

Standard online reader survey



Q: Do you think McMinnville Mayor should be placed on the ballot for the November election?

YES 92 percent
NO 8 percent

GUEST EDITORIAL

Glimmer of hope found in Alzheimer's research

The recent news about a "promising" development in Alzheimer's drug research was received by experts and patient advocates with cautious optimism, and the required skepticism.

The last thing anyone needs is false expectations. But for exhausted families and caregivers and especially the huge aging population of baby boomers who fear the onset of dementia - any sign of progress against this devastating disease is welcome.

Biogen, the Cambridge based bio-tech company, and its Japanese partner Eisai, reported that clinical trials of a new drug — BAN2401 — slowed the causes and progress of Alzheimer's disease. Of patients taking the highest dose of the drug, 81 percent showed a reduction in the sticky substance in the brain — amyloid plaque — that is the marker of Alzheimer's. In that group, the rate of cognitive decline — like remembering and planning — slowed by 30 percent.

There's no talk of a cure. And, one expert told the *New York Times*, whether the findings could make a difference in people's lives, and allow them to live longer independently, is not clear. But the report looks like an encouraging step forward.

The Concord Monitor New Hampshire

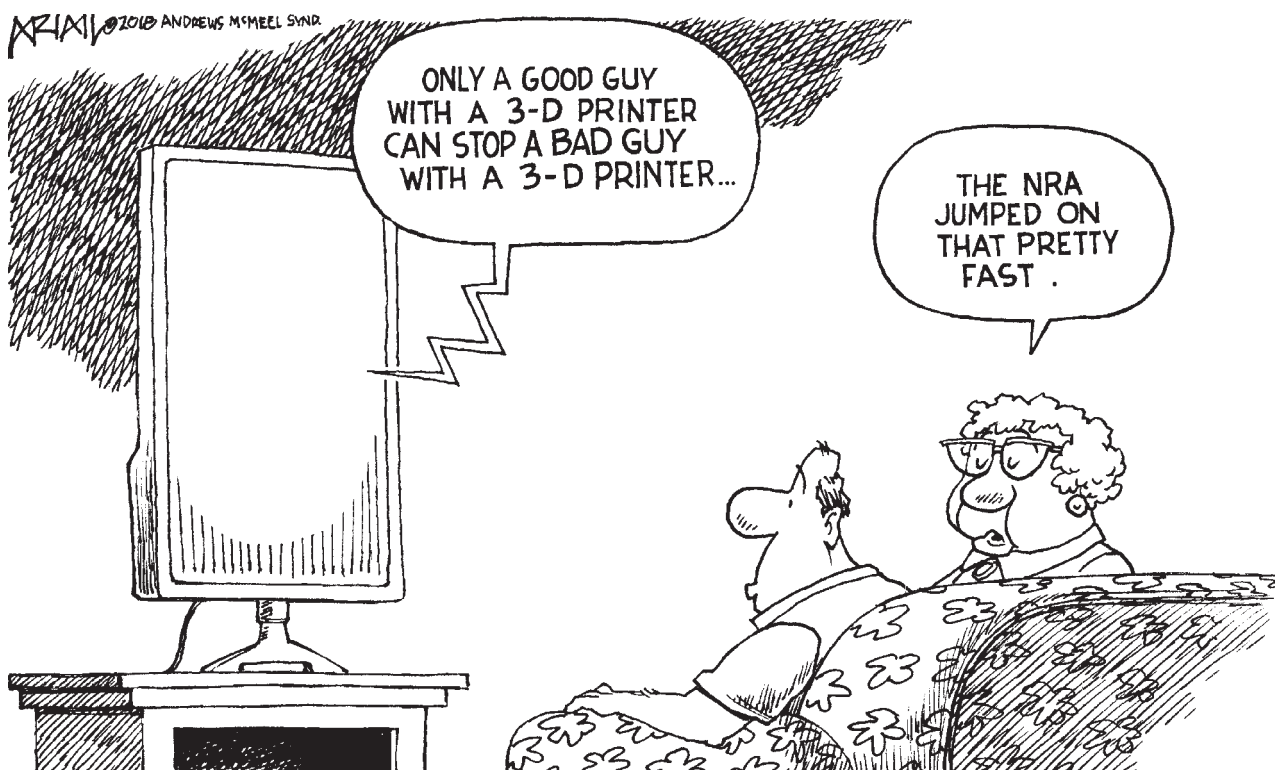
More than 5.5 million Americans over 65 years old suffer from this cruel disease, costing \$250 billion annually, according to the Alzheimer's Association. And that number is projected to rise to 15 million Americans by 2050, at an unsustainable cost of \$1 trillion.

U.S. Rep. Ann McLane Kuster of New Hampshire lost her mother, Susan McLane, to Alzheimer's and has pushed Congress to increase federal funding for research aimed at prevention, and a cure. "I know all too well the challenges of this disease," Kuster wrote. "Its physical toll is matched only by the emotional and financial toll that Alzheimer's takes on individuals suffering from the disease and their loved ones."

Other trials of Alzheimer drug therapies have had a 99.6 percent failure rate, compared to 20 percent success rates for cancer, according to published reports.

A "glimmer of hope" is how the *Boston Globe* headlined its front page story about the new data.

Faced with no hope at all, that's something to hold on to, at least for now.



Bill Lee for Tennessee?

Bill Lee's stunning upset victory last Thursday night in the GOP Primary race for governor was a dream come true for him and a numbing nightmare for his three Republican rivals: Randy Boyd, Diane Black and Beth Harwell.

Ultimately, Bill Lee won with nearly 290,000 votes. Randy Boyd was second with 192,000. Diane Black finished third with 182,000. Beth Harwell finished fourth with 120,000 votes. Despite being outspent 3-1 by Boyd and 2-1 by Black, Lee surged to victory in the last few weeks by sheer dint of personality, persuasive message and persistence on the rough and rocky road to victory.

Barely six months ago, so-called "experts" gave Bill Lee two chances of winning the GOP nomination for governor: slim and none. As a successful CEO of Lee Company and a successful farmer and community leader, he seized on the opportunity and rose to the challenge of beating his better-known and well-funded opponents.

When Bill Lee was told months ago Randy Boyd was outspending him "big-time," he replied, "Randy can outspend me, but he can't outcampaign me!" Then he went on a statewide campaign of "95 Counties in 95 Days." Touring by tractor and RV, Bill and wife Maria reached out to the people of the Volunteer State in every nook and cranny. From Mountain City to Memphis, Savannah to Spencer, they were, like Willie Nelson, "On the road again," and again.

Slowly, but surely, Bill Lee's personality and positive message began to resonate more and more with the

people of Tennessee, including Republicans, Democrats and independents. In the final weeks leading up to Aug. 2, Boyd and Black finally realized Lee was a real and rising threat to their respective candidacies. Therefore, they launched negative ads against Lee.

In my view, "going negative" against Bill Lee was a monumental mistake. Based on my analysis of its apparent impact on voters, I'm convinced it hurt Black and Boyd — and helped Lee gain great momentum in votes and other support.

Conversely, Bill Lee's decision to "stay positive," despite the negative tones of Boyd and Black, was the right thing to do. I heard from hundreds of voters, including Democrats, present and erstwhile, who said Bill's persistent and positive message persuaded them to vote for him instead of Boyd or Black.

In his speech Thursday night, Lee said, "Today is a victory for Tennesseans who want an outsider, for people who want Tennessee not only to be an even better place to live for six-and-a-half million people, but for Tennessee to lead the nation. Tonight, we celebrate, but tomorrow we get back to work."

The challenge now for the GOP in Tennessee is to rally and unify the party faithful and beyond to vote for "Bill Lee for Tennessee Governor." The challenge for Democratic nominee Karl Dean and his followers is how to thwart those efforts between now and November.

Retired Army Col. Thomas B. Vaughn can be reached at tbovwmi@blomand.net.

MY TURN

THOMAS B. VAUGHN



JUST A THOUGHT

LISA HOBBS



City surprisingly mum about mayor

I believe McMinnville voters should be the ones deciding who will be their mayor for the next two years. However, I'm about to tell you why I believe it probably won't happen.

Last week, I attempted to poll city aldermen. This is where I send all of them the same question and their answers are published in the paper. This is somewhat easy to do with city government because there are only six aldermen. It's a little tougher in county government with 24 commissioners.

My question was, "Assuming Jimmy Haley wins his bid for county executive, would you be in favor of the vacancy being placed on the November ballot?"

Usually, I receive a swift reply to my poll questions. This time I did not. It made me begin to wonder why. It's a simple enough question. To be blunt, it's either, "Yes, I believe voters should be the ones making the decision on whom will be the next McMinnville mayor" or "No, I do not believe voters should be the ones making the decision on whom will be the next mayor."

I sent that question out Tuesday. I received only one reply. Odd, given the response to prior polls. Why was I being ignored?

On Wednesday, an alderman was nice enough to enlighten me. According to him or her, the decision has already been made by some members of the city board that Haley will not resign and my question will go unanswered by those on the board who are in on this decision-making loop.

The plot thickens. According to the alderman, an individual has already been handpicked to fill the alderman vacancy when the vice mayor is automatically appointed mayor.

If I had any doubt on what's going on, it was dispelled a short time later by a second alderman who confirmed what the first one told me.

Here I am on Friday and writing this column. I have yet to receive any more replies to my poll question. More validation of a shameful attempt to prevent voters from selecting their next mayor? I sure hope not, but it's looking more and more likely.

All this has led me to change my stance. I do not feel we need to decrease the number of county commissioners from 24 to 12. Instead, we need to increase the number of city aldermen from six to 24. While I'd rather not have 24 county commissioners and 24 city aldermen, this situation has made me question the benefits of it.

One of the first steps that would help get McMinnville Mayor on the November ballot would be for Haley, soon to be county executive on Sept. 1, to resign immediately as McMinnville mayor. If I were Haley, I would resign. It would send a swift and decisive message that he's not in on any collaboration to prevent voters from selecting their next mayor.

Standard reporter Lisa Hobbs can be reached at 473-2191.



Ideas for immigration issues

Immigration is a serious issue in Europe. Every day one reads increasingly bitter news of migration migraines that are becoming Europe's No. 1 sickness.

Here are four reasonable immigration ideas for Europe and the world:

First, a wise leader would see immigration from a historical point of view. Today, according to U.N. agencies, there are some 60 million desperate human beings wandering the world, seeking a better place to land. At the same time, climate change is driving people from formerly amenable homelands, and worse is to come, with water shortages, dried-up farm lands and the destruction of low-lying countries swallowed by rising seas.

It's not enough to say, as many do, "This has always happened." This is different.

Second, immigrants themselves must drop the easy and tiresome cries of "racism" and "discrimination."

Third, there is no room — not in today's world, and really not ever — for sloppy sentimentality regarding immigration. Nation-states are absolutely necessary for the peace and prosperity of the world as it is organized, and those states have not only the right, but the responsibility, to maintain stable societies.

Those who embrace a sentimental doctrine of "open borders" or "everybody come" are as guilty of moral casualness and destroying

stability as those who cruelly take children away from their parents at the border and then lose them.

Fourth, wise leaders would strive to understand the power of culture. When Angela Merkel brought a million unknown migrants into Germany, did she not realize they were mostly Muslim? Had she not read somewhere that Muslims in the Middle East generally have an inordinate hatred of Israel, and thus of Jews, which is not related to Germany's World War II horrors against the Jewish people?

COLUMNIST

GEORGIE ANNE GEYER



A big part of the answer is what Europe (though not the U.S.) is now starting to do: European governments are reaching down into the impoverished countries in Africa and the Middle East to start dealing with the problems at the roots. But that is a story for another day.

For now, let's begin with reasonable and rational immigration policies that protect the nation-state and its people first, and then attempt to deal with the poor of the world in their own societies. The alternative is the migration chaos we are seeing now, and believe me, it has only begun.

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