

**EDITORIAL**

## Bringing back the bike rally

During a summer that ought to be basically normal in Baker County — at least compared with 2021 and, especially, 2020 — the absence of burbling motorcycle engines would have been conspicuous.

So too would the hordes of people who have in past years congregated in Baker City for one of our bigger annual events (and almost certainly the biggest over the past 15 years or so, in terms of the number of participants).

That's the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally.

Like most gatherings, it was canceled in 2020, the first year of the pandemic.

But the rally didn't happen in 2021, either, even as other signature summer events, including Miners Jubilee and the bull and bronc riding competitions, returned from their one-year hiatus.

It was quite disappointing, then, to hear in February from Mark Dukes, a partner in High Desert Harley-Davidson of Meridian, Idaho, the rally's organizer, that it would miss a third straight summer.

But the owners of Shameless Tees in Baker City weren't satisfied with lamenting the loss of an event that's both popular among residents and profitable for many businesses.

So they revived the rally.

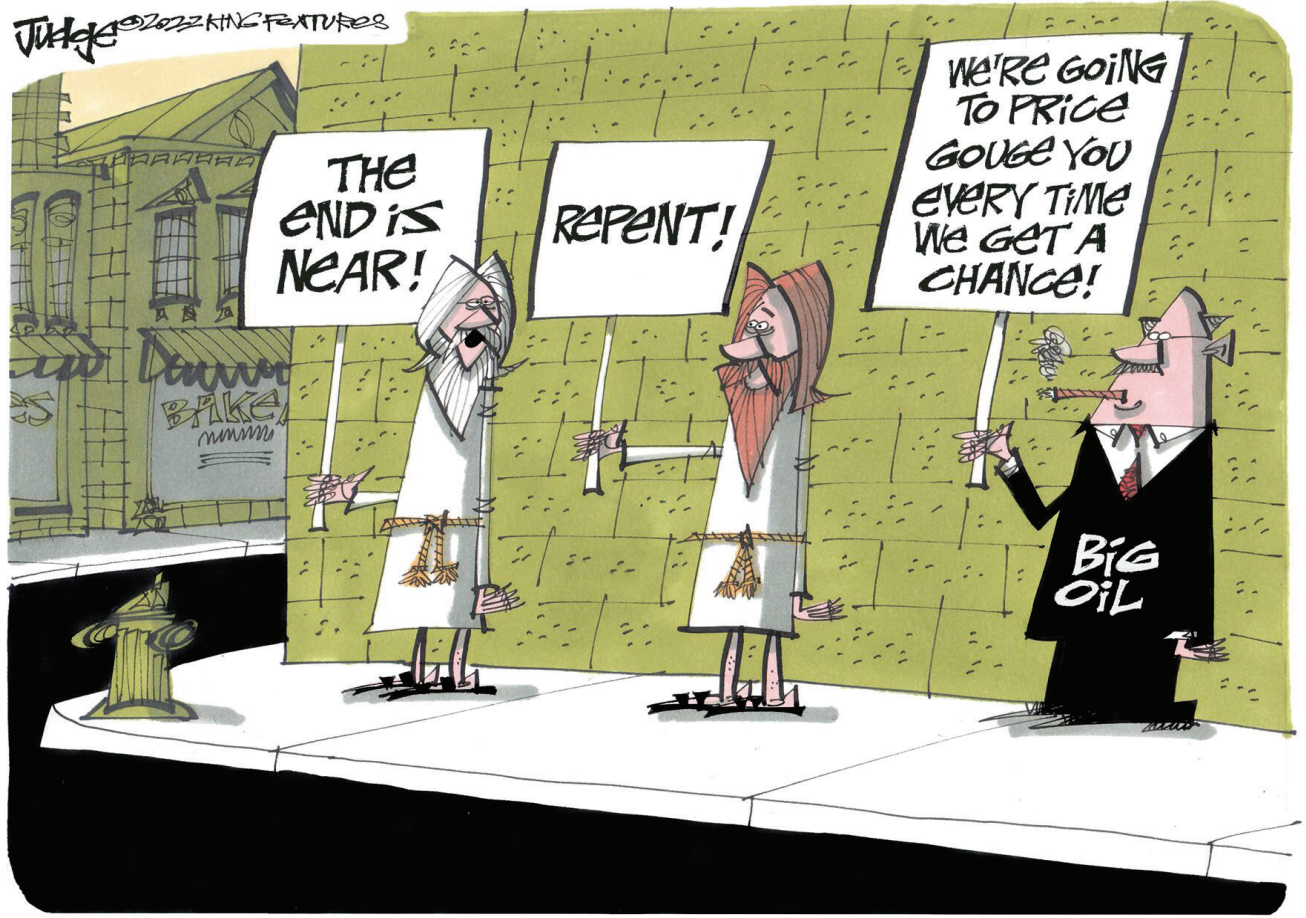
And in an official way, with a website, registration package options, T-shirts and the like.

That's an important distinction. The pandemic couldn't of course prevent motorcycle riders from plying the highways and byways of Baker County and Northeastern Oregon that initially lured brothers Eric and Steve Folkestad and some of their buddies to the area in the early 2000s. Those visits led to the creation of the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally.

And even though there was no official rally in 2021 or 2020, riders did show up in respectable numbers.

But having an official event should boost visitor numbers, bringing a welcome influx of dollars during the crucial summer season, and another reassuring example that society is recovering from the great upheaval we've endured.

— Jayson Jacoby, Baker City Herald editor



"HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF OIL COMPANY PROPHETS?"

**YOUR VIEWS**
**Christianity holds the solution to many of America's troubles**

Seems my letter to the editor of May 26 rattled a few cages. Good. There are many that need rattling. One writer points out the many mistakes in his so-called Christianity understanding without realizing these are man's mistakes, not the belief in real Christianity (the belief in God). A writer states God is not in the Constitution. You are right, but if you will study both the Constitution and the Ten Commandments you will find that most of our "morality" laws came from God's laws (read Exodus 20). Nothing in the writer's letter changes the fact that this country is based on Christianity (God's laws, not mine, not yours).

Why can't anyone see that we have come from a country that was so blessed to one with so many ungodly ways? I ask a simple question: What has happened to this country since God was taken out of the schools? No praying, no pledge to the United States flag. Want to know what has happened since Christian principles were removed from public life starting in 1962? In 1962 the Supreme Court of the United States prohibited the saying of this simple, nondenominational prayer in any public school — "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon thee, and we beg thy blessing on us, our parents, our teachers and our country." In 1962 the Supreme Court banned Bible teaching in pub-

lic schools. In 1980 the Supreme Court ordered public schools to remove all of the Ten Commandments from student view. Just this much, what did we expect would happen? SAT scores down 10%. Child abuse up 2,300%. Teen suicide up 450%. Illegal drugs up 6,000%. Criminal arrests of teens 150%. Divorce up 350%. Births to unmarried girls up 500%. Murder off the chart. People with no regard for life or others. Is this what we want coming from a country that's been blessed by God? Christianity and its way is still the way to save this country. You have a better way, let me know!

Richard Fox  
Baker City

**Americans need to stand up against government control**

I find it hard to understand why elected officials in this country, before taking office, place their hand on the Bible and swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States, then within a short period of time ignore the Constitution or begin to tear it apart.

The present administration is a perfect example of this. It has no interest in what goes on in this country unless the situation can be used to further their own political agenda. The Uvalde, Texas, school shooting reflects this very thing. The first thing this administration and the Democratic party did, almost before condolences could be offered, was to call

for more gun control legislation. This is nothing more than the government trying to gain more power over the people. That is exactly why the Second Amendment to the Constitution was written, to prevent the government from taking the ability to defend themselves away from the people.

By proposing more gun legislation and tighter restrictions on gun ownership, the Democrats are apparently blaming guns for the shootings rather than people. From my viewpoint I have yet to see a gun load itself and pull its own trigger. People are responsible for those actions.

Here is a certainty that will happen if the buying of guns becomes more restrictive or, heaven forbid, confiscation occurs. Criminals, or non law-abiding citizens, will still have access to guns because the U.S. is not the only country in the world that manufactures guns. These guns can be bought and smuggled across our open southern border just as easily as drugs can, and we know how devastating that is.

With this administration and the Democrats' assault on the Second Amendment, these things could happen. Then we would be totally under the control of the government and criminals. No longer free. Just another third world country.

As a nation, we have fought in other countries to preserve freedom. How about speaking up and standing firm for our freedom in this country?

Dick Culley  
Baker City

**COLUMN**

## 'Ever Wild': Book reveals a man's love for a mountain

If Mount Adams were a Beatle it would be Ringo.

Despite being the third tallest of the great volcanoes that comprise the Cascade Mountains, this peak in Southern Washington garners much less attention than some that fall short both literally and, based on sheer bulk, figuratively.

The two summits that surpass Adams' 12,276 feet, Mount Rainier, also in Washington, and Mount Shasta in Northern California, are understandably famous — the John and Paul of the Cascades, to belabor the musical analogy.

Rainier, the tallest of the Cascades at 14,410 feet, so dominates its section of the range, looming over the Puget Sound and the millions of people who live nearby, that its eminence, both physical and historical, is understandable.

So too with Shasta, the 14,162-foot sentinel visible from almost any slightly elevated vantage point for 100 miles around.

Yet Mount Hood, I feel confident in claiming, graces far more calendars and coffee table books than Adams, even though Hood is a thousand feet shorter.

Mount St. Helens is much shorter still — particularly since May 18, 1980 — but it, too, is far better known than Adams.

St. Helens, of course, gained much of its stature by the very thing that cleaved 1,300 feet from its summit — the cataclysmic 1980 eruption.

Adams, in addition to ranking third



Jayson Jacoby

in elevation, outranks every peak in the Cascade in the volume of its eruptions save for Shasta.

Rainier is more than 2,000 feet taller but it was constructed atop non-volcanic rocks, giving it, in effect, a boost that Adams lacks.

Although it can hardly be said that a 12,000-foot, glacier-mantled volcano is inconspicuous, Adams certainly doesn't flaunt its massive ridges and icefields as blatantly as its aforementioned cousins.

This has quite a lot to do with its location.

The vantage points that most thoroughly reveal Adams' grandeur are comparatively lightly populated — Hood River and The Dalles, for instance, and the Yakima Valley.

Mounts Hood and St. Helens, by contrast, show off for more than a million people in the Portland metro area whenever the clouds thin or disappear.

Rainier's audience is larger still. Yet all mountains, even ones that are mere hillocks compared with Adams, are the dominant natural feature for somebody, the sight that thrills them like no other.

Mount Adams fulfills that role for many people, I'm sure. But I doubt any can exceed Darryl Lloyd's claim, as it were.

I recently came across Lloyd's fine

2018 book, "Ever Wild: A Lifetime on Mount Adams," at the Baker County Library.

Although I don't believe the word book necessarily fits Lloyd's work.

Ode, I think, better captures the flavor of the thing.

Darryl, along with his twin brother, Darvel, born in 1942, grew up near Glenwood, Washington, a village at the southeast foot of Mount Adams.

Darryl Lloyd writes in the introduction that he and his twin took their first hike, at Bird Lake on the mountain's slopes, when they were 2.

Four years later the brothers got lost together when they ventured away from a hiking trail.

"It would be the beginning of almost seven decades of off-trail ramblings by the Lloyd brothers on Mount Adams," Darryl writes.

Quite a few of those rambles brought the Lloyds, or Darryl himself, to the summit of Adams. Despite its great elevation, the mountain, from its south side in particular, makes for a technically easy — though physically demanding — ascent.

"Ever Wild" is a history book, but not a typical one.

Since its chief character is tens of thousands of years old, the book necessarily covers a greater span than is usual. But although the mountain itself is always central, "Ever Wild" at its core is a story about people.

It's a story about the Native Americans, whose relationship with Adams is centuries older than the white settlers'. The forests that circle the moun-

tain gave the native peoples' beargrass for their baskets and huckleberries for their larders and much else besides.

It's also a story about the people who came later and sought to exploit some of the peak's myriad other values.

Some of this was basically innocuous.

The U.S. Forest Service, for instance, recognized that Adams' immense height afforded a vantage point for a fire lookout almost unrivaled — and one that, unlike its taller neighbor, Rainier, was actually accessible.

(Strings of packhorses frequently wended their way to the top of Adams, something that did not happen at Rainier or Hood and indicates the relative simplicity of the ascent.)

The Mount Adams lookout was built in 1920-21 — the construction season was, of course, a brief one, since "summer" is more a concept than a season at such an elevation — and was staffed for not much longer, until 1924.

Other users, though, endeavored instead to plunder the mountain, or its flanks, for valuable resources ranging from lush grass to pungent sulfur.

Lloyd writes at length about the herds of sheep that grazed for many years around the mountain, denuding its meadows and forests of grass, and leaving scars that persist more than a century later.

But it's a much less common sort of extraction that makes for one of the more compelling chapters in the history of Mount Adams.

Lloyd describes how, from 1931-37,

the peak's summit crater drew miners who hoped to profit from the buried deposits of sulfur and sulfate minerals.

Miners, of course, are known for wielding their picks in precarious places. But the top of a 12,000-foot peak is an uncommon spot for digging even among fearless argonauts.

The Mount Adams mining operation never amounted to a great deal. Fortunately, neither did it significantly mar the summit area, much of which is covered with an ice cap.

Lloyd's book not only entertained me, with its fascinating stories and wondrous photographs, but it also inspired me.

I've seen Mount Adams dozens of times, mostly while in The Dalles or Hood River, but one memorable time from about 150 miles away, at Elkhorn Summit near Anthony Lakes where its white cone jutted just above the horizon, defying the distance and the summer haze.

But I've never hiked a trail on its flanks, or stained my hands purple with its huckleberries, or made a bid, legs aching and lungs straining, for its summit.

Thanks to Darryl Lloyd, who dared share with the public his great love for Mount Adams, I feel a strong compulsion to fill these blanks in my outdoor resumé, to set my boots on its lava flows and glaciers and perhaps understand, in a small way, how one mountain came to mean so much to one man.

■ Jayson Jacoby is editor of the Baker City Herald.

**CONTACT YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

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**Oregon Legislature:** Legislative documents and information are online at www.leg.state.or.us.

**State Sen. Lynn Findley (R-Ontario):** Salem office: 900 Court St. N.E., S-403, Salem, OR 97301; 503-986-1730. Email: Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov

**State Rep. Mark Owens (R-Crane):** Salem office: 900 Court St. N.E., H-475, Salem, OR 97301; 503-986-1460. Email: Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov

**Baker City Hall:** 1655 First Street, P.O. Box 650, Baker City, OR 97814; 541-523-6541; fax 541-524-2049. City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. Councilors Jason Spriet, Kerry McQuisten, Shane Alderson, Joanna Dixon, Kenyon Damschen, Johnny Waggoner Sr. and Dean Guyer.

**Baker City administration:** 541-523-6541. Jonathan Cannon, city manager; Ty Duby, police chief; Sean Lee, fire chief; Michelle Owen, public works director.

**Baker County Commission:** Baker County Courthouse 1995 3rd St., Baker City, OR 97814; 541-523-8200. Meets the first and third Wednesdays at 9 a.m.; Bill Harvey (chair), Mark Bennett, Bruce Nichols.

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