

YOUR VIEWS

Governor uses flawed science to corral us

The definition of science is objective observation — measurement and data (possibly using although not necessarily using mathematics as a tool). Evidence. Experiment and/or observation as benchmarks for testing hypotheses. Induction: reasoning to establish general rules or conclusions drawn from facts or examples. Repetition. Critical analysis. Verification and testing: critical exposure to scrutiny, peer review and assessment.

“Logical absolutes” refers to what are also known as “laws of thought.” Classical philosophers took these laws to be as follows: The law of identity — all things are equal to themselves. The law of noncontradiction — no proposition can both be and not be (the case).

Our governor has use flawed science and logic to intimidate and corral us. So has the federal government. Notice the word reasoning. There is no reasoning in her mandates, only platitudes.

If the vaccine works, why wear a mask? If one has had COVID, why get a vaccine? And finally, our so-called vaccine is not a vaccine. It has not been defined as one. All we get from government is propaganda.

**Roesch Kishpaugh
Pendleton**

Spencer represents all Pendleton students

I am writing to endorse Briana Spencer for the Pendleton School Board.

Briana is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). I have known Briana for several years. She has served on the Nixyaawii School Board and has volunteered to help the school in many different ways. She is smart, energetic, and always looks at situations in a positive light.

If elected, she will fight for racial equality and equitable education for all children. Briana is not running for her own children, she is running for all the children in the Pendleton School District.

Please join me in voting for Briana Spencer, Position 7, Pendleton School Board.

**Ryan Heinrich
Pendleton**

One party does not a democracy make

Why do we have only a one ruling party in Oregon?

Republican Sens. Findley, Hansell and Anderson created SB 865, which prohibits a person from simultaneously serving as a holder of state office and as an officer of the state central committee of a political party. It establishes a fine of up to \$250 per day for a violation. It declares an emergency, effective on passage. A bill for an act relating to positions outside of government simultaneously held by public officials; creating new provisions; amending ORS 244.350; and declaring an emergency.

This was to specifically target Sens. Linthicum and Heard and fine them \$250 per day as long as they were party officials as a way to punish them for taking over a leadership role in our fractured Republican party and walking out on SB554, a “lock up your firearms” bill. I am surprised that they would support and sponsor a bill that does nothing to protect the public from an out-of-control majority party and then, to make matters worse, declare it an emergency.

If we cannot challenge the majority rulemakers, why not declare Oregon a Democrat-only state? Take the last opportunity away from the only remaining method of resistance of a tyrannical majority legislature and what do we have left but a one-party ruling state.

This overused, inappropriate and unintended use of the emergency clause is no more than creating a dictatorship government and is an insult to the voters.

When is the last time you voted on anything of consequence in Oregon?

**Rich Weaver
Milton-Freewater**

Gregg is an asset to the community

I write in support of Patrick Gregg for the Pendleton School District, Position 7. I have practiced law with Pat for over 10 years. Pat is a good friend and an asset to this community.

Pat has the skillset and the life experience to serve on the Pendleton School Board. Pat is an excellent listener and team player. His work as a lawyer has required him to participate in numerous mediations in which he advocates zealously for his clients while helping them find favorable and creative solutions. Pat has the right balance of assertiveness and compassion. On the school board, Pat will be a zealous advocate for our children’s education.

One of Pat’s best skills is that he is an independent thinker and a person of integrity. He is not coming to the board with any particular agenda except to make the Pendleton School District the best it can be. When there are tough decisions to be made, we can count on Pat to make the right ones.

Pat cares deeply about our children’s education. He understands the importance of education and the role it plays in preparing our children for the next level. His focus will be on making sure every student has the opportunity to excel and achieve.

Pat is committed to working with all

STAR TRIBUNE
S&K



NOT ONE TO PANIC IN A CRISIS, FRED CALMLY AND PRUDENTLY CONVERTS HIS TOILET PAPER SILOS INTO GASOLINE STORAGE TANKS

LETTERS DEADLINE FOR MAY 18 ELECTIONS

The *East Oregonian* does not run endorsements of more than 400 words.

The *East Oregonian* will institute a deadline for letters to the editor, so we can be fair with all the letters we receive and allow for responses before Election Day, if necessary.

We run local letters of endorsement on a first-come, first-served basis. Please submit your endorsement letters to the editor by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 7. You can email them to editor@eastoregonian.com, or mail them to East Oregonian, c/o Andrew Cutler, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801.

We will publish our last letters on Saturday, May 15. Any letters received after the deadline will not run. Election Day is May 18.

individuals at all levels to improve our school district. Pat understands the importance of working with administrators, teachers, and support staff.

I urge you to support Patrick Gregg for the Pendleton School District.

**Jennifer Currin
Pendleton**

Gregg will bring his many skills to the Pendleton school board

I write in support of Patrick Gregg for Position 7 on the Pendleton School Board.

Having served on a number of boards myself, including the Northwest Power Planning Council, Oregon Environmental Quality Commission, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, I know the skills and dedication required of a good board member.

I have known Patrick Gregg for over 10 years and believe he is an excellent choice and would serve our community well as a member of the school board. He is intelligent, thoughtful, and will research and analyze all sides of a particular issue before reaching a decision. In addition, his position as a parent of school-age children and a business owner in our community is a valuable voice to have on our school board.

One of the key attributes of a good board member is the ability to work well with others and to consider viewpoints other than their own. By virtue of his legal training and experience Patrick has these skills, and I have seen him put them to good use in his practice. He is fair minded and level headed in his dealings with others. I am confident he will apply these same skills if he is elected to the Pendleton School Board.

Please join me in voting for Patrick Gregg for Position 7 on the Pendleton School Board.

**Henry Lorenzen
Pendleton**

Constituents should be a legislator’s highest priority

I recently traveled through Eastern Oregon, staying in the lovely community of John Day. The people are kind, and the area is next to heaven.

While traveling through Grant County, I witnessed a proliferation of political signs — anti-Kate Brown, anti-socialism, pro-Greater Idaho. The people are frustrated, I get it. Brown’s public health measures have been capricious and rather mind-boggling.

With that said, I am cognizant that she holds the power and Democrats have a legislative supermajority. Republicans have no power and no votes. Why keep sending the same tired politicians that get nothing done for their constituents?

I am an old military man. I was an active duty military recruiter for Eastern Oregon. I know about military strategy, therefore I shake my head when I see Eastern Oregon legislators charge Salem’s Democratic machine gun nest with a water gun. You cannot defeat a more powerful adversary by charging its ramparts.

You have to practice asymmetrical politics. If I was an Idaho Democrat, I wouldn’t kick dirt in the face of the Republican

supermajority in Boise. I might despise Republican Gov. Butch Otter, but I would be his friend, work with him any way I could — anything to take care of my district.

Ideology be damned, I would take care of my people.

**Brian Fitzgerald
Happy Valley**

State school fund critical to Oregon communities

In rural Oregon, schools frequently serve as the hub of a community. Often within a district there is one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school. Our schools act as community centers and are the thread that connects us in many ways.

Schools also play a large role in the community’s economic well-being. Oregon K-12 is the largest employer in the state. In many small towns across Oregon, schools employ more community members than any other entity.

After the 2008 financial crisis, Oregon school budgets were decimated. Classes, teachers, extracurriculars, sports — all were cut in some way. With those cuts came job losses, resulting in more depressed economies in rural Oregon — many of which have never recovered. In these towns, there is an inextricable link between a community’s economic well-being and the funding of local schools.

The education budget being proposed in Salem falls \$500 million short of adequately funding our schools. There is no doubt that adjustments must be made to deal with the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, but to compromise our schools is to compromise our communities. Investing in education is critical to building a skilled workforce and allowing employers and towns to grow.

Oregon, and the towns that comprise it, cannot afford any additional lost jobs or revenue. Lawmakers no doubt have tough decisions ahead of them, but cutting education must not be an option.

Please join me in urging them to support a \$9.6 billion state school fund.

**Scott Rogers
Athena**

Spencer brings real issues to the forefront

I am writing to proclaim my endorsement for Briana Spencer for Position 7 with the Pendleton School Board.

As a mother of kids in the school district, I have no doubt that Briana has my children’s best interest in mind.

Not only does Briana have the lived experience similar to many struggling children in the district, but her heart contains the empathy to listen to those who have different experiences than her own.

I have seen her bring support to those in need with nothing but community action and innovative ideas. I have seen Briana speak up and bring real issues to the forefront that would have otherwise been overlooked, and she has always has this land and the betterment of our community at the forefront of her mind. Her unique input will bring a dynamic perspective to our school board.

Briana Spencer has my vote and she should have yours as well.

**Amber Henderson
Pendleton**

Spencer has a unique perspective

I am writing in support of Briana Spencer.

I was honored to be the language arts teacher at Nixyaawii Community School for 12 years. Briana was a student of mine in the early years of the school but later transferred to PHS. She has certainly made her mark in the years since then!

Teaching at NCS, I got to know many Native American students. Culture often plays a big part in the lives of students of color, and respecting one’s elders is an expectation. There’s a deference implied that an older adult knows more than the young person and has knowledge and expertise to impart. By listening, he or she can learn valuable information. Briana is a good example of someone who has learned to listen first and then to take action.

Learning styles can also affect how well students do in classes, a fact of which I’m sure Briana is well aware. The majority of my students were Native American. I often received heartfelt and well-written essays, but the student might not speak up in class. I noticed more introspection and a need for more time to really think through what a student wanted to say, rather than to blurt out something just to be heard.

Often, in traditional classrooms, a quick response to a question is expected, leaving students little time to recall information. In crowded high school classrooms, my students might not sit up front, might not speak up first, but they were listening and thinking.

Briana Spencer knows about students of color because she is one. Those who know her describe Briana as a sincere, hard-working, committed, and enthusiastic young woman who’s continually working to make this world a better, more inclusive place for all students. Briana is knowledgeable about the culture not only of Native students but also of the Latino and African American cultures.

Minority students are often the students who fall by the wayside and don’t graduate. She can offer insights and advice from a personal perspective. Briana is in a unique position to make a huge difference because she has experienced being a minority student at PHS, understands some of the challenges, and has lived in the area all her life.

Briana will care about and represent all the students at PHS. I am proud to endorse Briana Spencer for the Pendleton School Board, Position 7.

**Mary A. Green
Pendleton**

Don’t women Buckaroos deserve honor too?

Pendleton has a very proud tradition of honoring their student athletes, deservedly so. The community has honored rightfully the athletes that have succeeded at a high level.

I do not know who is on the Hall of Fame election board and I do not need know, but my question is directed squarely at those people. I am a graduate of PHS and believe the Buckaroo Hall of Fame has done well in honoring the student athletes in all aspects except for one. I am aware of PHS history, and looking back I see there are very few women in the Buckaroo Hall of Fame.

Those few deserved the honor, many other are also deserving.

My question is really very simple: How many state titles do the boys sports programs own? We all know the girls sports have done spectacularly, referring specifically to dance and softball, or any other sport for that matter. Many state titles, no inductees.

Very simple question, why? Are they not Buckaroos?

**Ron Meyersick
Amity**