

VOICE of the CHIEFTAIN

County residents come to the aid of others

A meal site was set up. A Joseph company sent sheets of plywood to residents and businesses.

Construction workers busy with a state contract project stopped and helped out residents.

Those were the types of actions seen across Wallowa County last week in the wake of a once-in-a-generation hailstorm that triggered damage seemingly everywhere.

Those efforts — and the work of so many others who stepped up to help — illustrate the kind of grit and determination that have always been a hallmark of Wallowa County.

Every one of the businesses and every one of the individuals who as a group or individually decided to lend a hand deserve a great deal of praises.

As a nation and a state, we often find ourselves locked into heated political disagreements. Sometimes we don't see eye to eye on issues.

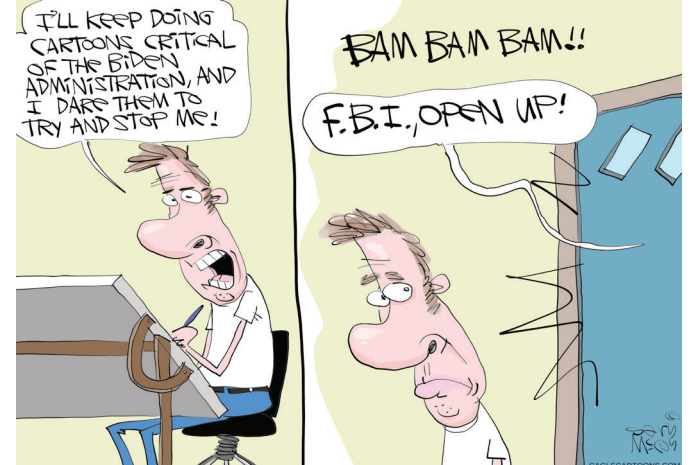
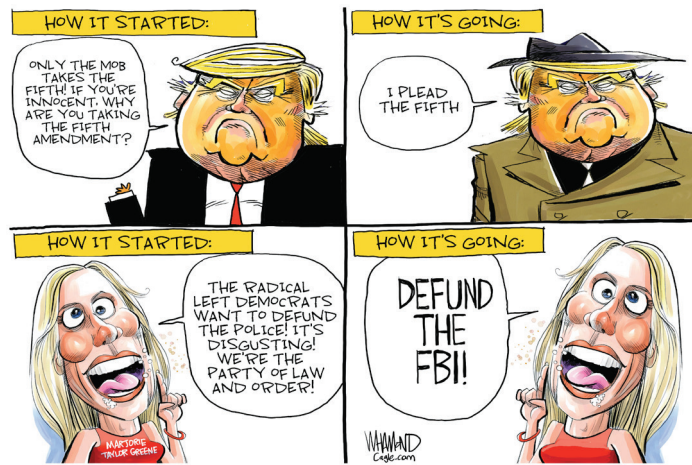
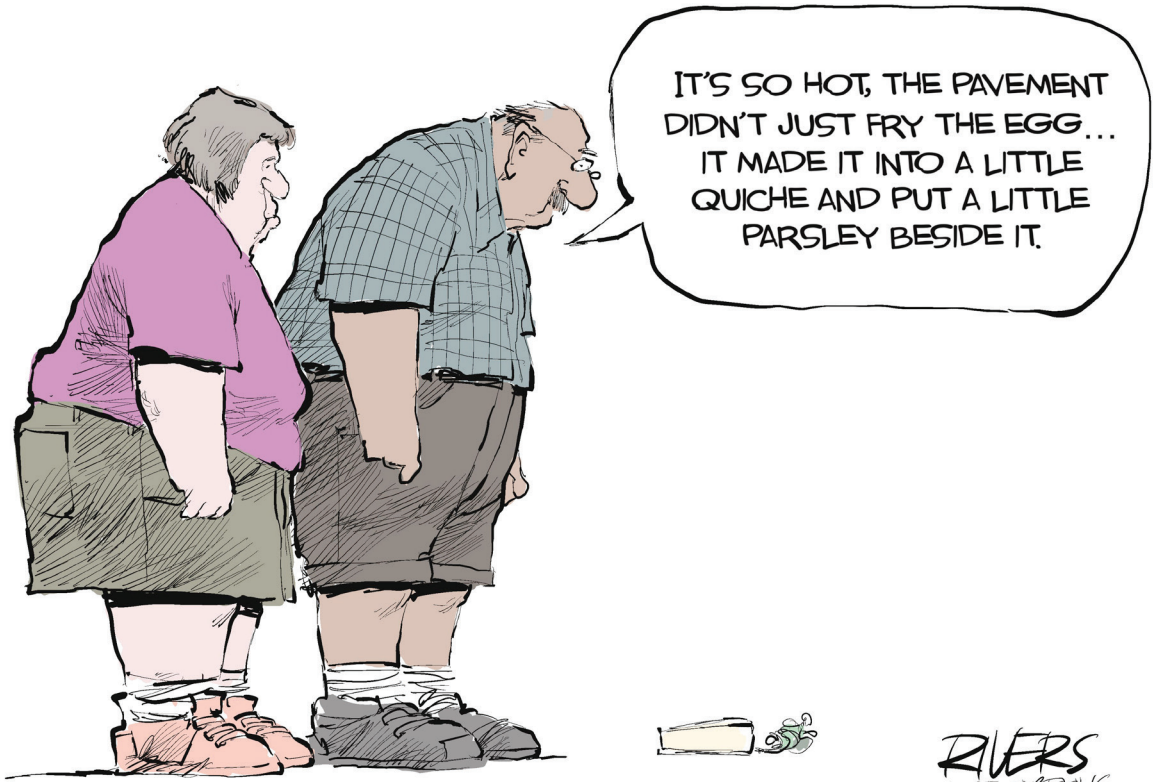
Often we are vehement in our support for our own cause. From a distance, it could be seen that we, as a nation, state or region have more to argue about than we do to agree with.

Yet when disaster strikes, when, so to speak, the chips are down, we see individual efforts like those that were — and continue to be — so common in Wallowa County.

No one can control the weather and certainly no one expected the kind of storm that lashed the county last week. Life is unpredictable as is the weather. Yet one thing we can count on and can predict with a high degree of certainty is when tragedy arrives there are going to be people on the farms and ranches and in the towns across our region who will seek to help, rather than hinder. People who will follow the better angels of their nature and come to the rescue.

That kind of assistance can be rare but, at least in Eastern Oregon, it is not. The people of Wallowa County not only showed their true nature in terms of helping their neighbor, but also demonstrated the kind of resiliency that is uncommon in many places. Rather than complaining or giving up, people jumped into debris and decided to make a difference.

The entire county should be proud of its residents and businesses, and remember that while we may disagree sometimes, when it comes to a disaster we are going to step up and help out.



LETTERS to the EDITOR

Will not return to rodeo until issues is addressed

I would like to respond to the recent article (Some object to politics at rodeo, Chieftain, Aug. 10, 2022) related to the announcing at the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.

I am Eastern Oregon born and raised. As a youth, I attended the local rodeos, worked on a ranch and even rode in a junior rodeo. I have lived in Wallowa County over 20 years, and even before my move, I would attend the rodeo with my sister and her family.

I too have been appalled at what comes out of the mouth of Jody Carper. Each year he gets worse, and this year went so far as to lead a chant of "let's go Brandon." We all know what that is code for. He is unapologetic and frankly gets an ego boost from the idea that he is "offending the liberals."

In spite of his narrative, he is not a patriot. He is a nationalist and he pushes division and hate. I would suggest that Mr. Jones quit minimizing this situation and take seriously the objections of people who believe Carper goes too far. He does. I am both a minister and a mental health

therapist. Carper's attempts to fuel hate for his own benefit are neither Christian (he flaunts his so-called faith) nor healthy in these divided and hate-filled times.

A long-time rodeo fan, I have stopped going. I know I am not alone. I will not return until this is addressed meaningfully.

Stephen Kliever Joseph

We can fix questions of our Constitution, but only if our Constitution survives

With an impending election, it is worthwhile to explore some questions with our candidates. The threat of autocracy is "real." The politicization of the Supreme Court was a critical step.

Do they consider climate change real and are they willing to take action to mitigate it? Extreme weather has become a fact of life, it could become worse.

Should all citizens have an equal right to vote and should the winner reflect the will of the majority? Many state legislatures are taking steps to limit voting and may assume the right to overturn the popular vote.

Is the riot at the Capital on Jan. 6, 2020, "legitimate political discourse" and is vio-

lence required to make change? The Republican National Committee has approved the Capital riot as "legitimate political discourse."

These answers are politically sensitive and difficult. They will determine if our nation survives as we know it. We can fix the questions of our Constitution but only if our Constitution survives.

Now is the time to contact your family and friends.

David Ebbert Enterprise

Rodeo rebuttal to those who are 'woke'

I read these stories about these liberals that are butt hurt about the rodeo announcer and his comments. Listen, nothing is different over the last 10 years I have been attending the rodeo.

If people do not like the format or content, then don't go. Go back to Portland or wherever you are from. We don't want you here anyway. Maybe go attend an NFL game where they promote wokeness and don't stand for our flag.

Brett Jensen Joseph

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published. Unsigned letters will not be published.

• Longer community comment columns, such as Other Views, must be no more than 700 words. Writers must provide a recent headshot and a one-sentence biography. Like letters to the editor, columns must refrain from complaints against businesses or personal attacks against private individuals. Submissions must carry the author's name, address and phone number.

• Submission does not guarantee publication, which is at the discretion of the editor.

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