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OUR VIEW

# Support both fire measures

Two volunteer fire departments have issues on the November ballot: Heppner and Umatilla.

We favor both. In Umatilla, severely outdated equipment needs to be upgraded, and quickly. Doing so will help keep firefighters safe and get them to the scene faster.

The Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District board hopes to use \$1.8 million generated from a 15-year general obligation bond to upgrade that outdated equipment. The department is still making do with fire trucks that date back into the 1970s. Firefighters are depending on air packs that are nearly 20 years old and well past their recommended life span.

The investment required to make these upgrades is not chicken scratch, but it's not overwhelming either. The owner of a \$100,000 home would see a tax increase of \$54 a year if the tax passes. In fact, if the money is used wisely, the new equipment can actually be a money-saver in the long run by requiring less maintenance and major overhauls.

If we are going to depend on our rural fire departments to work their tails off during the outdoor fire season, and through the winter as house fires become more common, than we should require they have decent equipment to do their jobs. The \$1.8 million will not rid the department of all their old

equipment, but it will help jettison the oldest and least useful.

We recommend voting in favor of ballot measure 30-107, for residents who live within the Umatilla fire protection district.

And we feel the same way about the proposal in Heppner.

The bond measure there will work a little differently, however, and requires two votes to pass. Voters in both the city of Heppner and the outlying Heppner Rural Fire Protection District will have to approve the measure for it to

take effect.

Despite that additional hurdle, the measure itself is fairly cut and dried. Heppner's current fire hall can't fit all their equipment and has no space for training. The new building would be twice the size, and better located (at the intersection of Highway 74 and Fuller County Road) for fighting fires both in the city and in the wildland surrounding it.

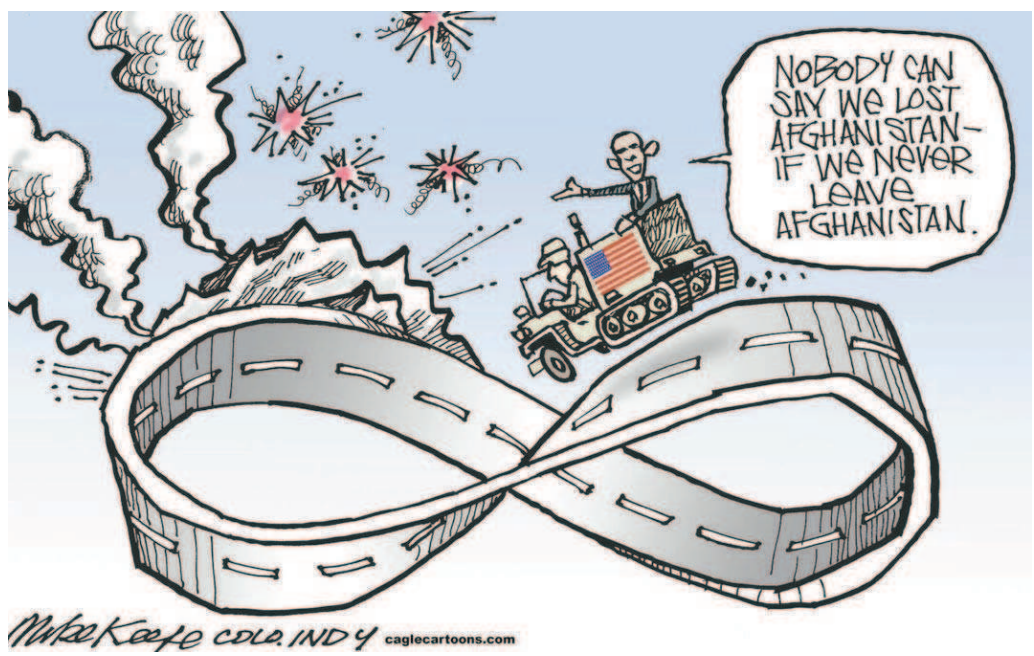
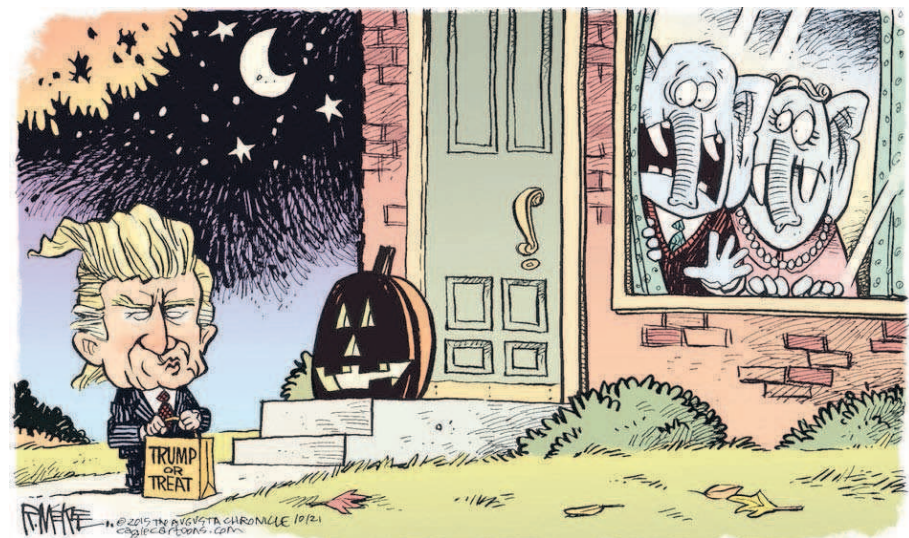
The cost of the \$975,000 hall would be paid for with a 60/40 split of city residents and fire district taxpayers. It would allow for a better operating fire department and, again, quicker response time.

In addition, fire chief Rusty Estes gave one of the great lines we've heard to support a public project: "We don't want the Taj Mahal. We just want a fire hall." You can almost hear the masses chanting that great couplet.

We recommend a vote in favor.

**We recommend supporting measures in Umatilla Rural and Heppner fire protection districts.**

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.



OTHER VIEWS

## Are you sure you want the job?

Having watched all the debates and seen all these people running for president, I can't suppress the thought: Why would anyone want this job now? Do you people realize what's going on out there? Barack Obama's hair hasn't gone early gray for nothing. I mean, Air Force One is great and all, but it now comes with Afghanistan, ISIS and the Republican Freedom Caucus — not to mention a lot of people, places and things all coming unstuck at once.

Consider the scariest news article this year.

On Friday, *The Washington Post* reported that "the

Justice Department has charged a hacker in Malaysia with stealing the personal data of U.S. service members and passing it to the Islamic State terrorist group, which urged supporters online to attack them." The article explained that in June Ardit Ferizi, the leader of a group of ethnic Albanian hackers from Kosovo who call themselves Kosova Hackers Security, "hacked into a server used by a U.S. online retail company" and "obtained data on about 100,000 people."

Ferizi, it said, "is accused of passing the data to Islamic State member Junaid Hussain, a British citizen who in August posted links on Twitter to the names, email addresses, passwords, locations and phone numbers of 1,351 U.S. military and other government personnel."

He included a warning that Islamic State "soldiers ... will strike at your necks in your own lands!" FBI agents tracked Ferizi "to a computer with an Internet address in Malaysia," where he was arrested. Meanwhile, Hussain was killed by a U.S. drone in Syria.

Wow: An Albanian hacker in Malaysia collaborating with an ISIS jihadi on Twitter to intimidate U.S. soldiers online — before we killed the jihadi with a drone!

Welcome to the future of warfare: superpowers versus superempowered angry men — and a tag-team of cybercriminals and cyberterrorists. They're all a byproduct of a profound technology-driven inflection point that will greet the next president and will make the current debates look laughably obsolete in four years.

I was born into the Cold War era. It was a dangerous time with two nuclear-armed superpowers each holding a gun to the other's head, and the doctrine of "mutually assured destruction" kept both in check. But we now know that the dictators that both America and Russia propped up in the Middle East and Africa suppressed volcanic sectarian conflicts.

The first decades of the post-Cold War era were also a time of relative stability. Dictators in Eastern Europe and Latin America gave way to democratically elected governments and free markets. Boris Yeltsin of Russia never challenged NATO expansion, and the Internet and global supply chains drove profitability up and the cost of labor and goods down.



THOMAS FRIEDMAN  
Comment

Interest rates were low, and although the income of men without college degrees declined, it was masked by rising home prices, subprime mortgages, easy credit, falling taxes and women joining the workforce, so many household incomes continued to rise.

"Up until the year 2000, over 95 percent of the next generation were better off than the previous generation," said Richard Dobbs, a director of the McKinsey Global

Institute. Therefore, even though the rich were

getting even richer than those down the income ladder "it did not lead to political unrest because the middle was moving ahead, too" and were sure to be richer than their parents.

But, in the last decade, we entered the post-post-Cold War era. The combination of technological, economic and climate pressures is literally blowing the

**Welcome to the future of warfare: superpowers versus superempowered angry men.**

lid off nation-states in the Middle East and Africa, unleashing sectarian conflicts that no dictator can suppress. Bad guys are getting superempowered and "mutually assured destruction" to ISIS is not a deterrent but an invitation to heaven. Robots are milking cows and IBM's Watson computer can beat you at "Jeopardy!" and your doctor at radiology, so every decent job requires more technical and social skills — and continuous learning. In the West, a smaller number of young people, with billions in college tuition debts, will have to pay the Medicare and Social Security for the baby boomers now retiring, who will be living longer.

"Suddenly," argues Dobbs, "the number of people who don't believe they will be better off than their parents goes from zero to 25 percent or more."

When you are advancing, you buy the system; you don't care who's a billionaire, because your life is improving. But when you stop advancing, added Dobbs, you can "lose faith in the system — whether that be globalization, free trade, offshoring, immigration, traditional Republicans or traditional Democrats. Because in one way or another they can be perceived as not working for you."

And that is why Donald Trump is resonating in America, Marine Le Pen in France, the ISIS caliph in the Arab world, and Vladimir Putin in Russia. They all promise to bring back the certainties and prosperity of the Cold War or post-Cold War eras — by sacking the traditional elites who got us here and by building walls against change and against the superempowered angry men. They are all false prophets, but the storm they promise to hold back is very real.

Thomas L. Friedman won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, his third Pulitzer for *The New York Times*. He became the paper's foreign-affairs Op-Ed columnist in 1995.

YOUR VIEWS

### Tough to trust council decisions

Jill Thorne's support of the five cents gas tax prompted me to make several observations. I live out of Pendleton but I purchase gas in the city. It bothers me that we have to raise a 5 cent tax on gas because I think the use of the city's finances are questionable, as Al Plute has mentioned.

Whenever a project is proposed the city never has money to fund it. So, it either proposes a gas tax or raises fees. Often an out-of-town study is obtained from which we learn very little and costs enough to fix several city streets. A raise in pay is given the city manager without any input from the citizens he represents.

The city was able to fund a developer for a housing project on Tutuilla but it doesn't have funds to build a fire station. It plans to develop the airport property to justify the Barnhardt highway and attract industry, but it has not happened. When funds are not available to fix the city sewer project, it increases fees on homeowners. This may not all be exactly correct but a lot of citizens see it this way.

Many city residents are elderly and on fixed incomes. Any increase

in their cost of living makes a difference in their living. It would be cruel to take a lien on their home because they could not pay a \$5 a month fee.

Some of my city friends have urged me to ask for more transparency on behalf of the city, its resources and spending. The one point they tell me is: The city seems to find money when they say they don't have it.

Dorys Grover Pendleton

### No, potholes are not terrorists

I find the sign on Southeast Court Avenue that reads "Potholes are terrorists help us eliminate them" offensive, as well as incredulous. I was on the Washington, D.C., Mall on Sept. 11, 2001. It was not a pothole that tried to drop a plane on me. It was a terrorist. This sign minimizes the terror that I felt trying to get out of Washington, D.C., as well as all the victims and survivors of 9/11.

Furthermore, I feel that if the Pendleton City Council would get their heads out of the sand (or wherever) and allow recreational marijuana to be sold in Pendleton, the taxes from the sale of recreational marijuana might be

able to be used to fill the potholes. A gas tax? I think not.

Michael D. Bryan Pendleton

### Vote yes on gas tax for street upkeep

I am voting yes on the gasoline fuel tax to be used to repair and maintain Pendleton's existing residential streets.

With passage of Ballot Measure 30-57, we will benefit from safer travel, more comfortable rides and less wear and tear on our vehicles.

I urge you to vote yes on this important measure. It's time to step up and take care of our city streets. There's no such thing as a "free ride."

Carolyn Frasier Pendleton

### Don Requa statue fitting for Main Street

I was back home in Pendleton in July for the Pendleton High School Hall of Fame banquet. It was a fun weekend as usual.

I have to admit that the highlight for me was being present for the unveiling of the bronze Coach Don Requa statue. Looking at that beautiful piece of work brought

back many good memories.

I remember that I was not going to go out for football. One night in August, while it was still light, a bunch of us were playing touch football in the island of the PHS parking lot when Coach Requa shows up to go in the dressing room. He saw us and yelled over that since a lot of the football players were right there, you might come in and get your practice uniforms now. My sister's boyfriend said to me, "Let's go get our uniforms." I said that I was not going out for football. He said, "You are going out!" He was two years older and a lot tougher than I was.

It was one of the better decisions (that was made for me) in my life.

There are a lot of statements made about how football can make you tougher, help you learn teamwork, help you in your life after football, etc. All of those

things applied to me.

Coach Requa was tough on us. Most of us, for the longest time, thought our first names were "dammit." "Req" used a great combination of coaching and psychology to get 110 percent effort out of us.

This statue is very fitting for Main Street in my hometown, saluting the winningest coach in the history of the state when he retired. My hat is off to all who made this happen. The list is too long for this already too long letter. Good job.

Phil Winters (Class of '71) Gold Canyon, Ariz.

**Editor's Note:** Letters to the editor regarding the Nov. 3 election will not be published in print after the Oct. 31 East Oregonian. Please submit them by Oct. 29 to ensure publication, provided they meet standards.

LETTERS POLICY

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