

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

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



**A tip of the hat** to those who provide a stable, loving home for children in need.

May is National Foster Care Month, and foster care coordinator Marvin Hamilton says there is a great need in Umatilla and Morrow counties for foster parents, now known as resource parents. Parents who are willing to take in sets of multiple siblings and parents who speak Spanish are particularly hard to find.

Being willing to take in a child or multiple children at a moment's notice, knowing those children are likely coming from a traumatizing situation, is not an easy thing, but is an admirable and important one. Thank you to those who provide such an invaluable service to the community.

**A kick in the pants** to the surge in wasted vaccine doses disclosed by Oregon Health Authority this week.

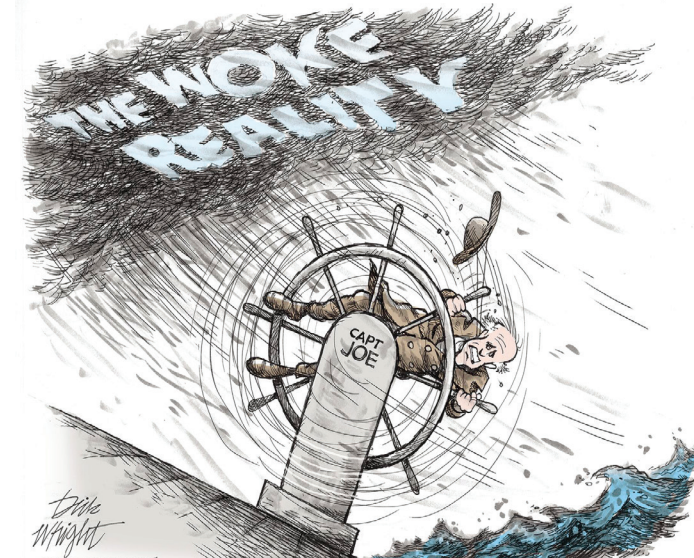
On Tuesday, May 25, the Oregon Health Authority reported 9,090 vaccine doses have now been wasted, spoiled or expired since December.

It is understandable that when it comes to vaccines that have a very short life once a vial is opened, some waste will occur. But as billions of people all over the world are desperate for this life-saving commodity but don't have any access to it — in part because the United States is hogging so much of the supply — every dose wasted is shameful.

**A tip of the hat** to this year's graduating seniors, who will be leaving schools throughout Eastern Oregon over the next couple of weeks.

This year's graduating class saw their junior year end abruptly, then had to finish out their final year through a gamut of distance learning, hybrid learning and socially distanced in-person learning under a shifting cloud of uncertainty. It can't have been easy to do all of that and then try to apply for colleges, apprenticeships, internships, scholarships, trade schools or jobs in the same environment.

Congratulations on making it through. The next step of your journey likely will come with additional challenges as the world adjusts to a post-pandemic future. But the good news is you are poised to help shape what that future looks like.



## YOUR VIEWS

### Don't rewrite history based on current standards

Is it 1984? Winston Smith, the protagonist of George Orwell's fictional book, "1984," about living in a socialist society, works at the Ministry of Truth.

Ironically, he spends each day rewriting history so that it agrees with the current political ideas and propaganda.

Recently I read that some major newspapers are rewriting or removing previous articles if they reflect negatively on persons who are members of minority groups. Since the electronic files are changed, anyone conducting research would find a different version of a story, or no story, compared to what was published at the time of the event.

The stated purpose of this effort is to protect minority persons from an image of them participating in criminal or negative activities. The motivation for this change effort is the belief that minority persons were unfairly targeted — i.e., that news articles were written

about them when a white person would have escaped the notoriety.

I'm not a journalist. I don't know how they decide if a particular event is newsworthy, or not, or how minority status might come into play in that decision. Certainly, everyone should be treated fairly. But if history is being rewritten to comply with current political ideas, it appears we might be living in an Orwellian world. I'm very concerned.

**Jim Carnahan**  
Baker City

### A different course of action for vaccines

It seems lately that our government is indecisive as to how to best administer the oversupply of COVID-19 vaccine resource nationwide due to individuals refusing the procedure. Distribution to populations in India, where the pandemic is out of control, is a good plan.

My solution, accompanied by lifting economic embargoes of food, fuel and medicines to our adversaries, specifi-

cally Iran, North Korea and Cuba, is to provide this surplus of COVID vaccine to these nations, using U.S. military medical personnel, amongst others, to administer them, and without preconditions.

My Christian faith demands this course of action: "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath for it is written, 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. ...' Do not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:19-21).

Perhaps our politicians could learn a thing or two: kindly words of advice spoken by the ancient Hebrews and Christians (and Muslims likewise) before continuing hellbent on a reckless arms race, where our military spending as a percentage of our national treasure is now the highest "in the history of the universe" (Mario Cuomo). They might be pleasantly surprised by the results.

**John Walker**  
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### LETTERS

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