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**OUR VIEW**

# Need is clear for psychiatric hospital

The lack of mental health care options in Eastern Oregon comes up in nearly every circle.

Schools and hospitals and police and prisons and parents and courts and even mental health professionals themselves talk about the burden shouldered by our communities because there aren't adequate facilities and funding to treat mental illness in a comprehensive way.

The prospect of a 16-bed psychiatric hospital in Hermiston — called Aspen Springs to be operated by Lifeways — has given us hope that the problem is being recognized, though we know it won't fill the enormous need.

Aspen Springs would be able to treat people in mental health crises far better than an emergency room or jail cell. In turn, it would allow those agencies to do what they're supposed to.

In reality, there's no way teachers,

doctors, police officers and the rest of us can expect to completely hand off mental health treatment to organizations like Lifeways.

We all need to be knowledgeable about the signs of psychosis, depression and addiction and ready to act in the best interest of our family and friends.

But having a clear path to treatment is fundamental. As is having a place to care for people in an emergency situation.

It was promising to see local health and county leaders stand up to support Lifeways' certificate of need for the new center at a hearing Monday with the Oregon Health Authority, and we hope the message is received at the state level.

We also hope more help will come in the form of comprehensive mental health care programs here in rural Oregon. Aspen Springs is just one step in that journey.

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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**

## Free speech for me ... and thee

The (Champaign, Ill.) News-Gazette

Too many people either don't know or don't care about people's rights to express themselves as they see fit.

The Urbana police should have known better.

Because they didn't, Bryton Mellott is \$15,000 richer. It's the best and easiest money he'll ever make.

Mellott's lawyers did even better, collecting \$20,000 for work they did in a legal case that was impossible to lose.

For those who don't recall — or are trying to forget — Mellott caused a ruckus on July 4, 2016.

To express his disgust and disdain for his country, he posted on Facebook a picture of himself burning the American flag. It generated an angry response, creating concerns about both his personal safety and the safety of fellow employees and customers at his workplace.

To make a long story short, Urbana police officers, relying on an inarguably unconstitutional statute, unlawfully arrested Mellott and detained him for five hours on charges of flag burning.

There's a lesson here, one that cuts both ways in the incessant battle between those on the political left and right.

It's all about an individual's right to freedom of speech under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

People are free to disagree with Mellott's viewpoint, particularly the manner in which he expressed it. But that's as far as it goes.

Mellott has and had an absolute right to symbolically express whatever viewpoint he wishes by burning the flag. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld that expression of free-speech rights in a

1989 decision.

Free speech, particularly on college campuses, is getting a lot of attention these days, mostly because many people not only don't understand the concept but sharply disagree with it.

So-called Antifa members, in fact, think it's their duty to physically assault those who express views they do not share. Faces covered with masks and sometimes armed with clubs, they attack those they view as fascists in communities across the country.

The First Amendment exists to protect individuals who utter unpopular speech, characterized by some these days as "hate speech."

Those who utter non-controversial speech don't need protection — it's the speech of those who dissent from the majority that needs protection.

But that is at odds with the long-held view of many Americans — free speech for me, but not for thee.

Everyone is entitled to have their say. Everyone is not required to listen to someone having their say, and they're certainly free to disagree.

Mellott said he posted the picture of the burning flag "to address the issue of violence brought against members of my queer community and against every community considered to be 'other.'"

It was not exactly a well-thought-out protest against violence. But those who exercise their free-speech rights — like those who oppose others' free-speech rights — often emphasize blind emotion, rather than clarity of purpose, in their demonstrations.

That's their privilege in this country. Those who disagree, whatever their political perspective, need to remember that and pay the appropriate respect to a venerated American tradition.

**OTHER VIEWS**



# Trump's big problem: He talks too much

President Trump's speech in Alabama Friday night lasted one hour and 23 minutes. A transcript of his remarks runs to just over 12,000 words.

To say the speech wandered all over the lot is an understatement. Of course Trump covered the Alabama Senate race — he was in Huntsville to campaign for candidate Luther Strange — but he also discussed, in order: 1) the United Nations; 2) the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico; 3) North Korea; 4) the GOP's failed effort to repeal and replace Obamacare; 5) the 2016 election; 6) Mitch McConnell; 7) John McCain; 8) the beauty of the White House; 9) wife Melania's footwear when visiting hurricane victims; 10) his own political clout and whether supporting Strange was wise; 11) the defense budget; 12) NAFTA and other trade deals; 13) Luther Strange's height (six feet nine inches); 14) White House chief of staff John Kelly; 15) drugs brought into the U.S. from Mexico; 16) the proposed border wall; 17) the Border Patrol; 18) religious liberty; 19) the Second Amendment; 20) the Electoral College; 21) Hillary Clinton's 2016 strategy; 22) the Russia investigation; 23) the filibuster; 24) China; 25) the stock market; 26) the Veterans Administration; 27) his cuts in federal regulation; 28) NASA; 29) immigration; 30) taxes; 31) health care premiums; and 32) making America great again.

And yes, the president discussed professional football: "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say get that son of a bitch off the field right now, he's fired." That aside came between Trump's discussion of the Border Patrol and his discussion of religious liberty — about 38 minutes into the speech.

Put aside the merits of what Trump said about NFL players refusing to stand for the national anthem — a point on which a majority of Americans agrees with the president. What is striking is that the football remarks, which set off another media/political firestorm for Trump, are in the simplest sense a result of the president just talking too much.

Ed Rollins, the veteran Republican strategist, was a top aide to Ronald Reagan. He saw nearly every speech Reagan gave as president.

"Reagan said to me one day, 'How long do you think I can hold an audience?'" Rollins recalled in a conversation Monday.

When Rollins said he did not know, Reagan explained, "Here's what I do. I pick someone in the audience. I watch them. I watch their



BYRON YORK  
Comment

reaction, every so often look across the room."

"I can hold an audience for about 20, 23 minutes," Reagan told Rollins. "A half-hour TV show is 23 minutes."

"The first five minutes, everybody is excited about seeing the president," Reagan said. "You sort of cruise in the middle, and you kick at the end with a strong close for the last five minutes."

"Anything beyond that, you basically start to lose the audience," Reagan concluded. "Twenty minutes is plenty to get your message across."

On Friday in Huntsville, President Trump gave not one, not two, not three, but four Reagan speeches, in one long, 83-minute stretch.

**Trump's logorrhea increases the chance he will go off in some troublesome direction.**

Trump has never been a disciplined speaker. During the early months of his campaign, he would often talk for more than an hour. Back then, he would go on about his TV show, about his golf courses, his businesses, his billionaire friends — all sorts of topics.

It wasn't at all unusual to see people walking out of Trump speeches, especially at night, after half an hour, and certainly after 45 minutes.

When I asked why they were leaving, most explained they had to work the next day. Attending a marathon political rally just took too much time, even if it was Donald Trump.

Trump's logorrhea also increased the chance he would go off in some troublesome direction. As the campaign progressed, his staff made an effort to get him to deliver shorter, pre-written speeches from a teleprompter. (That wasn't easy; reading from a prompter was something Trump specifically mocked in many of his speeches.)

The staff had some success. Trump read more of his speeches and improvised less. He would never stick completely to script — digressions could go on for quite a while — but he got better. His improved campaign performance was one of the factors that won him the White House.

In Alabama, Trump did some serious backsliding. And sure enough, he found a way to make trouble for himself.

What now? It's impossible to imagine Trump disciplining himself to a Reaganesque 20 minutes. But Trump did improve during the campaign. Now, he has regressed to the worst excesses of his early speeches.

Ronald Reagan knew that people want to hear only so much, even from the President of the United States. At some point, Donald Trump will realize that hasn't changed.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

**YOUR VIEWS**

## Dynes still stinks — residents should keep up pressure

Luke Dynes' recent guilty verdict was the start of the good people of Hermiston fighting back to finally stop his dirty deeds from smelling up our town.

We don't have to accept as a "fact of life" the rotten vegetable stench that has unrelentingly invaded our neighborhoods since 2014. It comes directly from wet feed stored on Mr. Dynes' operation on Highway 207 and wafts in with the prevailing southwest breeze.

No one disputes Mr. Dynes' right to make a living, but his Highway 207 property is within city limits, zoned residential, and is less than a mile upwind of two schools and several residential neighborhoods. In exchange for operating a feed operation at that location, he made an agreement with the people of Hermiston in 2013 that he would not bring in wet feed like the sludge of processed onions, carrots and potatoes. That was the deal.

But inspections to keep him honest ended a year later, and the potential profits from wet waste must have proved too irresistible to Mr. Dynes. A stench began to invade our neighborhood. We all scratched our heads and thought it was the cumulative odor of multiple operations that had somehow melded together

and dropped onto our properties by fluke atmospheric conditions.

But the stench became common — daily even. People became more frustrated as the smell (and hordes of flies in some areas) chased them indoors. Subsequent investigation points squarely at Mr. Dynes. In calls from frustrated neighbors, he placates them with promises to stop his dirty deeds "soon," effectively admitting his guilt. He also promised the city in May that his sludge operations would be gone in July, so it agreed to hold off on pursuing code enforcement.

But Mr. Dynes still stinks. He's a scowllaw who years ago drowned his word in the muddy sludge of his rotten vegetables.

Help keep up the pressure. Whenever you suffer the stench, email your complaint to Code Enforcement Officer Marcum (mmarcum@hermiston.or.us). Include date/time, description and duration of the stench, your location, how the stench affected you (e.g. chased you indoors), and details of how you tried to ascertain the source. The city may issue a violation if your complaint matches two others within a 12-hour period. Each violation will help give the city teeth to finally inspect and enforce. Let's help Mr. Dynes clean up his act.

Will Anderson  
Hermiston

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"ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT US YET?"