

VOICE of the CHIEFTAIN

Locals provide needed help half a world away

Last week's editorial described how students in FFA can restore our hope for humanity. Today, we want to highlight the subjects of two stories in today's Chieftain — Emily Sheahan and Olan Fulfer — as another reason why, in spite of the insanity we see today, the world may not be 100% doom and gloom. The stories highlight different ways these two individuals have helped half way around the world in Africa — Sheahan by running marathons to help support World Vision (and also seeing their work done in Africa), and Fulfer by taking a trip this summer to Tanzania to teach and provided needed support for residents in and around the city of Arusha. Many people in Africa live in conditions that are unthinkable in America, a level of poverty that really cannot be understood unless you see it firsthand, as a member of this editorial board has. Pictures only show so much.

You see those photos, hear those stories, have your heartstrings tugged at and want to help, which is good.

Yet what Fulfer said was true in that providing help cannot be done by just giving money and walking away, or giving supplies. Supplies and funding, to be sure, is needed at times.

But this is also a moment where the proverb of giving a man a fish versus teaching a man to fish comes into play. Do you give somebody what they need just for a day? Or supply them with what they need for a lifetime? Do you give to the point that they become dependent on what you give, and find they are worse off in the end? Or do you find a way to empower them?

The book "Toxic Charity" delves into this issue, explaining how the best of intentions can harm as opposed to help in the long run. It is a book that really causes the reader to think, and does bring into question what we see as the best way to help, while also giving its own model. It's worth a read for anyone interested in philanthropy or missions trips.

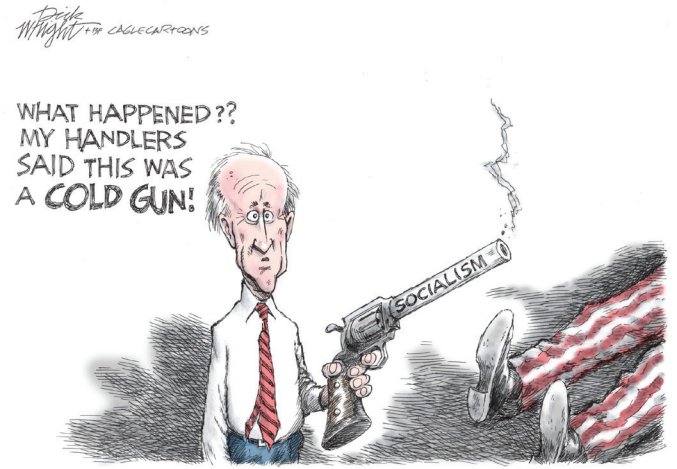
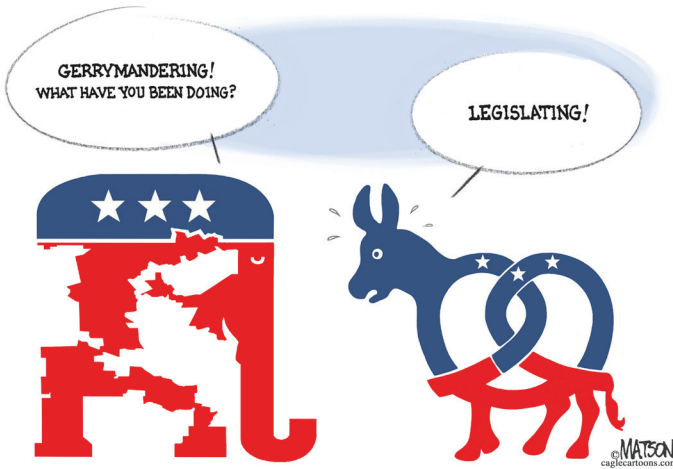
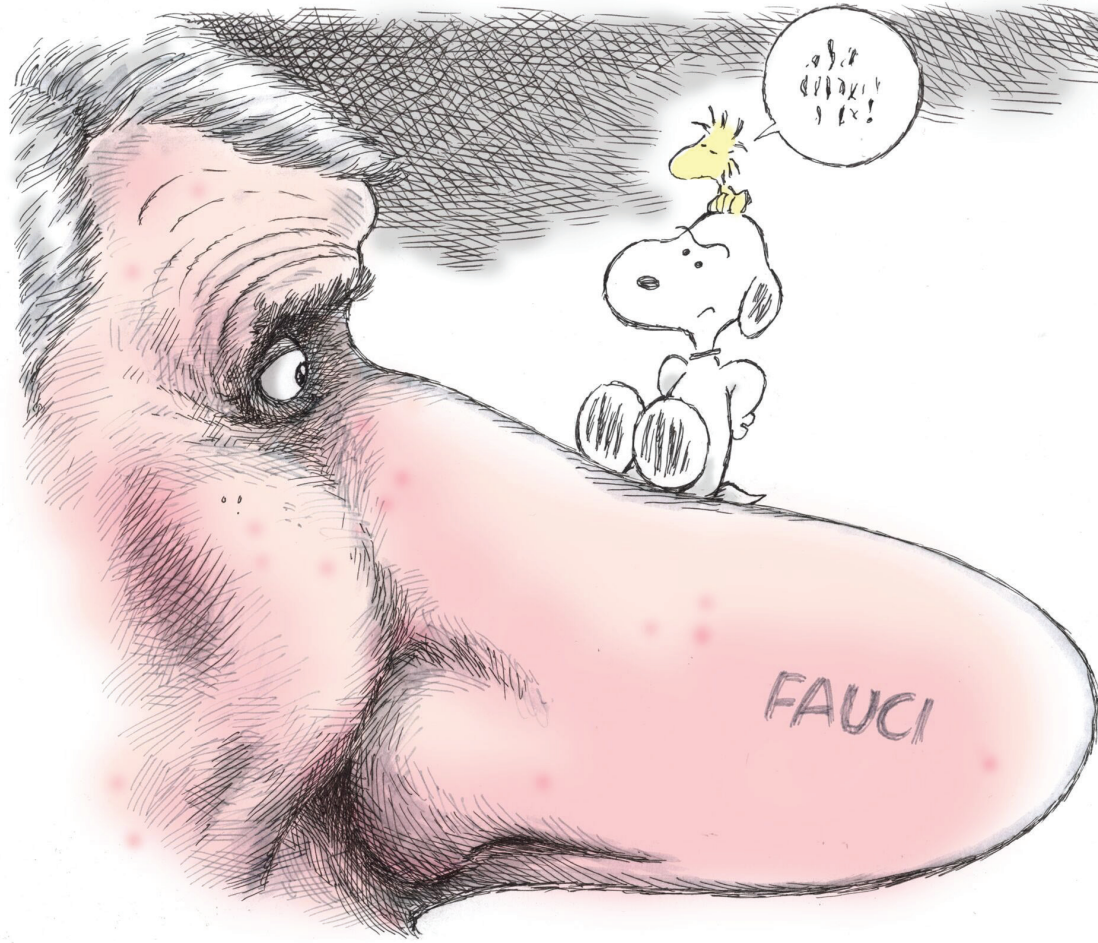
But that is not the point of this editorial. The point is that many millions — not only in Africa, but around the world — are in desperate need for essentials that we take for granted in America. Food. Water. Clothing. A bed. Health. Warmth.

The fact that, as Fulfer shared, he was able to buy a family of six a week's worth of food for \$4 says something about how blessed we are.

And how much we should be following the lead of these two, and many others who donate time and resources, to help the less fortunate.

What Sheahan and Fulfer are doing, in two different ways, is a good work — one that should be emulated by more people.

And it's a work that should help restore a semblance of hope for humanity.



LETTERS to the EDITOR

Applause for Wyden, River Democracy Act

I am writing to readers of the Chieftain to give voice to those who have none: our nonhuman relatives and many other members of our community who support the protections that would be provided by Sen. Ron Wyden's River Democracy Act. As a resident of Halfway — Nimiipuu Lands — I am happy to be joined by many friends, neighbors, and importantly, the Nez Perce and Umatilla Tribes.

Clean, cold waters sustain rich aquatic habitats that produce fish and wildlife in diversity and abundance. That so many rural voices have nominated not just big, iconic rivers, but also smaller tributaries for protection, bespeaks a collective wisdom in seeing our water cycle in a holistic manner.

Opposition to including these is not unlike treating a cardiovascular problem by solely focusing on the arteries — a questionable practice with a likely sorry outcome.

I invite readers to consider a case study I observed in the mid-2000s, working on salmon recovery with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) in Pendleton.

Studies of the Umatilla River by their natural resources staff demonstrated how railroads and highways blocked the flow of surface and ground water into the main channel. This disconnect prevented the mixing of cooler waters with the warming main stream and degraded the aquatic habitat for cold water fish species.

The tribe's salmon restoration strategy aimed to reconnect these hyporheic flows by protecting their headwaters and breaching barriers across the flood plain.

Thermal pollution is a leading factor impairing the quality of our surface waters. This is a problem for humans and non-humans alike. If we genuinely care about protecting the values of our waterways, it would be irresponsible of us to exclude tributaries, intermittent streams, and wetlands from the protections of the River Democracy Act. I applaud Sen. Wyden and his river nominations for their vision.

Mike Beaty
Halfway

Gender bias in high school sports coverage

The Chieftain is gender biased in its sports coverage.

For the past several weeks the Joseph High School girls volleyball team has been on a historic run of wins, including going undefeated in Old Oregon League play and winning the District 7 tournament (for only the second time since the 1980s) to advance to state. During that time the Chieftain has repeatedly chosen to highlight football and boys cross-country over covering volleyball. I don't grudge those teams and individuals the coverage, but I do object to those stories receiving at least three times the space in the sports section than the girls receive.

This Oct. 27 issue took the cake. Instead of detailed coverage of the Eagles' win at district last weekend and publishing the all-league team members from Wallowa and Joseph and player of the year who is from Joseph — all of which were announced at the end of the volleyball tournament — the Chieftain chose to publish and feature at the top of its sports section a detailed retrospective of the best decades of football at each school in the county. The coverage of the girls' story takes one minute to read, according to the Chieftain web site. The football retrospective is a four-minute read. This choice only served to emphasize your bias.

Step up and do the right thing. Cover girls sports with the same dedication and column space as you give to boys sports.

Benjamin Curry
Joseph

New Republican Party must be rejected

Whose Republican Party is this? Not the same as even 10 years ago. Although this party has not revised the platform in six years, actions speak louder than words.

1. A Republican president was impeached in 2020 for extortion by withholding financial and military aid from an ally, the government of Ukraine, until they would announce an unfounded investigation into his political opponent. There were

numerous confirming testimonies during this investigation, including his own staff. The Republican Senate then unanimously acquitted him with no reservations and no witnesses, in effect saying, "This was acceptable behavior for our man."

2. This same president was again impeached with insurrection in 2021 when he was found responsible for efforts to overturn the results of our national election in a violation of the U.S. Constitution, with a resulting riot and attack on the nation's capitol by his supporters. No witness testimony was heard to deny this charge, and in fact, after numerous election recounts and more than 80 lawsuits all being dismissed as frivolous or lack of evidence, he still claims to have won the election. He was again acquitted by vote of the Republican Senate with no reservations. This effectively condones disregarding the Constitution while the Republican Party is in power.

3. Support for voter suppression: Multiple state Republican leaders and legislatures have enacted new laws, since losing the presidential election in 2020, to limit voting. Reducing the opportunity to request a mail-in ballot or register to vote, prohibiting officials from automatically sending ballot applications, reduce the number of ballot drop boxes, adding new and stricter voter ID, shorten the time frame for early voting and expanding voter purge practices are all intended to reduce voter turnout. Congressional Republicans have threatened to filibuster H.R. 4, a voting rights bill which would have restored voting rights, if it was brought to the Senate floor for a vote where it could be defeated.

This party is all about power and an authoritarian government. It certainly does not abide by the Constitution, and only refers to it when it benefits the party. This is no longer a "Party of the People." It has been "bought and paid for" by Citizens United, special-interest groups and super PACs.

If democracy is to survive, it is crucial we send a clear message at the voting booth to all public officials, "the American people are rejecting the New Republican Party."

David Ebbert
Enterprise