

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

CHRISTOPHER RUSH  
PublisherKATHRYN B. BROWN  
OwnerANDREW CUTLER  
EditorWYATT HAUPT JR.  
News EditorJADE McDOWELL  
Hermiston Editor

Founded October 16, 1875

## OUR VIEW

# Reviewing goal-setting process a good idea

The formation of a special workgroup of Pendleton city councilors to develop better methods to execute goals is a good idea and deserves more than a passing glance by city voters.

Recently, city councilor Scott Fairley briefed the city council on the work of the committee and outlined some possible methods elected leaders can use to streamline its goal-setting system.

Changing the content of the council's goals, adding more time-lines and reforming the overall process were key points made by Fairley and we couldn't agree more.

Fairley also said an important part of the overall goals process is to ensure revenue streams are attached to each goal.

Fairley and his workgroup have it right, but the real question in the future will be whether or not such a plan can be followed.

The crucial element to the work by the committee — and, in turn, the council — will be public input. While the council is doing the right thing by researching a better way to set and implement goals, none of that will matter unless voters sign off on the venture.

That means the council must be very specific with residents about what it is doing and why. That also means elected leaders need to engage with voters. Simply labeling



Dale Primmer, right, and his fellow Pendleton City Councilors listen to a report Tuesday night at a meeting of the Pendleton Development Commission. Staff photo by Kathy Aney

a public council meeting as good enough in terms of providing a public forum won't do. Voters, residents, are busy. Not everyone can attend a city council meeting. The ideal, of course, would be that each council session is routinely filled with voters observing and interacting with elected leaders. That's not reality, though.

On the other side of the coin,

residents need to remember that members of the city council are not professional politicians. They are neighbors and friends and generally seek what they believe is the best for Pendleton. In the American political process, residents have a responsibility and an obligation to be as involved as much as they possibly can. An elected council needs feedback from voters on a fairly

consistent basis, otherwise it will make decisions in a vacuum.

We think the council's motives are sincere and aimed at simplifying the decision-making process for long-term goals. That shows foresight and a willingness to think out of the box.

Now, it will be up to the council to develop key concepts and present them to the public for review.

## OTHER VIEWS

# HB 3063 would have preserved health, safety of many Oregonians

As an organization invested in the health of every person in our communities, we were extremely disappointed to hear that the Oregon Legislature abandoned House Bill 3063, a bill that would have eliminated parents' ability to opt out of vaccinating their children prior to school attendance without a medical exemption.

We are especially concerned that the health of our communities became a political bargaining chip following the worst outbreak of measles in 25 years.

We believe strongly that the health of one person is indeed the health of humanity. This means one person's health can affect the lives of others; in this case, we are frustrated to hear that our elected officials discarded a bill so vital to Oregon's health.

HB 3063 would have preserved the health and safety of the many Oregonians who do not have the option of vaccination; including children and adults with cancer, rheumatologic diseases requiring high-dose steroids or other immune suppression, those with HIV, and children born with immune deficiencies.

What is even more unsettling is that those opposed to the legislation pointed to non-vaccination as an "access to care issue."

In Oregon, there is no "access to care issue" regarding the ability of low-income individuals to vaccinate their children thanks to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. VFC is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay, including those enrolled in Medicaid and Oregon Health Plan. Children whose health insurance policies do not cover some type of vaccines may receive no-cost immunizations at public sites, such as county health department clinics and clinics that are designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or a Rural Health Clinic (RHC). Immunizations significantly reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases and represent a cost-effective way to foster health equity.

Furthermore, because our community health centers have extremely high vaccination rates among our patient population, Oregon's low vaccination rate is not due to an access issue.

*Juan Carlos Olivares is the chief executive officer of Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, which operates health centers in Portland, Hermiston, Woodburn, Salem, Astoria and Clatskanie.*



JAUN CARLOS OLIVARES  
COMMENT



## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

### U.S. PRESIDENT

#### Donald Trump

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
Comments: 202-456-1111  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
whitehouse.gov/contact/

### U.S. SENATORS

#### Ron Wyden

221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-5244  
La Grande office: 541-962-7691

#### Jeff Merkley

313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-3753  
Pendleton office: 541-278-1129

### U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

#### Greg Walden

185 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-6730  
La Grande office: 541-624-2400

### GOVERNOR

#### Kate Brown

160 State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301-4047  
503-378-4582

### REPRESENTATIVES

#### Greg Barreto, District 58

900 Court St. NE, H-38  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1458  
Rep.GregBarreto@state.or.us

#### Greg Smith, District 57

900 Court St. NE, H-482  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1457  
Rep.GregSmith@state.or.us

### SENATOR

#### Bill Hansell, District 29

900 Court St. NE, S-423  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1729  
Sen.BillHansell@state.or.us

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

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. 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 the editor to editor@eastoregonian.com, or via mail to Andrew Cutler, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801