

Quick takes

Pendleton marijuana stink

I don't smoke anything, but have to say they should make the same ordinance for cigarettes and tobacco pipes as well...

If they are going to make an issue out of it they need to make an issue out of all smoke... why not the smoke from the burning fields and leaves as well? Something is always going to be a nuisance to someone.

— Katherine Darrow

Don't they have something better to do? I don't use any of it, but we sure are wasting a lot of time on issues that don't matter!

— Teresa Grosjacques

Everyone complaining, but nobody shows up to voice their opinions at the city council meeting.

— Ryan Preston

Pilot Rock city employees

I have a big problem with things as unfair as this. Shame on those who feel they are more privileged and especially when they are supposed to be holding an honorable position.

— Colton McGee

City council members get paid \$38 a month for their service — all they get. Not even really paid, just a savings.

— Brian Baird

One of the great lessons of the Twitter age is that much can be summed up in just a few words. Here are some of this week's takes. Tweet yours @Tim_Trainor or email editor@eastoregonian.com, and keep them to 140 characters.

Unvaccinated children should not be lepers

By KRISTOPHER PETERSON

The *East Oregonian* editorial board had recommended that SB442, the Senate bill that stops all non-medical exemptions for vaccinations, be passed into law. A subsequent editorial has lamented that the bill died in committee.

Other states are also attempting to pass similar bills. There has been much concern and fear over Oregon vaccination rates since the Disneyland outbreak of measles earlier this year. However, there has been very little evidence-based support of these recommendations.

I am not anti-vaccination. Vaccinations have benefited our state. For example, we no longer see new polio victims and smallpox is gone. If SB 442 had passed, it would have stated that "an emergency is declared to exist" and all students that are presently non-medically exempt would have been immediately expelled from public and private schools, daycare centers and preschools upon its passage. Much like the past exclusion of lepers from society.

Here is the evidence about this so-called "emergency" (based on Centers for Disease Control, CDC and Oregon Health Authority data).

- Oregon had one case of measles as a result of the Disneyland exposure. The subject recovered and is well.

- In 2013, there were six cases of measles, the highest in 14 years, and all recovered. It should be noted that 2 of the infected persons were vaccinated and were infected in India. The 2013

Oregon Communicable Disease Annual Report states: "Though measles is highly infectious, the risk of exposure to measles in Oregon remains low."

- The CDC has a target of 90 percent vaccination rate for each state. Oregon meets and surpasses this target.

- Oregon has about 7 percent of its population that is non-medically exempt. But what is the true status of this population?

- Currently in Oregon, 23 vaccinations are mandated. If a child has 22 out of the 23 and another child has 0 out of 23 mandated vaccinations, they would both need to get a non-medically exempt certificate.

- Passage of SB 422 would have lumped all children, those who have missed one, even if it is a vaccine for a non-contagious illness like tetanus, or all vaccinations as unvaccinated and these children would be expelled from school.

- APIC is the agency that determines the requirements for vaccinations. Let's suppose that in the future APIC requires that all 9-year-old girls should receive the HPV vaccination. HPV is a sexually transferred virus that causes cervical cancer.

Under SB 442, if a parent decides not to vaccinate their daughter and the child is current on all other vaccinations, then the child would be expelled from school.

- Oregon's approach to vaccination is not in a crisis, but it can be improved. Currently Oregonians who want to exempt their child from a particular vaccine or all vaccines must view a short online presentation before they receive a non-medically exempt certificate.

- As noted previously, 7 percent of Oregonians have not been convinced by the information that they were given. In our country we value free choice.

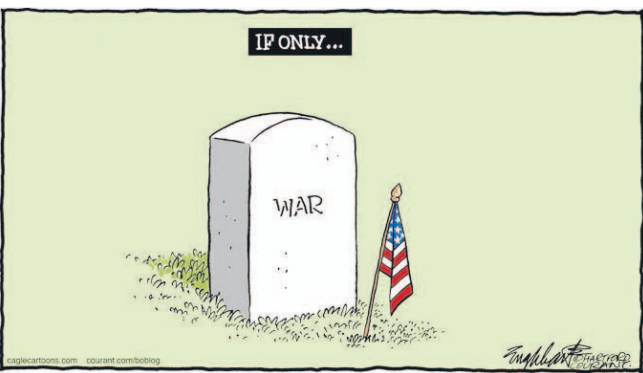
Instead of creating leper colonies, it would be better to listen to the questions and concerns that parents have and respond with transparent,

evidence-based answers. Historically it has been the 7 percent, those who have the strength to question the status quo, who end up bringing more light.

SB 442 was not well thought out and though it is well intentioned, it was dangerous for our society.

— Kristopher B. Peterson is a chiropractic internist in Hermiston.

It would be better to listen to the questions and concerns that parents have about vaccines than force them to vaccinate their children or face expulsion.



The remnants of war

By KAREN ZACHARIAS

When did it dawn on you that you yourself might be suffering from PTSD?

My first tour in Vietnam lasted 16 months. I left to go home and get married. We settled down in Tokyo, my next assignment. I began having a nightmare that was always the same: I was on my knees begging for my life and a North Vietnamese officer was pointing a pistol in my face.

I could see his finger tightening on the trigger. Just as he pulled it I came up fighting for my life, and threw my wife out of bed and against the wall of our apartment. It scared her badly; scared me worse.

But we journalists were so sure that we were immune to all we witnessed in combat. After all, we talked about our experiences among ourselves. So I just moved on with my life and career.

Later I noticed that with the arrival of fall each year, November to be precise, I went just a bit crazy. I thought it was seasonal depression until in 1986 or '87 I attended my first reunion of my old 1st Cavalry Division buddies. A light went on in my head. We were ALL a bit crazy at that time of year and for good reason. We also found that getting together and sharing the stories helped us all smooth things out so we could go on for another year.

What do you think the general public fails to understand about PTSD?

I really can't speak for the general public and what they know or don't know about PTSD. Or about war itself. If you haven't seen war up close and personal you really can't know what it is and what it does to those on the field of battle.

How has your own PTSD affected you?

I notice that as the years dwindle down to a precious few I weep a lot more often as the memories cross my mind. A photo of a young widow sprawled atop the grave of her soldier husband at Arlington Cemetery leaves me choked with grief and sobbing aloud. I used to believe that time would let those memories fade and allow me a measure of peace. I know better now. We aren't allowed to forget; we aren't supposed to forget. As long as even one of us remembers them our friends are not dead.

Joseph Galloway is a military correspondent who frequently reported from war zones and co-author of "We were Soldiers Once ... and Young." In November 1965, Galloway embedded with the 1st Cavalry Division in the first major battle of the Vietnam War — the Battle of the Ia Drang. He served four tours in Vietnam and became one of the most influential war reporters in U.S. history. He is the only civilian to receive a combat medal during Vietnam.

Veterans aren't the only community who suffer from PTSD. War correspondents like Joseph Galloway suffer as well. In the following interview, Zacharias spoke with Galloway about his war reporting days and his own PTSD. It can read in entirety at www.eastoregonian.com.

KZ: As a young boy did you ever hear any soldier you knew talk about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/PTSD?

JG: I distinctly remember family talking about a returned soldier who came home "damaged mentally." His legs were paralyzed and VA got him a car with hand controls. He became a drunk, self-medicating, and was found from time to time passed out in his car in a ditch somewhere. No one knew quite what to do to help him.

When do you think you first encountered someone with PTSD? What do you recall about that encounter?

I think the first soldier I ran across who was clearly unhinged by combat was in the Landing Zone XRay battle in November 1965. Although he seemed unharmed he was being medevaced out of the battle. I shot a photo of him as he was walking toward the chopper and he was cursing everyone, me included.

Where you aware at the time that person was suffering from PTSD or was that something that only came to you in hindsight?

This was 1965 and we had never heard of Post-Traumatic Stress. I think that term did not come into being until sometime after 1968. I just thought the first guy I saw was what my uncles referred to as "shell shocked."

Trade and trust: Without honest argument, can't support TPP

One of the Obama administration's underrated virtues is its intellectual honesty. Yes, Republicans see deception and sinister ulterior motives everywhere, but they're just projecting. The truth is that, in the policy areas I follow, this White House has been remarkably clear and straightforward about what it's doing and why.

Every area, that is, except one: international trade and investment.

I don't know why the president has chosen to make the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership such a policy priority. Still, there is an argument to be made for such a deal, and some reasonable, well-intentioned people are supporting the initiative.

But other reasonable, well-intentioned people have serious questions about what's going on. And I would have expected a good-faith effort to answer those questions. Unfortunately, that's not at all what has been happening. Instead, the selling of the 12-nation Pacific Rim pact has the feel of a snow job. Officials have evaded the main concerns about the content of a potential deal; they've belittled and dismissed the critics; and they've made blithe assurances that turn out not to be true.

The administration's main analytical defense of the trade deal came this month in a report from the Council of Economic Advisers. Strangely, however, the report didn't actually analyze the Pacific trade pact. Instead, it was a paean to the virtues of free trade, which was irrelevant to the question at hand.

First of all, whatever you may say about the benefits of free trade, most of those benefits have already been realized. A series of past trade agreements, going back almost 70



PAUL KRUGMAN
Comment

years, has brought tariffs and other barriers to trade very low to the point where any effect they may have on U.S. trade is swamped by other factors, like changes in currency values.

In any case, the Pacific trade deal isn't really about trade. Some already low tariffs would come down, but the main thrust of the proposed deal involves

strengthening intellectual property rights — things like drug patents and movie copyrights — and changing the way companies and countries settle disputes. And it's by no means clear that either of those changes are good for America.

On intellectual property: Patents and copyrights are how we reward innovation. But do we need to increase those rewards at consumers' expense? Big Pharma and Hollywood think so, but you can also see why, for example, Doctors Without Borders is worried that the deal would make medicines unaffordable in developing countries. That's a serious concern, and it's one that the pact's supporters haven't addressed in any satisfying way.

On dispute settlement: A leaked draft chapter shows that the deal would create a system under which multinational corporations could sue governments over alleged violations of the agreement, and have the cases judged by partially privatized tribunals. Critics like Sen. Elizabeth Warren warn that this could compromise the independence of U.S. domestic policy — that these tribunals could, for example, be used to attack and undermine financial reform.

Not so, says the Obama administration, with the president declaring that Warren is "absolutely wrong." But she isn't. The Pacific trade pact could force the United States to change policies or face

big fines, and financial regulation is one policy that might be in the line of fire. As if to illustrate the point, Canada's finance minister recently declared that the Volcker Rule, a key provision of the 2010 U.S. financial reform, violates the existing North American Free Trade Agreement. Even if he can't make that claim stick, his remarks demonstrate that there's nothing foolish about worrying that trade and investment pacts can threaten bank regulation.

As I see it, the big problem here is one of trust.

International economic agreements are, inevitably, complex, and you don't want to find out at the last minute — just before an up-or-down, all-or-nothing vote — that a lot of bad stuff has been incorporated into the text. So you want reassurance that the people negotiating the deal are listening to valid concerns, that they are serving the national interest rather than the interests of well-connected corporations.

Instead of addressing real concerns, however, the Obama administration has been dismissive, trying to portray skeptics as uninformed hacks who don't understand the virtues of trade. But they're not: The skeptics have on balance been more right than wrong about issues like dispute settlement, and the only really hackish economics I've seen in this debate is coming from supporters of the trade pact.

It's really disappointing and disheartening to see this kind of thing from a White House that has, as I said, been quite forthright on other issues. And the fact that the administration evidently doesn't feel that it can make an honest case for the Trans-Pacific Partnership suggests that this isn't a deal we should support.

— Paul Krugman joined *The New York Times* in 1999 as a columnist on the *Op-Ed* Page.

Tubman versus Jackson: Who should be on the \$20

Let's discuss putting a picture of a woman on the \$20 bill. But, first: How many of you remember Ivy Baker Priest?

OK, nobody. Good thing I'm hard to discourage. But stick with me for a minute, and then we'll talk about Harriet Tubman versus Andrew Jackson.

In the 1950s, Ivy Baker Priest was the U.S. treasurer. This is not to be confused with secretary of the Treasury, a job of far greater power. We have never had a woman running the Treasury Department, but the last 15 treasurers have been female. Try not to be diverted by that factoid. We have work to do.

The treasurer does get her signature on all our paper currency, and I remember as a child being very impressed when my mother pointed out Priest's name on a dollar bill. It was, perhaps, the first time I realized a person of my gender could be in a position of public authority without being the queen of England.

The message here is that what goes on our money has an impact. "It's a reflection of the values in this country," said Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire. As part of the current debate about putting a woman on one of the bills, she's introduced legislation that would require the secretary of the Treasury to convene "a panel of citizens" to discuss the whole portrait issue.



GAIL COLLINS
Comment

"That's how it was done in the 1920s when Andrew Jackson was put on the \$20," she said.

Ah, Andrew Jackson. The perfect target. Slave-owner who came to national renown as an Indian-killer. Who, as president, made hatred of the national bank his big issue, while showing a certain fondness for state banks owned by his cronies. On the positive side, he really loved his wife.

The Treasury Department hasn't changed a portrait since 1934, when it honored Woodrow Wilson, whose picture you will find on the extremely elusive \$100,000 note. All of our paper money feature white men, at least half of them slave-owners.

A website called Women on 20s recently conducted a poll to find a woman to replace Jackson. It was a great educational tool. But about the poll: Harriet Tubman won.

Pretty perfect. Replace the slave-owner with the escaped slave who returned to the South — again and again — to lead other slaves to freedom. These days "freedom" is a much-abused word, which gets applied to everything from capital gains tax cuts to office towers. But Harriet Tubman could get freedom back to where it once belonged.

So, we're all happy, right? Harriet Tubman for Andrew Jackson. Best trade ever. Not so fast. We should have guessed it wouldn't be simple when all we got from the Obama administration

was the president's "pretty good idea."

Changing American paper currency turns out to be a huge ordeal. The main decision-maker is something called the Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence Steering Committee, with representatives from a whole bunch of government entities, including the Secret Service. "Whenever a decision is made, it's not just done. It takes years of research before the process even gets remotely underway," said Lydia Washington of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

But the British switch their currency portraits all the time! (Jane Austen is about to supplant Charles Darwin on the 10-pound note.) Sure, the United States currency is a global currency. We should regard change as a serious matter. However, not an epic challenge of herculean proportions.

The government did start on a \$10 bill redesign in 2013, and the process being what the process is, the effort has only just begun to twitch. The plan is to add a tactile feature that will allow blind people to identify the value of the currency.

All in all, it's clear we've got a lot of work to do. Maybe Ivy Baker Priest understood what a heavy lift change is when she said women didn't care about having their pictures on money "as long as we get our hands on it."

"Getting our hands on the money is equally important," said Shaheen mildly. But, really, we can go for both.

— Gail Collins joined *The New York Times* in 1995.