

## EDITORIAL

Another  
life lost,  
needlessly

George Floyd should be alive.

Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer who knelt on Floyd's neck while arresting him on May 25, including for nearly 3 minutes after Floyd stopped moving, according to court records, should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Chauvin has been fired, as have the three other officers involved.

Rightfully so.

Chauvin was arrested on Friday and charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter

Also rightfully so.

Even more serious criminal charges against Chauvin might be warranted; the available evidence suggests this is so. The three other officers could be accused of crimes as well.

The police station in Minneapolis that was burned by arsonists on Friday should still be standing. So should the other buildings damaged or destroyed in the Twin Cities, in Portland, in Chicago and in every other city where such things have happened.

This is not a case of moral equivalencies.

Floyd's life is infinitely more valuable than any number of buildings.

But none of these actions is defensible, even though Floyd's murder is far worse than the others. To say so in no way diminishes the tragedy of Floyd's death, or takes away even a scintilla of Chauvin's culpability.

It's eminently logical to believe both that people shouldn't die needlessly and that buildings shouldn't be destroyed or damaged needlessly.

We don't have to choose only one event to lament.

People are angry about Floyd's death. And about the deaths of other people, many of them black men, who died at the hands of police when they shouldn't have over the years.

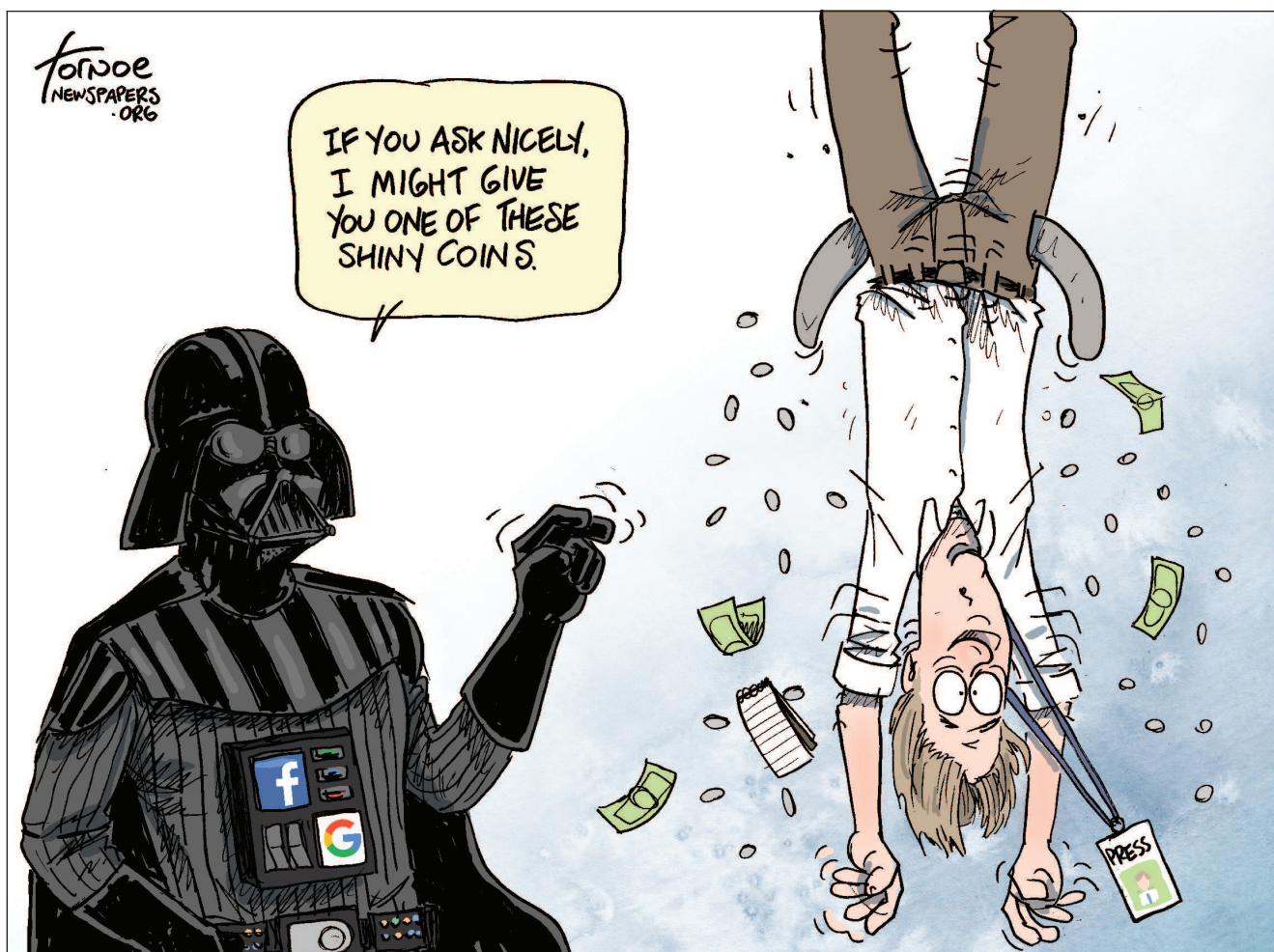
People should be angry.

They have taken to the streets of Minneapolis and many other cities, as is their constitutional right.

Their message is a powerful one, and it should be broadcast as widely, and as loudly, as righteous people can muster. To solve this problem — and it has no simple solutions — we must acknowledge that it exists.

Those relatively few who seem to be responsible for the arson fires and the looting turn down the volume on that message. They deflect attention from where it should be focused, and where most of the demonstrators are trying to focus it, which is on the deaths of Floyd and others.

— Jayson Jacoby, Baker City Herald editor



## Digital giants should pay up

If you are a newspaper subscriber or you pick up a copy at a local retailer, you pay for the news and information you receive in your paper's print edition or digital outlets.

But it may surprise you to learn that the multi-billion-dollar digital behemoths Facebook and Google don't pay for the enormous amounts of news content they scoop up from newspapers every second. Facebook doles out a little bit of money through grants and funds to a few publishers — and Google provides some small grants through its News Initiative. While these are positive steps, they in no way make up for the use of the news content they are using for free.

Newspapers' original reporting, especially on the community news and information that only local papers can provide, drive traffic to Facebook and Google, keeping people on their sites longer and attracting advertisers.

And news is a rich source of revenue for the Big Tech platforms. A 2019 study conducted by the News Media Alliance concluded that news publishers' content makes up 16% to 39% of Google's search results, which goes largely uncompensated. That figure doesn't include the more intangible benefits that news content, and the data that comes with it, provide the search giant, such as using it for new product development.

The irony is that the news and content that newspapers pay journalists to provide is used by Google and



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Facebook to steadily drive advertising revenue away from newspapers, and into their coffers. The two digital giants now gobble up 60% of all online advertising in the United States — an amount certain to increase with the cratering of newspaper ad revenue caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Facebook and Google don't have reporters or the associated expense. They rely on small and large newspapers to feed their search results.

Here's why this patently unfair situation should concern you and your community: It now threatens the existence of some local newspapers, the source of news and information that underpins democracy and civic life itself.

It's long past time for Google and Facebook to do what newspapers and their subscribers do: Pay for the local news that benefits them so richly.

There are ways for that to happen. Ideally, Google and Facebook would take the responsibility and voluntarily propose a method to share revenue with newspapers and other news organizations. They already pay licensing fees to music publishers, for instance.

Realistically, though, the two behemoths will have to be forced to a

solution. America's Newspapers, an association of some 1,500 newspapers including many operated by families for multiple generations, along with the News Media Alliance and other media associations have urged Congress to pass the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act, allowing newspaper publishers as a group to negotiate rates with Big Tech.

Other nations around the world have taken notice of the ill effect the market dominance of Google and Facebook has on the viability of independent journalism. Australia is now developing a code that would require Google and Facebook to compensate news organizations when their content is used in the digital giants' news products. Similarly, France just ordered Google to negotiate with news publishers over pay for news content.

This public health crisis has demonstrated the importance of the reporting of local newspapers, even as it has wreaked economic havoc on them, forcing layoffs and even silencing printing presses on some days. Requiring Google and Facebook to pay their fair share for news would go a long way to restoring the long-term health of your local newspaper.

*Dean Ridings is CEO of America's Newspapers, which is committed to explaining, defending and advancing the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. Learn more: [www.newspapers.org](http://www.newspapers.org)*

## Your views

## Letter criticizing other writers missed the mark

Recently, the Herald printed a letter written by an author who I refer to as Simple Sig. The letter attempted

to ridicule the authors of two letters previously written to the Herald. Those letters were well written and the authors clearly presented their ideas in an intelligent and understandable manner.

What Simple Sig's letter did is show us is that he is a simple-minded troll with minimal reading comprehension skills.

**Joshua Dillen**  
Baker City

## OTHER VIEWS

Trump administration right to say  
Hong Kong no longer autonomous

## Editorial from The Dallas Morning News:

The last time we flew out of Shanghai, China, it was 2015 and we stumbled across a sign hanging from the airport ceiling that seemed like an historical relic even then. It gave instructions — in English — for all travelers on domestic Chinese flights to head one direction and for all international travelers (which included those headed for Hong Kong and Taiwan) to head in the other direction. At the time, we smiled at the admission. The people of both places would appreciate that sign, but Beijing likes to think that both should be brought under its control.

Fast-forward a few years, and it is becoming increasingly clear that Hong Kong is slipping behind the curtain of dominance of mainland China. On May 27, the U.S. State Department declared that Hong Kong is no longer an autonomous region in China. The

declaration by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has real implications for trade with the commercial center, and it will also have repercussions for our relationship with China.

We should make no mistake. This declaration — coming as it does amid a pandemic and after years of increasing trade tensions — will redefine our relationship with China. This declaration will harden views and strip away the remaining patina that Hong Kong was a special region that should enjoy a different approach on trade than China as a whole. It's also a declaration that will sting a little more for the fact that is based on a factual recognition that China is working to subvert a culture of individual liberty and a desire for democracy in Hong Kong. It's the sort of leadership we'd asked Washington to provide in standing up for liberty in Hong Kong, so it's one we hope Americans welcome. It's a hard truth, but one we can no

longer deny: Beijing's promise of "one country, two systems" has been revealed as false.

We hasten to add that the declaration will likely be felt across the U.S. as Chinese investors rethink direct investment in the United States. Real estate seems benign, but it's already one place where Chinese investors in U.S. assets have pulled back. Such shifts will continue as the underlying relationship between our two countries continues to change. Our advice is for all of us to recognize the larger picture. We are engaged in a battle of ideas on the world's stage. And in that struggle, we should wish for Hong Kong's democracy advocates to prevail and press back against the ideology emanating out from Beijing. In that struggle, we need smart thinking and the smart use for soft power and diplomacy to aid our natural allies and push against our adversaries. The United States' declaration this week is one such step.

Letters to  
the editor

- We welcome letters on any issue of public interest. Customer complaints about specific businesses will not be printed.
- The Baker City Herald will not knowingly print false or misleading claims. However, we cannot verify the accuracy of all statements in letters to the editor.
- Writers are limited to one letter every 15 days.
- The writer must sign the letter and include an address and phone number (for verification only). Letters that do not include this information cannot be published.
- Letters will be edited for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons.

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