

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

CHRISTOPHER RUSH
Publisher

KATHRYN B. BROWN
Owner

ANDREW CUTLER
Editor

WYATT HAUPT JR.
News Editor

JADE McDOWELL
Hermiston Editor

Founded October 16, 1875

OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat, kick in the pants

A kick in the pants to people who are helping spread the flu around Umatilla County by not washing their hands or taking other precautions.

On Monday, more than one-fourth of students at McNary Heights Elementary School were out sick, causing them to miss out on educational opportunities. Other schools in the area are also seeing relatively high absence rates, and we're guessing those numbers are also reflected in the workforce, where parents and guardians are taking sick days to care for children or because they contracted the illness themselves.

Schools are putting out guidelines to help slow the spread of the flu and similar illnesses, and we hope everyone heeds them. Wash your hands and other surfaces frequently, and cover your mouth when you sneeze. Don't share items like hand towels or utensils with potentially contagious friends and family. Get a flu shot if you haven't

gotten one already. Take care of your immune system by getting plenty of rest, eating healthy and exercising. And don't send your children to school sick, go to work sick or ask sick employees to come into work anyway.

And, it's not too late to get a flu shot.

A tip of the hat to the Pendleton Round-Up for being named PRCA's Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year for the seventh time. The region's biggest rodeo event has claimed the award in 2003, 2010, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Our local event beat out rodeos in Caldwell, Idaho, Cheyenne, Wyoming, Deadwood, South Dakota, and Dodge City, Kansas.

The Pendleton Round-Up is a nationally renowned event that we should all be proud of.

A tip of the hat to the Heppner High School football team for winning its third state title last weekend.

The Mustangs defeated top-ranked Kennedy High School, 12-7. The win is important to the student-athletes and



EO Media Group file photo

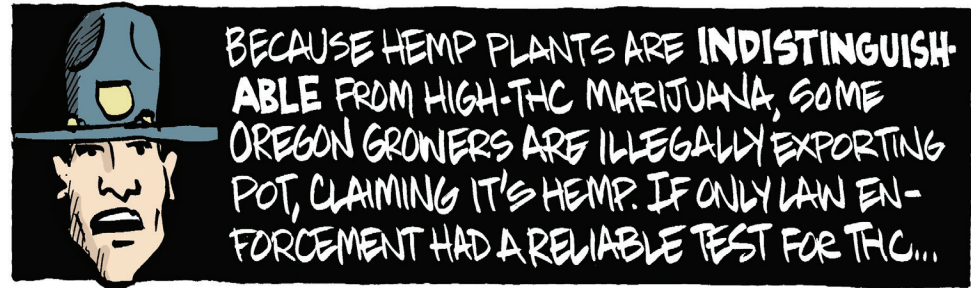
Schools in the area are seeing relatively high absence rates. Schools are putting out guidelines to help slow the spread of the flu and similar illnesses, and we hope everyone heeds them, including getting a flu shot if you haven't gotten one already.

their families, but it is also significant because it illustrates how a small, rural community can — and does — rally behind a group of dedicated athletes and coaches. Good job Mustangs.

A gentle nudge with the toe of our boot to all who can afford to help make the holidays just a bit more merry for those in need: Read through the "Guide to holiday giving in Umatilla County" in Thursday's *EO* and find at least one way to donate your time, energy and/or money to

help someone less fortunate.

And, **a huge tip of the hat to the individuals, social service agencies and nonprofit organizations that work year-round to help those who have fallen on hard times.** Helping people climb out of poverty and bad situations and into self-reliance is challenging work, and is seldom well paid — but knowing you make a positive impact on people's lives is deeply gratifying, and we thank you for your efforts.



YOUR VIEWS

Democrats are determined to destroy the country

I cannot believe how gullible people have become. Since day one when Trump was elected, the behavior of some people was nothing short of anarchy. That Pelosi — and other Democrats — has been nothing short of anything but an effort to destroy this country. Everybody seems to forget the Clintons and their escapades.

Pelosi recently said it is about the country, not the parties, which seems like a lot of bull to me. All I see is them trying to destroy this country. See what Franklin said about a country divided. Read Zane Grey books to see what he saw coming from the behavior of people even then.

**William Douglas
Echo**

Congress must uphold Constitution, rule of law

Several Supreme Court decisions have

established that Congress, in its power to legislate, has broad power to investigate and "to issue and enforce subpoenas." But in the case of its current investigations, its subpoenas have been repeatedly ignored.

Refusal by potential witnesses to respond and share what they know about matters of national importance is obstruction of those congressional powers.

I urge our Congressional members to support compelling every person called by Congress to testify and tell what they know.

With his silence on the matter of non-compliance, 2nd District Rep. Greg Walden is neglecting his oath of office, which requires him to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law.

I urge Mr. Walden to support a full and unobstructed impeachment inquiry, insist that subpoenaed witnesses testify, and insist that every thread identified by the Mueller report and congressional testimony is followed wherever it leads.

**Rhonda Starling
Mosier**

FROM SUNUP TO SUNDOWN

The road to somewhere

There are a lot of times in my life when I'm not certain of where I'm going exactly. Often times I'm following a path that's already been made — but following now in my own unique way.

Sometimes, I cling to the center — not straying too far to the right or the left. Other times in the lead or even in the middle, where I feel safe, and on certain days, you may even find me pushing from behind while trying to avoid situations that may lead to a disaster.

We've moved the cows a few different times this fall, and each time I just watch them follow in amazement. They're a lot like me, or maybe it's me that is a lot like them, but either way, we're friends. Some know where we are going because they've been there before, but the others ... well, they're just wise enough to jump in and hang on. Miles of tromping, following a simple bale of hay. Not even enough to feed them all, and yet, they still follow.

They follow with this faith that is unfaltering. They know that if they keep one foot in front of the other, and their head down a bit, they will make it. They get to that place where comfort and rest can be found, and their friends cheer them on. Their friends give a gentle moo when they want to turn around, or nudge them on with a slight little "push" or even shout from the distance — keep going. Don't give up. I've got you covered.

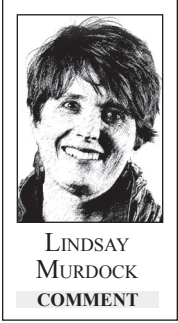
Author Bob Goff says it best: "Sometimes when we ask God to send us an answer. He sends us a friend — so we'll have both."

Our life is filled with a lot of good stuff. It's busy and full, but it's good, and most importantly, it's filled with friends. Three of my best friends live right under the same roof that I do, and I don't even have enough fingers and toes to count the number of people who are the answer right when I need them most. There are people (big and small) who are nudging me forward — out of bed, out of my comfort zone, out of the house, out of

anything boring, and into a whole bunch of goodness. They need me, and I need them. We coax each other forward. We cheer each other on. We keep an eye out for those sightings of God at work, and then shout from the rooftops when we see them, hear them, taste them or even feel them. We've been given much, and in turn, much is required. Much is required and much can be done — because we've got each other.

And so, during this season where my family and our cows are traveling from one season into another, I hope and pray that we can remember that this road we're on always leads to somewhere. And that (somewhere) is usually right where we're supposed to be, and thankfully, we're never alone.

Lindsay Murdock lives and teaches in Echo.



LINDSAY MURDOCK
COMMENT

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

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