

OPINION

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Ogden has a rare piece of history. It shouldn't sit around and gather dust.

Ogden owns a rare gem, and the city has a decision to make. Built in 1881, Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Locomotive No. 223 represents the most historically significant time period in the railroad's history. In 1881, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was expanding in six different directions at once, transforming vast regions of Colorado and Utah. That was the year of explosive growth for the railroad. As historian Robert LeMassena put it, "This was D&RG's year of glory. Never before, or after, did it lay so much track."

As a result, it placed the largest order of engines it had ever made. Locomotive No. 223 was a part of this huge, historic order (D&RG engine numbers 200-295). It is one of only three of those engines to still survive.

The coming of the railroad not only meant that getting across the country could now be done in a matter of days instead of six months, it also resulted in freight rates dropping to a fraction of what they had been with wagon transport. This opened up new markets for farming, mining and ranching operations in the West. In the late 1800s, the railroad transformed the West like nothing else has, either before or since. Locomotive No. 223 is emblematic of this historic time period.



The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad locomotive No. 223 is seen outside Union Station in Ogden in 2019. The 138-year-old historic train sits in pieces, consigned to limbo after a local restoration effort was frozen out.

City officials have been in contact with railroad expert John Bush about the project, who has concluded that the engine can be restored to operation. This is by far the best option, rather than just performing a cosmetic restoration.

Locomotive 223 had a long service life — from 1881 to 1941. Over the course of those decades,



DANA PARKER

many of the engine's original design elements, such as the diamond stack, box headlight, trim on the domes and wooden pilot (cowcatcher) were replaced by more modern parts. Steam engines inevitably became a hodgepodge of parts representing the technology of many different decades.

Photo by PARKER, AA

THE PUBLIC FORUM

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Carbon tax makes sense

Canada and the European Union now tax carbon emissions. The U.S. should do likewise. A carbon tax would make the cost we pay for energy include the environmental cost of using carbon fuels. A carbon tax need not increase the overall tax burden because other taxes could be reduced or the revenue from the carbon taxes could be returned to the American people in the form of a monthly dividend. The tax could be applied at the source: the well, mine or port of entry.

Jobs created by the renewable energy industry have made up for the jobs lost in the coal industry. In its 2022 report the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, pegged Utah's solar industry employment at 7,310 workers. The U.S. Energy Administration says in Utah in 2022 there were 1571 employees employed in the coal industry. There are now five times as many people in Utah employed in solar energy as coal.

Mitt Romney supports a carbon tax. He suggests that some of the revenues collected from the carbon tax be used to help people in the coal

industry transition to other jobs. I hope whoever replaces Romney in the Senate will be concerned about climate change like he is.

Russell Patterson

West Valley City

Three top-notch broadcasters

With the Arizona Coyotes moving to Salt Lake City — and the Smith family making personnel decisions for their new team — I would like to state the case for broadcasters Bob Heethuis, Matt McConnell, and Tyson Nash to continue broadcasting for this group of players whom they have known so well and with whom they have grown quite accustomed down in Arizona.

I can't tell you how crucial that is for fans when it comes to being "in the know" while tuning in or listening to a hockey broadcast. You do not want somebody getting a "sheet" and looking at it with "virgin eyes" when broadcasting that first game. There is a tone, rhythm and overall feel from the broadcast's opening segment all the way until the on-air light goes dim. These three understand this. I have tuned in to their broadcasts and have heard their peaks and valleys, which are so incredibly essential.

There is a flow to hockey. It is the greatest sport on earth, and Salt Lake City has the potential of having the greatest fans. They need versed storytellers. This isn't an expansion team with a clean slate. This is a team that has twice been relocated

in its 45-year existence. Broadcasting for a perennial playoff team where the arena is packed on a nightly basis and doing so to a half-empty arena for a team that has never reached the Stanley Cup final in its 45-year existence are two completely different beasts.

These broadcasters have spent their time in the trenches broadcasting in the minors. They deserve to not have to hit the reset button. They deserve to be on the air opening night. Make it happen.

Kirk McKnight

West Valley, Arizona

What a legacy we leave

I would love to ask one question to some of my good friends, who continue to love and support Donald Trump no matter how many atrocities he commits or says. What would you advise your daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, etc., to say when they ask why their grandfather, great-grandfather, etc., loved and supported a man who bragged about sexually assaulting women, led an attack on the Capitol, and said many despicable things about minorities and others?

Videos showing Trump doing these egregious acts will surely be shown for decades in the future when they will have no chance to defend themselves. What a legacy to leave for generations!

Dart Crawford

Sandy

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