

OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat,
kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to the Holocaust survivors, their descendants and others who worked to educate the world during International Holocaust Awareness Day.

Monday marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Germany’s largest concentration camp. The anniversary came on the heels of a Pew Research study showing that less than half of the Americans surveyed could answer basic multiple-choice questions about the Holocaust, such as how many Jewish people were murdered (approximately six million) and how Hitler came to power (through a democratic political process).

Meanwhile, hundreds of anti-Semitic hate crimes are reported in the United States each year.

We wish we could say the problem has been solved in our part of the country, but Nazi symbols and language graffitied at Pendleton City Hall this week show there is still work to be done. We don’t know if the perpetrator was an immature youth acting out of ignorance or an adult displaying a more calculated form of hate. What we

do know is the importance of everyday people speaking out against bigotry when they see it.

Each of us has the power to set the tone within our own sphere of influence that prejudice is not acceptable — in Eastern Oregon, or anywhere else.

A kick in the pants to scammers who will be looking for a way to cash in on tax season.

Remember, the IRS will never send unsolicited emails to ask for personal information and will not call you to demand you pay your taxes immediately using a method such as a wire transfer or gift card. They will not threaten to send police to your door or suspend your Social Security number.

Visit www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts to read more about common tax scams and how to know if someone is really from the IRS.

A tip of the hat to U.S. Rep. Peter De Fazio for sponsoring HR 2382, and to U.S. Reps. Walden, Blumenauer, Bonamici and Schrader for signing on as co-sponsors. This bill — The USPS Fairness Act — is an important first step in addressing the serious



AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski
Poland’s President Andrzej Duda walks along with survivors through the gates of the Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp to attend the 75th anniversary of its liberation in Oswiecim, Poland, on Monday.

issues confronting the U.S. Postal Service. This bill has bipartisan support in Congress, with 300 co-sponsors. Without a major postal reform effort, we face possible postage increases of nearly 50% over the next five years.

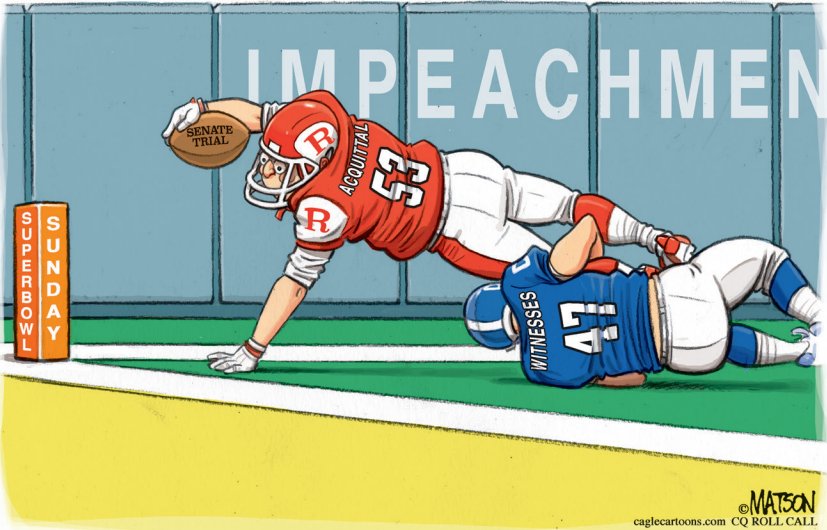
A tip of the hat to our subscribers and advertisers that allow us to continue serving Eastern Oregon readers with information about everything from what happened at the latest city council meeting to who won Friday’s basketball game.

Warren Buffett’s announcement this week that he was getting out of the newspaper business by selling all 31 of Berkshire Hathaway’s newspa-

pers brought another round of articles across the country about the proliferation of “news deserts” where communities are receiving no news coverage.

Illustrating the type of mental disconnect we frequently run up against, a 2018 Pew Research survey found that 71% of Americans thought that their local news outlet was doing well financially, but only 14% had paid for local news in the past year.

If you paid to read this or purchased advertising to support it, thank you. If you’re reading this for free, thank someone you know who does subscribe, or one of the businesses whose advertising you see in today’s paper.



4TH AND GOAL

YOUR VIEWS

Oregon’s contribution to global warming negligible

Oregon’s proposed carbon tax (Legislative Concept 19) builds on an earlier version of the cap-and-trade legislation known as the Clean Energy Jobs bill that lawmakers considered but failed to pass during 2019 session.

Oregonians emit less than one-sixth of 1 percent (0.14%) of global carbon. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Director Richard Whitman testified in a Legislature committee meeting that “Oregon’s portion of global carbon emissions is miniscule.” Dr. Philip Mote, director of Oregon Climate Change Research, also testified in this meeting “if Oregon were to reduce its

carbon emissions to zero, the impact on global emissions would be zero.”

Why are the Democratic Oregon legislators voting to kill Oregon jobs, increase fuel costs and taxes that will impact hard-working families for generations by implementing their tax-and-trade scheme, which will do absolutely nothing to reduce the global carbon problem?

Asia is the largest contributor to global carbon emissions.

This is just another example of pushing forth their agenda strictly for political gain, at the expense of those who can least afford it. The “Clean Energy Jobs Bill” is truly a misnomer.

Milon G. Whittier
Lyons

FROM SUNUP TO SUNDOWN

Weathering the storms,
inside and out

It’s the start of February and we’re nowhere close to being done with calving. The weather has been mild this winter, which has been a gift in itself, but even with the sunny days and warmer temperatures, there are still storms that swirl around us in different forms. Moments, days, and even weeks where the conditions outside seem to be a reflection of every ounce of who we are on the inside. Clouds seem to roll with exhaustion, and even a bit of depression, as they make their way up the sides of the hills around our home. Whipping wind gusts blow anger and frustration in circles and don’t die down without a fight. And fog seems to make everything a bit too close for comfort as it hangs heavily and distorts our vision. Storms don’t always have to be on the outside. In fact, they’re usually not. And the storms we’ve experienced during the past few months have been a battle — mentally and physically.

Sunshine hasn’t been constant, but when it does make its appearance, we’ve embraced it — soaking in the warmth, the color, and the beauty that has spun all sorts of goodness in and out of our days. As a family, we’ve tried extremely hard to choose sunshine as a word to live by. A word that means light, star, cheerfulness, happiness, bright, blazing, brilliance, and even a window, and if I had to pick one, I think I’d like to define our life as a window the most. A window that lets you see into our hearts and souls, giving you glimpses of what life unedited is truly like with no shades drawn and nothing to hide.

Life is a constant cycle of the good and the bad weaving its way through our stories, each chapter a little different than the previous one. We wake up early, we do chores, we finish assignments, we make beds, we fold clothes, we fix fence, we tag calves, we feed hay, we clean stalls, we burn trash, we write down numbers and names, we make phone calls, we give hugs, we kick the dirt, and most importantly during this crazy season, we rest when we can. We are no different than anyone else who’s trying to live life to the fullest. We make plans, set goals, and pencil out dates on calendars, but the one thing I’ve learned most

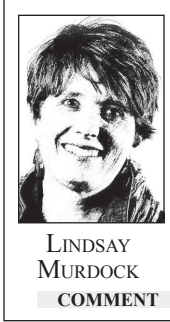
during this part of our story is that even when we think we know what’s best, we have to be OK with the fact that there are more days than not when we don’t.

I’m looking at life a lot different these days, simply because I know our days are numbered. Best isn’t always the most beautiful, it isn’t always on time, it isn’t flawless, and it isn’t always about sunshine and blue skies. These days where the clouds roll in and out, bringing a little bit of everything with them, may just be part of the chapter where we’re supposed to leave a few spaces blank and let God fill them in. The pages that we’re dreaming about and running toward may or may not be filled with what we expect, but we have to keep going. We have to keep shooting free throws and stacking hay, tagging calves, and even finishing those hard assignments that we’ve been putting off. We have to keep our heads up and face the storms the best we know how, believing that the author of our lives is doing good things through us even when it doesn’t feel like it.

We are guaranteed to have days that are hard, but we’re also guaranteed to see goodness on those very same days when we know where to look. Those choices, those decisions, those steps ... they’re what each of our stories are made of. Stories with fences that need to be built, as well as fences that need to be torn down. Stories where we run and play when we can, but where we work hard at the same time. A story where people stop and take notice of what we’re doing — and may even want to join us, too — not because of us, but because of who they see at work in us. A story where truth is pounded in deep, and stakes are firmly planted. A story about following the one we know has everything perfectly planned out and perfectly written. A story about dodging bullets when we can, but also knowing how to take them when they hit hard.

It’s a new month, and no matter what the days may bring, may we all look for opportunities to watch our stories unfold into places just above the clouds where God whispers (I’m here) and (you’re here) ... and together, we’ve got this.

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