

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

Federal policy needs to support families

Family policies being decided at the federal level now will have a major effect on Americans for years to come.

This should be a bipartisan effort. There are plenty of Republicans and Democrats alike who understand how child tax credits, support for child care centers and universal preschool could have a huge positive effect on their constituents — not just families with young children, but also on business owners who depend on a strong workforce.

The lack of affordable child care and the serious shortage of child care in general are keeping parents out of the workforce, discouraging couples from having children and hurting the economy. This is a long-standing problem exacerbated by the pandemic.

When parents can find and afford quality child care and preschool for their children, they are free to work or continue their education and job training.

Child tax credits for high-income families are unnecessary and expensive, but we believe child tax credits for low- and middle-income working parents to spend as they please on the best child care they can find would drive the market to create more quality child care options (both home- and center-based), and raise wages for child care providers.

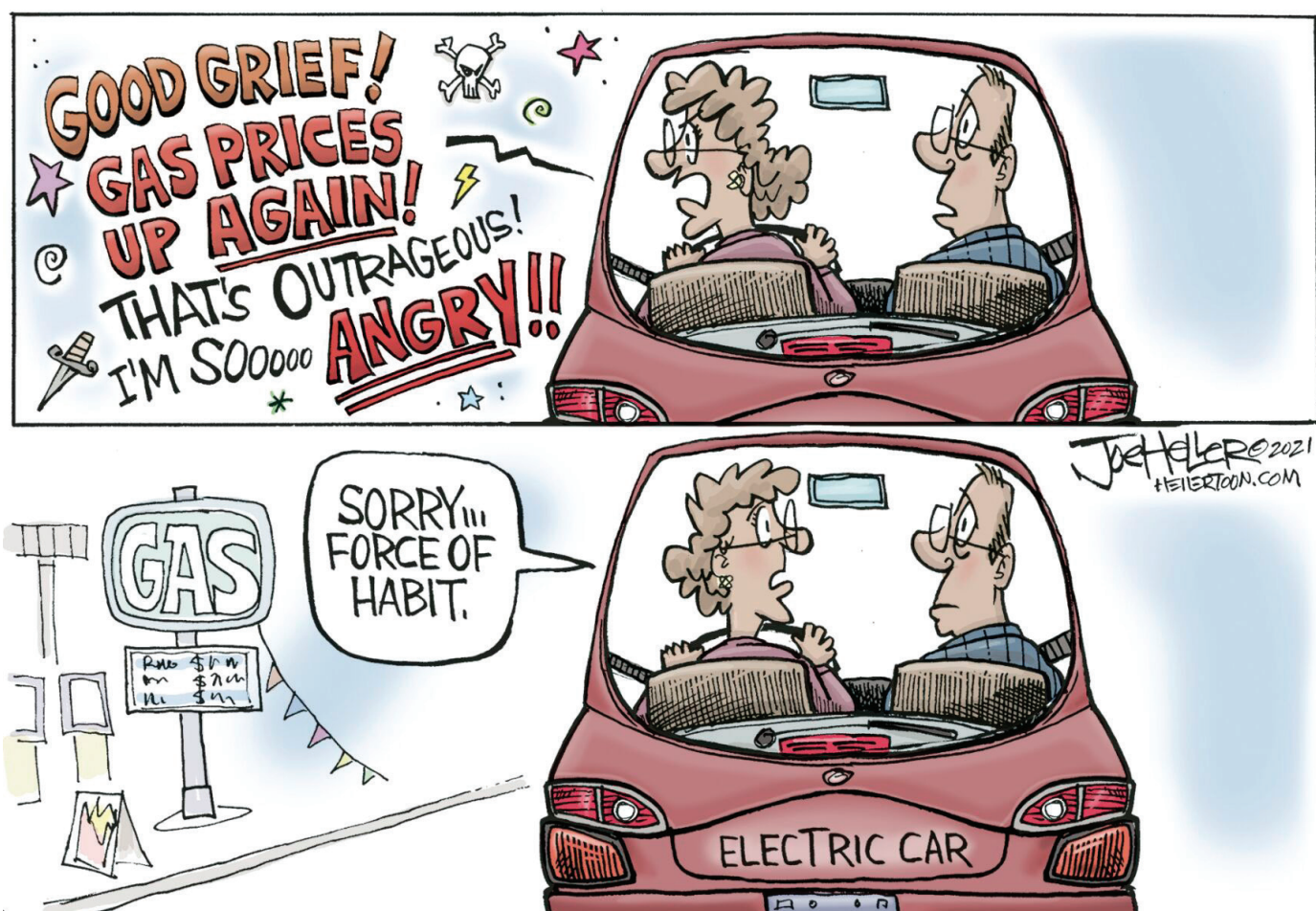
The greatest challenge for most rural communities is the demand for child care far exceeds the supply. Building child care centers is expensive because of the specific needs of infants, toddlers and preschoolers and often onerous state regulations that govern child care facilities.

Federal grants to communities to build and maintain child care centers (which then could be operated by nonprofit organizations or cooperatives, with local control) would go a long way to shrink the child care shortage.

A recent analysis shows universal preschool for 4-year-olds will save the existing taxpayer-funded K-12 public education system over \$83 billion per year. It's clear that having young children spend three or four hours a day at a high-quality preschool — learning how to follow instructions, manage their emotions and work and play with others — means they will be ready to learn in kindergarten. The K-12 savings come from reduced need for special education and grade repetition.

We want to see Republicans and Democrats working together to allow parents to have choices about child care and preschool, to support low- and middle-income families for whom child care and preschool is currently a significant economic burden, and to encourage adults to work.

Family policies that support marriage, children and the economy are within reach.



YOUR VIEWS

Coercion does not make people want the vaccine

Fellow peasants, don't you just love the "holier-than-thou" and the sneering condescension of virtually every editorial page comment made by those who insist that everyone be vaccinated?

Doesn't being reviled and called everything but a decent human being make you want to rush right out and get the vaccine?

Try these statistics: as of Tuesday, Oct. 12, 714,243 deaths; 44,401,209 cases; and current U.S. population, 333,479,557. All this drama for a disease with a seemingly very high survival rate.

John Kaufman
Pendleton

'Finding Dora' story highlights connections

In your Tuesday, Oct. 12, edition, you ran a front-page story titled "Remembering Dora" and the fact 10 people from out-of-town had gathered at Olney Cemetery to remember a woman who died a century ago. They were there for the purpose of celebrating her new headstone.

I'm not sure what captured the interest of Kathy Aney, but with the utmost confidence that anything this distinguished reporter found worthy of her attention would be worth the attention of her devoted followers, I continued reading.

It was certainly a remarkable story about how her father even managed to survive a tumultuous journey that eventually brought him to Pendleton and that his daughter would marry at the age of 15 and produce a family of her own.

I kept reading. When I spotted the names of Don and Jack Rhodes, Dora's grandsons, something clicked. A little while later came the name of her son, Chester.

Although more than half a century has passed, I was reminded of the fact I knew all three of these men despite the remote connection to Pendleton.

I mostly knew Dora's son, Chester, who was superintendent of schools

in Chehalis, Washington. He was a colleague and friend of my father, a fellow superintendent in nearby Toledo. He and his wife Henrietta, and my parents were good friends.

In 1966, when I was graduating from Linfield College, Chester Rhodes called me in McMinnville and invited me to come to his office in Chehalis. At the time, I was awaiting a call to officer candidate school in the Navy, but they said it would be a year or more before much would happen. I didn't really know what I was going to do until then, so I responded to his invitation.

He invited me to teach journalism at the high school in Chehalis and spend part of each day as the school district public information and public affairs officer for the district. Were it not for his call, I would probably never have found my way into the classroom or administration where I remained for some four decades since at the time I was in the newspaper industry.

At the end of my year at the high school, the war began winding down and the Navy decided they had no need to mint any new ensigns, so I kept teaching.

In Kathy's story, she talks about remembering Dora and in the case of the Rhodes brothers, honoring a grandmother they never met.

As so often happens when we illuminate the lives of those who have passed before us, it opens more chapters than we could possibly imagine. After reading Kathy's story, I guess I have Dora to thank for helping bring me to a community where I intend to spend the rest of my life.

George Murdock
Pendleton

My personal freedom has not been violated

When I was a small child, I had an immunization on my arm for smallpox. I think I got it at school. There was no vaccination at the time for measles, mumps or whooping cough, and I had all those diseases, missing school for two weeks for each disease. Later, polio vaccine and the Salk immuniza-

tion came along and I got them. I do not remember whether my parents had to sign anything, but I know they did not want me or my siblings to contract polio, too. I have had tetanus shots, diphtheria, shingles, influenzas and a couple of others that I cannot recall. I am happy to make it to age 85.

When I had an opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccinations, I was grateful, because I did not want to experience the virus. I did not think about possibly spreading the disease to others. I had been wearing a mask to save myself, but now I wear the mask to save others. I know that I could be a carrier even though I have had the vaccine.

My personal freedom has not been violated by getting vaccines or by wearing a mask; as an adult, I made the choice to protect myself from disease. Now, my personal freedom is not violated when I wear a mask, because I do not want to be responsible for someone else being sick. This is my choice. So, I cannot understand how other people feel so upset about being required to be vaccinated or wear masks or be tested. I have heard of no one who has been ticketed or put in prison for not wearing a mask or getting a vaccine, although it is possible it has happened. It is possible that someone could be sued for causing the death of another because of COVID-19.

Regardless of any requirement or mandate, I do not wish to cause harm to anyone else. I do not wish to cause health professionals to serve until exhaustion due to my disinterest in their plight. I do not want children to forfeit their education because the pandemic continues indefinitely. I do not wish to cause hospitals to fill up with COVID-19 patients making it impossible for people with other health problems to have the care they need.

Even though I am vaccinated for COVID-19 and willing to wear a mask, I want to be able to be admitted to a hospital for treatment if I seriously need treatment for illness or for another facial injury in front of the post office.

Evelyn Swart
Joseph

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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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.

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