

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

ANDREW CUTLER
Publisher/Editor

KATHRYN B. BROWN
Owner

PHIL WRIGHT
News Editor

JADE McDOWELL
Hermiston Editor

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021

Founded October 16, 1875

A4

OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat, kick in the pants



A kick in the pants to Lifeways for its attacks on Community Counseling Solutions.

Umatilla County chose CCS over Lifeways to be its new provider for mental health and addiction services, and Lifeways responded with an appeal that called CCS underprepared, underqualified and a danger to Umatilla County residents.

Time will tell how Community Counseling Solutions does in its new role, but committee members tasked with scoring the two agencies' proposals felt confident enough in the Heppner-based provider to bet more than \$1 million a year and the mental health of thousands of county residents on it. The county board of commissioners has expressed unhappiness with Lifeways multiple times through the years, most recently in its handling of the closure of Aspen Springs, and if the board wants to try someone new, that's fair enough.

We hope now their appeal has been rejected, Lifeways will be a good partner in helping with the transition, for the sake of county residents in need of services.

A tip of the hat to Pendleton Fire & Ambulance firefighters for their trip to Big Bend Community College to make sure personnel with the department stay current on their aircraft fire certification.

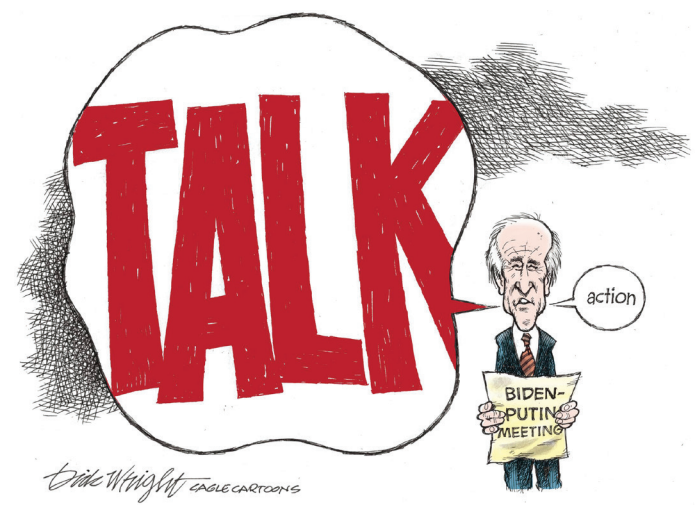
We hope they never need to use that training, but if the time comes, we're glad they are prepared.

A tip of the hat to the city of Hermiston for deciding to move the parking lot and playground at Riverfront Park to a new location, outside the main flow of floodwaters when the Umatilla River jumps its banks.

The frequency and magnitude of floods along the Umatilla River has increased in recent years due to climate change, and modeling from Oregon State University researchers predicts that trend will continue across the Columbia Basin. Hermiston and similar cities need to be proactive in trying to mitigate future damage.

A tip of the hat to Blue Mountain Community College for its purchase of art for all of its campuses by American Indian artists, including from Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts, a Umatilla Indian Reservation print studio and gallery.

A community college should display artwork that is meaningful and educational, not merely decorative. This purchase honors the heritage of the land BMCC was built on, and will hopefully spark new conversations about the history of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and their ceded territory.



YOUR VIEWS

Has the U.S. turned to tyranny?

Totalitarianism: A system of government that is centralized and dictatorial and requires complete subservience to the state. Anyone noticing the trend with Oregon and the United States? One would have to be a rock not to.

Before totalitarianism was a relatively new word, it used to be called tyranny, i.e., a concept or form of government or political system that prohibits opposition parties, restricts individual opposition to the state and its claims, and exercises an extremely high degree of control over public and private life.

Anarchy: A state of disorder due to absence or nonrecognition of authority. Portland is in a state of anarchy due to weak leaders and a weak governor. There is no law and order. If we had a governor like Tom McCall, Robert Straub or Sen. Maurine Neuberger, Portland would be the great city it once was.

Our elected leaders now use the law of contradiction, which implies that Gov. Kate Brown could not simultaneously hold the COVID-19 pandemic renders church services dangerous to allow, and also that massive protest marches are fine.

I have been to a couple of countries that have reeducation camps, where brainwashing is used to reeducate the dingers of Bibles, guns and free thinking. Propaganda is used daily on most of the news media and by our leaders. Say it often enough and soon one

believes it. We do not need reeducation camps, we have them in schools and colleges. Remember Nika Khrushchev? His speech at the United Nations, while pounding his shoe on the podium, said, "We will not bury you, you will bury yourselves." That was 1959. I was 13 and it frightened me.

I thought that our country was open, trusting and right over wrong, that we would never let that happen. Mistaken I was.

Finally, I had no choice being born white. I am not a white supremacist, homophobe, sycophant or any other gaggle of names and labels those liberals throw at me. I have never met anyone that chose their color of skin. By the way, we fought a world war over the polices that the United States are pursuing now.

Just remember doublethink, i.e. George Orwell's "1964," Arthur Koester's "Darkness at Noon," Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World," and C. S. Lewis' "That Hideous Strength." These should be mandatory reading, as once they were.

Roesch Kishpaugh
Pendleton

Faith column humanizes taboo subject

I'm a bit delayed in my reaction to a column that appeared Thursday, June 3, but I would like to recommend it to all East Oregonian readers. My friend, retired Methodist pastor Matt Henry,

writes a monthly column, The Road Less Taken, for this paper. In it, he tackles really tough subjects (Alzheimer's disease, grief) and he doesn't hesitate to open his heart to us, his readers.

In this most recent column, he compared grief to his childhood near-drowning. Through his words the reader is immersed in the sensations that accompanied that experience and can begin to understand what deep grief is like. As one who knows deep grief first hand, I am so grateful to my friend for offering this glimpse into a culturally taboo subject and emotions many don't understand.

Thank you, Matt, for such beautiful writing and thank you, East Oregonian, for publishing it. If you haven't read the column, I urge you to do so

Lezlee Flagg
Pendleton

Forest health issue needs another perspective

I would hope that the East Oregonian newspaper will publish another point of view in response to the opinion on forest health written by George Wuerther.

Forest health and timber harvest are two very controversial issues. Normally, there are two sides to every story. You should seek out a person with credentials to present the case for sound timber harvest, and the many benefits it can have on forest health.

Bruce Wilcox
Hermiston

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. PRESIDENT

Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
Comments: 202-456-1111

U.S. SENATORS

Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5244
La Grande office: 541-962-7691

Jeff Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3753
Pendleton office: 541-278-1129

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Cliff Bentz
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6730
Medford office: 541-776-4646

GOVERNOR

Kate Brown
160 State Capitol
900 Court St.
Salem, OR 97301-4047
503-378-4582

REPRESENTATIVES

Bobby Levy, District 58
900 Court St. NE, H-376
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1458
Rep.BobbyLevy@state.or.us

Greg Smith, District 57
900 Court St. NE, H-482
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1457
Rep.GregSmith@state.or.us

SENATOR

Bill Hansell, District 29
900 Court St. NE, S-415
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1729
Sen.BillHansell@state.or.us

EDITORIALS

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.

SEND LETTERS TO:

editor@eastoregonian.com,
or via mail to Andrew Cutler,
211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801