

OUR OPINION

We regret divisive editorial cartoon

It's a humbling experience when you realize you've made an error in judgment, made 4,000 copies of it and mailed them directly to thousands of people. Two weeks ago we printed an editorial cartoon criticizing those opposed to the COVID vaccine, and we regret it. It was a decision made out of frustration and anger, emotions that should not guide what goes into a community newspaper.

And for that we are sorry. We do, however, stand behind the opinion that every person who is able should get the COVID vaccine. Our medical community is begging us to do it. The same week we ran that cartoon, we also ran a guest opinion signed by every doctor and physicians assistant that practices medicine at Newport Hospital and Health Services, save one that was not in the area. Our hospitals are overwhelmed, both here in Newport and across the country. Ask anyone who works there. There's no place to put patients anymore – COVID infected or not. Oxygen is running low. Morgues are running out of space in Idaho.

Dr. Geoff Jones of Newport Hospital and Health Services told the Inlander last week that typically, a patient needing ICU-level care would be stabilized in Newport and then staff will find space at a hospital in Spokane or Coeur d'Alene.

"But now, those places might have a waiting list of 10 or 15 people, which means calling Washington's wider health care network and sometimes even looking for hospital space in other states," the Inlander wrote.

"I've done transfers to Missoula and both big hospitals in Boise," Jones told the Inlander. "We've talking to hospitals in Utah, Salt Lake City, in Colorado. We've talked to folks in Oregon, Northern California."

Dr. Curtis Gill of Newport Hospital's emergency room told the Inlander that he was shocked when he tried to transfer a heart attack patient to Spokane recently and couldn't.

"One of the most frustrating things for all of us is we've reached a point where we don't feel like we have to exist this way anymore. Last winter, before there was any vaccine for this, we went into work expecting to be overwhelmed with patients with no good options and nothing to do," Gill told the Inlander. "And now things are different, we're still seeing this overwhelming thing, but the population we're taking care of is a very biased side of it."

We understand that medical decisions are very personal and can be life and death. If you're hesitant to get the COVID vaccine then please talk to your health care provider. If you don't have one, contact Newport Hospital and Health Services, Bonner General Health, Panhandle Health or Northeast Tri County Health District. Any one of these agencies would be more than happy to answer all of your questions, alleviate your concerns and help you help all of us end this thing once and for all.

-Michelle C. Nedved
Publisher

Editorial cartoon crossed a line

BY JOE BADGLEY
IONE

I was so saddened to see that the publisher of this newspaper felt it was necessary to print the political cartoon (Sept. 15) accusing anti-vaxxers of attacking their fellow citizens, wishing them deadly harm in the manner of the 9-11 terrorists. Nothing could be further from the truth.

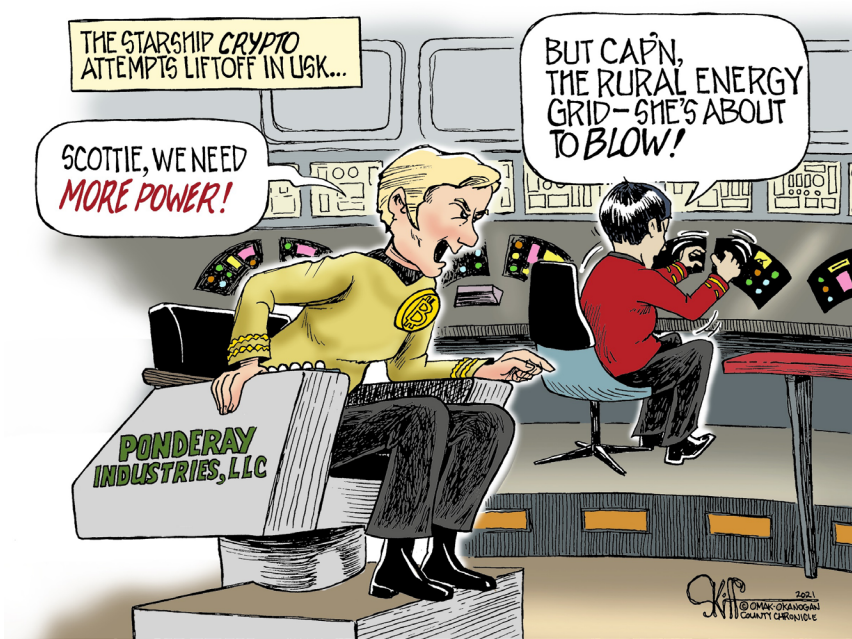
My daughter-in-law is very vaccine hesitant because her best friend's son was the victim of a vaccine (non-COVID) injury. The boy was temporarily paralyzed and had health issues that took a couple of years to resolve. Vaccine injury and vaccine related deaths do occur, and it is little comfort for those who have experienced vaccine injury or know someone who has experienced vaccine injury or death, to know that these things are extremely rare.

To these people it would be irresponsible to not share their experience with vaccine injury (death). Their purpose for sharing is to inform others so that they can weigh the risk of vaccination vs. non-vaccination, and make their own decision, possibly avoiding the same negative outcomes they themselves have personally witnessed. They most certainly do not wish harm or death on their fellow citizens, and certainly not the horrible deaths depicted in the political cartoon of the 9-11 tragedy. Dying in a hospital under the care of doctors, while unconscious under a ventilator cannot possibly compare to being burned or buried alive in the rubble of the Twin Towers.

A few weeks ago, the editors of this newspaper asked for their readers to share their opinion as to why this country seems so divided. All you must do is look at the divisive, obnoxious, hateful letters and cartoons that you, as editors, choose to print on your opinion pages. (And you do choose them.)

To give voice to these weekly, recreationally ob-

SEE GUEST, 5A



YOUR OPINION

Some letter writers can't be swayed by facts

To the editors, Don't fact check Glen Pierce as it will prove that you are part of a government conspiracy to hide IVM as the magical cure for COVID. ('India and Ivermectin' Sept. 22)

Glen is a "this caused that" thinker. Like, I have a friend who took Ivermectin and then won the lottery or have another friend who took it and got in a traffic accident. How about the claim that thousands of people who got vaccinated and then died? Never mind that the vaccine wasn't related to their death.

What school taught Pierce to think without logic? What will he say next? People that live in red houses are smarter than people who live in blue houses. I am sure there is an internet site that will confirm any bias or belief he has.

Pierce says that the government is censoring information about IVM, yet he was able to find and write about something the government has censored. He reminds me of the guy who has 300 guns in his basement, and claims the government is taking his gun rights.

It would be nice if everything was either black or white and gray wasn't a color. Ask Curtis Bedore how everything Democrat is evil and everything he writes is the God's truth. ('Are Biden's policies evil?' Sept. 22) Perhaps he hasn't heard of the evangelist that watched his pool boy have sex with his wife. Evil doesn't discriminate. Any uniform can be stained.

I am willing to admit that I can be wrong. I can change my view based on facts and data. Bedore and Pierce don't do that. Apply their way of thinking and you will see death and destruction caused by ego and warped beliefs. COVID is spreading and killing in our community. Bedore says it's illegal aliens and Pierce says it's a lack of horse medicine.

-Pete Scobby
Newport

Wake up America

To the editor, Uttar Pradesh, India came out this week and stated they are now COVID free (under 3%) in large part due to the statewide use of Ivermectin (IVM). My question is why do western countries refuse to use it? India and a few others have crushed COVID by using IVM. Does Dr. Fauci know that IVM works well against COVID? There are questions that need answers.

A large group of doctors from around the world (Frontline Doctors) got together and are using IVM, hydroxychloroquin and other therapies to treat COVID. Where is our government? What are they doing? It appears there are great therapies out there yet it seems America and other western countries are ignoring it. Why? People are waking up. There are mass COVID (masks and vaccine) protests in the UK, France, Australia and elsewhere. Romania just dropped their mandatory vaccine policy. A large majority of their people just said no more.

It's a good reminder that if you are 70 plus years old, you have a 94.6% chance of surviv-

ing COVID. If you are under 20, you have a 99.99% survival rate. Lock the world down for this? Mask up the population? There must be something else going on.

Most of you know the expression "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." I have a different twist, you can lead a horse to water, if you know where the water is. If you are relying on your "truth" from the mainstream media, it's a mirage, you are in the desert. Unfortunately today you have to dig to find the water.

Stay strong America. Do your own research.

-Glen Pierce
Spokane/Cusick

The change we need

To the editor, I have been very vocal recently about Newport and its apparent stagnation. I have loudly stated how infrastructure needs improved, expressed surprise at our lack of growth considering a couple blocks away is booming, I've been dismayed by a government which ignores citizens, I've been absolutely horrified by the public safety risk of Newport PD. I have said we the people need to take our town back.

Most people know by now I support Keith Campbell for mayor. Honestly, that support has been offered because we need change, not that I believe in his politics. I've found him to be a decent and kind man in my interactions with him in his private sector employment but that's not the same. I've said I'd like to see him interact with voters in a town hall and patiently waited for a response.

LETTERS POLICY

We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Letters should be typed and submitted to The Miner office no later than 5 p.m. Friday for publication the following Wednesday. No letter will be published unless it is signed by at least one individual, even if the letter represents the view of a group. The letter must include a telephone number and address for authentication. The Miner reserves the right to edit letters. Political letters will not be published the last issue before an election. Letters will be printed as space allows.

WEB COMMENTS

We welcome comment on select stories on our web site. You may comment anonymously. We will review comments before posting and we reserve the right to omit or edit comments. If you want to comment only to our writers and editors, let us know that you do not want your comment published.

Yesterday my patience was thin and I reached out to him directly. Told him exactly how I felt about some things. Now here's the kicker, he responded. He is planning a meet and greet with an opportunity for folks to share their ideas and concerns about our future. I was told he will announce this publicly soon. Please go. Ask him the hard questions, express your opinions. My family intends to be there. Let's get our community back on track.

-Michael Fox
Newport

Biden doesn't care

To the editor, Response to Jeannie Hutchins Sept. 15 letter, 'Republicans start things Democrats have to fix.' She stated, "I think Biden is a caring President." Really, he is an anti- American that has left Americans and allies behind enemy lines to be killed by the Taliban. In addition he is for abortions to kill the unborn babies. Sorry, no caring president would do that.

I call him a cold-blooded murderer. In addition she stated, "I see Republicans starting horrible things like wars and leaving it to the Democrats to fix." Let's just look at one thing under Trump the border was fairly secure.

Then Stupid Joey opened up the border and millions of illegals walked across to go wherever and many with the virus. Socialist Democrats could not fix a flat tire. However, the sure know how to destroy what was working. Then they blame Trump. Every day when

SEE LETTERS, 5A

READER'S POLL

Visit The Miner Online to answer our readers' poll question through Monday afternoon. Find it on the right-hand side of the page at www.pendoreillerivervalley.com. The results will be printed next week on this page. You need not be a subscriber to participate. If you have any ideas for future readers' poll questions, submit them at minernews@povn.com.

The U.S. federal government is coming up against the so-called debt ceiling, a cap on the total amount of money that the federal government is authorized to borrow to fulfill its financial obligations. Currently the U.S. owes \$28.43 trillion, money used for social safety net programs, interest on the national debt and salaries for troops. Almost no other countries have a debt ceiling, which doesn't authorize more spending. It just finances the government by allowing more borrowing. **Should the U.S. do away with the debt ceiling?**

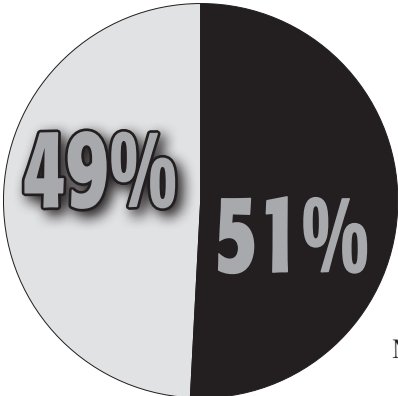
Yes, it's crazy to threaten the shutdown of the government so often.

No, it's a way to control government spending by giving politicians something to negotiate.

READER'S POLL RESULTS

Did Gen. Mark Milley commit treason, as Trump has suggested, by going around the president?

Yes.



No.

Total votes: 47