

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEWS

Finding the right answers

Gov. Kate Brown has called the Legislature into special session on Monday, Dec. 13, to try to give renters additional protection against evictions.

We don't know if the solutions she proposes are the right ones, but there is little question quick action is needed.

There has been money available to help renters, but the state has had trouble moving fast enough to get it to landlords. The state has also calculated that all the money it has to distribute will be gone, leaving some people to face eviction just as the weather turns colder.

"Oregon Housing and Community Services received \$289 million in federal rental assistance funds to help Oregon renters impacted by COVID-19," the governor's office said in a statement. "As of last week, OHCS and their local partners had paid out close to \$150 million in federal emergency rental assistance to over 22,000 households."

Gov. Brown proposes to

- Give safe harbor protections for people who have applied for rental assistance

- Ensure landlords are paid for what they are owed, provide

- Provide up to \$90 million in rental assistance

- And provide \$100 million to "long-term, locally-delivered eviction prevention services."

What's not clear is how many Oregonians face eviction without state assistance and how much of that is due to the shudder given to the economy by COVID-19.

Oregon's digital vaccine card is not really a passport

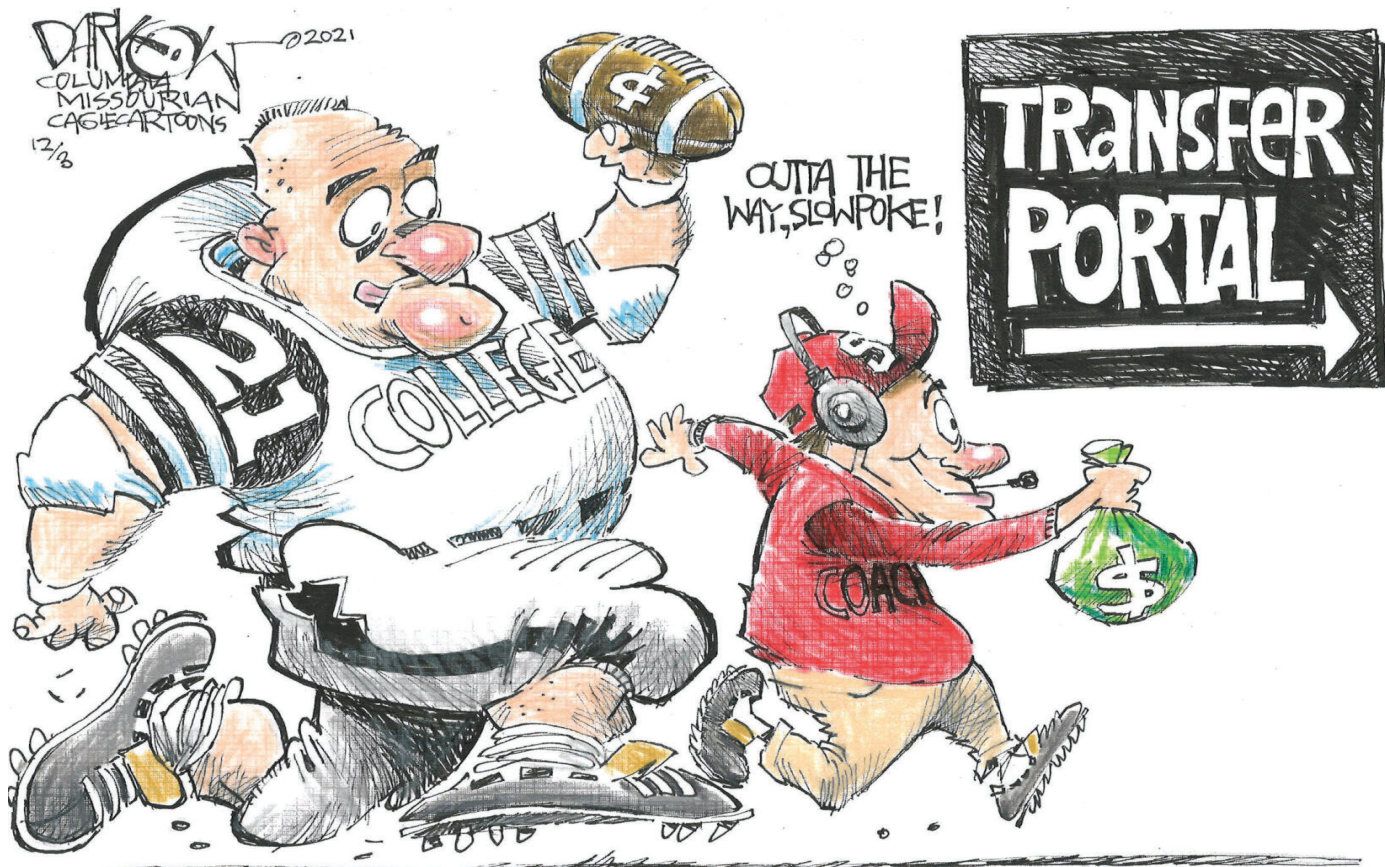
A passport is something that can be required for entry. Oregon's new digital vaccine card won't be a passport. It's going to be an optional way people can show their vaccination status.

People already have options. They can carry around their vaccination card — or what's probably smarter — carry around a photocopy or a photo of it on their phone. We haven't had anyone demand to see ours, but it could happen.

The digital vaccine card, which the Oregon Health Authority is developing, would be one more optional way of carrying around that information.

Oregon's card would be similar to the one in California and Washington state, according to a report from the Oregon Capital Chronicle. You would upload your name, date of birth, cellphone or email and a four-digit number. Your vaccination status would be checked. Once confirmed, you would get a link to the digital vaccination card to show on your phone. It's already being tested in Oregon.

You call it a vaccine passport if you want. It's similar to one. A vaccine passport is good shorthand. But the idea in Oregon is that it will be an optional way of carrying around vaccination status.



Pearl Harbor is emphatically not forgotten



BRIGIT FARLEY
PAST AND PROLOGUE

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, marked 80 years since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It is hard to imagine a more fateful event in 20th century history.

As the last veterans of World War II pass on, there is no time like the present to revisit the day that "will live in infamy" and assess some of its impact.

The most immediate result of the Pearl Harbor attack proved to be the U.S. entry into World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war on Japan the next day, December 8, 1941. Meanwhile, Nazi Germany had nearly conquered all of Europe, leaving Great Britain holding out alone.

Despite the obvious danger a Nazi-dominated Europe posed to the U.S., Roosevelt had no pretext for intervening in the European conflict. But perhaps believing the U.S. would not easily recover from the attack, Adolf Hitler forced the issue by declaring war on the U.S. four days after Pearl Harbor, on Dec 11.

Eighty years later, the question remains: Would the isolationist U.S. of 1941 have entered the European conflict without Hitler's decision for war? As U.S. intervention proved crucial to the defeat of Nazism, the what-ifs loom large. The world was fortunate that Hitler ignored history.

Provoking U.S. intervention in World War I was fatal to Imperial Germany in 1917-18. Awakening the sleeping giant in 1941 would help destroy Nazi Germany as well.

Pearl Harbor meant big trouble for Japanese-Americans living along the

West Coast. The attack immediately cast suspicion on that community as a potential fifth column-spies for Japan. Roosevelt eventually responded by issuing Executive Order 9066, mandating the "relocation" of citizens deemed a security risk.

In part, this was born of panic and fear, but there also emerged an element of greed and self-interest, as some Americans coveted the lucrative businesses and farms their Japanese-American neighbors had to leave behind after being "relocated" to internment camps. There was racism in the mix.

The U.S. warred with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy as well as Japan in 1942, yet very few Americans of Italian or German descent faced indefinite confinement, or became targets of appearance-based abuse. Japanese-Americans endured both. In spite of this, thousands of young Japanese-Americans demonstrated loyalty to their country by volunteering for the armed forces from their internment camps.

Army personnel warned they would fight in Italy, the scene of some of the war's fiercest combat, but the volunteers were undeterred. The all Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team became the most decorated unit in American history for their size and length of service. Twenty-one Medal of Honor winners came from their ranks.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was the beginning of the end of a long run of Japanese conquest. Japan began to modernize in the mid-19th century and looked to Great Britain as an example of a successful island nation. Impressed by the British empire, Japanese leaders decided the key to greatness lay in expansion, to control raw materials and command respect.

Japan's rise began when it pegged Russia as a rival for influence in the

Far East and launched what became the Russo-Japanese war. The Japanese handily won that conflict, shocking the world as the first nonwhite nation to best a great power. After that victory in 1905, Japan acquired China's Shandong Peninsula and the Mariana, Marshall and Carolina islands in the World War I settlement.

In 1931, Japan colonized Manchuria, then invaded and terrorized east-central China in 1937. By 1941, Japan controlled much of the Pacific, as its allies Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy dominated Europe. When Japanese leaders decided to try to cripple their principal Pacific rival, the U.S., they were dizzy with success. But the bombs dropped on Pearl Harbor sealed Imperial Japan's doom. Once the U.S. joined the fight, Japan's bitter, brutal defense of its Pacific conquests ultimately subjected its civilians to the apocalyptic horror of the atom bomb.

From his Pendleton office, East Oregonian editor E.B. Aldrich saw a silver lining in the storm clouds over Oahu. Aldrich editorialized that the U.S. should take an active role in defending the World War I peace settlement. No one else had the means to do so in 1919.

When the country opted for isolation instead, Aldrich repeatedly warned of a second world war. After Pearl Harbor, Aldrich predicted victory for the democratic nations and expressed the hope that this time, the U.S. would help craft and defend a lasting peace. This it achieved in the creation of the Marshall Plan, NATO and the World Bank.

After the Japanese attack, Americans would urge each other: Remember Pearl Harbor! Even 80 years on, Pearl Harbor is emphatically not forgotten.

Brigit Farley is a Washington State University professor, student of history, adventurer and Irish heritage girl living in Pendleton.

YOUR VIEWS

Remembering the why of Pearl Harbor

We have in my mind, come to a serious crossroads. Disinformation is not new, but as a virus spreading far faster than it did in 1941. We remember Pearl Harbor, those of us who were forever affected by its introduction into a global war, waged physically in Europe and the islands, but waged in the hardships and heartbreak in the U.S.

We now wage a new war of massive disinformation on every phone, laptop, and desktop giving voice to the most destructive battle we have ever seen. For those of us who remember telegrams, or waiting for a phone line, perhaps ringing someone continuously because there was no "answering machine," this new technology will either destroy us or make us more aware of its benefits and its potential for abolition of the human connection. You pick.

Pearl Harbor was a miscalculation of communications that had life-altering results, for my family, a grandfather I never knew, gone in an instant. A single paragraph only touches on the massive calamity that led to the shock of that day:

"Japan had planned to declare war shortly before its planes bombed the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, but a

series of errors by typists and translators prevented the Japanese embassy from giving Washington the declaration of war in time."

Will we, as a people continue, to malign the very knowledgeable, educated and experienced professionals in our ability to be scandalously vile because the written word through the internet does not expose us? Will we miscommunicate information that could potentially destroy someone or something?

Remembering Pearl Harbor as a memorial to those who gave their all to stop extreme nationalistic ideologies, like total totalitarianism, authoritarianism and fascism is admirable, but to focus on how we got there and understand the price that was paid will be the only way to save what we hold dear, knowing that the speed of this "misinformation and miscommunication" is far more potent than 1941 and will inevitably catch us completely unaware and unprepared.

Kate Dimon
Pendleton

Offering appreciation during difficult time

I carried the wreath to the door of

Pioneer Chapel Funeral Home. This wreath, gleaming with a glittery copper bow and holiday ornaments, had been decorated and now gifted from my PEO Chapter members to Valori Martin, the business owner. PEO chapters provide woman-to-woman educational outreach and holiday community needs gifting, and this was an opportunity to show a Pendleton businesswoman we appreciate her.

Valori's husband and co-business partner had recently passed away, and we wanted her to know how we value her and her business. As I spoke with Valori she expressed how touched she has been with the outpouring of love and support during this grieving time. She and Ron have played such a caring role to many. And carry on Valori is, by continuing as the owner of her business, and assisting Eastern Oregon communities with specialized funeral planning.

Valori understands her business and is proud to provide services with a respectful personal touch.

Yes, she feels blessed to have the outpouring of kindness from many. And, yes, we citizens of Pendleton and surrounding areas are blessed to have the services of Pioneer Chapel and its owner, Valori Martin.

Barbara Hodgen Palmer
Pendleton