

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

CHRISTOPHER RUSH
Publisher

KATHRYN B. BROWN
Owner

ANDREW CUTLER
Editor

WYATT HAAPT JR.
News Editor

JADE McDOWELL
Hermiston Editor

Founded October 16, 1875

OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat, kick in the pants



A tip of the hat to the agencies that took part in the multi-agency drill Wednesday in Hermiston.

The full-scale exercise was hosted at the Umatilla County Fire District 1 Station 23 on Westland Road, but the simulation focused on the intersection of Cooney Lane and Umatilla River Road.

The simulation was a bus with 12 people on board crashing into a train carrying gallons of toxic fumigant at dusk.

“Coordination is the biggest part of this,” said Dean Marcum of the Oregon Health Authority, who directed the exercise. “Everybody plays and activates their emergency operations plans to see how everything works and if everyone is coordinating together.”

Multiple local health care and public safety agencies, including the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office, Umatilla Fire District 1, Lifeways and Good Shepherd Health Care System, were involved.

Drills like this are important, Marcum said, because a number of different chemicals are transported through the Umatilla County area by truck and are often unlabeled.

Marcum estimated the cost of the exercise at \$20,000 and was made possible with grant funding from the Umatilla County Local Emergency Planning Committee, which develops an emergency preparedness plan and

informs citizens about chemicals. The multi-agency drill represents the prudent pre-planning of local emergency services personnel.

A kick in the pants to the legislative officials who approved \$96,000 to allow Lore Christopher, the former human resources director for the Oregon Legislature, to work from home for the first eight months of 2019. The deal was contingent on Christopher’s consent to a quiet exit last fall amid intense public scrutiny over workplace harassment in the Capitol.

Legislative officials would provide only limited information about what Christopher accomplished in those months. They did release records showing she spent hours responding to emails, making phone calls, compiling a salary survey and doing “media research.” Asked what Oregon taxpayers got for the \$96,000 paid to Christopher, Legislative Administrator Daron Hill responded that she was “compensated for work performed.”

There are so many questions that linger over this episode it is difficult to know where to start. Bottom line is voters deserve a better explanation from legislators about this incident.

A tip of the hat to Sue Long-Hosek and her husband, Ron, who have started the Conrad Skinner Veterans Memorial Program, with the goal of acting as a “stopgap” for veterans and their families in Umatilla, Morrow and Union counties if they have needs that aren’t being met by other organizations. The new nonprofit will



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
First responders triage acting victims during a mass casualty training on Wednesday night in Hermiston.

announce specific services they have in mind at a Veterans Appreciation Dinner cosponsored by the new non-profit, American Legion Post #37, Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce and Hermiston parks and recreation department. The dinner is on Sunday, Oct. 20 at 3 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Helping veterans and their families get the help they need is something everyone can support.

A kick in the pants to Democratic legislators who subverted the will of the voters by narrowing the definition of aggravated murder. Oregon residents voted to reinstate the death penalty in 1984, but a series of actions by elected officials (former Gov. John Kitzhaber’s moratorium in 2011 and Gov. Kate Brown’s continuation of it) have eroded the will of the people. Now, an apparent unintended consequence of the new legislation that redefines aggravated murder is that it would retroactively impact numerous murder cases in which the culprit

has already been tried and convicted. This is the opinion of the state Justice Department. Brown and the Legislature had a responsibility to fix the loophole in this flawed law through a special session. But that apparently will not happen as legislators in the House do not have the votes to make the necessary fix. Ultimately, the questions raised by this flawed legislation should be put before the voters.

A tip of the hat to the news Pendleton’s newest fire station is up and running. The department held an open house Thursday, and then gave tours to interested people of the new facility.

Another open house is set for Saturday and we encourage anyone who can attend to do so. The fire station represents the latest investment in taxpayer dollars and area residents should take a little time to visit the facility.

The station also symbolizes why investing in public safety is so important. So if you can, swing by and check the new facility out.



CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

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, S-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

FROM SUNUP TO SUNDOWN

Kicking that word ‘comparison’ to the curb

Dear Self,
This quote caught your eye the other day. *We don’t need to be as creative as each other, we just need to be as creative as God made us. Comparison makes us orphans. – Bob Goff, Love Does*

You were skimming through Facebook looking at all the homecoming pictures, and the last of the summer vacations, and that quote stopped you in your tracks. You stopped and read it again, while letting out a deep sigh. You are a lover of words, especially quotes. You have them in frames, on mirrors, and even in your wallet. You write them down in your journal, you send them in cards, sharing them with others every chance you get. Quotes on friendship, quotes about sunshine, quotes that motivate, and quotes that make you giggle out loud. They are words that change your heart and soul when they are grouped together in such a way, making you feel as you read them that they were meant for you.

That comparison quote has you stopped though. You’ve written it out and have read it several times over the past few weeks, as you’ve found yourself bombarded with circumstances and opportunities to do just what it’s saying not to do. You’re comparing yourself to people and places and circumstances without even realizing it, and it’s pushing you away from the connectedness you long for.

At work. At home. And even through the beloved social media.

Comparison is an ugly thing. It causes doubt, and it steals joy — leaving a trail of sorrow wherever it goes. And yet you can’t seem to shake it.

You are in a profession where “sharing” is key to success. The sharing of documents, ideas, videos, apps, data, charts, books, kids and lunch are

things that happen every single day inside the walls of the school you work in. There is no avoiding it. All for one, one for all. Success won’t happen without sharing.

You’re also a mother, ranch wife and friend where creativity is essential for survival and sustainability of your family. You create menus, you share stories and hugs, you make phone calls, you prepare lunches, you feed cows, you sweep-up crap, you wipe down counters, you make beds, you prop open gates, you fold laundry and you listen to the bawling of the weaned calves all night long desperately seeking rest. Success doesn’t happen without giving yourself away, but man is it ever tiring.

You want to be loved. You want to be appreciated. You want to be thanked. You want to give and receive. You want to be creative, clever and full of wit. You want to be just like all the other great people you’re following, and even the people you’re doing real life with because deep down, you think that maybe some of the good they have will rub off on you. And you know what? It probably will. But you have to quit comparing, quit over-analyzing, quit worrying about if the score is even or not, and quit doing that which steals joy, wreaks havoc and leaves you feeling alone.

You can’t always avoid head-to-head challenges or unmet expectations, but you can avoid comparison. Look in the mirror and see who God sees. The uniquely created wonderful you! And go with it. Choose to see what is wonderful, and kick that word “comparison” to the curb. At the end of the day, you’ll realize that the gifts you bring to the world are what matter most and sharing those gifts with others is so much better than being alone.

— Lindsay

Lindsay Murdock lives and teaches in Echo.

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