

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

A tip of the hat, a kick in the pants



A kick in the pants to everyone involved in the illegal dumping of radioactive waste in an Arlington landfill.

According to reporting by *Oregon Public Broadcasting*, more than 2.5 million pounds of radioactive fracking waste ended up in the landfill along the Columbia Gorge after a North Dakota company, Goodnight Midnight, contracted a company called Oilfield Waste Logistics to dispose of fracking waste. According to Columbia Waste Management, the company that operates the Arlington landfill, Oilfield Waste Logistics “misrepresented” the nature of the materials.

This week, *OPB* reported, Oregon Department of Energy decided it was less risk to the health of landfill workers to leave the radioactive waste where it is than to try to extract it and haul it to another state. Workers were already unknowingly exposed to the materials when the waste came in.

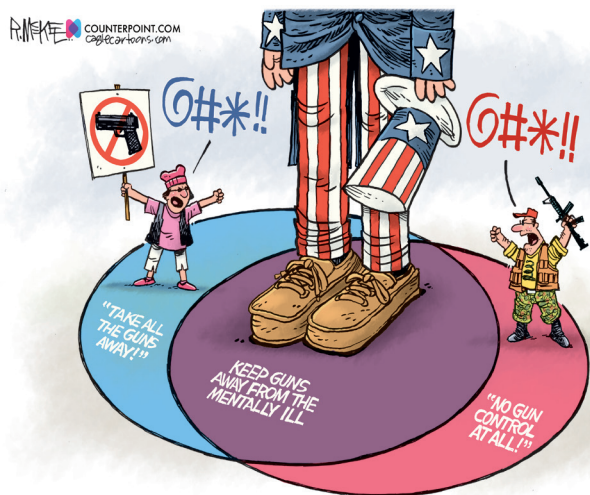
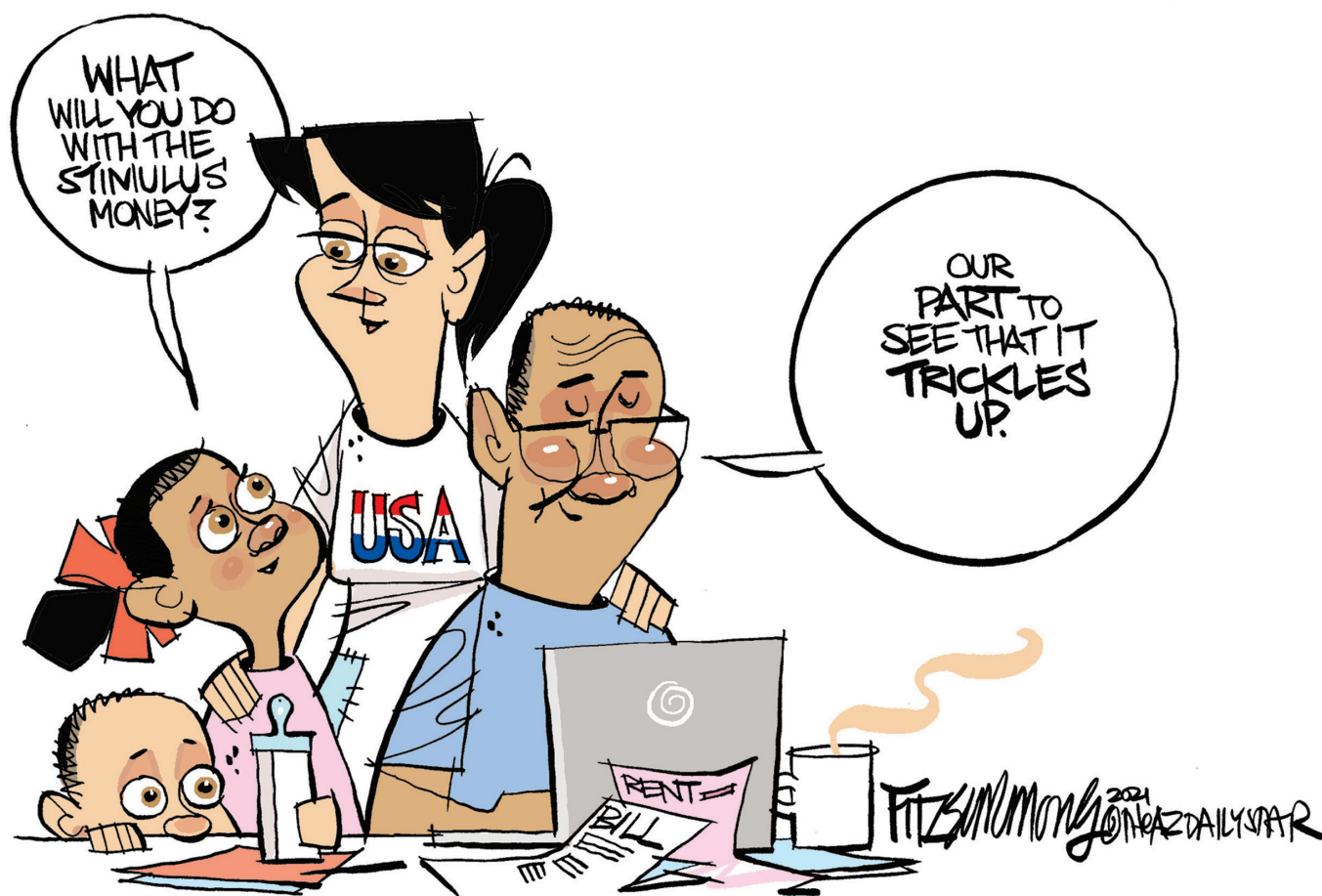
The department also fined Oilfield Waste Logistics and Columbia Waste Management — and rightly so. But the amounts (\$308,656 and \$60,000, respectively) seem paltry and are unlikely to provide any real deterrent to large companies illegally dumping dangerous materials in Oregon in the future.

A tip of the hat to those running for election in May. Hermiston and Pendleton school districts, in particular, have multiple contested races for school board seats that, at times, no one has run for at all. Anecdotally, it seems school boards around the state are seeing more interest this year, likely because decisions regarding COVID-19 have highlighted how influential those positions are.

Of course, quality is as important as quantity when it comes to political races, and we hope candidates prove wise, competent and well-informed. Competitive races have a way of forcing candidates to articulate their positions and make their case, and draws additional attention to the issues. That’s always a win.

A tip of the hat to the collaboration in Hermiston between Agape House and Hispanic Advisory Committee Chair Jose Garcia to bring food and clothing to farmworkers. Agape House Executive Director Mark Gomolski estimates they have provided supplies to approximately 4,800 people so far.

Workers in industries where long hours are the norm and paid vacation isn’t readily available can have a difficult time visiting food pantries during their operating hours, so it makes sense to provide a more accessible opportunity.



YOUR VIEWS

Science is as clear as science can be

In Oregon’s 2020 legislative session, for the second year in a row, Republicans walked out of the Capitol breaking the quorum and preventing many important proposals from being discussed and voted up or down on the floor. Chief among these was a well-crafted bill to establish a meaningful greenhouse gas emissions program for the state which would have reduced emissions and provided economic support for rural Oregon and other disadvantaged Oregonians.

By firmly throwing their fellow Oregonians, our children and grandchildren, under the oncoming bus of climate chaos, Republicans essentially forced the Governor to sign Executive order 20-04. This charges state agencies to develop plans that establish an Oregon Climate Action Plan to achieve the goals of the above 2020 legislation.

Initially, some agencies began well by energetically trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or remove them from the atmosphere. Others were resistant or simply and falsely claimed they were already doing everything they could.

The science is as clear as science can be, Earth is spherical, COVID is real, and human-induced greenhouse gas emissions are driving us towards a cliff beyond which life as we know it will be devastated. Rural Oregonians demand an effective Climate Action Plan.

Trisha Vigil
Medford

Bad plans by the Democrats

The Border Patrol recently reported that the border “is not secure” as they

are overwhelmed with the number of immigrants crossing illegally. The immigrants are evidently responding to the promise of amnesty given by Democratic candidates during the last election. Why would the Democrats make such a promise when it was clear that this would encourage individuals from many nations to cross our border illegally?

It is obvious that this is a blatant power grab by the Democrats, as they know that about two-thirds of the immigrants will vote Democrat once they are given the vote. Think about it. There are more than 12 million illegal immigrants now in the U.S., and they are now coming over the border by the thousands each year.

The Democrats also have introduced legislation to offer amnesty to a million farmworkers under the guise of providing needed labor. Many of these workers will not stay in farming long if they can find a better paying job, so the legislation will not help farmers very long, but will increase the size of the Democratic voting base.

Finally, there will be an attempt to eliminate the filibuster, which will lessen the power of the minority party. All the major Democrat leaders are on record in the past as saying they would not support this move.

Why now? This is an additional attempt to increase power, while collectively making it more difficult for any party to compete against the Democrats in the future.

Are we witnessing the end of the two-party system?

George Petersen
Redmond

The predicted disaster that didn’t happen

The Arctic Ocean is warming up, icebergs are growing scarcer and in some places the seals are finding the water too hot, according to a report to the Commerce Department from the Consulate at Bergen, Norway.

Reports from fishermen, seal hunters and explorers all point to a radical change in climate conditions and hitherto unheard of temperatures in the Arctic zone.

Exploration expeditions report that scarcely any ice has been met as for north as 81 degrees 29 minutes.

Soundings to a depth of 3,100 meters showed the gulf stream still very warm.

Great masses of ice have been replaced by moraines of earth and stones, the report continued, while at many points well-known glaciers have entirely disappeared.

Very few seals and no whitefish are found in the Eastern Arctic, while vast shoals of herring and smelts, which have never before ventured so far north, and being encountered in the old seal fishing grounds.

Within a few years, it is predicted that due to the ice melt the sea will rise and make most coastal cities uninhabitable.

I must apologize. I neglected to mention this report is from Nov. 2, 1922, as reported by the *Associated Press* and published in the *Washington Post* 98 years ago. This must have been caused by the Model T Ford’s emissions or possibly from horse and cattle farts.

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