

Bend is right to move forward on homeless shelter

Bend city councilors agreed Wednesday night to a jump to do much more to help the community's homeless. The city is going to try to buy a hotel.

Councilors authorized City Manager Eric King to purchase the Old Mill & Suites Motel located at 904 SE Third St. in Bend for use as a homeless shelter. Councilors authorized up to \$5 million. There are several conditions, such as an appraisal and award of a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation.

If the purchase goes through, the city is not planning on trying to run a shelter by itself. It does not have the expertise. It would work with partners to make it happen. The shelter would also not be a permanent place to live. Homeless would be connected with services to help them find more permanent housing and to improve their lives.

Some will undoubtedly argue that if the city provides more services for the homeless, Bend will attract more homeless or that homelessness is not the city's responsibility. Those excuses



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin
Old Mill & Suites Motel in Bend.

have won for too long. Do nothing and more of the deserted and desolate, the hungry, the addicted, and the mentally ill will die unprotected on Bend's streets. We are our brothers' and our sisters' keepers.

Historical editorials: Pick the right rulers

Editor's note: The following editorials originally appeared in what was then called The Bend Bulletin on Jan. 20, 1905.

In discussing the new county proposal last week the Prineville Review dropped this remark:

"The Bulletin insisted in the Bend city election that the persons most interested should rule the new city's affair. Is there, then, so great a difference between governing a city and governing a county?"

Here is an inaccurate statement of the position of The Bulletin, doubtless unintentional, and the conclusion based on such premise is, of course, much awry. The Bulletin's contentions in the Bend election campaign (and it is not of general application) was that those most interested in the welfare of the city should rule it — not those most interested in plucking it or who had nothing to lose by neglecting it. This principle, may it please the Review, The Bulletin would apply to the Jefferson county movement.

Now Laidlaw has a postoffice, or will have when the postmaster commission shall arrive. Establishment of the postoffice has been authorized, with W.G. Stiles, the merchant as postmaster. His bondsmen are L. M. Coen and E. B. James. Mrs. Coen will be

the deputy. Service will be by special carrier from Bend. This is the third new postoffice within a radius of five miles in the Deschutes country in less than a year all having large patronage. Which speaks louder than words of the growth of this locality.

It appears from recent manifestations that there is, after all, within the borders of the proposed new county of Jefferson, some hostility to the move from division. An Ashwood man has spoke right up in opposition to it. Over in the Madras section there is also a cry of pain. It is evident, however, that that pain is produced by those who want Madras for the county seat, and is not really against the proposed new county but only against the town on Antelope. If the people of the proposed county don't want it that ought to settle the matter. If they do want it their wishes ought to have weight. The point The Bulletin has made heretofore and now restates is that the wishes of the people in the proposed new county should govern, rather than the wishes of a distant county seat. By "the people" is meant a substantial majority of them; for it cannot be expected that all the people will agree on anything. The Bulletin is no disunionist but does believe largely in local government.



My Nickel's Worth

Applause for Ron Wyden

As Oregonians, we're proud of our wild places. From the Coast Range, to the Willows, to the Owyhee, our public lands are why we live in Oregon, and why we've built our businesses here. As Bendites, we take special pride in our rivers, especially the river that anchors our community and draws us together; the namesake of our town and an amazing resource that is cherished by folks who come from thousands of miles away to recreate it. The Deschutes River is protected as a Wild and Scenic River, and now, thanks to Sen. Ron Wyden, we have an opportunity to protect vital tributaries of the Deschutes — like Bridge Creek and Whychus Creek — in a bill that will designate 4,700 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers across the state and make Oregon the leading state in river conservation.

Water from Bridge Creek, a tributary of Tumalo Creek, is the source of clean water for our community, our pups and our beer. Whychus Creek, another important tributary of the Deschutes, is critical spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead — which are finally returning to our watershed after decades of community investment.

We applaud Sen. Wyden's effort to protect Tumalo Creek and Whychus Creek as Wild and Scenic Rivers, and to make Oregon the leading state for river conservation. — Michael LaLonde is the president of Bend-based Deschutes Brewery,

and Will Blount is the president of Bend-based Ruffwear.

Headline was misleading

Depending on which numbers you use, and there a quite a few out there, your cover story of Jan. 28th, "One-third of Deschutes County cases coming from Redmond" is misleading.

Here is what I see when I look into the numbers. First of all, Redmond's ZIP code population is listed as 38,844. If we use the Deschutes County population as 106,023, then the Redmond population is about 36% of the county. Your article pointing out that Redmond has one-third of the COVID-19 cases isn't particularly news worthy.

In fact, if Redmond has 36% of the county population and only has 1349 cases (25.5%) of the cases in the county, then it sounds to me like they are doing better than the rest of the county. Not the message your headline suggests.

— Mark Corbet, Redmond

Not unifying

Joe Biden has repeatedly spoken of the need for unity. What was unclear, however, was the real object of said unity.

Most patriotic Americans desire to be united as a nation and governed by a democratic process that resolves policy differences through bipartisan negotiation and compromise legislation, rather than with partisan

attacks, demonstrations, investigations.

So how does the impeachment of an ex-president, for whom almost half the nation voted, promote an amicable legislative process and Biden's call for unity? (such unjustified hatred and vilification of a former president by the opposition I have never seen in my lifetime) Does this unnecessary action square with Biden's statement that he wanted to be the president of everyone and not just Democrats or Republicans? Do his 40-plus executive actions, most of which undo or undermine policies enacted under President Trump, promote unity? Many of those policies, such as border control and protection of the unborn were popular with, and desired by, those who voted him into office in 2016. Also, how do Biden's occasional, disparaging remarks about the previous president or his policies promote unity?

Since Biden's actions are inconsistent with his call for unity, one must ask about the rationale behind them. I think one can easily conclude that they are partisan actions meant to satisfy the demands of his radical, Democrat base, which thus becomes unified. Beyond that, don't expect any more unity — unless the Republicans decide to conform to the legislative demands of Biden, Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

— James Strelchun, Bend

Letters policy

We welcome your letters. Letters should be limited to one issue, contain no more than 250 words and include the writer's signature, phone number and address for verification. We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject poetry, personal attacks, form letters, letters submitted elsewhere and those appropriate for other sections of The Bulletin. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

Guest columns

Your submissions should be between 550 and 650 words; they must be signed; and they must include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject those submitted elsewhere. Locally submitted columns alternate with national columnists and commentaries. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

How to submit

Please address your submission to either My Nickel's Worth or Guest Column and mail, fax or email it to The Bulletin. Email submissions are preferred.

Email: letters@bendbulletin.com

Write: My Nickel's Worth/Guest Column
P.O. Box 6020
Bend, OR 97708

Fax: 541-385-5804

Editorials reflect the views of The Bulletin's editorial board, Publisher Heidi Wright, Editor Gerry O'Brien and Editorial Page Editor Richard Coe. They are written by Richard Coe.

Where does the Republican Party go now without Trump's influence?

BY RICH BELZER

What now for the Republican Party? For four years, the Trump Administration piled up an incredible record of lying; according to the Washington Post fact-checkers, Donald Trump exceeded 30,000 lies and misstatements as president, one-half of them coming during 2020. For the most part, Republicans in Congress addressed this torrent of lies with silence. It is not that they are unable to distinguish fact from fiction; they understood the political risk in going against the president.

In his book, "Commander in Cheat," sportswriter Rick Reilly discusses the many lies Trump told his golf buddies, mostly lies about golf and the quality of his golf courses. They mostly greeted his statements with eye-rolling — after all, these were harmless lies. During the first three years of his administration, Trump's lies, while not harmless, seemed to provide the Trump base with what they wanted to hear. During 2020,

however, his lies proved deadly, both in regard to the coronavirus — "just like the flu" and "don't wear a mask" — and the result of the November election.

If you are inclined to believe that the election was stolen and that Donald Trump really won, try this exercise. Pretend that you were hired by President Joe Biden to rig the election in his favor. How would you accomplish this task?

A presidential election is actually 51 separate elections, one in each state plus the District of Columbia. The good news is that you could focus on six battleground states and their 412 counties. The bad news is that none of these six states runs all-electronic elections which could be hacked; they all have paper ballots, so attempting to corrupt the machines that count the ballots could be easily revealed in a paper recount as occurred in Georgia. This would leave you with the problem of convincing Republicans on county election commissions to falsify their results. Given that they



Belzer

would be acting counter to the interests of their own party and subjecting themselves to future prosecution, it seems to me that it would take sizeable bribes to make this happen. This, of course, would be very difficult to accomplish without leaving a money trail, plus hundreds of people who might later decide to come forward with evidence that would lead to your indictment. Do you really think that this is remotely possible? If you had been hired to get this done, could you possibly have accomplished this task without getting caught?

Now consider that over 60 court

challenges to the election have been thrown out for lack of evidence. Trump appointees Chris Krebs ("the most secure election in American history") and William Barr have disputed claims of a rigged election. Trump, however, would not let it go, and few congressional Republicans stood up to defend the integrity of the election, even after the Electoral College vote. I have no doubt that congressional Republicans understood the validity of the election; their refusal to acknowledge the truth was one more indication of Trump's stranglehold on the GOP.

GUEST COLUMN

Even after the attack, over 100 Republican representatives (including our congressman) continued to dispute results they knew were valid. Without question, Donald Trump is maintaining his hold on congressional Republicans.

What followed from mid-December until Jan. 6 was nothing more than an attempted coup. Trump's call to the Georgia secretary of state was not about locating fraud; Trump simply wanted him to fabricate, or "find," 11,780 votes. The attack on the Capitol was the final step as Trump attempted to have his followers prevent Congress from counting and accepting the Electoral College results. Yet even after the attack, over 100 Republican representatives (including our congressman) continued to dispute results they knew were valid. Without question, Donald Trump is maintaining his hold on congressional Republicans.

There remain a handful of ethical and moral Republicans in Congress, people such as Rep. Liz Cheney, Sen. Mitt Romney and Sen. Ben Sasse. Yet a majority appear willing to align themselves with Trump and the very people who invaded the Capitol and threatened their lives, leaving the Republican Party in tatters and our democracy at risk.

■ Rich Belzer lives in Bend.