

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

ANDREW CUTLER
Publisher/Editor

KATHRYN B. BROWN
Owner

PHIL WRIGHT
News Editor

JADE McDOWELL
Hermiston Editor

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OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat, kick in the pants



A tip of the hat to anyone trying to help everyone stay healthy through the intense heat wave that started this weekend.

Temperatures in Umatilla County could reach as high as 115 degrees next week, depending on what forecast you're reading. That level of heat can be deadly, particularly for the elderly, children, animals and those with underlying medical conditions.

Now would be a good time to familiarize yourself with the available information on hot weather preparation, including signs of heat stroke and ways to prevent your air conditioner from working harder than it needs to. Check on your neighbors, homeless residents, people without air-conditioned transportation and those who work outdoors. See if they need a bottle of water or a cool place to sit down.

Kudos to air conditioning repair employees, utility workers, emergency medical personnel and others working to keep everyone at a safe temperature this week.

A kick in the pants to Umatilla County for being one of the last counties in the state still considered high risk for contracting COVID-19.

We know, thanks to scientists all over the world who have studied this virus intensely over the past year and a half, how to stop the spread of COVID-19. Too many people in this county are refusing to do those things. The result is continued restrictions on local businesses and additional danger for local residents, who don't always have the choice to stay home.

A tip of the hat to Blue Mountain Community College for its energy-saving efforts.

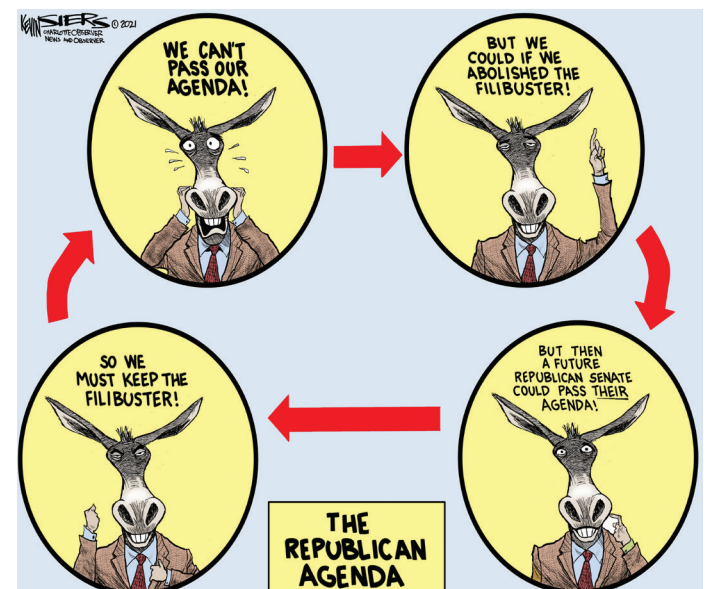
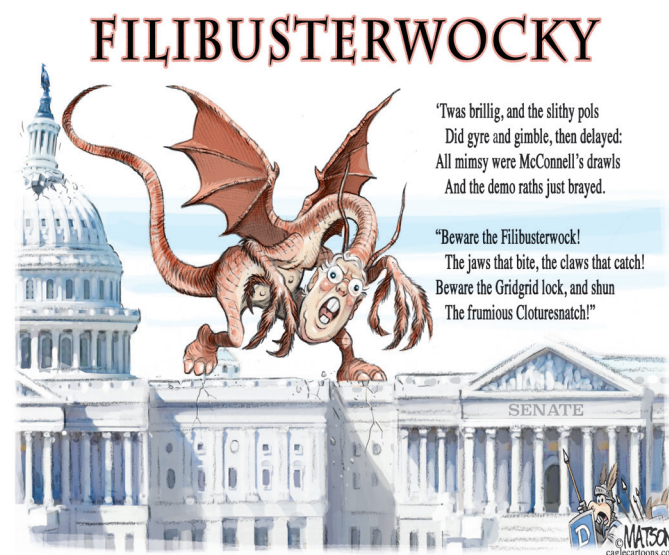
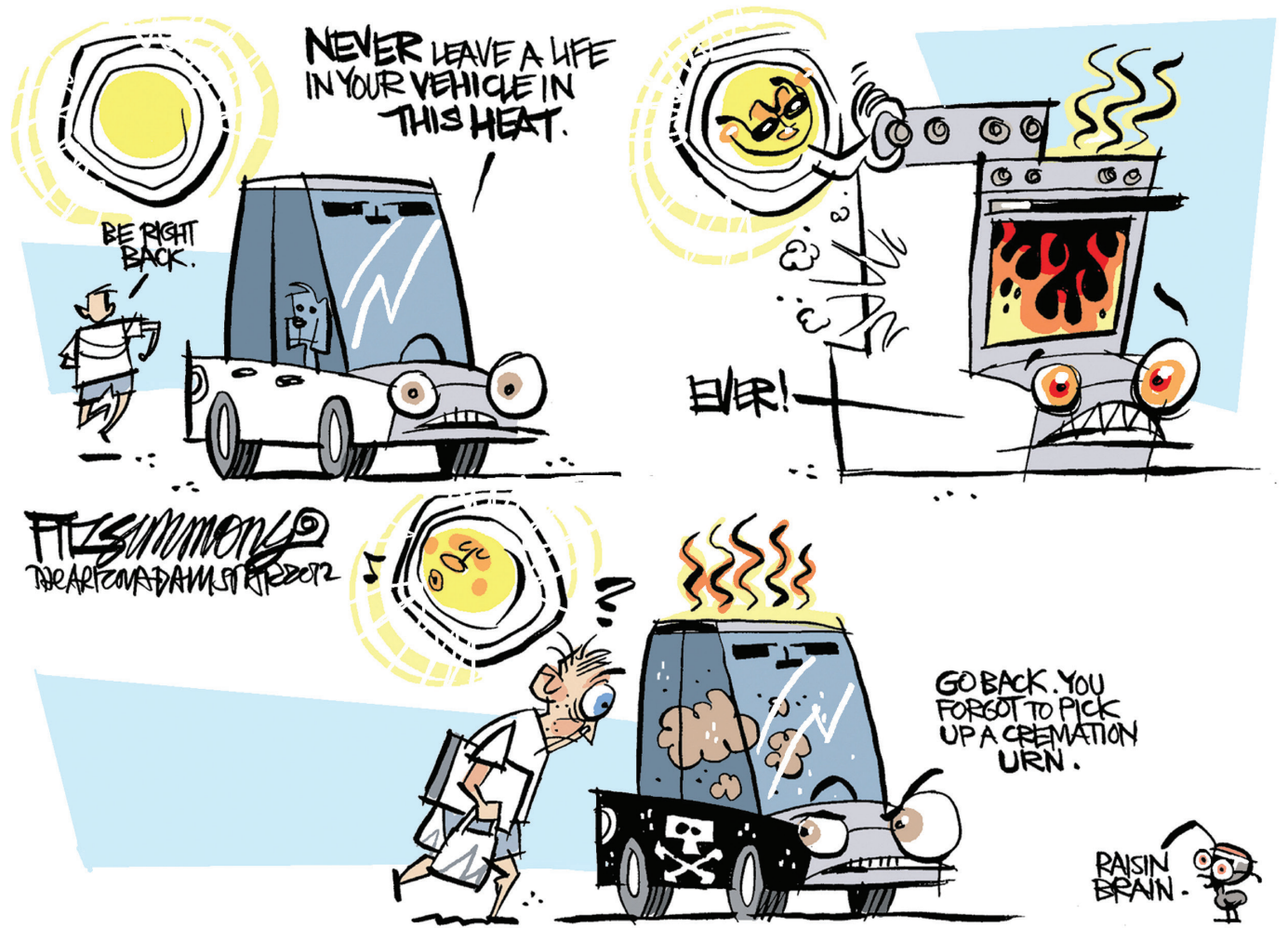
The college was one of the earliest participants to join Energy Trust of Oregon's Strategic Energy Management program, which provides free help to businesses and other organizations in keeping their energy consumption down.

BMCC has reported saving tens of thousands of dollars since joining the program, through innovations that include scheduling heating, air conditioning and lighting down to the room, making sure the college isn't paying to make empty spaces comfortable for people who aren't actually there.

As businesses bring more people back to the office, we encourage them to consider similar measures, or at least simple steps like turning off the light when a room is not in use.

A tip of the hat to blood donors. The Red Cross is stating the country is in a "severe" blood shortage at the moment, and is encouraging everyone to donate if they can.

Donating blood saves lives. If you're able, make plans to do so soon.



YOUR VIEWS

Anti-animal ag initiative is a very bad idea

I read an article a few weeks ago about Initiative Petition 13 ("Anti-animal ag initiative raises alarm among Oregon farm groups," May 20, 2021). I couldn't believe our state would even consider such a move. This would destroy any activities that involve animals.

Ranching of any kind could become a thing of the past. Animal control in regards to hunting, fishing would end, leading to an overabundance of crop-destroying animals.

This initiative would affect the production of meat and poultry (including eggs) and pork, which this bill says can only be used for consumption after the animal has died a natural death, meaning old unsafe meat. It also affects the safety of people in their homes. If this bill passes no one will be allowed to kill a rat or for that matter a bug in their home without breaking the law. The organizations like FFA and 4-H, which train ranchers and farmers, could become a thing of the past.

In the letters to the editor also on May 20, Duane Berry stated, "For way too long rural Oregonians have lived under the thumb of a Democratic governor and Legislature that design the rules and laws to fit the metropolitan scene, totally ignoring the lifestyle of ranchers, logger and citizens in rural Northeastern Oregon." This quote was in regards to Idaho, but it fits with Initiative 13.

This idea of meat production and ranching was brought up by our vice president as part of their new idea of a "Green New Deal," which so far has proven to be harmful for our country as gas prices are way up due to the shut-down of oil and natural gas production.

Mr. David Michelson, the chief petitioner of the bill and an animal rights activist, has presented this bill and has reached one hurdle of receiving 1,000 sponsorship signatures. The next step will be to collect 112,020 signatures to have it placed on the November ballot.

This initiative is bad for our state as well as our nation, and must be stopped

here in Oregon. We still have time to stop this. It is the worst thing that could happen.

Gail Baker
La Grande

American capitalism should work for employees, as well

The American capitalistic system is based on supply and demand. When there is not enough product to supply the number of people who want and can afford it, the prices increase. When there is more product than people want or can afford, prices go down.

Supposedly, this creates a balance that benefits both consumers and producers. According to the theory, there is no need for the government to be involved in this system.

Because of a global pandemic, production has been low. Workers were furloughed, laid off or unable to work because of disease. The economy tanked and not enough goods were produced to keep businesses going.

The government, in order to prevent a serious economic depression, provided subsidies for furloughed, laid off or disabled workers to keep the people from doing without their basic needs. While receiving assistance to meet their needs, families survived and the economy began to show the possibility of improving.

To the surprise of many capitalists, unemployed workers are not eager to return to work for the low-wage salaries they were barely surviving on before the pandemic. Apparently, the potential employees are reluctant to go back to the low-paying jobs. They are unwilling to accept jobs producing goods they cannot afford to buy.

Now our American capitalists conclude that government must become involved. Because they are not getting their workers back, employers are demanding that the government stop paying subsidies to help families survive. CEOs and business owners want the government to force workers

back to work for less than sustaining wages.

So my question is, if capitalism works for pricing goods, why is it not useful for paying workers to produce the goods? Couldn't the theory of supply and demand apply here?

Evelyn Swart
Joseph

Biden should honor his faith

When anyone states that they are "devout" and then willfully acts to disrespect the central tenets of that devotion, the focus should be on the person who lacks honesty — and not those who are qualified and duty bound to uphold the integrity of the devotion. Simple.

President Joe Biden insults this truism. He "knows the drill" as a self-described "devout Catholic," yet he stands against the Catholic doctrine that all life is sacred. Further, he pushes for our government (our taxes) to pay for the continued assault on the sacredness of life — on his purported faith.

In 2006, the U.S. Catholic bishops convened and issued this statement: "If a Catholic in his or her personal or professional life were knowingly and obstinately to reject the defined doctrines of the Church, or knowingly and obstinately to repudiate her definitive teaching on moral issues, however, he or she would seriously diminish his or her communion with the Church. Reception of the Holy Communion in such a situation would not accord with the nature of the Eucharistic celebration, so that he or she should refrain."

Biden should "own up" and honor his faith rather than insulting it. Yet in this day of envy/identity politics, Biden bows to those who protest that their group rights supersede our Constitution and the rights it is designed to protect. Odd, for someone duty bound to uphold the Constitution.

The solution for Biden is simple: Just keep your mouth shut.

Keith Gallagher
Condon

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

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SEND LETTERS TO:

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