

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Baker's generous donors

We'll never know how many lives Baker County residents saved last week.

But it's a solid bet that at least one person will owe their life to this recent generosity of local residents.

They donated about 132 pints of blood during a two-day event put on by the American Red Cross Nov. 8 and 9.

"People have really stepped up," said Myrna Evans, the local blood drive coordinator.

Baker County residents have been more willing than usual to bare their veins during the pandemic.

Evans said donations are up this year in the county.

That's one reason Red Cross officials added a second day to last week's drive — Baker City events typically are a single day.

Officials were a trifle worried initially about expanding the drive. Just a week or so before the event, there were about 40 appointments available for donors on the second day.

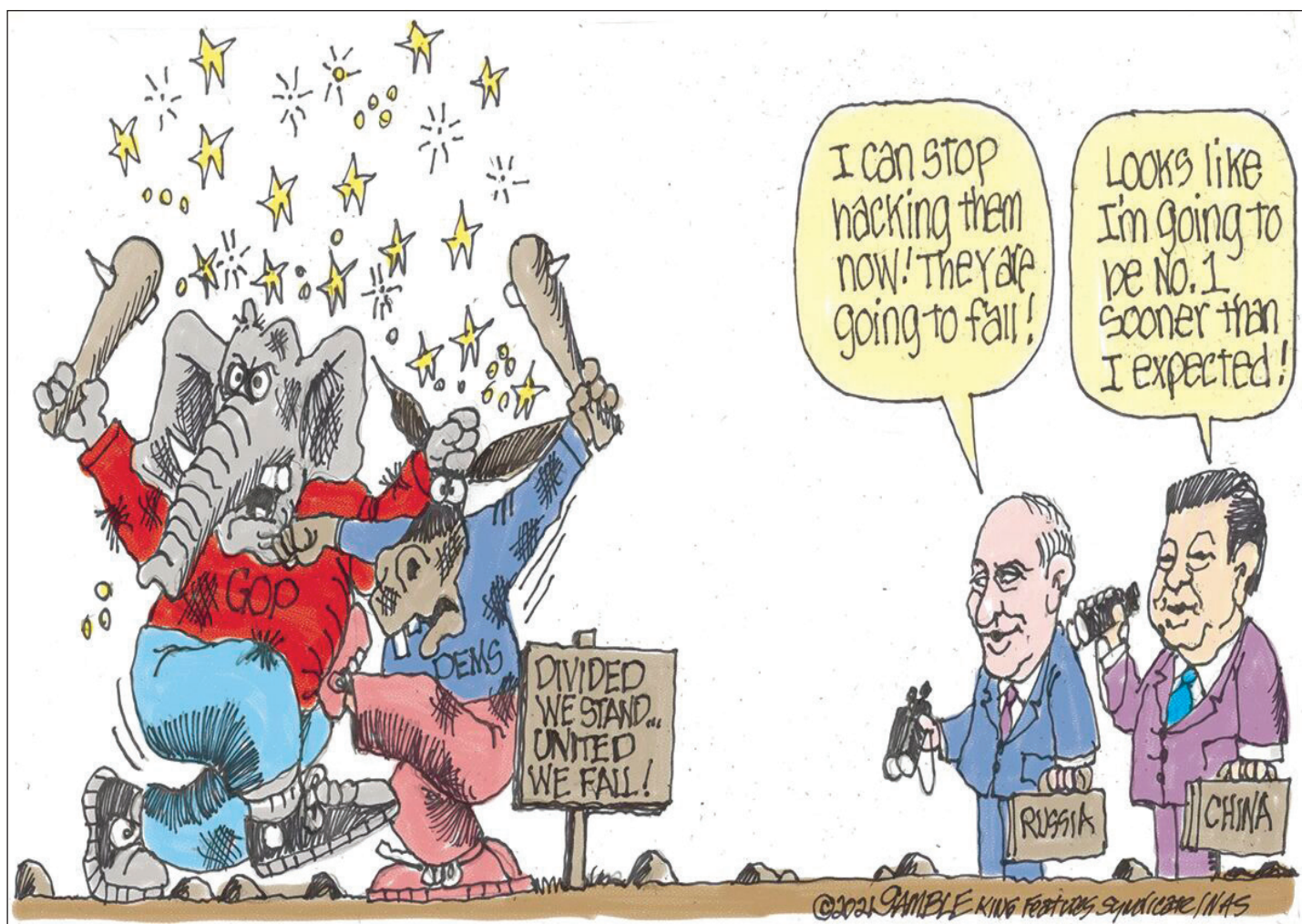
Residents claimed almost all of those slots.

This gratifying turnout has prompted Red Cross officials to consider having two-day drives in Baker City in the future, Evans said.

Giving blood is one of the simplest, but most important, ways people can donate. And most of us are eligible to do so.

Baker City blood drives for 2022 are scheduled for Jan. 24, April 4, June 13, Sept. 12 and Nov. 14. You can find out more, and schedule an appointment to donate, at redcrossblood.org.

— Jayson Jacoby,
Baker City Herald editor



Your views

Letter writers attacking loyal members of Baker City Council

I'm really sick of seeing local liberals attack Mayor McQuisten and Councilors Dixon and Waggoner. They're the only ones on council who have been loyal to their constituents.

In case Bev Calder doesn't realize it, the Mayor faced down a room filled with a special interest group so that the will of the voters was upheld, and she fought for the issue to be placed on the ballot. That group didn't want anyone else to have a say in the matter. Yet Bev calls her a bully? Who is the bully? I'd say it's Ms. Calder and her leftist letter-writing buddies. But they're great at name-calling, aren't they?

Most of the community is against the railroad quiet zone, just as most of the community was against moving the Visitor's Center away from the Chamber into a postage-stamp sized hole with no parking on Main Street. These three on Council are standing up against constant evil attacks by these people just because they're fighting for us. They need our support.

The pressure to appoint Randy Daugherty simply because this group wants what they want when they want it is also absurd. The Mayor has stated plainly that she has no personal issue with Daugherty, and said in the public meeting that the claims their decision was something political or partisan has nothing to do with it. Why wasn't that reported in the paper? Why wasn't it reported that Baker City has lost \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 in ambulance billing revenue and that mistake

falls at the feet of the past city manager and prior councils? It's wise not to bring anyone involved in such mismanagement back into a council position. But of course, that little tidbit, which was made very public in the last Council meeting, wasn't reported either.

The fact that the other applicant, Tom Hughes, has managed over \$95 million in client contracts over the years, and had a judge, county commissioner and business owner as references doesn't matter to these people either. They'd rather sit back and disparage him too, when he was just stepping up to serve.

Michael Miller
Baker City

Worried about Wyden's involvement in our forests

Beware! Senator Wyden is mucking around in our forests again.

I attended a meeting in Wallowa about 10 years ago. There was fewer than 10 people there and Senator Ron Wyden was one of those attending. I'd gone that day to report on federal funding for the Wallowa-Union Railroad Authority.

Minutes into the meeting a local business owner thanked Wyden for securing \$12 million for federal purchase of a large piece of agricultural land in the Innaha river canyon lands. Upon hearing this, my focus changed completely as I recognized the big story being the federal government purchasing thousands of acres of private, agricultural land.

The parcel had been acquired by a private entity during the era of the failed

Blue Mountain Land Transfer-BMLT, 2006ish. During the same time, the land purchaser had actually been working with Rep. Greg Walden on legislation that would have forced certain private-to-public land transfers. When that conflict of interest became public, Walden backed away from the legislation and BMLT died on the vine. This left the land purchaser in a pickle with thousands of acres of land and a large loan from a local institution.

Next, that piece of Innaha property becomes the highest priority, top of the list, for federal land acquisition; in steps the Nature Conservancy, United States Forest Service (USFS) and Wyden.

After about five years, Nature Conservancy purchased the property from private land purchaser and holds the property while Wyden works to get federal funding, from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, so the USFS can purchase the property, circa 2009-2012.

When I learned all this, problems began to surface. First, I learned that the private owner, Nature Conservancy, and USFS all used the same land appraiser. Next, a well-respected, local ag-land appraiser claimed they'd violated laws, including the "larger parcel rule" after the private purchaser submitted a verbal plan to construct a 11-parcel housing subdivision. I was informed this inflated the land's value by about 3.5 times.

Now we see Wyden mucking around in our forests again and I wonder to whose benefit.

Brian Addison
Baker City

OTHER VIEWS

As governor, Bud Pierce would correct Brown's errors

By DANIEL ZENE CROWE

Deadly diseases and human suffering are as old as time itself. America, that great shining city on a hill, has led the world for centuries in fighting deadly disease and human suffering worldwide. We can accomplish anything when united, which makes the current climate of division, hatred, and mutual hostility concerning the COVID vaccine so painful to my friend, Dr. Bud Pierce, and me.

Bud and I ran alongside one another in 2016 — him for Governor and me for Attorney General.

Bud isn't just my friend; he's more like a brother ... but I don't always agree with my brother.

Bud has taken the COVID vaccine. For reasons Bud knows and respects, I have chosen not to.

These days, you might think our disagreement means that Bud and I would be sniping at each other. But nothing could be further from the truth. To disagree for principled reasons has merely deepened the bonds of trust and respect between us.

In the face of our disagreement, Bud and I worked hard to find common ground. And we found it.

Dr. Bud Pierce and I agree: In the present circumstances, govern-

ment has no right to compel you, or anyone else, to take the COVID vaccine. That's why he has posted this OpEd on his website.

In Bud's 44 years of fighting for people who are fighting against cancer, he has cared for more than 20,000 patients. He doesn't coerce; he persuades. Like me, Bud finds shouting unpersuasive.

Like many of his generation, Bud was inspired to pursue medicine because of Dr. Jonas Salk's discovery of the polio vaccine. As an expert in immunology, Bud is in regular contact with the actual experts at the national level. (Not the celebrities you see preening on TV.) The real experts, alongside whom Bud has worked for decades, care about using science to safeguard you and your loved ones. They love you as deeply as Bud and I do. Bud trusts their professionalism. I trust Bud.

COVID is not currently the greatest threat to your health and well-being. Rampant inflation, skyrocketing utility bills, high gas prices, chaos and anarchy in Portland, failing schools, empty store shelves, out-of-control homelessness, and an Oregon government seemingly incapable of solving any of these problems are going to

kill more of us than COVID. Drug overdoses, suicides, untreated medical conditions, lack of education and opportunity, and hopelessness can kill you, too.

It is for this reason that Bud Pierce for Governor has gone on record declaring that you are perfectly capable of deciding for yourself whether the COVID vaccine is right for you and your family.

Every single person whom we have lost to COVID — including the 300-400 kids who have died — is a gut-wrenching tragedy. But, during the same time period, more than 30,000 children have died from other causes. Far too many have killed themselves because adults who should know better have told them that the world is ending.

Panic, incompetence, and fear-mongering are not examples of effective leadership. Dictators dictate; leaders govern by accurately and honestly measuring risk. Leaders lead by maturely, effectively, and respectfully bringing matters of public concern to the public's attention; and then using the normal give-and-take of the law-making process to find solutions.

Bud understands that, in an actual emergency, sometimes a governor must act unilaterally. If, God

forbid, the Cascadia Fault erupts on his watch, Bud will act swiftly and decisively within the full scope of his powers as our governor to save those who would otherwise be lost.

Some will be tempted to mistake Bud's kindness for weakness. But if we are confronted by chaos and anarchy in the streets again, Bud will end it — decisively. However, only an idiot or a maniac would sic the Oregon National Guard on our own people. Our brave, heroic cops are perfectly capable of putting the perpetual adolescents of Antifa and the Proud Boys in time out ... if only the career politicians would let them do their jobs.

We must not let the common good be hijacked by those for whom power is always going to be more important than you and your family. Coercion, mandates, and bribery are all examples of failed leadership. The idea of mandating something — including the COVID vaccine — is that mandates automatically lead to the desired outcome. However, that isn't reality. Americans generally — and Oregonians specifically — prefer to control our own lives. Mandates invariably elicit resistance. For my people, mandates simply add a decisive minus to an already significant

number of reasons not to take the vaccine.

Bud understands what every true leader understands: Coercive power should never be used if there is any less coercive path available. Because a huge part of any governor's job is to never overuse the powers which have been given to them in trust. When political power is overused, free people react: first they resist and, in time, they rescind delegated power that they had previously granted.

Emergency power then becomes unavailable for real emergencies. The future is left unprotected.

My Dad taught me, "Any fool can learn from his own mistakes; I prefer to learn from the mistakes of others." In that sense, Governor Brown has taught us all something important: If you neglect and then bully the 47% of Oregonians (and the 80% of Oregon) that didn't vote for you, you might have a tough time persuading them to trust you in an emergency. As Governor, Bud won't make that mistake.

Let us show that we can learn from our own mistakes.

Daniel Crowe was the 2016
Republican nominee for Oregon
attorney general.