

EDITORIAL



Support local election officials

I'm worried, maybe unnecessarily so, but I'm worried. My glass half-full optimism side is at war with the half-empty side. I'm worried that the national idiocy of election denial will infect Sioux County elections.

The few questioners that have come my way, I've challenged to examine how elections work in Iowa and nationally, starting from the local level and working further from there.

I've also repeatedly challenged voters to look at issues that same way, to vote after making efforts to be fully informed on issues and candidates.

But, I'm just a lowly co-editor of a small Sioux County weekly, and a tepid member of a political party. I fear that local know-how won't be able to stand up to the no-mind approach of election deniers.

Please prove me wrong.

I have every confidence that our county elections are above board in every way. They are observed closely. But, in my opinion, officials from both major parties in Sioux County have to double down on their confidence in our election system. Take the lead and reinforce our election officials and volunteers to head off looney ideas.

Do we want our election workers to worry about their personal safety? In some places, election officials have been given the ability to hide some personal information to prevent tracking. There are persons out there who seek offices with the intent to subvert established, reliable election procedures. I'm hoping the county party officials are alert to this possibility (remote, I hope) and are working to head this off.

I would hope our party leaders in Sioux County will be hammering home the lessons our republic have learned about the value of peaceful transfer of power. That, too, is under attack in our country.

Is there a notion in our county that we should limit the ability for folks to become citizens and exercise their right to vote? If our party people see that happening, I would remind them that Sioux County exists because of immigrants who set their sights on this land. Seems to me the more who vote help insure our way of representative government.

I've heard folks express their opinion that voter fraud is widespread in the U.S. I disagree. Investigation after investigation has proved otherwise. I'm hoping that officials in our major parties in Sioux County are reinforcing the truth that voter fraud here is not an issue.

People who oversee county elections are volunteers who receive a small stipend: our neighbors; people who attend the same churches; co-workers in county businesses and industries; people watch over and educate our kids in schools, preschools and day-cares. Our party leaders need to affirm their support for their work. We dare not see that suffer.

Maybe I'm one of only a few who are worried. But, it seems a good time for our party officials to re-affirm the principles of our American system to ward off those who would subvert it for profoundly criminal purposes.

— Doug Calsbeek
Co-Editor

INCN Classifieds

Entertainment and Events

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RAMBLINGS American Pie

By SHARON VERMEER
Correspondent

I was reading a cookbook the other day. Cookbooks aren't like they used to be: just flat-out recipes. Now you usually find them filled with tips and hints, or stories about the recipes and maybe the family of the writer. So now I read cookbooks like I would read a novel.

The cookbook I just read is called Ms. American Pie, by Beth M. Howard. And yes, it's ALL pie recipes. Ms. Howard was already baking pies for celebrities and everyone else at California's Malibu Kitchen when her husband died suddenly of a ruptured aorta in 2009. Baking pies for other people has helped her work through her grief. Howard, who grew up in Iowa, traveled around the world before settling in California with her husband. After a time, she took a year's sabbatical from a high-stress computer job and walked into Malibu Kitchen because she liked to make pies (although she admits her crusts were "tooth-breaking hard"). When asked what her qualifications were, she said, "I'm from Iowa." And was hired on the spot.

I've noticed that this seems to be a trend. Although I'm not a native myself (Minnesota: yah, sure, you betcha), I've lived in Iowa now longer than I ever did in Minnesota. And I've heard that same couple of sentences many times.

The first time was with my brother-in-law Bob Sandbulte of Sioux Center. One of the things Bob enjoyed doing was trucking. At one point, they moved to California for a while. One day Bob walked into a trucking firm. "You need any drivers?" he asked. The

boss wasn't there right then, so the woman behind the desk had him fill out an application and told him they would get back to him. A couple of hours later, Bob got a call from the boss, anxious for Bob to work for them. His policy was always to hire anyone from Iowa. Later the receptionist told Bob that she got a good talking to from her boss once he looked at Bob's application. "My boss said that if anyone from Iowa walks through the door and wants a job, you hire him immediately!"

More recently, I've been doing a series on War Stories from our local vets. The very first story I did was Clarence Postma, who went to Germany during the Korean War. "When he arrived in Germany, a sergeant met them at the dock, and he was taken to an artillery unit. "That sergeant was pretty glad to see me!" Postma laughed. "He said, 'You grew up in Iowa. I always like those Iowa boys. They can drive almost anything!"

The latest story I did was with Paul Dekker: "Following school, Dekker was sent to work at Fort Totten, N.Y. When they found out he was a farm boy from Iowa, they called him into the office. "You really from Iowa?" "Yes." "You really a farm boy?" "Yes." "You take that wrecker parked out front. That's yours from now on." It seems like Iowans have a reputation to preserve.

Ms. Howard? She ended up traveling back to Iowa and, from 2010 to 2014 ran the Pitchfork Pie Stand in the house in which she lived, the American Gothic House of Eldon, Iowa. You remember, the American Gothic painting by Grant Wood with the sober older balding man holding a pitchfork and his sober daughter beside him. Looking at that picture, you see hard-working people from a hard-working state. I guess that's Iowa.

EDITORIAL



Trick or treat?

Questions have floated around about when Orange City trick or treating will happen this year. The annual tradition of downtown businesses handing out candy will take place Friday, October 28, from 12-5 p.m., Participating businesses will have an orange poster outside their door designating their business a trick or treat stop. Kids and families can stop in for a quick treat and show off their costumes around town. Halloween falls on a Monday this year, and October 31 will be the traditional door to door trick or treating night. Homes wishing to hand out candy can leave the light on for eager trick or treaters to stop by.

My favorite part of the day is asking kids about their costumes. I love watching their faces light up as they pretend to be a favorite super hero, sports star, cartoon character, or something make believe. Kids step away from screens and into a world of make believe, and it is really something to see so many kids smile and use their imagination.

There is often a debate, whether Halloween is something we should be celebrating, or what is the purpose of the day besides keeping dentists employed?

I heard a sermon years ago wrestle with this, but the pastor was left with one overwhelming thought...what other day of the year do all you neighbors come outside around the same time, go house to house and visit one another? Let's take hold of that concept and find ways to connect with the people around you! This pastor would grill hot dogs on Halloween and hand them out to families as they walked by, using it as a great opportunity to just be in community and meet new people. Looks like this year there are two opportunities to be in community with residents of Orange City, since we are celebrating two different days. Lucky us! Find ways to connect with those around you.

—Sarah Weber

SUPPORT FOR REPUBLICANS

Dear Editor,
I am a Republican because:
Good government is governed by the people.
Good government is based on each person's ability, dignity, and freedom being honored.
I believe in equal rights and freedom for all.
We must retain the principles of our forefathers.
We must preserve National strength and pride for peace and freedom, and at the same time share with people everywhere the desire for human rights throughout the world.
I am a Republican because I grew up during the Great Depression of 1929. President Biden, like President Roosevelt, believes in handouts and big spending. My father had diabetes and both my parents worked. My mother took a job to pay for Dad's insulin. My brother and I had paper routes. We took jobs that

were available. And we made it through the depression.
We need leaders in Washington and Iowa who will believe in good government principles, as I do. I am proud to have leaders like U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley, U.S. Representative Randy Feenstra, Governor Kim Reynolds, Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, and all of the other Republican office holders who help make Iowa the best place to live in America. Vote on November 8 in the 2022 election.

Sincerely
Vergene Donovan
Spirit Lake

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We are looking for submissions to "My Turn," the column that is intended to give you, the reader, a chance to have your say.
Please do your best to keep your submissions to a length appropriate to the space provided, for example, two pages, double spaced or 600 words.
You may e-mail them to pluimpub@gmail.com with "My Turn" in the subject line or send them to or drop them off at Pluim Publishing, 113 Central Ave. S.E., Orange City, 51041-1738.
We reserve the right to not publish if we find material inappropriate. We also reserve the right to edit.

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