

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

## What PETA does best

You have to hand it to the folks at PETA — the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. They know how to get their names in the news. Whether it's trying to assert constitutional rights for killer whales at aquariums, having movie actresses to pose naked for ads running down the fur industry or even planning a pornographic website, PETA has long ago demonstrated itself to be lacking in ethics but a master of hogging publicity.

Most recently, the folks at PETA fired off a letter to the mayor of Caldwell, Idaho, demanding the name of Chicken Dinner Road be changed. To what? Just Chicken Road. It's a "kinder alternative, one that celebrates chickens as the sensitive and intelligent individuals they are, not ones to be abused and killed for dinner," Faith Robinson, PETA senior strategist, told *Capital Press* reporter Carol Ryan Dumas.

The mayor wisely decided to ignore PETA.

But our suspicion is PETA's motive was not renaming the road so much as it was to get PETA's name out in the public. The organization has repeatedly found geographic references to which the organization



The northwest corner of Chicken Dinner Road and Idaho Highway 55 between Caldwell and Marsing, Idaho.

feigned offense: the Tenderloin Section of San Francisco and Fishkill, New York, are examples.

In each instance, nothing was accomplished, other than getting

some attention from the press, something the folks at PETA crave. The organization brings in \$52 million a year in donations with its stunts, arguing that animals and humans are

the same.

Which got us to thinking. What would happen if a farmer, or farm organization, adopted PETA's tactics?

For example, a farmer could send a letter to PETA decrying how the group cared more about animals than people by criticizing perfectly good food in the name of animal rights. Whatever happened to people's rights to have access to nutritious and wholesome food? Nearly 800 million people in the world go to bed hungry every day, and PETA is worried about Chicken Dinner Road. How many people has PETA ever fed?

How about sending chicken dinners to hungry children in sub-Saharan Africa or in Yemen instead of seeking the public spotlight over such piffle.

We understand PETA and its goal: to attack animal agriculture. Thankfully, it does a horrible job of that.

It turns out, it's a lot harder to have an actual positive impact on society than it is parading in front of the spotlight.

Good job, PETA, you accomplished absolutely nothing positive but looked good doing it. And raised a lot of money in the process.

## OTHER VIEWS

## Partnership works to help keep nurses safe

Nurses and other hospital employees enter the profession because they want to take care of people. But we know that too often they can become victims of violent acts on the job as they deliver that care.

Consider these two data points: Nurses are more likely to be assaulted at work than police officers, and they are nearly five times more likely to be injured on the job and miss work than other professions.

Hospitals have been working to prevent workplace violence for years, but facilities managers weren't always sure how to go about it. "We didn't have the tools to be effective," said Elaine LaRochelle, facilities director at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande. LaRochelle knew she needed evidence-based tools.

When the Oregon Association of Hospitals & Health Systems (OAHHS) started the Workplace Violence Prevention project in 2014, we quickly saw that there wasn't a comprehensive set of resources available for continuously addressing hospital employee safety.

Working with partners at the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) and SEIU Local 49, we created a Workplace Violence Prevention toolkit that is now a national model. It helps hospitals assess their security environments and practices and come up with solutions that address each community's specific needs.

At Grande Ronde, that means there is now a fortified glass window at the emergency department intake desk, doors that lock nights and weekends, and more security personnel. Those employees are also trained to greet patients and fetch wheelchairs to create a friendly and calming atmosphere.

LaRochelle said the changes have made a huge difference.

The toolkit also helps hospitals evaluate a patient's risk for violence, provides new tools for recording and tracking incidents, and assists with educating and training staff, whether they work directly with patients or not.

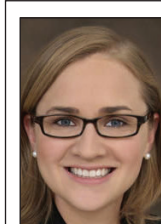
We also know that the work does not stop with the creation of the toolkit. We are proud to be working with our labor partners to further build momentum in Salem and across the state. OAHHS and ONA shaped the final language for Senate Bill 823A, which standardizes the schedule for hospital security check-ins every two years and clarifies anti-retaliation rules for employees that report violent incidences. The bill also directs hospitals to use a validated resource like the toolkit.

Oregon lawmakers have praised the effort. "I love this bill," said Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, who called out the groups that have teamed up on a shared goal of better workplace safety.

Lawmakers passed SB 823 in June and it has been signed by the governor. It goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020. We applaud the Legislature for its bipartisan support, because we believe this bill and the toolkit will make a difference in keeping workers safe.

Hospital employees sacrifice so much to do a difficult job and care for people, some of whom are at their worst possible moment. We owe it to those caregivers to do all we can to make sure they stay out of harm's way on the job.

Katie Harris is director of rural health and federal policy at the Oregon Association of Hospitals & Health Systems.



KATIE HARRIS  
COMMENT



## YOUR VIEWS

### A novel idea, just too simple

The Pendleton Development Commission (PDC) assistant executive director, Charles Denight, spokesperson for the city manager, put forth his proposal to eliminate blight in the Urban Renewal District with a complicated formula for financial assistance that's sure to confuse both homeowners and renters alike, would most likely require hiring a bookkeeper just to track the program, and ultimately leave the city (meaning you and I) holding the bag on unpaid loans and legal entanglements.

I don't think the mayor or the city councilors were too thrilled with the proposal put forth. They worried that landlords could raise rents once their loans were repaid to recover their costs. Imagine that! You won't find many landlords that are in business just because they're nice guys or because they need a hobby. They're well aware that the tax man is always watching, and busy trying to cover all other expenses landlords incur. One councilor's suggestion that we should consider hiring experts in the field of urban renewal/blight elimination sounds suspiciously like a call for another consultant, indicating

a lack of faith in our current program management.

Simple is better, and I think Mayor Turner's idea of just buying the property outright and going from there to either fix it up or tear it down and start over is the most logical solution. Going along with this option, since the city has already donated some cash and very valuable public land for the Farm II project, and as responsible stewards of our public lands, it's time to consider giving something tangible back to the taxpayers. This could start by demolishing that old city-owned DMV building that has sat empty for years, and construct a multifamily housing project on the site. After all, why not start with blighted property the city already owns? In that way, families required to move because of a demolition would have a place available for relocation. It all sounds pretty simple, maybe too simple for City Hall.

Here it's only July and Bob Patterson has announced that street repaving is wrapping up for the year. Do you suppose the continued waffling by the PDC in making a decision whether to contribute funding for streets could be a factor?

Rick Rohde  
Pendleton