

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

ANDREW CUTLER
Publisher/Editor

KATHRYN B. BROWN
Owner

PHIL WRIGHT
News Editor

ERICK PETERSON
Hermiston Editor/Senior Reporter

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

Founded October 16, 1875

A4

OUR VIEW

Education still plays key role in mandates

Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan made probably the best point lately when it comes to the ongoing controversy regarding Gov. Kate Brown's mask and vaccination mandates.

Rowan made it clear his office doesn't have the statutory authority to enforce any kind of mandate, so the expectation was not to enforce the mandates but to educate people about them.

Rowan is on the right track in two ways. First, he seemed unwilling to step into what is becoming a political quagmire regarding Brown's recent edicts. That's a smart decision. That's because the governor doesn't seem to have any intention of backing off her decisions to create the new mandates. In due course the issue will probably end up in the courts, which will create a lengthy process with no clear end in sight.

Secondly, Rowan is right that law enforcement — if it is to do anything — should be a platform for education. The job of providing information to citizens is a crucial one, especially now that a lot of the data available is either bogus or slanted.

We believe the choice to get vaccinated is an individual one, a decision between an individual and their health care provider.

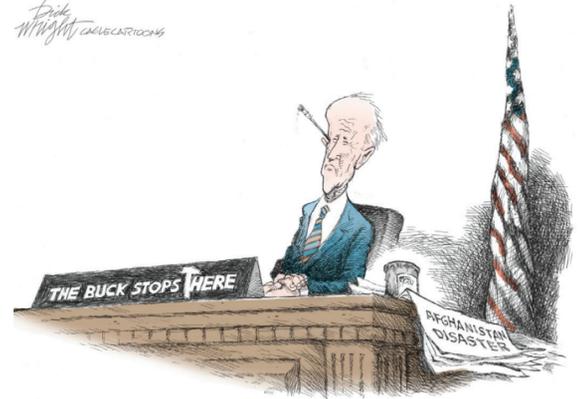
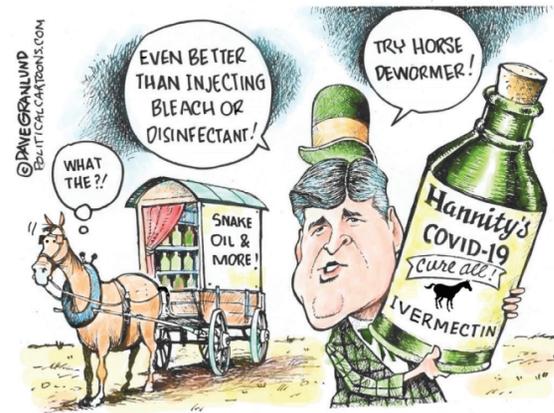
However, it is a growing concern that information on the vaccines is fragmented and often twisted to fit an agenda.

Residents should be encouraged to gather all of the information they possibly can and then discuss their views with their health care provider. Then, and only then, should they make a judgement about whether they are comfortable with the vaccine.

It seems relatively simple, but an overload of bad information is clouding what should be a routine decision by any resident.

Law enforcement should be involved in the vaccine drama only in an educational way. Let's face it, there are far more pressing problems local police and sheriff's deputies need to address rather than enforcing a mask mandate. Of course, the governor has not ordered any law enforcement agency that we know of to enforce any kind of mandate, and that is a good thing.

Providing a way to get information — unbiased information — to residents is a good plan, and we hope the sheriff follows through on his words.



YOUR VIEWS

Show, community share gifts and talents

We enjoyed a Wild West Show on Main Street last Saturday, Aug. 28. The cast of "The Ballad of Black Bart" delivered their lines glibly and with audience participation made the show about a slice of life in the Wild West very lively and entertaining.

It was a great pleasure for me to share what we have here in Pendleton with my brother and his wife who arrived from Guam. A retired diplomat, my brother and his family lived in Pakistan, Malaysia, Ottawa and Guam.

They both find our town welcoming and its citizens generous about sharing their gifts and talents

Zenaida M. Lyles
Pendleton

Science and faith are intertwined

Where do you think the laws of science and the laws of the natural world come from? The Big Bang didn't create them. The Big Bang couldn't have happened without them. So what created them? Here's a hint though: Almost every scientist who explores this question turns to God. Inciden-

tally, many of the world's first scientists, teachers and doctors were priests, monks and nuns. Most priests today have a more thorough and well-rounded education than most doctors.

The religious aren't meant to just blindly believe whatever they're told. God commands us to learn, discover, understand and reveal his creation. This includes the tools with which he brought it all about. Do you honestly believe mathematics just happens to be so much more reliable than any man-made language that it's considered a universal language? What caused these universal truths to exist?

True faith cannot exist without rationality, and true rationality cannot exist without faith. As is often said on the EWTN Global Catholic Network, they're two wings of the same bird.

Mark Elfering
Hermiston

Hermiston event an example of area's talent

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the East Oregonian for its coverage of the Greater Hermiston CityFest with Andrew Palau. CityFest is just another shining example of the sacrifice of time, talent and treasure that people

in the Greater Hermiston area will make to bring an event of this magnitude to benefit the people of our community.

If you were able to attend one of the events, I am sure that you will agree with me that the message was hope filled and you left the event with a greater appreciation for how our Lord can work in our lives even during these challenging times.

I also pray that many people were touched by the message of Christ's saving grace and will put into action their commitment to living a holy life (not just for the Saints like St. Mother Teresa).

We are blessed in our area to have a plethora of faith communities who are more than willing to reach out and welcome anyone who desires to grow in their faith. Christ reminds us in His parables that all we need is faith the size of a mustard seed and a willing spirit.

I would strongly encourage everyone to prayerfully consider strengthening their faith by attending a church service this weekend. Again, I thank the EO for covering this event and, as Father Maxwell prayed at Mass Monday morning at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, let us all pray for the safety of those who attended. May God bless you.

Kristin Smalley
Hermiston

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. PRESIDENT

Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. 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 letters 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