community. If the salmon disappear, so does our identity, our culture, our existence.

That is why salmon recovery in the Columbia and Snake rivers is not just an environmental issue. This is an issue of justice, health and community — and it requires urgent action and bold solutions.

That is why we are grateful to Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, for releasing an ambitious new proposal to restore rivers and salmon, and revitalize our region's economy. Congressman Simpson's plan would restore a free-flowing lower Snake River and also includes actions to improve river health and water quality across the region. His plan aims to boost salmon and steelhead runs while creating jobs and making significant investments in clean energy, agriculture and the economy. We also applaud Oregon Gov. Kate

Brown for her strong leadership on salmon recovery, continuing to hold the federal government to account, and for her support for a comprehensive, collaborative solution for Columbia-Snake salmon.

We own and operate a fly-fishing guide service on the Deschutes River and we see firsthand the importance of strong salmon runs to our own bottom line and to local economies. When we think about how to create jobs and boost the state's economy, we need to prioritize healthy rivers and salmon. Restoring a free-flowing lower Snake River would revitalize fishing businesses and communities along the river. Federal investment to replace the energy, transportation and irrigation services those four dams currently provide would strengthen our state and our region.

Since time immemorial, our ancestors have lived in abundance. Now, because of mismanagement of our rivers and first foods, we're all in a place of scarcity. It

doesn't have to be this way.

We are water protectors. We are Indigenous. We are a voice for first foods, our salmon, roots and huckleberries — the list is extensive. None of that would be possible without water. So it is our duty to stand up and fight and be the voice. Because if we don't, we don't have anything, there is no life.

We encourage other elected officials in the region to follow Brown's lead and come together. They can use Simpson's proposal as a starting point to create a lasting solution that truly benefits this special place we all call home. If we work together, if we focus on the values that connect us, we can begin to share abundance once again.

Alysia and Elke Littleleaf are Warm Springs tribal members and co-owners of Littleleaf Guide Service. They are based in Warm Springs.

To save community college, consider a K-14 structure



KIM PUZEY

OTHER VIEWS

A few days ago, I wrote about what I believe is the foreseeable and inevitable insolvency of Blue Mountain Community College under the present model of operations and funding.

In my opinion, the greatest impediment to the community college system in Oregon is financial dependence on the discretionary portion of the state budget. As mentioned in the earlier piece, that is not the case with K-12 and higher education.

In the private sector, when an enterprise is struggling with cash flow to the point of probable insolvency or bankruptcy, there are often conversations about mergers, acquisitions,

ities associated with the Hermiston Higher Education Center and function as K-14.

A possible merger or acquisition of assets could be that Oregon State University takes over the facilities and instructional responsibility of the Precision Agriculture building located at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center outside of Hermiston.

The Pendleton campus and facilities could be acquired by Eastern Oregon University.

State funding would become mandatory instead of discretionary, bachelor's and master's degrees could be awarded from the local university satellite, and Pendleton would become a "university" town instead of a "college" town overnight.

Sports teams and associated scholarships would become four-year instead of two-year, and each of these proposals might better fit contemporary

"I OPENLY CALL UPON OFFICIALS IN K-12, HIGHER EDUCATION, BMCC, GOVERNING BOARDS, AND ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CONSIDER A MORE VIABLE EDUCATIONAL FUTURE FOR THE REGION."

dissolution or divestiture of assets. I have been mulling these options over in my mind for quite some time.

In order for Blue Mountain Community College to come under the mandatory state budget umbrella, I have wondered about K-12 expanding to K-14, which is something that we are currently doing through dual-credit enrollment and advanced placement courses. Under this model, motivated high school students could continue to earn enough credit for an associate's degree upon graduation from high school.

The Baker City Center could be acquired by the Baker School District and the center could be converted into the Baker Technical Institute (BTI), which has been discussed in the past.

Again, the funding would be under the mandatory umbrella of K-12 or K-14.

Similar discussions could take place with respect to facilities and services in Hermiston, Boardman and Milton-Freewater.

The Hermiston School District could acquire all of the BMCC facil-

ities based on what falling enrollment has demonstrated over the past decade.

I'm not an expert in the matters I have suggested herein, but as a private citizen, I would like to see conversations take place around these proposals by those who are closer to the delivery instruction and the management of these public services and assets.

I think it's conceivable that a collaborative approach to rectifying what I have described as a flawed system might generate sufficient interest to lobby for funds to conduct a thorough, comprehensive and detailed feasibility study of these suggestions and myriad other matters that may or may not be viable under closer scrutiny.

I openly call upon officials in K-12, higher education, BMCC, governing boards, and elected officials to consider a more viable educational future for the region.

Kim Puzey lives in Hermiston and is the general manager of the Port of Umatilla. He is a member of the Blue Mountain Community College Board of Education.

STIMULUS: WHAT DOES IT DO?



Challenging the one bad actor myth



GOLDBERG



VAN SAUN

OTHER VIEWS

After recent fraud allegations, a lawsuit filed by Tyson and Easterday Ranches declaring bankruptcy, the Easterdays have shown Oregonians that they are incapable of operating a mega-dairy on the former site of Lost Valley Farm in Morrow County.

Lost Valley Farm was shut down in 2019, after committing more than 200 environmental violations. The Oregon Department of Agriculture and the dairy lobby painted Lost Valley's "mismanagement" as a bad outlier among industrial farming operations. However, the current scandal surrounding the Easterday family, which has proposed a new mega-dairy on the site of the former Lost Valley Farm, shows that the Lost Valley disaster was not just the result of a lone bad actor.

These issues are inherent to the industry. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is aware of the lawsuit, but continues to review draft permits for the proposed mega-dairy. This is unacceptable.

Mega-dairies, regardless of compliance, are inherently dangerous. They contribute to extensive air pollution and water contamination that harm Oregon's rural communities. The whole mega-dairy system is foul.

Livestock production is the leading source of methane in the U.S., and emissions continue to increase: from 1990 to 2017, U.S. methane emissions from dairy cattle manure rose 134%. Apart from methane, cow manure also emits ammonia,

nitrous oxide and hydrogen sulfide. These gases have been linked to hazy air pollution in the Columbia River Gorge and negatively affect the communities near these mega-dairies.

Manure not only contributes to air pollution, it also impacts waterways. In 2018, Oregon mega-dairies produced 5 billion pounds of manure; that's 42 times the waste produced by the entire population of Portland. In the right quantities, manure is a beneficial fertilizer. But mega-dairies produce enormous amounts of manure, and the manure's nitrates, antibiotics and other chemicals leach into groundwater and become runoff that flows into streams and rivers. This runoff eventually reaches the Columbia River and threatens water quality and the ecosystem.

Mega-dairies produce air emissions and waste on par with our nation's largest cities, yet they portray themselves to the public as harmless family farms. We are not fooled. Oregon cannot become the next hotbed of mega-dairy production. We must stop the spread of these industrial operations by supporting Senate Bill 583 and House Bill 2924 that call for a moratorium on industrial dairy farms.

The Lost Valley and now Easterday scandals point to more than just two bad actors. The pattern is clear, these actions are standard within the toxic mega-dairy industry. We must protect our fellow Oregonians and places of natural beauty by stopping the construction of new mega-dairies.

Lauren Goldberg and Amy van Saun are founding members of the Stand Up to Factory Farms Coalition, featuring local, state and national organizations concerned about the harmful impacts of mega-dairies on Oregon's family farms, communities, environment, and animal welfare.