

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

### Tip of the hat, kick in the pants



A tip of the hat to the snow plow drivers, electrical line workers, plumbers, truck drivers, first responders and others who worked through the state's heavy snowfall to help keep people safe, with running water, electricity and needed supplies.

While thousands on the west side of the state shivered through power outages, we're grateful the lights stayed on in Eastern Oregon and that Oregon Department of Transportation's snow plows were out in force to quickly clear interstates and highways.

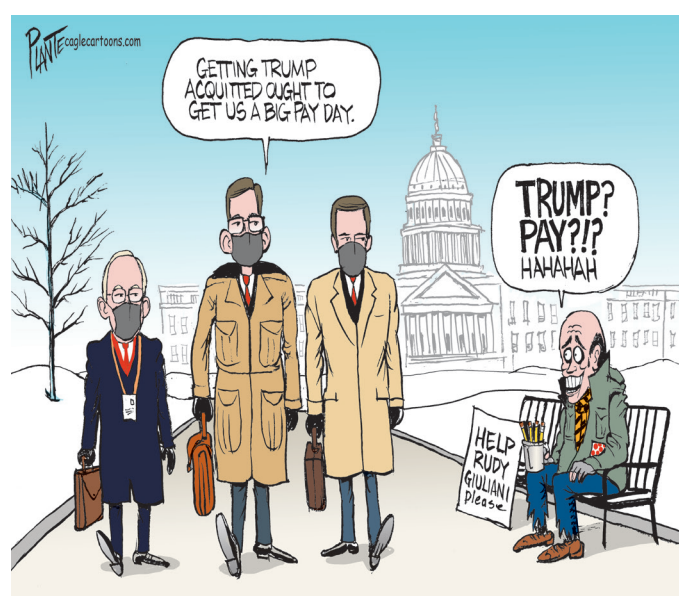
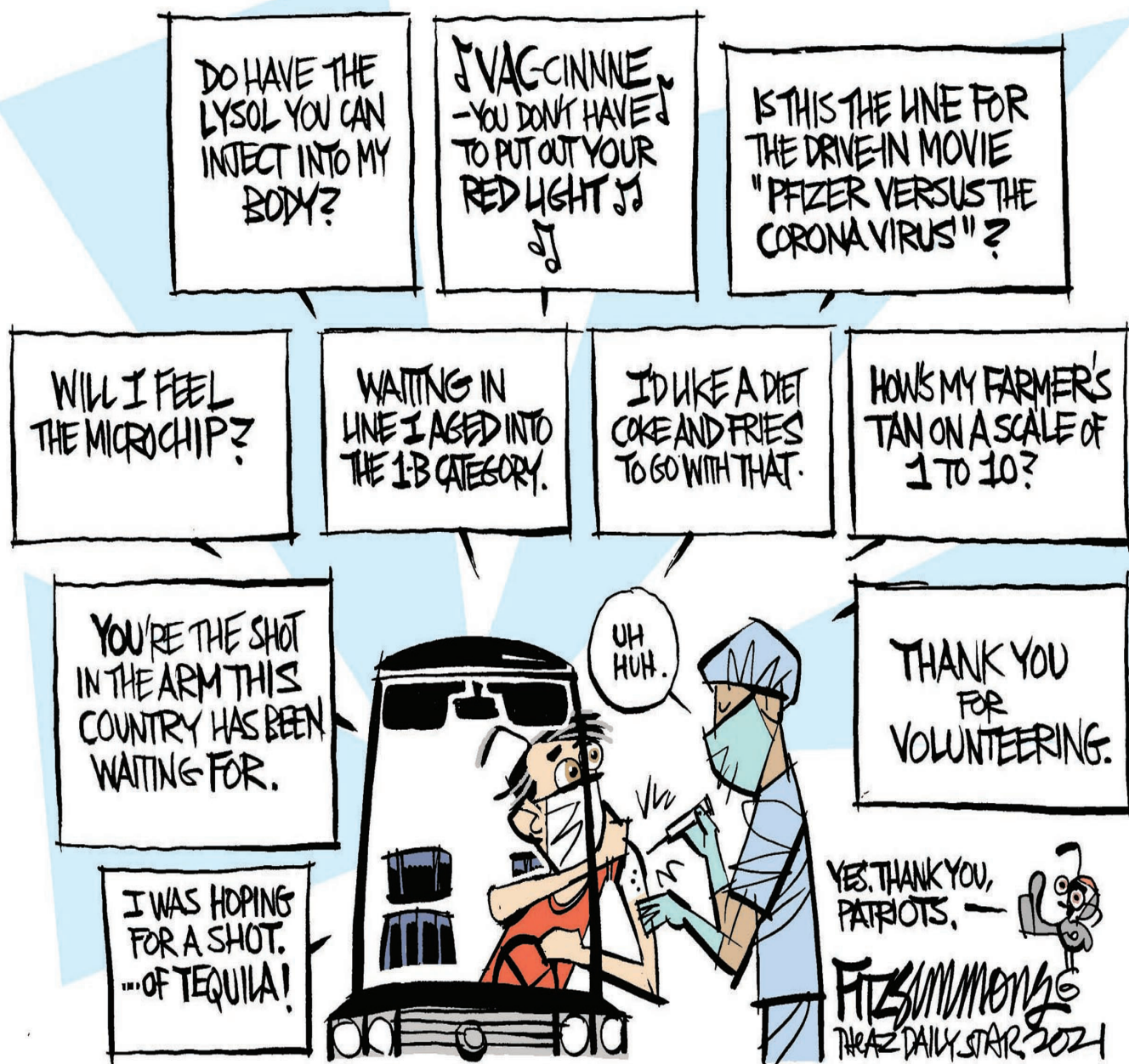
A tip of the hat to Umatilla County Public Health, which this week released a schedule of vaccine opportunities that run through the end of April. Even though there will likely be some adjustments as vaccine allocation to the states continues to evolve, the information released on Thursday, Feb. 18, is a far better starting point than the previous strategy, which in recent weeks has involved instructing senior citizens to watch Facebook pages for random announcements.

The vaccine rollout hasn't been perfect, but we're glad to see it seems to be improving all the time.

A tip of the hat to scientists studying flooding in the Columbia Basin for providing us with better information to limit or prevent damage from future floods.

It should come as no surprise to anyone who lives in the region that scientists have found flooding events are increasing in frequency and that the water level of those events also continues to increase. As reported in the *East Oregonian's* series on the one-year anniversary of the February 2020 flood, research from Oregon State University conducted over two years at nearly 400 sites showed a "ubiquitous" increase in flood magnitude. Modeling from the study predicts flooding will continue to become more severe in the Columbia River Basin over the next 50 years due to climate change.

Data from such studies can help arm our communities with the knowledge to adapt to this changing landscape and prepare for future events. Now it is up to property owners, developers and community leaders to take the warnings seriously.



## YOUR VIEWS

### Learning to live with coronavirus

Science seems to be catching up with logic. The claims many "anti-science" physicians were making nearly a year ago are now being publicly accepted by the scientific community and media.

CNN and many other sources are finally reporting that the novel coronavirus will become endemic, meaning it is a virus we will just have to learn to live with. David Heymann, professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, warned in October 2020 that the virus appeared to be on course to become endemic. "It is not a matter of this being a special disease. This is one of many that we will have to balance our living with and understand how to deal with it as we do influenza, as we do with other infections."

Considering the research shows novel coronavirus has few adverse

effects in children, it seems logical that at this point one of the best things we could do to mitigate the impact of the virus in the long run would be to allow children exposure to it, offering them the gift of natural immunity.

It also seems illogical to expect that Americans will continue to embrace masks, eye protection and social distancing measures for the sake of preventing a common viral infection for which we have a range of promising therapeutics. Seems that if we examined the evidence based on actual science, instead of fear, we would be led to more logical conclusions.

Rebecca Patton  
Enterprise

### Stop coyote killing contests

Coyote killing contests are barbaric and cruel. I would like to thank Reps. Brad Witt, Rob Nosse, Sheri Schouten, Janeen Sollman and Marty Wilde for

their support and sponsorship of House Bill 2728.

I'm asking all representatives to vote for HB 2728, and put an end to these grotesque coyote killing contests. There is overwhelming support, across the state of Oregon, to stop this awful practice; it simply does not represent the majority of Oregonians and their support for science-based, humane and ethical wildlife management policies.

Studies have shown that the killing contests do not reduce coyote populations, but instead can cause splintered packs, and increased reproduction rates. These contests have also not proven to be an effective means to reduce conflict with livestock or increase game species. Please follow suit with Washington, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Massachusetts, California, and Vermont, and finally stop coyote killing contests and pass HB 2728.

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### LETTERS

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