

EAST OREGONIAN

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OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat;
kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to two local residents who recently dusted off their CPR training to save two lives in Umatilla County.

In Pilot Rock, police officer Daniel Badal used CPR on Aug. 18 to keep a man without a pulse alive long enough for him to be transported to St. Anthony Hospital, where medical professionals were able to stabilize the patient and save his life.

Similar action on Monday in Hermiston from Steve Brown — who was out bowling at Desert Lanes — may have saved a life as well.

Brown performed CPR at the bowling alley until EMTs arrived, who then whisked the victim to a hospital where he remains in critical condition.

Critical is a good word for describing the importance of immediate response in a medical emergency. Professionals may be only 30 seconds, a minute, 90 seconds away, but each and every second matters in times of emergency.

Take this opportunity to refresh your CPR skills if you’ve learned them before, or start from scratch. Ask your boss to host CPR classes, or call your local medical center to find out when their next offerings are.

You might be the next person in line to save a life.

A tip of the hat to Weston Middle School for their grant-winning video that helped the school and its students secure some much-needed fitness equipment.

Exercise legend Jake Steinfeld made the \$100,000 presentation Wednesday that will allow the school to upgrade their fitness center, as well as combine with a state grant to hire a physical education teacher for Athena Elementary.

Physical education is under renewed focus, as young people spend more of their time online and with their digital devices.

Giving students good equipment and teachers who inspire them to stay active and healthy is a key part of their early education.

A tip of the hat to our dear pal and columnist Colin Brown, “The Limey Pastor,” who will be moving on from his stint at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.

Brown has been writing weekly faith columns for this newspaper for more than a year, even through a scary medical emergency that put him on his back and under a surgeon’s knife.

His kindness, humor and wit — and his love of God and all creation — shine through in his writings, which offer a modern approach on religion that remains girded by all the traditional underpinnings.

Luckily for readers, Brown will continue writing his weekly columns (which appear on Fridays, see page 7A), so his sermons and reflections aren’t going anywhere. But the Boardman faith community bids you adieu for now, Pastor Brown.

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.

YOUR VIEWS

Who are we managing our forests for?

Growing up in Cascade Locks in the 1940s, I would listen with awe to the many stories about wildfires told by my family and older friends. Stories of fire jumping the Columbia, people covering their shingle roofs with burlap soaked with water to protect their homes from cinders, people riding logging trains out of the mountains while trestles were on fire, etc. Scary stuff. But they made me believe that fire prevention was very important.

In the 1950s and 1960s I spent summers working for the Forest Service. Fire prevention was the number one priority for the Columbia Gorge Ranger District and every thing we did was done with the understanding we were doing this to better protect our forests.

We opened trails that had not been worked since the CCC boys left at the beginning of World War II. We opened and built roads to provide quicker access for fire suppression and for potential fire breaks.

In the Bull Run Watershed small pockets of old dying trees were clear cut to reduce the potential for lightning caused fires. Funds from the sale of the

logs would go into the federal coffers to be distributed back to the counties, schools, roads, etc. Everything was done to prevent mega fires.

This appeared to me to be a win/win deal. Fire hazard trees were being removed, roads were being constructed for quick access and funding was being provided for necessary services.

Then the emphasis began to shift. Trails were for recreation, clear cuts were ugly, fire could be beautiful if you would just wait a hundred years, companies were believed to be making money off our trees, lawsuits were filed, roads needed to be destroyed to limit access.

We needed to bring the forest back to its prehistoric state. All of this was happening with the population increasing and our climate changing.

Now we are paying the price for this shortsightedness and lack of common sense. We have to decide for whom we are managing these forests.

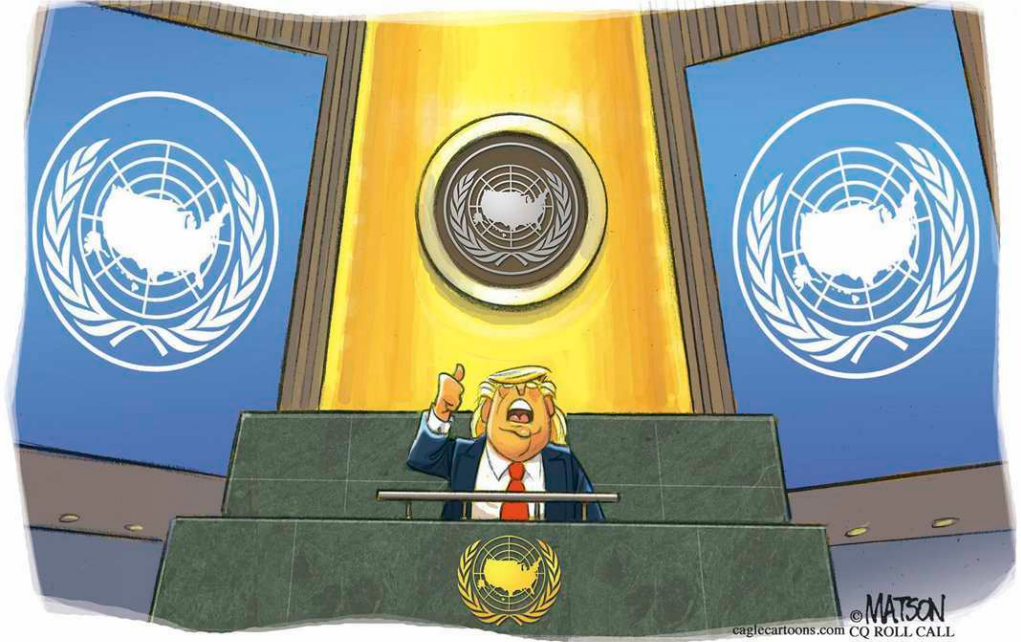
The native population at one time may have burned the forests periodically. Their management objectives were different from what our objective should be. We need to be thinking about 100 years or more from now, as well as today.

Carlisle Harrison
Hermiston

LETTERS POLICY

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.

OTHER VIEWS



“IT’S TIME TO MAKE THE UNITED NATIONS GREAT!”

Meet the world’s
leaders, in hypocrisy

Leaders from around the world have descended on New York for United Nations meetings, fancy parties, ringing speeches about helping the poor — and a big dose of hypocrisy.

And — finally! — this is one area where President Donald Trump has shown global leadership.

If there were an award for United Nations chutzpah, the competition would be tough, but the medal might go to Trump for warning that if necessary, “we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea.” There were gasps in the hall: A forum for peace was used to threaten to annihilate a nation of 25 million people.

There also was Trump’s praise for American humanitarian aid to Yemen. Patting oneself on the back is often oafish, but in this case it was also offensive. Yemen needs aid because the U.S. is helping Saudi Arabia starve and bomb Yemeni civilians, creating what the U.N. says is the world’s largest humanitarian crisis. In other words, we are helping to create the very disaster that we’re boasting about alleviating.

It was also sad to see Trump repeatedly plug “sovereignty,” which tends to be the favored word of governments like Russia (even as it invades Ukraine and interferes in the U.S. election) and China (as it supports corrupt autocrats from Zimbabwe to Myanmar).

Speaking of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi skipped the U.N. meeting, after being feted last year, because it’s awkward to be a Nobel Peace Prize winner who defends a brutal campaign of murder, rape and pillage. Many Muslim leaders in attendance, like Recep Tayyip Erdogan, did highlight the plight of the Rohingya suffering an ethnic cleansing in Myanmar. If only they were as interested in their own political prisoners!

Meanwhile, world leaders usually ignore places that don’t fit their narratives. Everybody pretty much shrugged at South Sudan and Burundi, both teetering on the edge of genocide; at Congo, where we’re headed for civil strife as the president attempts to cling to power; and at the “four famines”: in Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen and South Sudan. To Trump’s credit, he expressed concern Wednesday about South Sudan and Congo and said he would dispatch U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley to the region to see what can be done; let’s hope his administration provides desperately needed leadership.

In fairness, there are broader reasons for hope, including astonishing progress against global poverty — more than 100 million children’s lives saved since 1990. Every day, another 300,000 people worldwide get their first access to electricity, and 285,000 to clean water. Global poverty is a huge opportunity, for we now have a much better understanding of how to defeat it: resolve conflicts, invest in girls’ education, empower women, fight malnutrition,

support family planning, and so on.

For the first time in human history, less than 10 percent of the world’s population is living in extreme poverty, and we probably could virtually eliminate it over the next 15 years if it were a top global priority. Trump rightly hailed PEPFAR, the AIDS program President George W. Bush devised, but he also has proposed sharp cuts in its funding).

The progress on stopping human trafficking is also inspiring. I moderated a U.N. session on the topic, and it was heartening to see an overflow crowd engaging in a historically obscure subject, even as a new report calculated that there are

40 million people who may be called modern slaves. Prime Minister Theresa May convened perhaps the largest meeting of foreign ministers ever on human trafficking.

We now have the tools to achieve enormous progress against these common enemies of humanity — poverty, disease, slavery — but it’s not clear we have the will. What’s striking about this moment is that we have perhaps the worst refugee crisis in 70 years, overlapping with the worst food crisis in 70 years, overlapping with risks of genocide in several countries — and anemic global leadership.

“There is a vacuum of leadership — moral and political — when it comes to the world’s trouble spots, from Syria to Yemen to Myanmar and beyond,” notes David Miliband, the president of the International Rescue Committee. Margot Wallstrom, Sweden’s foreign minister, agrees: “I think there’s a leadership vacuum.”

There are exceptions: Wallstrom, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and more.

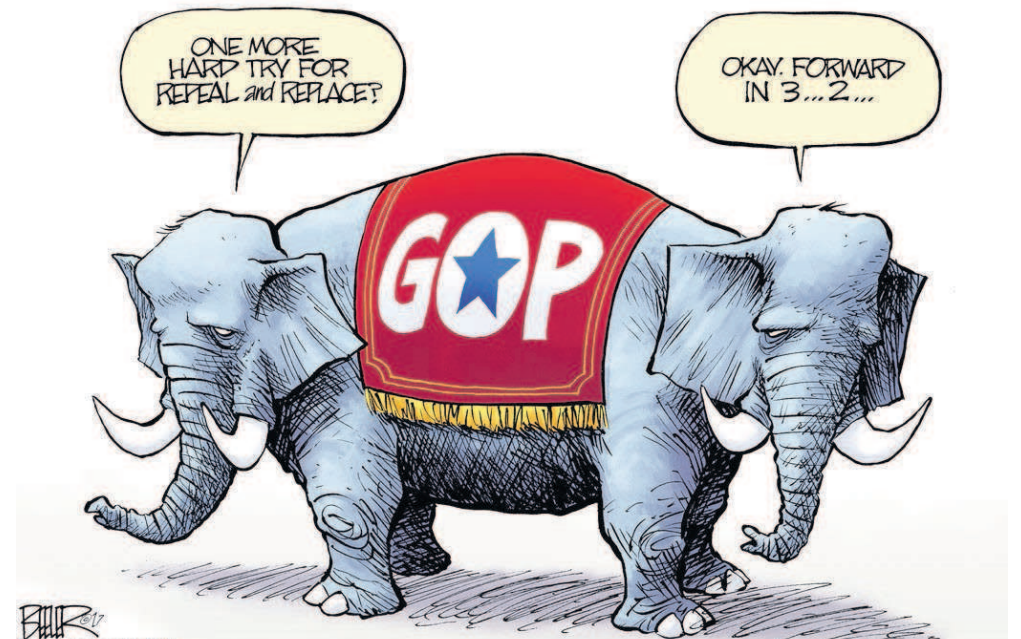
But many countries are divided at home, distracted by political combat and looking increasingly inward, and in any case, the U.S. remains the indispensable superpower, and it is AWOL. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has achieved a degree of irrelevance that no one thought possible, and Trump is slashing the number of refugees accepted, cutting funds for the U.N. Population Fund and proposing huge cuts for diplomacy, peacekeeping and foreign aid (fortunately, Congress is resisting).

The number that I always find most daunting is this: About one child in four on this planet is physically stunted from malnutrition. And while it is the physical stunting that we can measure, a side effect is a stunting of brain development, holding these children back, holding nations back, holding humanity back.

So it’s maddening to see world leaders posturing in the spotlight and patting themselves on the back while doing so little to tackle humanitarian crises that they themselves have helped create.

■

Nicholas Kristof grew up on a sheep and cherry farm in Yamhill. A columnist for The New York Times since 2001, he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1990 and 2006.



PRE-EXISTING CONDITION