

OUR VIEW

Homeless shelter plan meets an important need

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners made a good decision last week when it agreed to allow a warming station and temporary living huts to be installed on 10 acres of county land to address the ongoing homeless challenge.

The property, at the intersection of Lind and Bensel roads in Hermiston, is a suitable place for the temporary facility.

While the project is mostly spearheaded by a new state law that mandates city codify ordinance that protects people from fines and fees for sleeping on public lands, the decision by the board was correct.

The homeless shelter plan also is the result of a united effort between the county, Umatilla, Hermiston, Echo and Stanfield. That sends the loud and clear signal that while the new state law is the fuel behind the homeless shelter blueprint, local officials can work together to find a solution that works.

The homeless situation isn't going to go away, and this new plan reflects that reality. Every winter the same issues regarding the health and safety of those struggling arrives and officials or nonprofits struggle to meet the need.

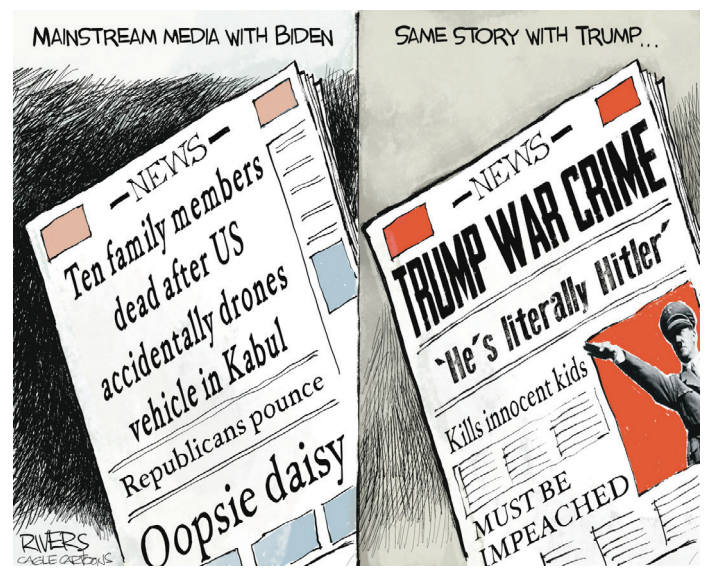
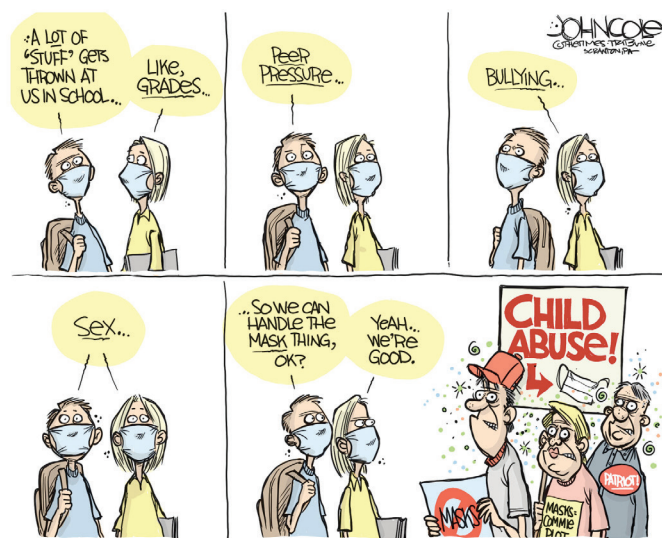
Ignoring the problem hasn't worked and it isn't a method toward success. We can't simply turn our heads away from the homeless situation. We need to address it through proactive, viable measures that furnish everyone with a solution. Elected officials could have simply kicked the can, so to speak, on this problem down the road. That they did not shows an admirable degree of foresight and planning.

That's why this decision is such a good one. The key piece of the plan is it will be temporary, not permanent, and that should alleviate at least some concerns by area residents.

The plan, as officials admit, still is in its preliminary stages. Many details need to be worked out. However, this move to create the temporary shelter and warming stations is a good one and we applaud it.



'I SAID, OUR STRATEGY OF JUST WAITING FOR THE BATTERIES TO RUN OUT ISN'T WORKING...'



YOUR VIEWS

It is not right to mandate vaccination consent

People need to learn to stay out of others business and quit arrogating for them, no matter how well intentioned. More than once a day I read how ineffective and uncertain these "vaccines" are alongside increased "mandates" to force them. This makes no sense.

One of the Nuremberg principles is that humans should not be subject to medical experiments without their voluntary consent. The "vaccines" currently deployed are "experimental" though "authorized" for emergency use." The "authorized" "vaccine," Comirnaty, is scarce and not one of the ones being pushed. They're still jabbing emergency use, experimental gene therapies into our arms. Plenty of educated, reasonable people do not trust any "experimental" medicine, approved or otherwise. There are plenty of historical and scientific reasons to support this view.

The Nuremberg principles were created with the horrors of fascism, or totalitarianism, in mind. Ridding protections against tyranny has proven considerably more fatal and destructive of society than COVID-19. Again, there are ample historical examples. Experimental medicine mandates violate the Nuremberg principle.

Ostensibly there's a bedrock principle of medicine called "informed consent" where each "patient" figures out what they want done to them based on information presented in an impartial manner; these "mandates" undermine that principle.

It is disrespectful of people to browbeat others into getting jabbed, as it does not respect their privacy and capacity to make their own health-

care decisions, and that's no way to reach a civil decision.

Keith Gallagher
Condon

Give us an eastern route for Interstate 82

When Interstate 82 was first plotted, the preferred route was east of Hermiston. Studies had indicated most people coming south out of Washington would be heading east after crossing into Oregon. Nothing has changed except there are more of them. Consideration of an east/west bridge route is a desirable goal, but an east route for I-82 is more urgent.

In early 1980, when I-82 was being considered, the business people in Hermiston lobbied for and successfully persuaded the state to build a west alternate and leave Highway 395 to go through Hermiston. Now I have heard there have been potential businesses who have not come into Hermiston because of the traffic problems.

Enough already. Give us an eastern route to I-82.

As for the bridge route, Elm Street should be a non-starter. There will be schools on each side of the route. There is a proliferation of housing adjacent to the street. The intersection with Highway 395 has resulted in two truck caused deaths in recent years and there is a potential for more deaths. All of these hazards will dictate a reduction in speed.

The Punkin Center route would lend itself to a roundabout, which traffic planners indicate will move traffic more efficiently.

Carlisle Harrison
Hermiston

Senate rightly considers a carbon price

This couldn't come soon enough. I think it is fair to say that we've had a summer like no other. A record June temperature and virtually no rain between June and Sept. 10 as well as smoke. But also, terrible flooding from Phoenix to the East Coast. Climate change is no longer a partisan issue.

The chair of the Senate Finance Committee, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, has included a carbon price for budget consideration under the reconciliation process.

The price of \$15 per carbon ton is there and it increases every year. The price of carbon is collected at the producer level, reducing the cost of administration. In fact, though the cost of the budget is large, the administrative cost of a carbon price is minuscule. It provides a level playing field for commerce and industry to compete to avoid the rising price of carbon.

The single change? The reconciliation process prevents a direct refund of revenue to households, though equity is still served by a rebate to lower-income tax filers.

A carbon price is the most powerful tool available to bend the curve of atmospheric carbon. If we can't save the planet, we can't save anything or anybody else. I remember the Economist magazine saying that a carbon price couldn't be done in America. Prove them wrong.

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Brenda Pace
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