

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

# Campaign helps the overall health of our region

A new campaign to raise awareness about HIV testing in Eastern Oregon recently kicked off and the effort is a good, long overdue step toward region-wide healthy outcomes.

The effort, spearheaded by the Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living and the state END HIV campaign, will utilize advertising across the region from April through July with a specific focus on Pendleton, Hermiston, La Grande and Ontario.

The campaign arrives at a time when officials recorded an uptick in HIV-positive cases in rural Oregon.

There is no widespread epidemic of the disease but raising awareness about a malady that was once seen as a death sentence is a good move.

Advances in science and medical procedures make HIV — the virus that triggers AIDS — a manageable illness over the long-term. However, early detection is a key for people who are infected.

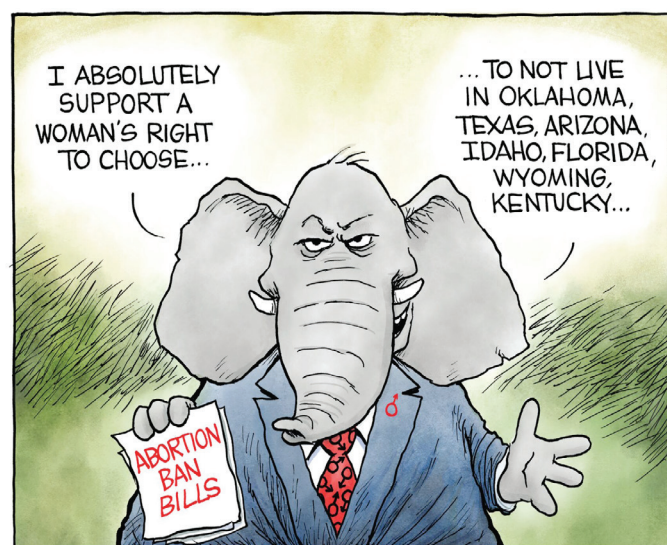
The broader aspects of the campaign are clear. Rural, secluded regions often do not receive the kind of medical attention — in terms of dollars and focus — they deserve. A campaign to not only raise awareness but to also help those who may have been exposed to the disease is a sound idea and, frankly, long overdue.

Medical authorities recommend everyone be tested for HIV at least once in their lives. Area health departments offer confidential testing and screening for the infection.

Because HIV often does not manifest itself for years — in some cases decades — the focus on testing is the right one.

Testing can give everyone a sense of relief and, in a real way, goes a long way toward ensuring the community as a whole remains safe and aware.

When HIV first appeared on the national scene more than three decades ago it was a scary, deadly illness. Its lethality is still obvious but through programs such as this one, early detection can lead to a longer-term healthier outcome for many. Our rural region faces any number of challenges but programs such as this one help enhance the overall health of our towns and region.



## YOUR VIEWS

### Remembering the Doolittle Raid on its 80th Anniversary

After Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt insisted the Japanese home inlands be attacked. This audacious venture occurred because a submariner proposed the idea of flying Army bombers from an aircraft carrier.

As one of the first Massachusetts Institute of Technology aeronautical engineering graduates, Doolittle was just the man to turn possibility into reality. He selected the 17th Bombardment Group flying anti-submarine patrols from Pendleton because their flying required open ocean navigation.

On April 18, 1942, Jimmy Doolittle lead 16 B-25 bombers from the U.S.S. Hornet to attack Japan. The Navy risked two of four Pacific fleet aircraft carriers and 10,000 sailors. The Japanese six-carrier task force knew the Americans had sortied to the Western Pacific and planned to attack them.

The aircraft launched 170 miles further away than planned, because extending the home islands patrol line was one of Japan's intelligence strategies. A Navy officer twirled a flag, listened for the right tone from

the revving engines and felt for the precise moment to release them on the pitching deck. The pilots, who had never flown from a carrier, saw the ship's bow reaching into a grey sky, and then plunging into a dark angry ocean sending salt spray across the deck. Every plane lifted off safely from a rising deck into the stormy sky.

Doolittle considered the raid a failure. Every plane was lost and 11 of 80 crewmen were killed or captured. However, the Imperial Navy suffered a devastating loss of face, and Americans received a critical boost in morale.

Nolan Nelson  
Redmond

### I'm voting for Melissa Lindsay

When I cast my vote in May, I will be voting Melissa Lindsay for Morrow County commissioner.

Melissa's grandfather, Gar Swanson, was one of the founding members and a visionary for the Port of Morrow and the Bank of Eastern Oregon. He was committed to Morrow County agriculture and economic development. Her father, Ken Turner, a descendant of Irish immigrants, expanded the farm that she and her husband have been on for 28 years.

Her son will be the fifth generation to run the business. The Turner family has been farming as well as promoting growth in Morrow County for more than 135 years.

Melissa is a graduate of Mt. Hood Community College and San Diego State University with degrees in social science and business administration. Melissa was instrumental in initiating the formation phase of the Bank of Eastern Oregon's mortgage lending department and headed up the profitable mortgage division as a vice president for 15 years.

Her roots run deep and have instilled the desire to serve Morrow County and its residents. Over the past six years, while serving as county judge and commissioner, she has learned about government business and serves on boards and committees to the great benefit of the residents of Morrow County.

The example her forefathers set, generations before her, have instilled a desire to work diligently representing all of Morrow County, and with our support, Melissa will continue doing so.

Please join me in support of Melissa Lindsay as Morrow County commissioner.

Donna Rietmann  
Ione

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### EDITORIALS

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### LETTERS

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