

Quick takes

Arm teachers to prevent school shootings

Yes, but after speaking to some ill informed teachers and knowing many more, I'm thinking we need an even better idea.
— twenty20

I am a college instructor. I got an undergraduate degree in my field, two graduate degrees, and have published multiple books, all of which are in my job description. Do you know what is not in my job description? Being armed in the classroom. I cannot believe the people who make this ludicrous argument.
— ShaindelR

Marijuana bans expand

To the eastern Oregon communities that opted out: You can buy marijuana from you local dealers that will not: check ID, post warning labels, test the product, label the product, oay taxes, Or otherwise be a "good businessman" as defined by the local community leaders.
— 123456what

I don't believe the amount of revenue that would go to the city and county from pot sales would be very much, so why allow it at all?
— disqus_klr17jaLbZ

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.

What subsidized city services can be cut?

In my last commentary I wrote about services: police, fire, ambulance, court and water and sewer. I will now finish off services with cemetery, building, planning and transportation.

Cemetery

The cemetery is in the general fund. It is an operation of 49 acres including Olney Cemetery, Olney Memorial Garden and Treehaven Pet Cemetery. In addition to interment services, cemetery staff are responsible for maintenance of the grounds, irrigation system, roads and the mausoleum.

Primary activities are burials, turf mowing, irrigation, tree removal, planting, leaf and snow removal and anything else necessary to keep the cemetery functional and attractive. Income is derived from grave sites and monument sales, internments and the cemetery perpetual care fund.

The income from everything aforementioned except the cemetery fund amounts to \$103,550.

The cemetery perpetual care fund has a balance of \$735,000. However, the guidelines of the fund allow only for the income from the \$735,000 to be spent, not the principal itself. The income for this year is \$12,028. When we add \$103,550 to the income of \$12,028,



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Comment

it totals \$115,578. The cost to maintain the cemetery is \$273,200. The cemetery operates at a loss of \$157,622 per year.

There is an additional fund called the Home Trust Fund. This money can only be used to place flowers on the graves of the Home family at specific times during the year. Therefore, it is of no benefit to the cemetery operations.

City departments

The planning department administers to all land use and zoning regulations of the city. This division provides staff support for the administration, the city's state mandated comprehensive plan and they interpret and enforce ordinances of the comprehensive plan. They also provide support to the

planning commission.

The building department administers various construction and safety codes adopted by the city. The adopted codes enforced are the Oregon structural specialty code, Oregon residential specialty code, Oregon mechanical specialty code, dangerous building code and Oregon manufactured dwelling and park specialty code. The building division inspects projects involving new construction, additions, alterations and remodels of all types of buildings. The

income from the building and planning department is \$340,300. The expenses of the department are \$786,850, which is a loss of \$446,850.

Transportation

Transportation provides limited transportation services to seniors and disabled citizens and a bus program for the general public. The senior/disabled services are subsidized taxi rides. Citizens who have been determined by the city to be eligible for the program receive a packet of taxi tickets. One ticket plus a small fee of \$1.75 given directly to the taxi company is good for a one-way ride. The general transportation program provides subscription rides to designated places for \$1 per one-way ride. Most of the income comes from state and county governmental agencies. The city also provides a small amount for a total income of \$416,900. The cost for transportation is \$416,900. Without state funding, public transportation described above would not exist.

In summary, four out of four services cannot exist without subsidy from the general budget. I have used the 2015-2016 fiscal year city budget for reference to support figures used in all of my articles, previous and present. The city budget is available to view at the city of Pendleton's website; www.pendleton.or.us.

Looking ahead, in the next article I will feature Pendleton's infrastructure.

Al Plute is an at-large city councilor for the city of Pendleton.

The Pendleton city budget can be viewed in its entirety online at pendleton.or.us



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Time to retire the term 'illegal alien'

The Associated Press, the international news organization whose stylebook many media outlets use for writing guidelines, made a very important change two years ago.

Reporters were encouraged to no longer use the term "illegal immigrant" to describe someone who was living in the country without a visa or citizenship. The preferred term was changed to "undocumented immigrant."

Given that most people don't use a journalistic style guide to inform how they talk, the term illegal immigrant has managed to stubbornly stick to the American lexicon.

At the time, AP officials said the change was made to better describe the group of people.

"The Stylebook no longer sanctions the term illegal immigrant or the use of illegal to describe a person," Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Kathleen Carroll said in a statement. "Instead, it tells users that illegal should describe only an action, such as living in or immigrating to a country illegally."

The AP's logic was that human beings can't be deemed illegal, only the acts they commit — people don't call motorists speeding down the highway "illegal drivers" or people crossing a crosswalk against a red light "illegal pedestrians."

"Illegal alien" is even worse. A dogwhistle term that's become synonymous with stereotypes against Mexican and Central American immigrants, and a tired one at that — mainly that most come to the U.S. to steal jobs, commit crimes and bilk the American welfare system.

While illegal alien could ostensibly apply to immigrants from any country, the term specifically evolved from a derogatory name for immigrants that swam across the Rio Grande River to cross the border.

The Atlantic's Garrett Epps tracked down one of the earliest uses of illegal aliens to a 1950s Stanford Law Review article entitled "Wetbacks: Can the States



ANTONIO SIERRA
Comment

Curb Illegal Entry?'

Sadly, some *East Oregonian* readers think "wetback" is also an acceptable name for Latinos, coming to the defense of an 89-year-old Milton-Freewater woman who was arrested for a hate crime after harassing a police officers while using the invective.

For those who criticized Milton-Freewater authorities, the woman's arrest was viewed as another instance of political correctness gone too far.

But more than being offensive, the worst aspect of terms like wetback and illegal alien is that they're becoming increasingly antiquated in a world that has evolved past them.

The country's cultural makeup has changed dramatically since the 1950s and the next 50 years promise to uphold that trend. According to the Pew Research Center, 18 percent of the American population will be foreign born by 2065.

Whether they're here illegally or not, Pew estimates Latinos will be 24 percent of the U.S. population in 50 years, or more than 105 million people. Eastern Oregon will undoubtedly reflect that growth in some way.

While they may make a dent, no amount of multibillion dollar anti-immigration projects like walls on the border, mass deportations or verification systems will reverse this trend.

The discussion of how to create an effective immigration system is a worthy one to have, but no amount of incendiary language will fix it faster.

So instead of waiting for history to take its course and assign it to a dustbin, let's get a head start.

Retire the term illegal alien. Illegal immigrant won't be far behind.

This isn't censorship or a cultural demand.

Most terminology has useful life, and illegal alien's is just about up.

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Governor pick for ag board out of step with Oregon agriculture

Recently, Oregon's Governor Kate Brown appointed Marty Myers, general manager of Threemile Canyon Farms, LLC, a subsidiary of North Dakota-based R.D. Offutt Company, to the state's Board of Agriculture. In appointing Myers, the governor overlooked a family farmer, Monmouth dairyman Jon Bansen, who had also applied for the position. This appointment sent a message to agricultural producers across Oregon that Governor Brown, when given a choice, will side with corporate agribusiness over hard-working family farmers.

While Myers is a nice man, the fact is he represents an out-of-state corporation with a checkered past in our state. Threemile Canyon Farms is the very definition of a factory farm, confining over 60,000 cows in an intensive milk production operation where the cows never graze on pasture. Over the years the facility has been at the center of several controversies, including labor violations, allegations of animal abuse, and a major source of air pollution.

In 2005, Threemile revealed they were releasing 5.6 million pounds of ammonia into the air each year, a byproduct of decomposing liquefied manure. The U.S. Forest Service fingered Threemile's ammonia as one of two major sources of acid rain and haze in the Columbia Gorge.

Rather than mitigating ammonia emissions, Threemile lobbied for the operation to be exempted from Oregon clean air laws. During a Dairy Air Quality Task Force created by the Legislature, Myers was instrumental in crafting a "do-nothing" plan of action.

Myers stands in stark contrast with Monmouth dairyman Jon Bansen. Unlike Myers, who lives in the Portland area, Bansen lives and works on his farm with his wife and children. He is a third-generation dairy farmer producing high-quality organic milk for the Organic Valley Cooperative. Bansen's farm, Double J Jerseys, is a pasture-based system, where the cows are grazed rotationally outdoors nearly year-round on 600 acres.

The appointment of Myers over Bansen should raise the eyebrows and the concerns of farmers across Oregon. Notably, a 2013 Oregon Employment Department report found that between 2002 and 2007, shortly after Threemile doubled the number of dairy cows in the state, nine family dairy farms went out of business every month on average.

Factory-scale dairy operations across the country have expanded herds, driving down milk prices. Family dairy farmers haven't



KENDRA KIMBIRAUASKAS
Comment

been able to compete, and many have closed down their farms. Increased Asian demand for milk products is likely to increase this problem in Oregon. Dramatically increasing Oregon cow numbers to meet this demand, as some have argued for, won't help independent family dairies.

If anything, our state will see a surge in the growth of dairy production from "Threemile-esque" operations. Not only will these massive factory farms present significant challenges

for the communities in which they set up shop, they will make it even more difficult for independent producers to compete — possibly driving the final nail into the coffin

of many already-struggling independent dairy farmers.

Myers' appointment should also draw considerable scrutiny of the appointment process for the Oregon Board of Agriculture. Unlike most agency boards and commissions, appointments to the Board of Agriculture are not confirmed by the Senate.

This allows the Department of Agriculture and the governor's office to

work in secrecy to secure the appointment of their preference without any public scrutiny. Further, the Board of Agriculture is exempt from Oregon Government Ethics requirements that public officials provide statements of economic interest to ensure financial conflicts of interest are disclosed and addressed.

This is not good government.

At a time when Oregonians have cause to be on high alert for inappropriate conduct at the highest levels of state government, it would appear that this appointment to the Board of Agriculture is simply more of the same "pay-to-play" politics that we've seen in the past. Threemile Canyon Farms LLC has spent \$178,500 on lobbying in Oregon since 2012, and gave \$30,000 to Governor Kitzhaber's reelection campaign in 2014.

It's time for serious reform to prevent the kind of backroom dealings that allowed an out-of-state corporation to gain a seat on Oregon's Board of Agriculture. With nearly 85 percent of Oregon farms family-owned and operated, and most small and mid-sized, Governor Brown's appointment is completely out of step with the future of Oregon agriculture.

Kendra Kimbirauskas is a third-generation producer and currently raises a variety of pasture-raised livestock in Linn County. She is co-founder of the group Friends of Family Farmers and chief executive officer for the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project.

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