

OPINION

just say ye' to 2020

are of peevish child, an overgrown school-yard bully.
And here's a question: How on earth can any voter still be undecided about which one will get his or her vote? Yet millions of dollars will be



Cyclops

by Bryan GRAY
COLUMNIST

us spent on convincing that one voter in Duchesne who hasn't formed an opinion. In reality, he'll probably buy a six-pack of Natural Lite at the Maverick and not cast a ballot at all.
We want to go to concerts and movies. We don't want to be behind 14,321 other people trying to find an open camp spot in southern Utah.
2020 has made us cranky. Yes, we have gathered more for family dinners

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and discussions, yet we also get irritated by other people's reaction to the virus. And we need discussion, especially families trying to figure out where or when their students are going or not going to school. Yes, we are split on that too.
Do we opt for increased safety with generally failed results of remote learning or do we expand the virus by shoehorning children in classrooms? Are our teachers custodians or educators? Can they effectively teach bored remote learners along with those who attend classes? How many children will fall through the cracks with decreased reading and math aptitude?
There seems to be no answers. We

To the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am strongly opposed to the \$8 million Trails and Parks Bond proposal on the Nov. 3 ballot. Six of the \$8 million is for a park on the now-demolished Washington Elementary School site.

1. Violation of Fiduciary Duty. The appraised value of this highly desirable commercial acreage is \$4.6 million. It seems to me that the School Board has a fiduciary duty to the taxpayers of Davis County to get the highest price possible, so why are they accepting \$3.5 million, \$1.1 million less from Bountiful City? If the property is to be sold, it should be put out for competitive bid to maximize the benefit to the taxpayers. Why is the bond proposal on the ballot when the terms and conditions of the interlocal agreement have not yet been determined? Asking taxpayers to approve a bond when a key component has not been finalized is like asking Congress to pass Obamacare in order to find out what is in the bill. Lesson learned, hopefully.

2. Highest and Best Use. The uses proposed by the District and the City are certainly appropriate, based on tradition. However, from the District's viewpoint, the discounted sale to the City does not represent the highest and best use of this commercial parcel which could be sold for more and expand both the

District's and the City's tax base.

3. Competing Uses. If the District needs additional playing fields, why are they selling the land? If the City needs parks, why are they buying it when the District will be using it for playing fields under a yet-to-be-finalized interlocal agreement? Why should the City pay for the privilege of maintaining and bearing the liability when the primary user of the playing fields will be the District?

4. Improvements. The District has already demolished the building and is leveling the land, hauling in topsoil, installing an irrigation system and putting in sod at a total cost of over \$400,000. Why does the City need \$2.5 million to improve the land when the School District is already doing it at a fraction (16%)?

5. Transparency. This seems like an unauthorized scheme to enhance the District's budget disguised as a City expense. This is an accounting trick that does not pass muster or the scrutiny of full disclosure. If the School District needs space for their sports programs, the District should pay for it from their approved and published budget. These backroom budget shuffle scheme makes a mockery of tax transparency and full disclosure. Please join me in voting NO on this bond proposal.

Latty Mulcock



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