

Kindness@cdapress.com: Your mission for today

"It's like watching a movie play out on screen."

I can't tell you how many times I have heard friends, family and colleagues speak those words over the past few days. With the exception of the Twin Towers on 9/11, I've not felt such a profound sense of disbelief myself.

Clint Schroeder

Press publisher

On Monday, I answered a call from an elderly reader in Hayden. She was looking for help shopping for groceries. After getting her in touch with a volunteer, she thanked me and ended the

call by saying, "I'm scared." Her sincerity and basic need reminded me that we could all do more to protect our community.

Beneath the commotion and noise, many of our community members have already come together to care for this community. Wednesday's online meeting of the recently formed Serving Friends & Neighbors committee, open to faith leaders of all denominations, was proof that Kootenai County's heart endures.

Eleven leaders, representing nine churches and nonprofits, brainstormed the priorities of today, and what significant impact this new team of compassionate volunteers can have in the future. Harnessing

the time, talent and treasure of this vast and growing network of congregants and volunteers to focus on one thing; our little corner of the world.

To those who have already taken the time to make someone else more comfortable or feel less fearful and alone, I want to say thank you for reminding us what communities do in times of uncertainty and stress; keeping an eye on unfolding events while lending a hand to those who need help.

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." — Ronald Reagan

For 128 years, the Coeur d'Alene Press has been the voice of Kootenai County.

Nowhere does that voice resonate more clearly than in our archives. Among those yellowed pages and decades of bound editions, we see evidence of that voice guiding our readers through times of war and national tragedy and rejoicing beside you in times of victory and celebration.

It remains our top priority to be a significant resource for Kootenai County during this trying time. I want our readers to know, not only are we committed to timely and factual news and information, we are committed to the health and safety of this community.

Focusing on good news when we need it most: More

care, less uncertainty.

If you see an urgent need, or if you can volunteer to assist where needed (within federal guidelines and restrictions), or to offer resources and goods, we will work to share your message in the Coeur d'Alene Press through our print, website and e-edition. Bringing our community peace of mind.

I would also like to invite you to share stories and photos of community members and organizations that take the extra (and sometimes overlooked) steps to care for Kootenai County.

To share, please email us at kindness@cdapress.com. We will do our best to connect each need with a solution.

America steps up once again

By UYLESS BLACK
Special to The Press

Shortly after WWI (1918), the world suffered from a flu pandemic. Even today, with our knowledge of the thousands of deaths from world wars and civil wars,



Black

it is difficult to comprehend the massive toll this flu took on our race.

This disease, often called the Spanish Flu, infected some 500 million people, almost 1/3 of the world's population. It killed 50 million persons, with 650,000 deaths in the United States. Its death register chronicled

more people than the combined wars of WWI and WWII. Its deaths equaled the casualties of the United States Civil War.

Some historians, those who are expert in the field of pandemics, claim the 1918 calamity owed much of its "success" to the easy passing of the flu germ because of the rapid and close mingling of military troops and civilians during the last phases of the war, as well as to its closure.

In those days, close proximity invited pleasure. The war was over. With it came hugging and even more comingling. The disposition toward friendliness and affection invited a plague into the societies of most of the western world.

Risking repetition, think of it. Fifty million people were killed from this flu. As of this writing, the death toll from coronavirus in the United States is 200 (and rising). But this modern infection rate is rising rapidly. Of course, this figure seems modest in comparison to the pandemic of a century ago, but the 2020 play's curtain has not yet closed.

The historians also state the death toll of the 1918 pandemic was largely because nations were first, caught unaware, and second, did not respond quickly.

I have been watching several news outlets about measures being taken to combat this virus. Time and again, the news casters

cite the efforts of scores (which I am sure number into the hundreds, perhaps thousands) of citizen-based organizations to take matters into their own hands — to help the sick and to help prevent the spread of the virus. To respond rapidly and to prevent close comingling.

They began their efforts with no government mandate. For certain, they are garnering increasing support from D.C., but they initially got their efforts going by themselves.

Our American institutions are taking it on. Pedal to the Metal if you will: Carry-out meals to the elderly, personal calls on the infirmed, caretakers making sure those

under their care remain safely under their care, health-care workers working under tremendous risks ... and many more.

I turn on the television several times a day and I lament about this virus. But at the same time, my spirits are lifted with newscasts about the selfless and heroic feats of so many Americans.

America is widely regarded as being one of the most charitable and giving nations on this earth. Americans' reaction to this new crisis is another example of America's generosity of spirit.

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Uyless Black of Coeur d'Alene is a frequent Press contributor.



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Step 2

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Step 3

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Step 4

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