

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

Tip of the hat, kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to the Umatilla County Historical Society, who needs to do some renovating and wants help from the Pendleton Development Commission.

The organization already raised a lot of the cash needed for its capital improvement project but asked the commission last week for \$15,803 to help complete repairs at the Heritage Station Museum and Community Thrift Shop.

Repairs include fixing a leaking roof, window replacements, new fencing and other minor upgrades.

Investing money into a community organization like the historical society is never a bad idea. In fact, it makes a great deal of sense.

The commission should carefully consider the proposal but, in the end, give the local group a hand up with their effort. The action will not only help the group but also facilitate the ongoing effort to preserve our history and celebrate our region.

A kick in the pants to the long list of intoxicated drivers who appeared in our police log on Tuesday after the weekend of the Pendleton Round-Up.

We've all been taught since our school years about the dangers of driving impaired, and we have all seen the tragic, fatal consequences that sometimes come with that decision. It should be a no-brainer to make alternate arrangements for transportation when you have plans for a night of drinking, but unfortunately some people never learn.

A tip of the hat to Walmart for their pollinator garden projects. The company is planting butterfly- and bee-friendly gardens at select stores and encouraging others to do the same.

Scientists have sounded the alarm in recent years about declining bee populations. More than a honey shortage is at stake — bees are a vital part of the pollination process that helps grow our food.

A handful of pollinator gardens across the country is a small step, but



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

The Umatilla County Historical Society has requested funds from the Pendleton Development Commission for repairs at the Heritage Station Museum and the Community Thrift Shop.

we hope it inspires others to look at what they can do to make the world a more pollinator-friendly place.

A kick in the pants to the possibility of a strike at Oregon's seven public universities. SEIU 503 represents 4,500 classified staff who have authorized a strike starting Sept. 30 if an agreement can't be reached before then.

The union has been bargaining

with the universities since February. The main disagreement centers on cost of living allowances: The union wants 3% this year and 3.5% next year, while management has proposed 2% increases each year. We hope this contract can be settled at the bargaining table on Sept. 23, to avoid disruptions in services for over 100,000 public university students at the beginning of the school year.

OTHER VIEWS

CBD products need immediate oversight

Eugene Register-Guard

Cannabidiol, commonly known as CBD, may be the wonder drug that its users and advocates hope and claim it to be, offering relief for everything from anxiety and arthritis to Parkinson's disease and other chronic health problems. But right now too little is known about its effectiveness, side effects and interactions with prescribed drugs. Federal regulators need to move quickly to remedy that lack of knowledge, both for the sake of consumers and for a booming new industry.

CBD is a naturally occurring, non-psychoactive compound extracted from hemp and marijuana. The passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, which legalized hemp, spurred rapid growth in the industry but didn't provide a clear framework for overseeing the manufacture and marketing of CBD products. It's legal in Oregon and other states that have approved the sale and use of recreational or medical marijuana. The remaining states have adopted a confusing patchwork of regulations guiding its availability.

This summer, the Food and Drug Administration held a hearing and solicited public comments on how to best regulate CBD products. Although it's staked out regulatory authority over CBD, the FDA has done little beyond issue warnings to companies that make unproven therapeutic claims, such as cures for cancer, Alzheimer's and other diseases. So far, the FDA has approved

only one CBD-derived prescription drug, Epidiolex, for use by children with rare forms of epilepsy.

Full regulation of CBD oil and its various products could take years to develop, but greater oversight is needed sooner than that. CBD is already a billion-dollar industry, and some experts expect it to reach \$22 billion in just three years. Major corporations such as Coca-Cola are poised to introduce CBD products if and when the federal government approves using the extract in food.

As *The Register-Guard* recently reported, CBD can be found in a variety of products throughout Oregon, including CBD-infused drinks, baked goods, snacks, gummies and tinctures.

In Oregon, CBD products sold through dispensaries are tested for potency and pesticides. Those sold at gas stations and other venues, however, are not.

"There should be required testing of pesticides, additives, potency, heavy metals for all CBD products," Emma Chasen, a Portland-based cannabis educator and industry consultant, told *The Register-Guard*. "The analytical testing laboratories should be required to receive federal accreditation with universal operating procedures."

In concert with FDA oversight, the federal government should fund more scientific research of CBD and other marijuana and hemp compounds. Several studies point to genuine therapeutic benefits, but more work, including clinical trials, is needed. In 2017, the National Institutes of Health supported 300 pot-related research projects, including \$15 million on CBD.

FROM HERE TO ANYWHERE

Making the American dream a reality

Another Round-Up is behind us — a week of beautiful September weather with a dream coming true for 20-year-old Pendleton High School graduate Calgary Smith, who took the team roping championship with his roping partner, Jason Stewart.

"When he was just a kid," Annie Fowler and Brent Kane reported in the *East Oregonian*, "Calgary Smith watched the cowboys compete at the Pendleton Round-Up, and dreamed of being in their boots."

We were also remembering the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that happened 18 years ago during another Round-Up week. Would people forget? Some worried. After all, younger people have no memory of where they were that day or how it felt. The rest of us do, though, and enough time has passed that many wanted to share their experiences.

One story I found especially moving was by Yanktonai Dakota author Susan Power. On August 31, 2001, she recorded a vivid dream in her journal — four jets on a runway, waiting. A group of foreign men who hate us so much they want to bring about "our complete economic collapse."

Power wrote about this dream in "Vision," an essay published in the journal *Granta* on the 10th anniversary of the attacks. At the time of her dream, she says, her vision was smaller — she thought stocks might plunge in value. "Then," she writes, "the full story washed over me, like everyone else, and I was mortified by the tiny splinter I was shown and believed to be the entire piece."

Power goes on to describe another September attack, this one on her great-great-grandfather, Chief Mahto Nunpa, or Two Bear, and his people. On Sept. 3, 1863, they were drying buffalo meat for the coming winter when he learned that soldiers were approaching. He quickly put on his ceremonial clothes and with one of his grown sons walked out to meet them. He had heard about the uprising of another group of distant relatives, the Dakotas who had been starving in Minnesota, so he may not have been surprised when the general demanded the surrender of the non-involved Dakotas gathered on the prairie.

But he couldn't make the general under-

stand that no chief had the authority to demand this of his people. In his culture, everyone must make up their own mind about the right thing to do. Mahto Nunpa offered himself and his son as hostages while they negotiated further, but the offer was declined and he returned to his village.

Of course we know the attacks of Sept. 2001 were not the first attacks on American soil. People tried to flee, but hundreds were killed at White Stone Hill, many trapped in a ravine while soldiers fired down upon them. Parents strapped babies to small travois and urged the dogs pulling them to run. After dark, survivors crept away, leaving behind hundreds of tipi lodges, parfleche

bags of tools and supplies, and the winter's meat supply — all of which the soldiers would burn.

Mahto Nunpa, Powers says, was admired for his eloquence and calm, "that imperturbable grace the Buddhists call 'equanimity.'" Looking at his portrait 10 years after Sept. 11, 2001, she has another vision — "a turning in his gaze," like the wheeling of a dog chasing its tail in circles. She takes it as a warning.

"I see us like that mesmerized dog, declaring we're learned something, we're changed by the hard lessons of each generation, only to forget and spin back on ourselves."

The day our Round-Up visitors left for home marked another anniversary — the KKK's 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, on Youth Sunday, a terrorist attack that killed four young girls. I remember that day, too.

"We must be concerned not merely about who murdered them," Martin Luther King Jr. told their grieving community, "but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murderers. Their deaths say to us that we must work passionately and unrelentingly for the realization of the American dream."

To make that dream reality, it seems more clear than ever that we must work together. Team roping might not be such a bad metaphor.

Bette Husted is a writer and a student of T'ai Chi and the natural world. She lives in Pendleton.

BETTE
HUSTED
COMMENT