



ANDREW CLARK

A SLICE OF LIFE

## Sprinting at record speeds requires the right motivation

Until I went to Tanganyika as a Peace Corps Volunteer in 1964 I did not realize that I had stunning potential in track and field events. While there I established four World Championships — the 100 meter dash, the long jump (broad jump), the high jump and the 50 meter dash — assisted by a hippopotamus, an African buffalo, a black-necked spitting cobra and a trio of lions in order of those events.

Admittedly, the circumstances involved made these records “un-official” but nonetheless they have merit. Today I’ll deal the 100 meter dash and the others in columns over the next three months.

In extreme western Tanganyika (now Tanzania) there was a small north-south dirt road east of Lake Tanganyika. During early colonial days when travel was by walking, small “Rest Houses” were built along the route about 20 miles apart.

Typically there were two rooms, several steel-spring beds with no mattresses, and a door that could not be locked from the outside so that anyone could enter and overnight safely. There was an old decrepit one at Lake Katavi, a small lake that is notable for a bloat of hippopotami living across the lake opposite the Rest House — and yes, a group of hippos is a “bloat,” giraffes are a “tower,” and rhinos a “crash.”

Great names for groups.

Three of us, two PCVs and the district PC administrator, were traveling together and bunkered down at the Rest House. A wonderful full moon rose and the bloat was doing their hippo-thing, i.e. grunting and roaring and snorting over on the other side of the lake, and it was such a lovely night we decided to walk along our side of the lake. We came across a large tree that died when the lake was higher and for no apparent reason decided to climb up to sit on branches and listen to the African night symphony — lots of different animals talking among themselves.

In the moonlight there was movement along where we had walked and an African buffalo (Cape buffalo) came slowly along, following our tracks. This is one of the most dangerous animal in Africa — smart, mean, crafty, agile, fast — and the quintessence of distilled malevolence.

Where we had turned away from the lake toward the tree, he exactly followed our scent track — he was hunting us! At the tree, he sniffed and snuffed all around, trying to figure out which way we had gone. We sat on our perches barely breathing and making not even the slightest movement. We could have spit on that buffalo!

Eventually he gave up and went away.

OK. Fair enough and good luck. We climbed down our tree and headed back to our rest house at a fast walk. But if a buffalo is hunting you, what else could happen? And indeed, something else was happening.

As we trekked along the edge of the lake we suddenly met one lonely hippopotamus who put an entirely different dimension into the evening.

Hippos kill more people than any other animal in Africa and despite their ungainly appearance they’ve been clocked at 33 mph. Additionally, a singleton is often a dominant male who has been thrown out of the bloat by younger males and he is feeling sullen, mean, nasty, angry, aggressive ... and we had spooked him.

This instant is when the previous 100 meter dash world record of about 22 mph was shattered.

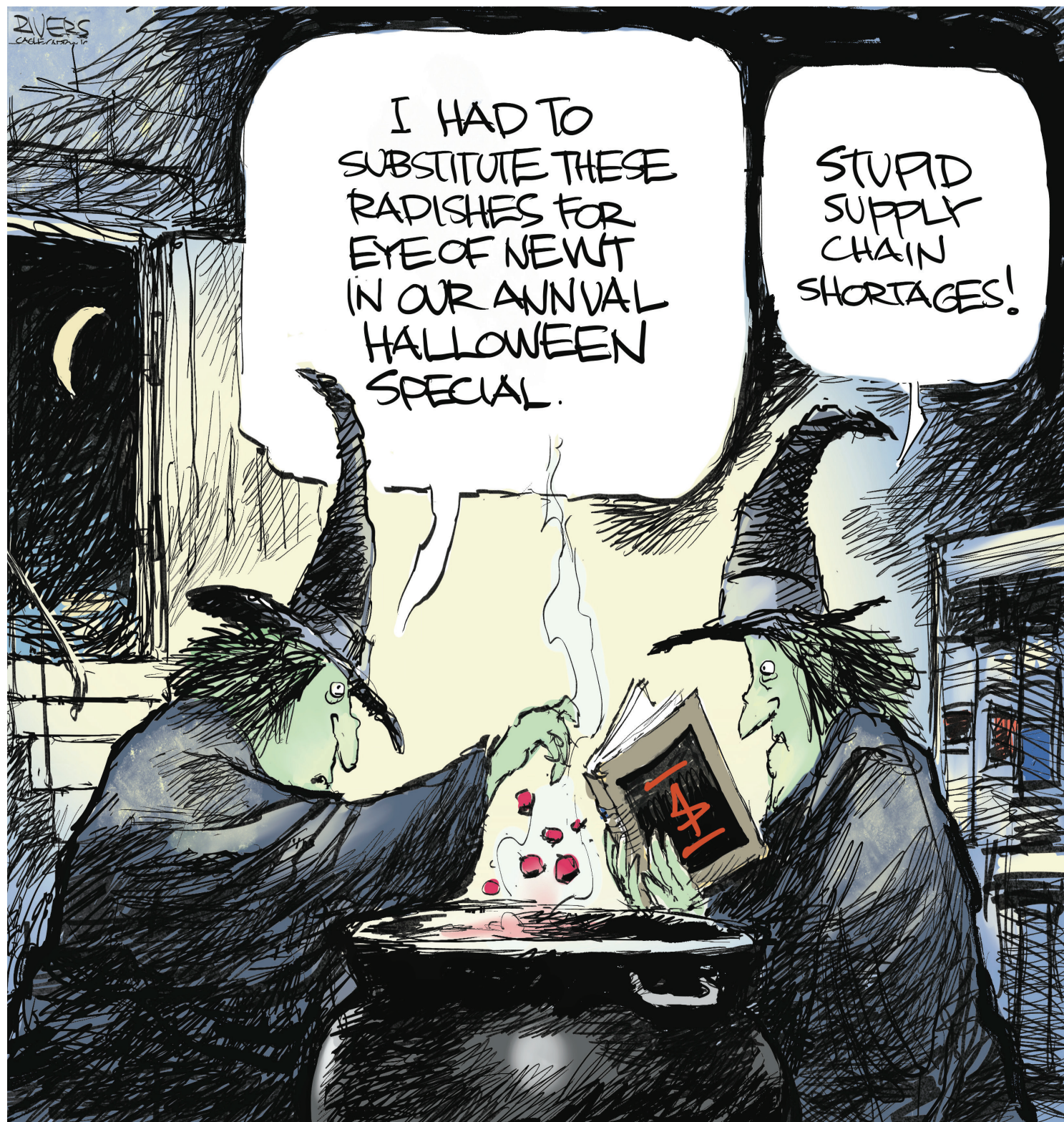
We three share this record without having done any training and without sophisticated equipment or clothing, e.g. I was wearing cowboy boots and blue jeans and we were running through soft sand. We all outran that 33-mph hippo and beat that other guy’s 22 mph record by more than 10 mph.

Although it might have been “unofficial” the numbers are real.

Since then I’ve thought how interesting it would be to have one of those horse-race gates behind Olympic runners. In them if there were five or six hippos, some buffalos, a few lions maybe ... and when the starting gun fired those gates opened. too... I bet there would be new records totally shattered in all the running events.

Wouldn’t that be fun to see?

*Dr. Andrew Clark is a livestock veterinarian with both domestic and international work experience who lives in Pendleton.*



## Five crucial trends used to measure progress



JOHN TURNER

OTHER VIEWS

Using public input, the Pendleton City Council established four goals for the period of 2021-2022 — increasing the amount of housing for all income levels, expanding Pendleton’s economy, fixing our infrastructure and improving communications.

I want to talk about how we intend to measure success for expanding Pendleton’s economy.

The first thing we want to measure is the strength of airport revenues. In 2016, the first year of the unmanned aerial systems test range, the airport had revenues of \$372,000. Our revenues grew to \$954,000 last year and we are predicting \$1.1 million in the current fiscal year. The airport is debt free and received money from the 2020 CARES Act to build another two hangars, fix taxi ways, build new UAS test pads, renovate the termi-

nal building and buy new heavy equipment such as a snow plow and a front-end loader.

The next thing we measure is the growth of the value of single-family homes. This will tell us if property taxes are rising and lets us know if Pendleton is keeping up with statewide trends in housing values. In 2017-18, home values increased 6%. They grew by 4.5% in 2018-19 and by another 17% last year. We expect home values to increase by another 25% in 2021-2022.

We also look at new commercial-industrial permit values, which shows us the amount of new construction taking place. In 2019, we had \$5.7 million in new permits, which grew to \$8.9 million in 2020, and in the first half of 2021 the new permits totaled \$9.9 million.

We try to monitor the number of unfilled jobs by polling our 12 largest employers. As of April, 2021, there were more than 500 jobs standing open in Pendleton. The need for a larger workforce is one of the reasons we are working so hard to get more affordable housing units built within our city limits. We want

to reduce this number of unfilled jobs over the next couple of years.

Business license revenues are an indicator of economic activity. By the first day of September (before Round-Up), we were at \$164,601, which is more than we collected in all of 2020, and about equal to what we collected in 2019.

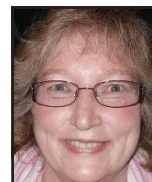
Why did we choose these five things to measure?

Mainly because we can get accurate numbers for them without tasking the city staff to spend hundreds of hours searching for information. We think we can get a decent snapshot of our local economy if we measure these five areas and combine them with the number of new housing units. The Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Association also keep numbers on how businesses are doing and we will watch those economic indicators as well.

So far, 2021 is shaping up to be a very encouraging year for Pendleton’s general economy.

*John Turner is the mayor of Pendleton.*

## Freedom to choose comes with responsibility



LYNN ROBERTSON

OTHER VIEWS

Both my parents worked in the medical field at a time when house calls began after office hours were concluded. It was common for families needing medical attention to come to our home evenings and weekends.

I grew up seeing too many examples of the bad side of the childhood diseases that are now diminished because of vaccines. These experiences have left me with a healthy respect for what an easily transmitted, life-altering virus can do, both to a body and a community. I will not deny that the choice to vaccinate, or not, comes with some degree of risk. However, the freedom to choose often comes with risk. It always comes partnered with consequences and responsibilities.

To discuss rights, God given or Constitutional, without pairing them with responsibility or choice without consequence is to talk in half sentences. It seems that all the collective language in the preamble of the Constitution, “We the people,” “in order to form a more perfect union,” “common defense” and “general welfare” are overlooked too frequently, or without the recognition that actions to protect my welfare could be different from those which protect your welfare and somewhere in the middle we need to meet in the promotion of “general welfare.”

Human behavior is the driver for the COVID-19 virus. It is not spread by fleas or mosquitos. To change the trajectory of this contagion we must change our behav-

ior. Unless you work in the health care field, or live in a household where active cases exist, the person who will infect you with COVID-19 will probably not show any symptoms. That is what makes this disease so insidious. It is the responsibility of the unvaccinated to act as if they know they represent a higher risk to others. It is the only way to preserve both the rights of the vaccinated and the rights of the unvaccinated.

We breathe the same air.

Too often we are distracted by the false mantra of “my body, my choice to be vaccinated or not.” That is not the issue. That is a slight-of-hand misdirection and we should know better than to fall for it. Except enlisted military, almost everyone still has the freedom to choose to be vaccinated or not. What is being challenged is the right of employers, businesses and institutions to require vaccinations.

The real choice is between working for an employer who requires vaccination as a condition of employment or one who does not. The choice to do business where vaccination is required or not. Those choices involve an equal weight of consequence for people on both sides of the issue. Too often we hear that a denial of opportunity only affects the unvaccinated, which is obviously untrue.

Some people will feel cornered into getting a vaccination to keep their job, some will feel cornered into working in an environment that jeopardizes their health. The physical, moral and financial dilemmas are not one-sided. What is clear is that employers have some responsibility to provide a safe environment for their employees and their customers.

It seems to me that the unvaccinated-unmasked who oppose any personal

restriction are asking employers and businesses to increase risk and liability without accepting any consequence for their own behavior, for their choice to be unvaccinated. Shouldn’t employers and institutions be allowed freedom of choice too, to accept that risk or not?

Unfortunately, we will lose teachers if vaccination is required. We will lose teachers if vaccination is not required. We will lose health care workers if vaccination is required. We will lose health care workers if vaccination is not required and we will lose state employees, businesses, services — on and on, you get the idea. It will not be fair to some, neither can it be fair to all. At a minimum, we must stop the ranting long enough to recognize that truth.

In closing I would like to remind those who oppose vaccination requirements that many of the criticisms heard are not new.

Phrases such as “there is no law,” “there was no vote,” “this is government over-reach,” “you are unfairly depriving people of their livelihood,” “this should be managed at the personal level as a matter of choice,” “my body, my decision,” and “the effectiveness is unproven,” were all oppositions voiced in some fashion by Ms. Mallon and her supporters in the early 1900s.

The issue was over the requirement for professional kitchen staff to wash their hands after using the bathroom, and before they returned to food preparation. We now refer to Ms. Mallon as Typhoid Mary. Sometimes the creation of regulation is slow to follow the need for implementation.

*Lynn Robertson is a retired public employee. She has been a resident of Pendleton for more than 30 years.*