

Our View: The only thing as predictable as the tragedy is the response

Devin Rokyta, Moscow-Pullman Daily News

It seems as if we can't go more than a couple of months without being forced to write another editorial on yet another mass shooting.

Just as President Barack Obama is tired of talking about them, we're tired of writing about them.

Some of the details change, but it's mostly the same old tired story.

Sometimes it's at a school and other times it's at a church, military base or movie theater. Sometimes the victims are elementary school age children, sometimes they are young adults just getting ready to take on the world and sometimes they are established and well-loved members of the community, like the three people who lost their lives here in Moscow earlier this year.

Two things never change: innocent people end up dead and the response from gun advocates.

That same response, over and over, is just as predictable as the horrific tragedies themselves.

Idahoans for Liberty, which champions itself as "a grassroots organization dedicated to the principles of individual liberty and free market economics," couldn't even wait 24 hours after last week's shooting in Oregon before it sent out a mass email asking for donations to help stop "Obama and his army of radical gun grabbers" who "are on the march."

Aside from scaring people into believing the big, bad black man is coming to take their guns, we all know the other idiotic defenses against any attempts at gun regulation by heart:

- Cars kill people, too, so why not ban cars?
- Why punish law abiding citizens for the mistakes of a few irresponsible people?
- Making it harder for law-abiding citizens to get guns won't stop bad guys from getting guns.
- When seconds count police are minutes away.
- The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.
- It's a mental health issue, not a gun issue.
- Guns don't kill people, people kill people.
- The Second Amendment blah, blah, blah...

And it's all bull. Many things can kill; it's all guns do.

This nation has a major gun problem. At some point gun advocates will have to join reality and agree some - and likely major - regulations are needed and that the answer is fewer guns, not more, or we are going to see the same tragic scenarios play out again and again.

