

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

# Ceremony honors solemn sacrifice

It is not often that a small town in a secluded area can trace its lineage to a major historical event, but the link between Pendleton and the Doolittle Raiders remains as vibrant now as when the young American pilots trained at the airfield eight decades ago.

The ceremony earlier this week that marked the 80th anniversary of the famous raid on Japan during World War II is both a fitting tribute and a reminder of not only the cost of freedom but also the dedication of young Americans who faced terrible odds.

The story of the raid is now nearly front-loaded into the American historical data bank. In April 1942, 16 B-25 Mitchell medium bombers flew off the USS Hornet aircraft carrier and bombed selected targets in Japan.

The raid was the first strike back at the then-enemy that launched the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, and while it triggered little damage, its propaganda significance was incredible.

The pilots and crews of those bombers trained for a time at the Pendleton airfield. Most of the crews crash landed in China after the raid.

The ceremony earlier this week was more than just a poignant reminder of a historical event. The tale of the Doolittle Raiders is one of determination and bravery during one of the darkest moments of World War II.

Keynote speaker, retired Army Maj. Gen. Fred Rees, of Helix, made a number of excellent points and his crucial role in the construction of a second Oregon Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility in Pendleton in 1996 is a reminder that the tentacles of the Doolittle Raid run straight through from 1942 to the present day.

The themes of the raid remain vibrant. A group of young Americans stacked up against the odds managed to pull off a tactical victory that shifted public opinion away from the debacle at Pearl Harbor to the dim light of victory that lingered on the horizon.

The best way to honor the members of this great group of young men is through ceremonies such as the one earlier this week and to reflect on the solemn sacrifice those pilots and crews made during what seemed like the darkest days of World War II.

We won't forget them. Nor their commitment to democracy.

### 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.

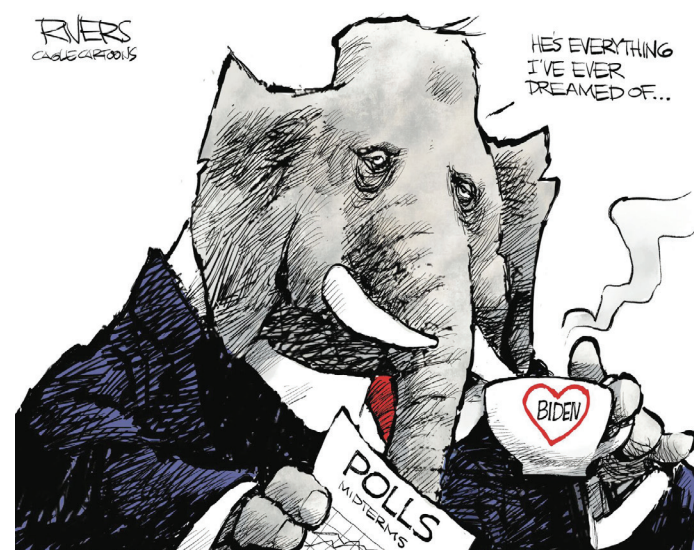
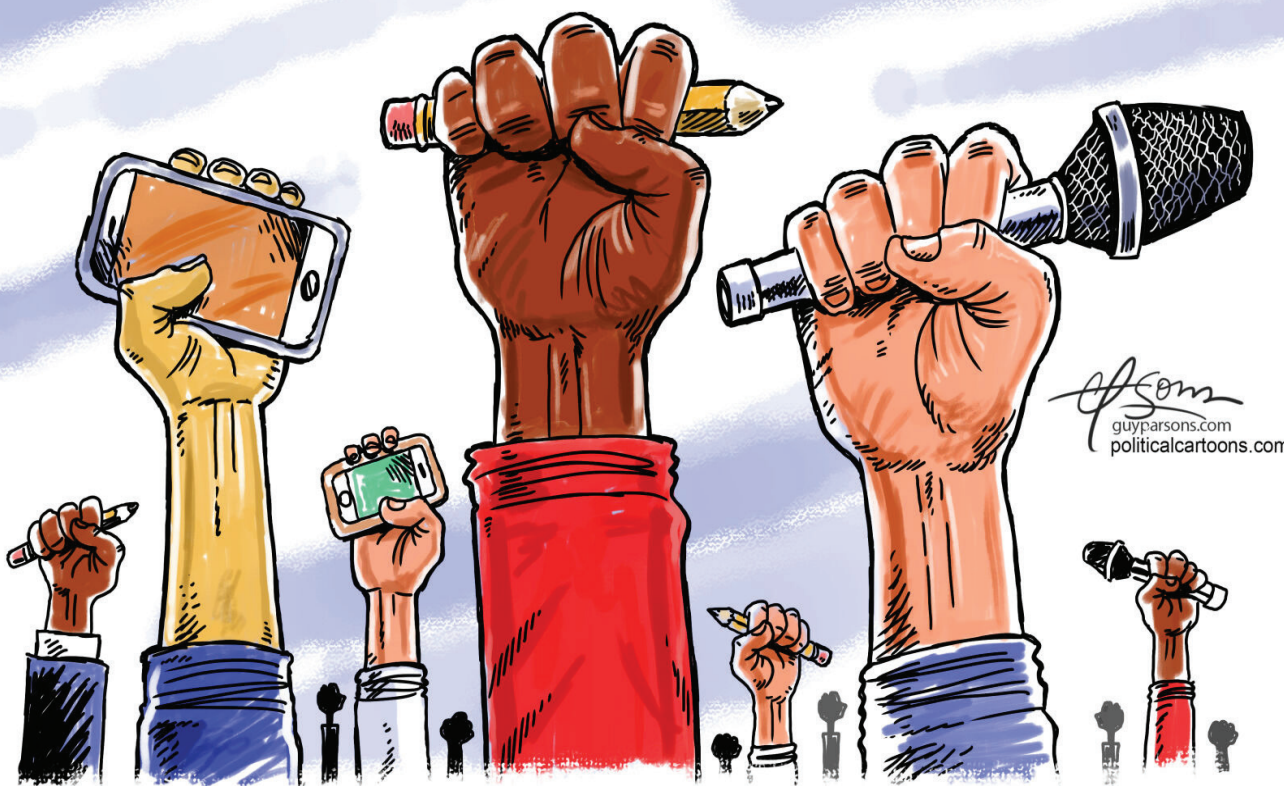
### LETTERS

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 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.

### SEND LETTERS TO:

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Without freedom of speech  
there is no democracy



## YOUR VIEWS

### God is reflected in the Constitution

I feel I must address contradictions and misinformation in a recent letter to the editor.

The writer is correct: God was deliberately not mentioned in the Constitution. God is, however, referenced and revered throughout. Remember: colonists were escaping a government which allowed only a government-approved religion, much like China today. They were not free to follow their beliefs without risking persecution. The only approved religion claimed the line of kings were selected by God to rule.

Naturally, our founders wanted to avoid this. A lesson they foresaw, which today's governments fail to learn, is that any power you grant yourself can eventually be wielded over you in a democratic society. As such, they did not want any one religion to empower or be empowered by government. This doesn't mean they wanted no role for religion, rather that we would become neither theocracy nor godless. We are meant to be ruled by a common religious morality, not a common religious authority.

That said, the nation is founded upon Judeo-Christian ethics and reflects this heavily throughout the Constitution. Where does the writer believe blessings come from? Equality, freewill, strength through unity, defense, welfare, liberty ... all concepts religious in origin, our birthrights in God, not secular by any stretch of the imagination. The Constitution merely establishes a government that secures these.

Mark Elfering  
Hermiston

### Everything is getting 'Californicated'

I hate to think the committee of the Umatilla River Trails Project would even think about fouling up the Umatilla River by putting something like a trail from Umatilla to Echo. Wildlife is crowded enough as is. There are plenty of places for walking. There will be dogs, people with trash, dog crap, loiterers, bikes and motorcycles.

Hermiston wants to take farmland for houses. Look at Tri-Cities, look at Stanfield, everything is getting "Californicated." People use to say Echo is a nice little town. Well, where is it going to be if they keep crowding in? Will

they take farmland here too? If they don't like where they came from, then fix it. There is enough mess here from time to time, and farmers have trouble getting where they need to go.

William Douglas  
Echo

### Marc Thielman is the fighter we need

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has been boasting about her "Future Oregon" bill. Oregon doesn't need a \$200 million government bailout. It needs a governor who doesn't shackle farmers, ranchers, loggers and anglers so we can all benefit from Oregon's natural resources. Marc Thielman is that candidate.

Oregon's potential is being ignored because politicians and courts have caved to radical special interest groups. Marc will revitalize Oregon's deep water ports. He understands the needs of farmers because he has worked the land, grown trees and grew up in a farming community. Marc Thielman is the kind of fighter we need in Salem to rebuild our economy and bring back this state.

Jeffrey Lawton  
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