

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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Founded October 16, 1875

OUR VIEW

Tip of the Hat, kick in the pants



They rarely get the type of attention and praise they deserve but a big tip of the hat to the teachers, parents, guidance counselors and administrators for all the help they provided students of the Class of 2019 to reach graduation.

For every student who ambles across the stage at graduation there is usually someone — parents and teachers — who stood behind them and proved to be a key asset to their success.

Selfless devotion to seeing students succeed isn't lauded enough in our society. We should all remember that our school officials have a tough, often thankless job of educating our young people and setting them up for success in the future.

They deserve a tip of the hat.

A kick in the pants to those who end their graduation celebration by drinking and driving.

Celebrating graduation is a tradition across the nation but everyone should remember to hail the major milestone safely.

Celebrating through excessive drinking and then climbing behind the wheel is foolish and carries the potential of hurting a wide swath of friends and family. We want everyone with young graduates to celebrate, but do so in a safe way.

A kick in the pants to the Oregon Department of Human Services, which boasts it is the state's primary agency for helping Oregonians achieve "well-being and independence."

Lately, though, the agency has been mired in controversy over its failure to serve our state's foster children. That shouldn't be the case. The agency gobbles up millions in taxpayer dollars every year yet can't seem to get basic care of children right. The issue isn't a new one, either. We



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton graduate Kodi Crawford keeps cool with a hand fan while waiting for the beginning of a graduation ceremony June 1 at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.

can do better. And we should.

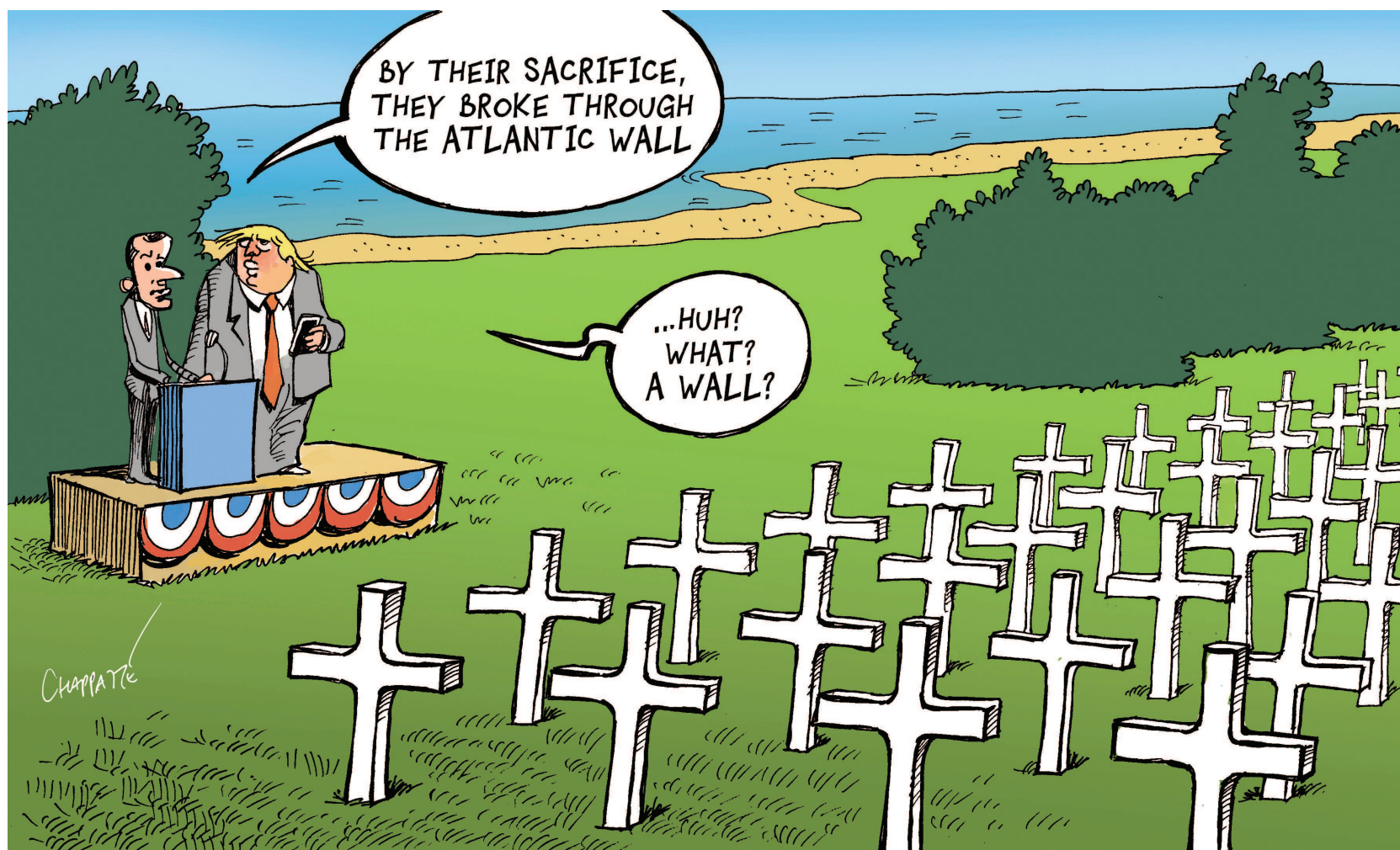
A tip of the hat to Umatilla County, Hermiston School District and Good Shepherd Medical Center for ensuring local high schools continue to furnish an onsite medical clinic.

The service is more than just a convenient resource — it's an essential piece of the broader educational blueprint for our children. The three entities didn't have to continue the service but chose to do so. That action should be lauded.

A tip of the hat for the

D-Day celebrations across the nation and in Europe. The men who fought and died at places like Utah and Omaha beaches some 75 years ago are fading into the background of history, but this week dignitaries from a number of different nations converged at Normandy to mark the day when the liberation of Europe began.

We owe the men who came ashore on D-Day a debt that can never be repaid.



YOUR VIEWS

A healthier Morrow County is within us

There are many things about our community that make it such a great place to live, work, raise our families, and retire. If you ask folks why this is so, it's likely you'll hear a variety of reasons; however, the one thing I can say with confidence is that everyone you talk to will tell you how fortunate they feel to have essential health services in every corner of our county.

The renewal of the Morrow County Health District Local Option Tax once again makes it clear that a healthier Morrow County is a mission worth the investment. On behalf of all of us at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, our doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and support teams working in our family of health clinics, our home health division, EMS, the board of directors, and administrative team, we thank you

for your continued trust and for the privilege of serving your healthcare needs.

Hopefully, you have had an opportunity to read about the overall Healthier Morrow County initiative. If you have not, I invite you to become familiar with all the ways we're working with our community to improve health and wellness.

More than anything, we encourage you to explore all the services and programs we operate and support for the benefit of every community in the district. We launched Healthier Morrow County with the intent of increasing our visibility, providing new channels to share important health and wellness information, and a hope that we could achieve a higher level of community engagement. I can report that the responses we've heard to date are very encouraging, and you can rest assured, we're just getting started.

Please stay connected with us through social media, continue to share your ideas, give us feedback on our new publication "Living Healthier," that will be in your mailboxes this July, attend one of our many free programs, and finally, we hope you will allow us to be your first choice for care.

Wishing you a safe and healthy summer.

**Bob Houser, CEO
Pioneer Memorial Hospital
Heppner**

Anyone but Trump

Only Trump would be able see people flipping him the bird and then tell his entourage full of lap dogs to admire how they consider him "Number One." He won't be happy until he has embarrassed us fully to the entire world.

When I return home from visits to my daughter's home in Australia, I'm immediately asked by Americans, "Did you see any kangaroos?" When I get to Australia I'm immediately asked by them, "How could America elect somebody so ignorant and racist?" I don't have an explanation for them because I'm still mystified by the support for this buffoon posing as a statesmen.

Trump wouldn't know diplomacy or decency or common sense if they came up and bit him on his big orange backside. His phony tough facade, contradicted by his made-up medical affliction to avoid service in Vietnam, clearly shows his cowardice. He wasn't a fan of that war and it was so far away. Seriously? The words of a true hero to all that honorably served.

Anybody but Trump in 2020!

**David Gracia
Hermiston**

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