

OPINION

VOICE of the CHIEFTAIN

Work crew lends a helping hand

The recent epic hailstorm did a lot of physical damage to the county, but it also created a scenario where average people stepped up to help and there was no better example of this than the employees of Global Electric, of Portland, who seemingly came out of nowhere to lend a hand.

Several members of the crew under contract by the Oregon Department of Transportation to complete an ADA sidewalk ramp upgrade project showed uncommon courtesy by helping guide a pedestrian to safety, furnishing basic medical care and helping clear debris for emergency service vehicles.

What was especially gratifying was these individuals — as far as we know — were not from the county but imported contractors. They had, really, nothing on the line in terms of connections to the local population. They didn't have to lend a hand, but they did.

That kind of behavior should be lauded but it was nothing out of the ordinary across the local area in the aftermath of the storm.

The actions of these contractors show that they were willing to make a sacrifice and to step up at the right time when their assistance was most needed.

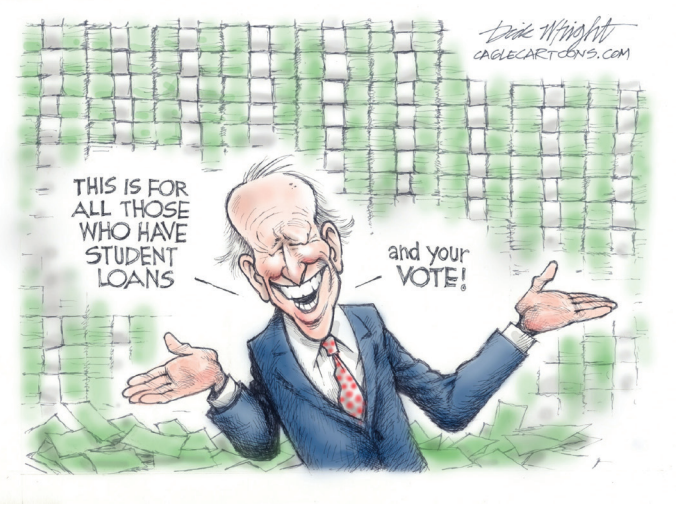
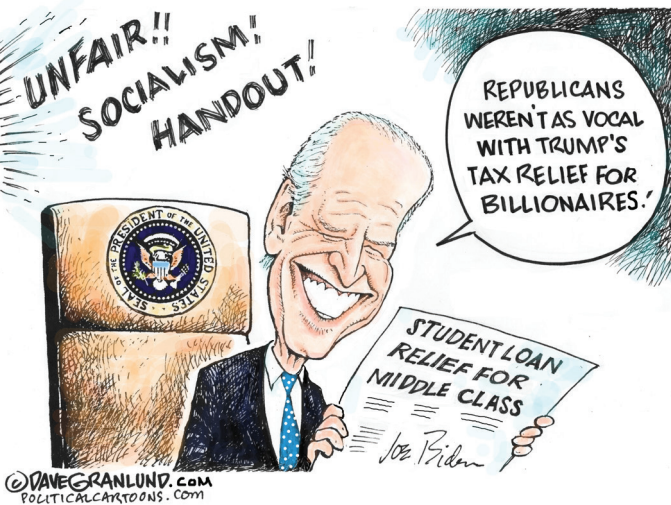
The state often invites such contractors into communities across our region. We all see them, but we go along with our lives. They have their jobs to do, and we have our lives to live. Interaction is most likely sparse and cursory.

On face value, they could have just ducked out under cover as the storm raged across the region, then focused on their work. Yet they did not and in doing so shined a bright, positive light on themselves and their company. ODOT should also feel a certain sense of pride that the people they hire to go into small communities showed a willingness to help during the most trying time.

We, as a community, are thankful for their help and hopeful that they recall their time here in our great county with fondness. They performed very well during the hailstorm and we are grateful.



"I'M SORRY, DEAR, YOU'LL HAVE TO COME BACK LATER. IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON AND THE GAME IS ON."



LETTERS to the EDITOR

Something to make you smile

Most of us couldn't care less if Mr. Kliever attends the rodeo or not, but must we threaten your readers with trash? Why is it that "the liberals" get so upset? Are they afraid of Trump? Just what does it mean when he wants Mr. Jones to address this "meaningfully"? Maybe agree with his opinion? Perhaps since he finds it necessary to tell us that he is a minister and a mental health therapist he feels that his occupation has some bearing. Get over yourself.

Now let's tell something that should bring a smile to someone: Last week I hobbled into Safeway to get a granddaughter a plant for her birthday, threw a package of raspberries and a cookie into the electric cart and went to the check stand where this nice lady offered to place the things on the counter for me. How nice of her, I am thinking. She tells the checker that she is camping at the lake and is from Southern Oregon. She puts my things back in the cart and when I am ready to put my debit card in, the checker says to me, "See you next time. That lady just paid for your purchase."

She probably has better things to do than write to the editor.

Nancy Cannon
Enterprise

Hatred has no place at a rodeo

Years ago, when our group of county and Nez Perce folks got together and started the CJD's Friendship Feast and Dance at the Indian campgrounds by the rodeo, I was aghast at the racial slurs and degrading language about the Nez Perce tribal members that were liberally used by the rodeo announcer. It drifted across and into the Indian's encampment. Really, it was shocking. How could such language be entertaining to anyone? I stopped attending the then ironically named Chief Joseph Days Rodeo because of it.

Mr. Bradshaw's recent article about the 2022 CJD rodeo announcer and clown was insightful. I closely read the section

where he interviewed the clown and the announcer. Both seemed to justify the hateful and prejudiced language and jokes they relied upon as rodeo "entertainment" by referencing their followers' evident support of such language.

In my mind, having followers should not give justification to their brand of entertainment. Jesus had followers, and so did Hitler. One preached love and saved souls; the other preached hate and murdered people.

From the emotional response of some attendees of this years CJD rodeo, hate seemed to be intertwined in the language of the rodeo announcer and the clown. It was a terrible message of "hate of the other" (i.e., Democrats, liberals and "Those Who Don't Support our Previous President"). As a practicing Christian, I support the message of love.

I therefore encourage my thoughtful neighbor Terry Jones to also support the message of love and hire someone else next year. I would recommend this year's Spray Rodeo announcer. He was fun, inclusive and wholesomely entertaining for everyone there.

June Colony
Lostine

Rodeo should be a safe place for all

I should have predicted it. The response to those people who didn't like the nationalistic, authoritarianism extremism of the rodeo announcer from those who are ideologically atune to such a message is simply this. We don't respect you, we don't want you around, just be quiet and go away.

This "us/them" language is the narrative of the American right, which wants all the power and privilege and screams for respect, while showing no respect to others, and taking away their privileges. Before you tell me to go back from where I came, I was born in Eastern Oregon. I was raised here. Graduated from high school in Lakeview. I have spent most of my life as a pastor and a mental health therapist serving people in Eastern Oregon.

I am currently working hard to get care to those hit by the storm in Wallowa. I

am not asking you to change your political beliefs. I am asking you to respect my beliefs. As a follower of Jesus I found the words and attitude of the announcer inappropriate. The rodeo should be a safe place for all, not just extreme nationalists.

If you claim Jesus, as at least one writer did, then put on the attitude of Christ. "Consider others more important than yourself" It's in Philipians 2. You might read it.

Stephen Kliever
Joseph

Why isn't Joseph's noise ordinance being followed?

I admit I enjoy concerts and loud music. But the noise level at the Back Country Bash seems a bit excessive. I live over a mile from the rodeo grounds and can clearly hear the bass pounding at my home. Friends who live near the venue complain about windows rattling and noise until 11 p.m. and later.

Joseph has a noise ordinance. Why is it not being followed? The following is taken from the list of ordinances listed by the city:

(1) Residential Zone. No person may produce, or permit to be produced, noise as described in policy, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

(2) Commercial Zone. No person may produce, or permit to be produced, noise, as described in policy, between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Whether the rodeo grounds are considered commercial or not, it is surrounded by homes and apartments. My heart aches for the residents at the Alpine House Senior Living. They have to endure all the noise, traffic and crowds for a week during Chief Joseph Days. And within days, BCB starts. Do the organizers have any kind of consideration or empathy for them?

Perhaps move that event out to the fairgrounds. It would show respect for the seniors in our community. And no doubt, they would breathe a sigh of relief like many others who live nearby.

Christina Knecht
Joseph