

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat, kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to our area public libraries and all of the ways they serve the community.

These libraries have always provided a wealth of free resources far beyond shelves of books. Anyone with a library card can also access newspapers and magazines, computers, e-books, audio books, movies, crafts, children's activities, scholarly journals, test preparation materials, language learning services, genealogy websites and more.

During the pandemic, local libraries have adapted and expanded their offerings. They offer curbside service and video chats with reference librarians. The Oregon Trail Library District purchased 80 internet hotspots that patrons have used to work and learn from home, while the Stanfield Public Library has delivered thousands of meals and craft kits to local children.

If you haven't ever signed up for a library card, or haven't used yours in a while, we recommend checking out what your local library has to offer these days.

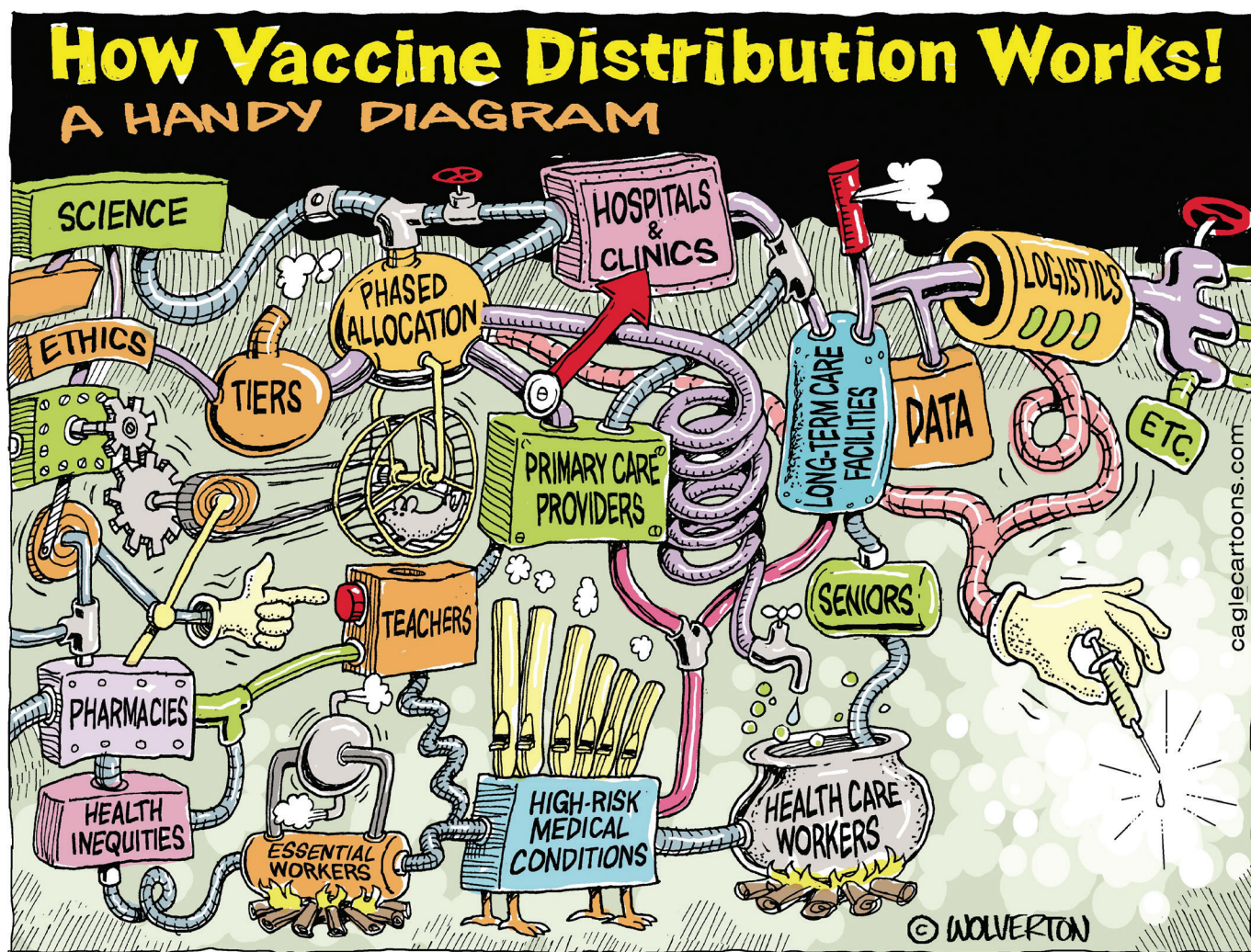
A tip of the hat to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for making plans to expand public bus service to Boardman and the Port of Morrow.

The tribes are partnering with Umatilla and Morrow counties to plan expanded public transportation to the area's largest center of employment through Kayak Public Transit. When finalized, the service should help area residents get to work and local businesses recruit needed workers.

A kick in the pants to state officials in both Oregon and Washington that have left Hermiston School District hanging when it comes to trying to navigate the district's unique position as the only Oregon school in a Washington athletic conference.

The district has been trying to follow both states' rules for playing and practicing sports, but those rules weren't written with Hermiston's special circumstances in mind, often making the requirements unclear. On Wednesday, Jan. 27, Athletic Director Larry Usher said the district has reached out to both governors' offices for guidance about what it is allowed to do as some high school sports resume, but did not receive an answer.

The result was the district being removed from the Mid-Columbia Conference's fall sports schedule on short notice, creating a new disappointment for students who have faced one disappointment after another over the past year.



YOUR VIEWS

Blaming your opponents is cowardly

No one went to the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 to make Donald Trump look bad. He did that all by himself.

Since 2015, he showed his singular ability to intimidate and belittle. He attacked women for their appearance, men for the sincerity and experts in every field for knowing less than him. When this caused disasters, he flew into a rage behind the scenes and acted like a wounded victim in public.

I don't know how this whining coward won a following, perhaps because of the terrifying power in his voice.

The mob shouted "Donald Trump" as a battle cry while they turned that violence into acts that he basically proposed. As usual, his cowardly allies are trying to blame their opponents.

Mary Cooke
Cove

America needs dialogue rather than destruction

Letters to the editor, op-eds, editorials, public forums, and meetings — in other words, dialogue — are the appropriate means to address differences, whatever the subject. The more we disagree, the more we should be talking and writing, not breaking and burning. America needs thoughtful and significant discussion, not violence that tears us apart emotionally, destroys things we need, hurts businesses, and takes lives.

The attack on our Capitol was a sad and horrible event that is now a permanent stain on our American history. Not since the War of 1812 has our Capitol been physically attacked.

It should never have happened and should never happen again. Destruction and vandalism are never acceptable actions. Those responsible should be found, prosecuted, and punished.

America also needs fairness, but media and political response has been extremely biased. The one-day attack on our federal Capitol building was labeled insurrection and sedition, but the 100-plus-day rioting attacks on the Portland federal building and entire downtown area were just called protests. Riots, destruction, and burning in Portland and other large cities over the summer caused much more structural damage and took more lives than the Capitol attack but were generally downplayed, or even supported, by liberal politicians and press. President Trump was impeached, but Gov. Kate Brown and Mayor Ted Wheeler, who joined the Portland rioters, don't seem to be facing any consequences. If press coverage were consistent, it would be pursuing Brown and Wheeler far more than Trump.

Also regarding fairness, I'm a left-brained, logical, methodical, rational civil engineer. Engineers as a group

aren't crazy and don't do crazy — it wouldn't work well in our profession. We make decisions and base our calculations on fact or, lacking that, best available information. It is a gross insult and extremely unfair to say that I am crazy, a cult follower, or need to be deprogrammed because I liked what former President Trump achieved (off the top of my head I listed 15 things but too much verbiage for this letter) or see possible election fraud (see the Navarro Report, available online) as something to be investigated. And any personal success is not because of white privilege. I served in the Marine Corps to fund my college education and worked over the last 46-plus years as an engineer.

It's been a good career and I have been blessed, but there were no hand-outs.

Jim Carnahan
Baker City

A good committee appointment

Read this morning that Rep. Cliff Bentz was named to the House Resource Committee, which deals with legislation affecting water, land, energy, mining and forests.

Congratulations, a fine choice indeed.

Mike McCormick
La Pine

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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.

LETTERS

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.

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